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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Qatar upgrading facilities at Al Udeid Air Base

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Qatar wants to make Al Udeid Air Base more family friendly for U.S. forces in the hopes that the strategic military hub will be counted as one of the Pentagon's permanent overseas installations.

Qatar Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah, speaking in Washington on Tuesday, said a planned expansion would include 200 new family housing units for the American servicemembers and their families, new state-of-the-art schools and recreational facilities.

"The initiative aim(s) to serve the needs of the community living in Al Udeid and ease their transition and assimilation," al-Attiyah said.

His comments came during a meeting with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, both of whom touted the long-standing military al-

liance with Qatar.

The base has served as the primary operations hub for the campaign against Islamic State and played a crucial role in the Iraq War.

Expanding the welcome mat for U.S. forces at Al Udeid is one way Doha can enhance its relationship with Washington at a time when Qatar is increasingly isolated.

In June, Saudi Arabia and a contingent of other Gulf states imposed an economic blockade on Qatar in connection with persistent complaints that it secretly supported terrorist groups.

Soon after the blockade was announced, President Donald Trump issued a tweet that appeared to take Saudi Arabia's side in the feud.

Since then, the U.S. has not signaled any interest in pivoting away from Al Udeid.

Tillerson said Tuesday that Qatar had recently moved to improve efforts at combating terrorism, including increased sharing

of information on terrorists and those who finance them.

"We have participated in counterterrorism technical training and taken steps to improve aviation security," he said. "We look forward to building on this foundation and implementing (the) next steps."

The U.S. began operating out of Al Udeid in 2001. While it is not a secret location, for years, the Pentagon avoided calling the facility by name and drawing attention to operations there because of Qatar's sensitivities.

That has changed in recent years, and now Qatar touts the American presence and the roughly 11,000 troops who operate at Al Udeid.

The quality of some facilities at Al Udeid was at one point a cause of concern. In 2016, complaints from troops about moldy showers and temporary living quarters got the attention of Congress, which pressured military officials to remedy the situation.

Colonel drugged in Bogota facing forced retirement

Miami Herald

A military board has recommended forced retirement for a Marine colonel who was slipped a tranquilizer during a night on the town last year in Bogota, robbed and led around like a zombie before winding up in a Colombian hospital along with two other drugged Marine officers.

Col. Roger T. McDuffie, a Harrier pilot, was the most senior Marine in a South Florida unit on a Jan. 21-to-Feb. 4 field trip to the Colombian capital to map out U.S. Marine operations there. An initial, internal investigation conducted by the U.S. Southern Command Marine affiliate found some Marines broke curfew, ventured into a forbidden zone, consorted with prostitutes and brought some back to their hotel — only to be robbed of government property and hospitalized.

A board of inquiry, an administrative procedure less serious than a court-martial, considered the case Jan. 11 at Camp

Lejeune, N.C., and found that McDuffie was guilty of "substandard performance" and "failure to demonstrate acceptable qualities of leadership required of an officer in the member's grade," said Gina Levy of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, which handled the investigation.

"The board recommended involuntary retirement, in grade," she said, adding that a final determination of his case will be made by the secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer, a 1976-81 Marine helicopter pilot turned investment banker. Three generals sat on McDuffie's board.

The larger group of Marines started their night with drinks at the home of a Marine attache assigned to the U.S. Embassy, according to an internal investigation obtained by the Miami Herald. They moved on to the Ugly American Bar & Grill, a bar popular with embassy workers for its hamburgers, and then hit the Colombian Pub, according to

the report.

McDuffie's attorney, Aaron Meyer, however, described the colonel as vindicated by the board.

Meyer said he presented evidence to the board that showed the colonel was drugged while socializing in an approved bar, the Colombian Pub, in an area where the U.S. military was allowed to go in a night on the town, long before curfew. At the hearing, he told the panel of general officers it was as though the colonel was in a "sort of zombie-like state."

Meyer said they were preyed upon by women, not prostitutes, from a gang that used spotters to target victims, "drug them, watch them,glom onto them when they are susceptible and ultimately rob them."

An internal investigation described the drugged officers as being led into the hotel by the women in the early hours of the morning of their scheduled return — and led past other Ma-

rines mustering for their flight to Miami. Instead, McDuffie was robbed of iPhones, an iPad and cash — and landed in the hospital, the investigation found.

A separate board examined the case of Marine Maj. Andrew L. Mueller, described as a theater security cooperation planner during his time at the SOUTHCOM affiliate. Levy said the panel "substantiated misconduct," and found Mueller violated Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice covering dereliction of duty, "but recommended retention and that the case be closed."

The secretary of the Navy will get to weigh in similarly on whether to accept the board's recommendation.

Levy said another Marine major implicated in the episode, Mauricio Saenz, was scheduled to have his board at Parris Island, S.C., last week. Instead he chose to quit the service without a hearing on whether he should be allowed to keep his commission.

Diplomat move stirs fears of US strike on North Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The Trump administration's decision to drop a prominent Washington-based academic as its choice to be the new ambassador to South Korea raised a new concern about a possible so-called "bloody nose" strike against the nuclear-armed North.

