

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## ISIS claims deadly attack at Kabul event

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Gunfire killed dozens of people at a memorial in Kabul attended by senior Afghan government officials Friday.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on its website.

At least 32 people were killed and more than 50 others were injured in the violence that started at about 11:30 a.m., Afghanistan's Health Ministry and security officials said Friday. The Afghan Interior Ministry said over 80 people were injured and some are in critical condition. All of those killed or injured were civilians, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani called the attack "a crime against humanity and against the national unity of Afghanistan," in a Twitter statement.

The ceremony in the city's west, relatively far from most U.S. forces in the city, marked the 1995 death of Afghan Shiite leader Abdul Ali Mazari.

The Islamic State-Khorasan affiliate has frequently attacked Shiite communities, who it considers apostates to Islam.

Last year, ISIS-K targeted the same ceremony, killing at least three people and wounding over 20 others.

"We had tight security for this event today," Rahimi said, in light of last year's violence. An investigation to determine what went wrong is underway, he said.

Afghan special police forces arrived at the scene shortly after the attack began, Kabul police spokesman Ferdous Faramarz said.

The Taliban, who have been criticized by U.S. and Afghan officials for increasing violence across the country after last weekend's peace deal with the U.S., quickly denied involvement in the attack.

Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, the country's No. 2 official, was evacuated safely from the scene, Abdullah's spokesman Faridoon Khwazoon said. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai also attended the memorial and is safe, Tolo News reported.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

## Special ops forces to aid Afghans even after US pullout

*The Washington Post*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A new network of special operations forces will serve as the backbone of a smaller U.S. military mission in Afghanistan, hunting Islamic State fighters as the U.S. withdraws and providing firepower against the Taliban if a peace agreement with the group crumbles, military officials said.

The network was established as Army Gen. Scott Miller, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, prepared to shrink the number of U.S. troops last summer while the Trump administration negotiated a U.S. troop withdrawal deal with the Taliban.

The idea was to improve coordination between coalition and Afghan forces, relying on WhatsApp to share information, in a way that would still be possible if the number of U.S. service members shrinks.

The force is designed to "withstand any change in policy, whatever that may be, or a change in any conditions on the ground," said a senior U.S. military official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the operations. The force will work with coalition partners, "but the core of it will obviously be U.S.," the official said.

The network, which has not previously been disclosed to the public, was detailed to The Washington Post as military officials seek to reassure U.S. and Afghan citizens that the U.S. can still provide security

in coming months.

The initial version is expected to withstand any cuts as the U.S. military presence shrinks from about 12,000 service members to 8,600 over the span of 135 days under the terms of a deal reached with the Taliban on Feb. 29. U.S. officials did not reveal how many people the network includes, but the senior military official said it is built to function with a few thousand U.S. troops in Afghanistan or less.

The deal, negotiated for more than a year, calls for the U.S. to withdraw all of its service members within 14 months if the Taliban meets certain requirements, including beginning negotiations with the Afghan government to end the war and ensuring that Afghan soil is not used to plot or carry out attacks against the U.S. or its allies. But U.S. officials have described the timeline as "aspirational," citing concerns about whether the Taliban will follow through on its obligations.

On Wednesday, the uncertainty was underscored by 43 Taliban attacks and a U.S. airstrike targeting the group in Helmand province, said Army Col. Sonny Leggett, a U.S. military spokesman. The U.S. strike, the first in 11 days anywhere in the country, was carried out in defense of Afghan forces, Leggett said.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, downplayed the recent attacks in testimony before the Sen-

ate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday, saying they occurred at "small, little outposts," and that cities have not been hit.

The complexities of the counterterrorism arrangement in the deal with the Taliban have not been released to the public, but Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday that documents known as "implementing arrangements" address the issue.

As the U.S. has explored whether its relationship with the Taliban can evolve, it has continued to carry out strikes against ISIS. Leggett tweeted Tuesday that U.S. forces had killed 18 ISIS fighters in Konar province in recent days.

Miller, in an interview last week in his office, said "there will probably be something there" for the U.S. military in Afghanistan as long as the U.S. believes there are "national interests to safeguard."