Victor Cha was pulled from consideration for the position after he privately disagreed with President Donald Trump's policy on North Korea and threats to scrap the U.S.-South Korea free-trade agreement, *The Washington Post* reported Tuesday.

U.S. officials have confirmed the decision but not the reason. The move was seen as unusual because Washington already had informed South Korea that it intended to nominate Cha.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Thursday that Washington informed it that the post won't be filled before the Olympic Games begin next week on the divided peninsula.

"The U.S. has sought our understanding through diplomatic channels that its efforts to send its ambassador to the South before the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics have not panned out as planned," spokesman Noh Kyuduk said during a regular news briefing.

With uncertainty high over conflicting signals, critics and other observers seized on the news as evidence that Trump may be leaning toward a unilateral first strike.

In recent months, Trump has bounced between saying he'd be willing to talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and warning that he'll unleash "fire and fury" and "totally destroy" the North if forced to defend the U.S. and its allies.

"An ominous signal," the *Korea JoongAng Daily* said in an editorial. "The last-minute withdrawal reflects the Trump administration's interest in a military strike and abrogation of the trade pact."

The president's use of strong language about North Korea as well as the U.S. military and nuclear arsenal in his State of the

Union speech stoked the speculation. He also stressed his plans to exert "maximum pressure" on the North, which refers to the diplomatic efforts.

The debate comes at a sensitive time, as South Korea is trying to maintain a diplomatic thaw with the North after the communist state agreed to participate in the Feb. 9-25 Winter Games.

The head of a South Korean opposition party said Cha's withdrawal from consideration shows that Trump is taking a harder line on North Korea than anticipated.

"If President Trump disapproved of even Victor Cha, who has been known as a hawk, we have to think seriously about its meaning," Rep. Yoo Seong-min was quoted as saying by the *Yonhap News Agency*. "The only way to prevent a U.S.-started war is persuasion through the Korea-U.S. alliance and sanctions and pressure against the North."

The ambassador's post, which has been vacant since Trump took office a year ago, requires Senate confirmation. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is being led by charge d'affaires Marc Knapper, a career diplomat.

Commander of Osprey squadron fired

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The commander of one of Okinawa's two MV-22 Osprey squadrons has been fired nearly six months after a deadly crash off Australia's eastern coast.

Marine Lt. Col. Bryan Swenson was removed from the helm of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 on Jan. 26 by 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general Brig. Gen. Thomas Weidley, Marine officials said in a statement sent to *Stars and Stripes* on Thursday.

Swenson lost the job because of a "loss of trust and confidence in his ability to lead his command," the statement said. He was replaced on an interim basis by Maj. Christopher Denver, VMM-265's executive officer.

Marine officials declined to provide further details about the firing.

Swenson led the unit during a deployment to Australia last year in which an Osprey crashed into the Coral Sea off Queensland's coast, killing three Marines.

The Aug. 5 incident happened on the heels of *Talisman Saber*, a monthlong biennial exercise involving tens of thousands of troops, dozens of ships and hundreds of aircraft from several allied nations that wrapped up at the end of July. It remains unclear what caused the crash because no report has been released.

The aircraft apparently smashed into the deck of the Navy's amphibious transport dock USS *Green Bay* while trying to land with 26 Marines onboard.

It then slid into the sea, causing frantic rescue efforts that led to the recovery of 23 Marines.

First Lt. Benjamin Robert Cross, Cpl. Nathan Ordway and Pfc. Ruben Velasco were killed in the accident.

Their bodies were later recovered along with the aircraft.

Okinawa's two Osprey squadrons — VMM-262 and VMM-265 — belong to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. They alternate sea duty in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

DOD: Missile defense test fails in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A live-fire missile defense test conducted early Wednesday in Hawaii was unsuccessful, Pentagon officials acknowledged Thursday.

"It did not meet our objectives," said Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "But we learn something all the time with these tests. We learned something from this one, and we'll continue to improve our capabilities."

The missile was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands on the

island of Kauai.

White said the Missile Defense Agency was probing test data to determine why the interceptor, known as a Standard Missile 3 Block IIA, did not hit its target.

MDA did not issue a statement about the test result, which the agency typically had done after similar missile tests in the past. White declined to answer questions at the Pentagon about why the failure was not acknowledged immediately, referring any such inquiries to MDA officials.

MDA spokesman Mark Wright confirmed in a statement Wednesday only that the

test had taken place.

"The Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy sailors manning the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex conducted a live-fire missile flight test using a Standard-Missile 3 Block IIA missile launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, Wednesday morning," Wright said.

Citing unidentified Pentagon sources, CNN reported the status of the test had not been announced in part because of the "sensitivities surrounding North Korea's participation in the upcoming Olympic games and continuing tensions with leader Kim Jong Un."

Reaction to Trump immigration offer casts doubt on deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's State of the Union offer of a "down-the-middle compromise" on immigration did nothing to move Republicans and Democrats closer to a deal, as Democrats accused the president of lacing his speech with racially charged remarks and Republicans dug in on their demands.