"What I do understand about Afghanistan is there are no straight lines," Miller said. "You have to understand that you have multiple paths forward, and ideally based on our assessment and judgment, we are taking the correct path."

Miller, who previously commanded Joint Special Operations Command, directed Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue to design the network. Donahue incorporated lessons learned in Syria, where he oversaw forces fighting ISIS, and other operations involving JSOC, U.S. military officials said.

# Trump approves \$8.3B bill to combat virus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday signed an \$8.3 billion measure to help tackle the coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than a dozen people in the U.S. and infected more than 200.

The legislation provides federal public health agencies with money for vaccines, tests and potential treatments and helps state and local governments prepare and respond to the threat. The rapid spread of the virus has rocked financial markets, interrupted travel and threatens to affect everyday life in the United States.

Trump had planned to sign the bill during a visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. But he told reporters Friday that concerns were raised about “one person who was potentially infected” who worked at the CDC. Trump said the person has since tested negative for the new virus, and the CDC was added to his schedule on Friday.

The Senate passed the \$8.3 billion measure Thursday to help tackle the outbreak in hopes of reassuring a fearful public and accelerating the government’s response to the virus. Its rapid spread is threatening to upend everyday life in the U.S. and across the globe.

The money would pay for a multifaceted attack on a virus that is spreading more widely every day, sending financial markets spiraling again Thursday, disrupting

travel and potentially threatening the U.S. economy’s decade-long expansion.

Thursday’s sweeping 96-1 vote sends the bill to the White House for President Donald Trump’s signature. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., cast the sole “no” vote. The House passed the bill Wednesday by a 415-2 vote.

The plan would more than triple the \$2.5 billion amount outlined by the White House 10 days ago. The Trump proposal was immediately discarded by members of Congress from both parties. Instead, the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations committees negotiated the increased figure and other provisions of the legislation in a burst of bipartisan cooperation that’s common on the panel but increasingly rare elsewhere in Washington.

“In situations like this, I believe no expense should be spared to protect the American people, and in crafting this package none was,” said Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala. “It’s an aggressive plan, a vigorous plan that has received an overwhelming positive reaction.”

Trump was sure to sign the measure, which has almost universal support. It is intended to project confidence and calm as anxiety builds over the impact of the virus, which has claimed more than a dozen lives in the U.S.

“The American people are looking for leadership and want assurance that their government is up to the task of protecting

their health and safety,” said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

The impact of the outbreak continues to mount. The British government is considering suspending Parliament for five months in hope of limiting the spread of the virus in the United Kingdom.

The legislation would provide federal public health agencies money for vaccines, tests and potential treatments, including \$300 million to deliver such drugs to those who need it. More than \$2 billion would go to help federal, state and local governments prepare for and respond to the coronavirus threat. An additional \$1.3 billion would be used to help fight the virus overseas. There’s also funding to subsidize \$7 billion in small business loans.

Other dollars would be directed to help local officials prepare for the potential worsening of the outbreak and subsidize treatment by community health centers. Medicare rules would be loosened to enable remote “telehealth” consultations whereby sick people could get treatment without visiting a doctor.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., whose state is at the center of the crisis, praised the bill because it “will increase access for public lab testing, help pay for isolation and quarantine, help pay for sanitizing in public areas, better track the virus and those who might come into contact with it, help labs who are trying to identify hot spots, and limit exposure.”

## Number of virus infection cases passes 100,000 mark

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Crossing more borders, the new coronavirus hit a milestone Friday, infecting more than 100,000 people worldwide as it wove itself deeper into the daily lives of millions, infecting the powerful, the unprotected poor and the vast masses in between.

The virus, which has killed nearly 3,400 people, edged into more and more U.S. states, popped up in at least four new countries and even breached the halls of the Vatican. It forced mosques in Iran and beyond to halt weekly Muslim prayers. It brought Israeli and Palestinian authorities together to block pilgrims from Jesus’ birthplace in Bethlehem. And it upended Japan’s plans for the Olympic torch parade.