The reaction to Trump's high-profile overture suggested both parties were settling into a protracted tug-of-war. The standoff left serious doubt whether the two parties could reach an election-year pact to protect hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation, sharpen border security and take other steps to curb immigration.

"If the deadline is Feb. 8, we're not going to make it," No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer, of Maryland, said Wednesday, noting a looming deadline for approving government funding to avoid another shutdown.

"It's going to take work for us to build a consensus," Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the House GOP vote counter, said in an interview Tuesday. Scalise noted that Republicans took "weeks and weeks" to craft tax legislation last year.

Trump complained early Thursday that "the Democrats are doing nothing about DACA."

"They Resist, Blame, Complain and Obstruct — and do nothing. Start pushing Nancy Pelosi and the Dems to work out a DACA fix, NOW!" the president tweeted.

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats looking to pressure Republicans to reach an immigration deal forced a three-day federal shutdown. While many Democrats have little appetite to repeat that strategy, party leaders have yet to indicate if they'll let future budget legislation move forward without an immigration accord.

The tone of the immigration debate, already testy, seemed to worsen after Trump asserted Tuesday night that "open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities" and let millions of immigrants "compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Wednesday that Trump used "insulting words of ignorance and prejudice." Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., who leads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the remarks were "meant to enflame tensions about immigrants" and would stir up Trump's conservative base but damage talks.

Republicans said Democrats are not making serious offers as they bargain over Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the Obama-era program that's shielded immigrants in the U.S. illegally who were brought here as children.

Russian military says it will continue tailing US aircraft

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Russia's Defense Ministry said Thursday that it would continue to tail U.S. aircraft flying near its territory over the Black Sea and suggested the Navy give its pilots updated maps showing the Crimean Peninsula within Russian borders.

U.S. Naval Forces Europe reported on Monday that a Russian fighter flew within 5 feet of an EP-3 reconnaissance plane, which was deemed an unsafe maneuver. The incident occurred over international airspace, the Navy said.

Russia on Thursday said the U.S. plane was flying near the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, sparking Cold War-like tensions with the West.

"The Russian military believes that when it dispatches air pilots on reconnaissance missions in this part of the Black Sea the United States should keep in mind that they will encounter Russian fighters, and not Ukrainian partners,"

said the Russian Defense Ministry, as quoted by state media. "Or supply all crews with updated maps showing the correct borders of Russia's airspace."

In November, a Russian fighter intercepted a Navy P-8 aircraft in a similar incident over the Black Sea, where close air encounters between Russia and the U.S. have become commonplace.

In a message to the Navy's 6th Fleet, the Russian Defense Ministry issued a "reminder" that "Crimea is an integral part of Russia."

The U.S. military and the State Department blamed Russia for engaging in maneuvers that increase the risk of miscalculation and midair collisions.

"The United States notes with the highest level of concern the latest incident of unsafe Russian military practices," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Tuesday. "While the U.S. aircraft was operating under international law, the Russian side was flagrantly violating existing agreements and international law."

Lawmakers demand answers on publicized data from fitness apps

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats on Wednesday called on Strava, the maker of a popular fitness app, to explain why it published a global "heat map" online that inadvertently highlighted the locations of sensitive government facilities throughout the world by revealing the movements of millions of users.

New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., the top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, demanded that Strava Chief Executive Officer James Quarles explain why it published the heat map, what privacy protections it offered users, how it secures data from hackers and whether the company has changed its policies since news of the heat map broke over the weekend.

"The increasing popularity of fitness trackers and other wearable technology has raised serious questions about the types of data they collect and share and the degree to which consumers control their own personal information," said the letter, which eight committee Demo-

crats co-signed. "The data these devices collect reveals users' precise locations, daily activities, and health information. ... In this case, Strava made no attempt to secure information, and instead published location information on the internet for anyone to see."

A Strava spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the letter on Wednesday.

News reports on Strava prompted a U.S. military review this week of the fitness devices and other telecommunications equipment that can broadcast the locations of users in sensitive locations. The news also underscored growing concerns about the privacy of fitness apps, as experts found ways to use the Strava app to find the names and photographs of individual users, along with the biking and jogging routes they used.

Such user data, along with military supply and convoy routes, are potentially valuable information to adversaries and those who might plan attacks on U.S. forces, experts said.

Lawmakers use medical skills after crash

Associated Press

CROZET, Va. — Republican members of Congress with medical experience put their skills to work after a train carrying dozens of them crashed into a garbage truck in rural Virginia, killing one person in the truck and injuring others.

The congressmen were on their way to a strategy retreat when the collision occurred about 11:20 a.m. Wednesday in Crozet, about 125 miles southwest of Washington.

No serious injuries were reported aboard the chartered Amtrak train, which set out from the nation's capital with lawmakers, family members and staff for the luxury Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur

Springs, W.Va. At least two other people in the truck were reported seriously hurt.

Rep. James Comer, of Kentucky, said about 100 Republican lawmakers were on the train when the crash made him jump out of his seat.

Florida Rep. Neal Dunn, a former Army surgeon, said he and other lawmakers who are doctors joined other passengers who were nurses or paramedics and jumped out with the basic medical gear they had.

The Albemarle County Police Department identified the passenger killed as Christopher Foley, 28, of Louisa County.

Dunn said another man in the truck was critically injured and a third was seriously hurt.

Sen. Jeff Flake, of Arizona,

said seeing the lawmakers tending to the injured reminded him of the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise, of Louisiana, at a baseball practice last June.

Authorities gave no details on the cause of the wreck, which took place at a crossing protected by gates, flashing lights, bells and warning signs. The National Transportation Safety Board will spend several days at the site, spokesman Earl Weener said Wednesday night.

Benny Layne, on whose property the truck landed, said the crossing arms had been known to malfunction, sometimes coming down even though no train was approaching. Sometimes, he said, they stayed down for hours.

He said motorists would get

out of their cars to help guide other motorists around the malfunctioning arms so they could cross the tracks.

Minnesota Rep. Jason Lewis' staff tweeted that the first-term congressman was among those taken to the hospital and later was discharged after suffering a concussion. Others reported bumps, bruises and sore joints.

The GOP policy retreat, an annual event, was scheduled to last three days and to feature speeches from President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. By early afternoon, lawmakers were boarding buses to resume their trip.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, was on the train and was unhurt, aides said.

Video game maker using courts to stop cheaters

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The maker of a video game that pits players worldwide in a fight for survival on virtual terrain has used U.S. courts to successfully chasten cheaters from Ukraine to Minnesota.

North Carolina-based Epic Games has in the past two months squeezed promises from men in Minnesota, Sweden and Russia to stop cheating and spoiling revenues from its popular "Fortnite" online multiplayer game. The company also closed its case against a Louisiana boy with a confidential settlement.

Only the Minnesotan faces a \$5,000 penalty if he resumes cheating. Epic Games spokesman Nick Chester would not say Wednesday whether that's because the company can't enforce financial penalties against foreign copyright violators.

The company has sued three Americans and seven foreign gamers for hacks that undercut the game the company's lawyers say is played by more than 30 million people worldwide. The company accuses the hackers of using and sharing covert

code "that allows players to obtain game currency without paying for it" and making YouTube videos showing how well they are able to overpower opponents.

"Fortnite" players "explore, scavenge gear, build fortified structures and fight waves of monsters who want to kill the player and her friends," company lawyers said when suing a New Zealand man earlier this month. The winner is the last one standing.

Cheating gamers are able to overpower their opponents by using tools that allow them to see through solid objects, impersonate other players and make moves other players cannot, according to one lawsuit.

"Fortnite" costs nothing to play online but generates revenue by charging players for cosmetic options, like different outfits for their virtual character, which don't give players an edge against rivals. Game currency can be purchased in packages of up to \$100.

The lawsuits, which were filed in North Carolina and California, allege violation of the game's copyright and terms of use contract.

African leaders came close to demanding apology from Trump

Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — African leaders this week came close to demanding that President Donald Trump publicly apologize for his vulgar remark about the continent "that defies all forms of diplomatic etiquette," according to a draft declaration obtained by The Associated Press.

The draft, created during an African Union summit on Sunday and Monday, says the continent's leaders are "deeply appalled" by Trump's reported comparison of African countries to a dirty toilet.

It warns the partnership between Africa and the U.S. is at risk because of Trump's "racist and xenophobic behavior."

The African leaders appear to have changed their minds about issuing the draft declaration because of a Trump letter to them pledging his "deep respect" and saying Secretary of State Rex Tillerson would make an "extended visit" to the continent in March, his first in that role.

Many African leaders had been outraged by Trump's comment last month after nearly a year of little attention

by his administration to the world's second-most-populous continent. Concerns have been widespread over proposed deep cuts to U.S. foreign aid and a shift from humanitarian assistance to counterterrorism.

Ahead of the summit, the chairman of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, declared that "Africa cannot keep quiet" about Trump's "shocking" remarks. But by Monday he had toned down his stance, telling reporters only that African leaders had received a "letter of correspondence" from Trump and "we've taken due note of it."

The draft declaration, however, shows how the 55-nation continental body came close to speaking out.

It says African leaders were "dismayed and shocked by the increasingly consistent trend from the Trump administration to denigrate people of African descent and other people of color thereby promoting racism, xenophobia and bigotry."

It calls on the U.S. to retract Trump's remark and demands that he officially and publicly apologize to all Africans and people of African descent.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School evacuated as calamari cooks

NH EPPING — An effort to cook calamari went awry in a New Hampshire middle school science class, forcing the school to be evacuated.

Police said students were dissecting the squid Tuesday at Epping Middle School and it was being cooked up as calamari.

Fire Lt. Paul St. Cyr told the Portsmouth Herald a boiling pot of oil caused a lot of smoke. School District Superintendent Valerie McKenney said the smoke set off fire alarms.

St. Cyr said students were evacuated and moved to the elementary school to keep them out of the cold for about an hour.

Coach, son accused of attacking referee

WI WAUKESHA — A men's college basketball coach and his adult son have been charged with attacking a referee following a game against a rival school in Wisconsin.

University of Wisconsin-Rock County coach Jamal Mosley, 41, and his son, J'shon Mosley, 20, are charged with battery and disorderly conduct.

They're accused of tracking down the referee, Patrick Anderson, after the team's loss on Jan. 3 to the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha and beating him as he fell to the ground. Witnesses stopped the attack and called police, investigators said.

Anderson sustained abrasions and cuts around one of his eyes.

Jamal Mosley told police the referee had disrespected him during the game by calling him a boy and giving him two technical fouls.

Fugitive found inside trunk used as table

VT RICHFORD — Vermont State Police said a man who has evaded police for nearly a year was arrested after he was found hiding in a piece of furniture.

Officials said Duane Delisle, 47, of Richford, was being sought on sexual assault charges. The Burlington Free Press reported police were informed that Delisle was hiding out in a Richford home and conducted a search.

Trooper John Bruzzi said he found Delisle hiding inside the furniture, which he described as a wooden trunk functioning as a coffee table.

Delisle pleaded not guilty to the sexual assault charge at his arraignment Monday.

Officials find bomb left in new restaurant

ID BURLEY — An unexploded bomb was found in the doorway of a new, unopened downtown Idaho restaurant.

The Times-News reported a bomb squad from Twin Falls detonated the bomb in Burley on Monday. Authorities said the bomb's fuse had been lit but the device didn't detonate.

Firefighters found the bomb while extinguishing a blaze at an empty building across the street. Authorities said they're not certain whether a bomb started the fire but they're working under that assumption.

Police: Suspect stopped for pizza

NY ROTTERDAM — Police in upstate New York said they arrested a man who stopped for a slice of pizza after holding up a cellphone

store employee.

Rotterdam Police Lt. William Male said the 43-year-old Schenectady man robbed a Cricket Wireless store Tuesday, holding up a clerk with a knife before tying the woman up with a USB cord and fleeing with a bank deposit bag. The Times Union of Albany reported that after the suspect fled the store, he stopped in a few nearby businesses to use a bathroom and buy a slice of pizza.

Male said police arrested the suspect in Schenectady with a "sum of money."

Bar to get training after MLK Day 'joke'

MI MASON — A Michigan bar's employees will undergo mandatory diversity and sensitivity training following an incident involving a watermelon on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

A biracial employee of Darb's Tavern and Eatery in Mason received a watermelon from her co-workers and boss on the holiday, the Lansing State Journal reported. Kelly Martin Aimery, the employee's mother, posted on Facebook saying the words "Happy 1/2 MLK" and "Happy black day" were written on the watermelon.

The bar's owner and manager, Rob Hearit, issued a statement Monday that said the action was meant to be a "friendly joke" but was in "poor taste and offensive."

Book Washington signed fetches \$138K

TN KNOXVILLE — A book signed by George Washington that made its way from the Founding Father's personal library to a now-deceased Tennessee man has sold for \$138,000 at an auction.

A Case Antiques vice presi-

dent, Sarah Drury, told WBIR-TV an anonymous phone bidder purchased the leather-bound copy of Volume 1 of the Massachusetts Magazine during Saturday's auction in Knoxville.

Washington gave the book to his biographer and former Chief Justice of the United States John Marshall. The book last belonged to a Chattanooga man who died in 2017.

2 arrested in 2010 Key West gold theft

FL KEY WEST — Authorities said two men were arrested in the 2010 theft of a museum's 17th-century gold bar, valued at \$550,000.

A U.S. Department of Justice statement said Richard Steven Johnson, 41, of Rio Linda, Calif., and Jarred Alexander Goldman, 32, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., were arrested this week and charged with conspiring to steal and stealing the gold bar from the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum in Key West.

The 74.8-ounce bars, found in 1980 on a 1622 Spanish galleon wreck off the Florida Keys, hasn't been recovered.

Police: Pair sold gutted televisions

LA SLIDELL — Police in a New Orleans suburb said two Mississippi men were accused of selling boxes of rocks and gutted flat-screen TVs as working televisions.

Slidell Police Detective Michael Seuzeneau said police answered a report about men trying to sell TVs at a gas station.

He said they arrested Clover Sims, 47, and Lloyd Bradley, 44, both of Gulfport, on one count each of theft by fraud.

From wire reports

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Eagles having fun, unintimidated by Pats

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Wrestling masks have replaced the dog masks.

The underdog Philadelphia Eagles are having fun with the media frenzy leading up to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. They're staying relaxed, loose and won't be intimidated by their opponent's incredible success.

Three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Fletcher Cox and All-Pro right tackle Lane Johnson on Wednesday donned masks that resembled the ones WWE star Rey Mysterio and other luchadores wear in the ring.

"This was a gift from Mexico so I can have super powers all week," Cox said about the green mask featuring an Eagles logo.

"I'm just having fun right now. We know why we're here. We can't come into this all uptight. You have fun when it's time to have fun and get serious when it's time to get serious."

Johnson and defensive end Chris Long pulled out German shepherd masks and wore them off the field and in their interviews after the Eagles beat Atlanta in the divisional round. The Eagles (15-3) were

the first No. 1 seed to enter their first playoff game as an underdog.

The city, which has always had an underdog personality, embraced the masks. Johnson and Long then turned it into a charitable venture. They created underdog T-shirts that were sold with all proceeds going to the Philadelphia school district's not-for-profit arm.

The Eagles were underdogs again in the NFC championship game and routed the Vikings 38-7. They're in the same spot against the Patriots, who are 4½-point favorites on Sunday.

But these Eagles don't fear Bill Belichick, Tom Brady or New England's dynasty. Johnson called Brady a "pretty boy" and made it clear he's not bothered by the hype.

"I definitely respect him and all that he's done in this league," Johnson told The Associated Press. "I'm not going to go into the Super Bowl worshipping this man and make him more than what he is. No disrespect."

"As far as bulletin-board material, they can put it on their nightstands for all I care, in their bathrooms, I don't care. I don't think you need any motivation to play in

the Super Bowl. They know that."

Brady and Belichick have led the Patriots to five Super Bowl titles, including two of the past three seasons.

Philadelphia players respect the duo's accomplishments, but aren't going into the game already defeated. Several players were part of a 35-28 upset win at New England in 2015. The Eagles were a losing team under Chip Kelly that season, but still went on the road and knocked off the 10-1 Patriots.

That won't matter when the teams meet for the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Still, it's a confidence-booster for some guys.

"I think when you've been playing for a long time, you've had games where you've played unbelievable players and unbelievable coaches," All-Pro center Jason Kelce said.

"To me, this isn't any different. These guys have been more consistent throughout the years, but this is the NFL. You play good players every week. There's good coaches you go against every week. I don't think you look at this any different than the fact that this is just another game. You see what they do really well and how you can defend it."

New England excels at maximizing talent

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Patriots have had a knack for getting sometimes unexpected production out of late-round draft picks and undrafted free agents during Bill Belichick's tenure.

From Tom Brady to Julian Edelman to Danny Amendola to last season's Super Bowl star James White, the list is long and lauded.

This season has been no exception with 2011 seventh-round draft pick Lawrence Guy and Ricky Jean Francois, a seventh-round pick in 2009, each providing contributions that have helped solidify New England's defensive line that has thrived during the second half of 2017.

The Patriots want to make life as miserable as possible for Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles in Sunday's Super Bowl.

It puts the spotlight on Guy and Jean Francois, with Deatrich Wise (concussion) and Malcolm Brown (foot) both dealing with injuries.

Guy said experiencing his first Super Bowl has validated the path he took to get here.

"My journey's still going," he said. "I wasn't thinking about this a couple of years ago. I was just thinking about doing what I could do to play harder and harder, study film and stay on the team and contribute. But now I'm blessed to be here."

Guy started 15 games during the regular season at either defensive tackle or defensive end, and he's started both playoff games.

Jean Francois appeared in six games after signing with the Patriots in early November and started New England's AFC championship game win while playing defensive end.

"My appreciation is high for this," said Jean Francois, 31,

who came to the Patriots following stops in San Francisco, Indianapolis, Washington and Green Bay. "I'm having fun. Clowning around with my teammates. Sitting down, watching film. Just appreciating the moment."

Jean Francois will be getting his second shot at a Super Bowl. He was on the 49ers team that lost to Baltimore in the Super Bowl to cap the 2012 season. It's an opportunity he acknowledged he wasn't sure he'd get again.

"It's crazy. I never thought there'd be a point when I'd be starting in the AFC championship game again," Jean Francois said.

"I started in one for the Colts (2014 season), but the next year I was gone. But to be on a team like this and be able to start again in a short period of time. That shows you how much trust and how much I had to do to be in that position."

Since starting with Green Bay in 2011, each of Guy's subsequent stops in Indianapolis and San Diego ended with him getting waived. He had his longest run after being picked up by Baltimore in 2014. He played 11 games for the Ravens in 2014, and appeared in every game over the next two seasons.

The Patriots grabbed him in free agency last March, signing him to a four-year, \$20 million deal. He's had one of his best seasons so far, starting 15 games and finishing with a career-best 34 tackles and a sack.

Even in his sixth season, Guy said he's tried to keep learning from older players around him.

"Everything I've gone through made me more of a man and made me better as a player," Guy said.

"To experience this type of week is great. It's a once-in-a-lifetime situation that you can never get back."

28 Russians have doping bans lifted

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Twenty-eight Russian athletes had their Olympic doping bans overturned Thursday, throwing the International Olympic Committee's policy on the country into turmoil.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling was set to reinstate seven Russian medals from the 2014 Sochi Olympics, including gold in men's skeleton and men's 50-kilometer cross-country skiing.

"This does not mean that these 28 athletes are declared innocent, but in their case, due to insufficient evidence, the appeals are upheld, the sanctions annulled and their individual results achieved in Sochi are reinstated," CAS secretary general Matthieu Reeb said in Pyeongchang.

The IOC said it had taken note of the CAS decision "with satisfaction on the one hand and disappointment on the other,"

adding the decision "may have a serious impact on the future fight against doping."

The 28 who had their bans lifted could now seek late entry into the Pyeongchang Olympics, but the IOC said "not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the ruling "can't fail to please us, and it confirms our position that the overwhelming majority of our athletes are clean athletes."

However, Putin also called for respect for the IOC, saying in comments reported by state news agency RIA Novosti that "there should not be any euphoria from our side and we need to be calm about this."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko said at a televised cabinet meeting that the government would back further legal action to allow the athletes to compete in Pyeongchang "if the IOC does not

accept them."

Eleven more Russians were ruled to have been guilty of doping but had lifetime bans imposed by an IOC disciplinary panel two months ago cut to a ban only from the Pyeongchang Games, which open next week.

In the urgent verdicts announced Thursday, the two CAS judging panels who heard 39 appeal cases last week in Geneva — and took testimony from Russian whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov — did not give detailed reasons.

"In 28 cases, the evidence collected was found to be insufficient to establish that an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) was committed by the athletes concerned," the sports court said in a statement.

CAS said it "unanimously found that the evidence put forward by the IOC in relation to this matter did not have the same weight in each individual case."

The 11 whose appeals were rejected came from men's bobsled, women's cross-country skiing and women's hockey.

They included two-time bobsled gold medalist Alexander Zubkov. His re-tested samples had abnormal levels of salt, suggesting his tainted urine was swapped in the Sochi testing laboratory with previously stored clean urine, as Rodchenkov said.

Still, the CAS rulings will be seen as a victory for Russia, which has long denied it ran a state-backed doping program.

"It's a big victory for them and I'm relieved that justice has finally been done," Philippe Baertsch, a lawyer for the athletes, told The Associated Press. "This confirms what they've been saying since Day 1, namely that they are and they've always been clean athletes, and that they were wrongly sanctioned without any evidence."

NHL roundup

Capitals rally past Flyers, end three-game home skid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After three games without a goal, T.J. Oshie decided how he'd celebrate his next score.

Another 10 games went by before he finally scored in the third period of the Washington Capitals' 5-3 comeback victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night. Oshie lifted his arms and looked up after becoming the third Capitals player to end a lengthy goal drought in the game.

Oshie conceded the exasperated expression of relief was "a little dramatic," though goals were a long time coming for the typically high-scoring winger. Same for teammates Andre Burakovsky and Chandler Stephenson before they broke through to help Washington erase a 2-0 deficit and avoid

what would've been their first four-game home losing streak since 2010.

"It's been a while," Oshie said in the wake of his first goal since Dec. 22. "You want to be able to help the team, and sometimes you need a little confirmation by putting one in the back of the net."

Stephenson scored two goals 47 seconds apart after going 28 games without one, and Burakovsky scored his first-power-play goal of the season to end his 10-game dry spell. Those contributions reduced the impact of Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom being held without a point.

Red Wings 2, Sharks 1 (SO): Justin Abdelkader scored in the seventh round of a shootout, and Petr Mrazek stopped Tomas Hertl at the other end to

give host Detroit the win.

Trevor Daley scored for the Red Wings in the third period before Kevin Labanc responded for San Jose. Gustav Nyquist, Andreas Athanasiou, Tomas Tatar and Abdelkader scored in the shootout for Detroit, while Joe Pavelski, Logan Couture and Chris Tierney scored for the Sharks.

The Red Wings had a season-high 44 shots, but San Jose salvaged a point thanks to goalie Martin Jones and Labanc's goal with 4:59 remaining. The Sharks spoiled Mrazek's bid for a third shutout in January after an extended period in Detroit's zone. Luke Glendening of the Red Wings was caught without a stick, and Labanc's wrist shot through traffic beat Mrazek high to the glove side.

Mrazek finished with 30

saves.

Maple Leafs 5, Islanders 0: Justin Holl and Travis Dermott each scored their first NHL goal, leading host Toronto to the victory.

Holl made his NHL debut after being recalled from the minors earlier in the day.

Kasperii Kapanen, Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner also scored for the Maple Leafs (29-18-5), and Frederik Andersen made 28 saves for his fourth shutout of the season.

Thomas Greiss stopped 45 shots for the Islanders (25-22-5), who also lost 4-1 at home against Florida on Tuesday.

Toronto had three rookie defensemen in the lineup after scratching regulars Morgan Rielly (upper body), Roman Polak (viral infection) and Ron Hainsey (illness).

NBA roundup

Cavs rebound from loss of Love with win

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 24 points, Jae Crowder made a go-ahead three-pointer with 1:21 left and the Cleveland Cavaliers began a long stretch without injured All-Star Kevin Love by holding off the Miami Heat 91-89 on Wednesday.

The Cavs rebounded from a troubling loss at Detroit — Cleveland gave up 125 points to the undermanned Pistons — and prevented the Heat from overtaking them for third place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Cleveland played its first game since Love broke his left hand against the Pistons. The five-time All-Star is consulting with surgeons in New York, and it's possible he'll undergo an operation as early as Thursday. Love, who could miss two months, already has screws in the hand from a previous procedure after he broke it in 2009 with Minnesota.

Goran Dragic scored 18 and Josh Richardson 15 to lead the Heat, who went just

3-for-28 on three-pointers.

Nets 116, 76ers 108: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 27 points, D'Angelo Russell added 22 in his best performance since returning from knee surgery, and Brooklyn snapped a four-game skid with a victory over visiting Philadelphia.

Magic 127, Lakers 105: Marreese Speights scored 21 points in his second start of the season, Evan Fournier added 19 and host Orlando ran away from Los Angeles in the third quarter.

Pacers 105, Grizzlies 101: Myles Turner had 15 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the starting lineup, and host Indiana earned its third straight win.

Trail Blazers 124, Bulls 108: CJ McCollum scored a franchise-record 28 points in the first quarter and finished with a career-high 50 through three as host Portland took advantage of short-handed Chicago.

McCollum's 28 points in the opening quarter were the most in the NBA this season.

Suns 102, Mavericks 88: Rookie forward Josh Jackson matched his career best with 21 points as Phoenix stopped a five-game losing streak by handing Dallas its fifth loss in a row and eighth in nine games.

Suns backup guard Isaiah Canaan broke his left ankle in a gruesome injury in the first quarter.

Celtics 103, Knicks 73: Terry Rozier filled in nicely for Kyrie Irving, logging his first career triple-double in his first NBA start and leading Boston over New York.

Rozier had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to become the second player in NBA history with a triple-double in his first start, joining Tony Wroten for Philadelphia on Nov. 13, 2013, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

Hornets 123, Hawks 110: Kemba Walker hit a career-high nine threes and scored 38 points, leading visiting Charlotte to a dominant win over Atlanta.

College basketball roundup

No. 10 Texas Tech holds off Texas in OT

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Keenan Evans calmly dribbled the ball past midcourt with the final seconds ticking off the clock in overtime. The Texas Tech guard then made a couple of moves to create separation from a defender and hit the winning shot.

Evans scored a career-high 38 points, the last the winning jumper as time expired to give the No. 10 Red Raiders a 73-71 win over Texas on Wednesday.

"In that moment, I wanted to be the man for our team," Evans said after relaying the message that coach Chris Beard has repeated to him more often in recent days.

"He's always on me about, 'Don't be afraid of the moment. Go be the man,'" the senior guard said.

The sellout crowd often chanted "MVP!, MVP!" and reacted wildly to the winning

shot by Evans, who then ran to the other end of the court while being mobbed by teammates.

After missing a potential winning free throw with 3.4 seconds left in regulation, Evans scored six points in overtime. His winning 18-foot jumper from atop the key came after the Longhorns tied the game on a banked three-pointer by Kerwin Roach.

Evans, who finished 9-for-13 shooting from the field, put the Red Raiders (18-4, 6-3 Big 12) ahead with a layup less than minute into overtime. Then on the ensuing possession, after grabbing a defensive rebound, Evans was fouled and made two free throws.

Texas (14-8, 4-5) overcame a 13-point deficit in the final 13 minutes of regulation and led 64-59 on a free throw by Roach with 1:25 left.

No. 2 Virginia 74, Louisville 64: Kyle Guy scored 22 points

and host Virginia held off hot-shooting Louisville to win its 13th straight.

No. 3 Purdue 75, Maryland 67: Isaac Haas had 20 points and nine rebounds, Carsen Edwards scored 17 points and host Purdue pulled away to extend the nation's longest active winning streak to 18.

No. 5 Michigan St. 76, Penn St. 68: Miles Bridges had 23 points and nine rebounds, helping host Michigan State come back from a double-digit deficit to beat Penn State.

No. 8 Cincinnati 80, Houston 70: Jacob Evans III scored 18 points, hitting the pivotal shots during Cincinnati's rally from an 18-point deficit, and the Bearcats extended the nation's longest home-court winning streak by beating Houston.

No. 9 Arizona 100, Washington St. 72: Deandre Ayton scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Allonzo Trier

added 24 points as visiting Arizona beat cold-shooting Washington State to remain in first place in the Pac-12.

Iowa St. 93, No. 15 West Virginia 77: Donovan Jackson scored 25 points and host Iowa State upset West Virginia, sending the short-handed Mountaineers to their fifth loss in six games.

No. 18 Tennessee 84, LSU 61: James Daniel III scored 17 points off the bench to continue his recent surge as Tennessee earned its fourth straight win.

Bucknell 83, Army 71 (OT): Zach Thomas had 32 points and 11 rebounds, Kimbal Mackenzie converted a key 4-point play in overtime for host Bucknell.

Navy 61, American 44: Shawn Anderson scored 20 points and Navy poured it on in the second half to earn its second straight victory. Navy earned a season sweep of its Patriot League rival.