“Who is going to feed their families?” asked Elias al-Arja, head of a hotel owners’ union in Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where tourists have been

banned and the storied Church of the Nativity shuttered.

The 100,000 figure of global infections is largely symbolic but dwarfs other major outbreaks in recent decades. SARS, MERS and Ebola affected far fewer people but had higher mortality rates.

The economic impact grew along with the number of infected people. World stocks and the price of oil dropped sharply again Friday. A sharp drop in travel and a broader economic downturn linked to the outbreak threatened to hit already-struggling communities for months to come.

The head of the U.N.’s food agency, the World Food Program, warned of the potential for “absolute devastation” as the outbreak’s effects ripple through Africa and the Middle East.

India scrambled to stave off an epidemic that could overwhelm its under-funded and under-staffed health care system, with not nearly enough labs or hospitals for its 1.3

billion people.

Yet even as COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, reached new territory, it was retreating in China, where it first emerged late last year, and slowing in South Korea, another major epicenter.

More than half of those who contracted the virus have now recovered, and U.S. health officials said they expect a far lower death rate than the World Health Organization’s international estimate of 3.4% — a high rate that doesn’t account for mild cases that go uncounted.

The fear and the crackdowns that swept through China are now shifting westward, as workers in Europe and the U.S. stay home, authorities vigorously sanitize public places and consumers flock to stores for household staples.

“The Western world is now following some of China’s playbook,” said Chris Beauchamp, a market analyst at the financial firm IG.

# Army researchers work on virus vaccines

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is ratcheting up its efforts against the coronavirus as Army researchers work to develop a vaccine for the illness.

Army medical researchers said Thursday that the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research are working on testing and developing two vaccines, or “candidates,” that could be used potentially to

combat the coronavirus, officially named COVID-19. The team is working in coordination with the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health.

The Army has received a sample of the coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that was taken from an American patient in Washington state, Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, the director of emerging infectious diseases at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, told reporters Thursday at the Pentagon.

Researchers are testing the

vaccines on mice. The next step will be to test the vaccines on larger animals. Then the first phase study is small groups of humans.

It is still expected to take 12 to 18 months before a vaccine is available to the general population.

Earlier Thursday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters that the efforts underway in South Korea have been a good model for protecting people from the virus, such as teams wiping down surfaces and people changing social interactions.

He said next week he will receive a plan on how the Pentagon would carry out its own prevention and mitigation measures in the building in case an employee is diagnosed with the coronavirus. If there was an outbreak at the Pentagon, he said they are confident the department can continue to perform its functions.

“Our national military command center has the capability to go for weeks at a time if they have to be locked down inside the building if we have some type of outbreak,” Esper said.

## More vetting of foreign military students sought

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Two Republican senators introduced legislation Thursday that would restrict foreign military students from obtaining firearms and establish a more thorough vetting process for the students before they are allowed access to U.S. military bases.

The Secure U.S. Bases Act aims to improve security following a deadly shooting Dec. 6 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., where a Saudi officer who was training on the base killed three U.S. sailors and injured eight other people. The bill was introduced by Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Rick Scott, R-Fla., who heard from Pentagon officials this week about security weaknesses that led to the Pensacola attack.

Garry Reid, director for defense intelligence, told senators Wednesday that Pentagon procedures meant to detect and prevent threats at U.S. military bases did not cover international military students. Further, the Pentagon is “overly reliant” on the State Department’s vetting procedures for these students and the agencies fail to share information, he said. There are also loopholes that

allow foreign military students to purchase firearms, despite restrictions for nonimmigrant visa holders.

The Secure U.S. Bases Act would create a new visa category for foreign military students that would prohibit them from possessing or acquiring a firearm except for specific use in their training programs. The shooter in the Pensacola attack, Mohammed Alshamrani, a second lieutenant in the Royal Saudi Air Force, was able to buy a semi-automatic handgun with a hunting license.

The bill would also require members of foreign militaries to get an official endorsement letter from the chief of intelligence of their countries when applying for U.S. military training. Students would also have to be fingerprinted and undergo an in-person interview and extensive background check that would include a review of their social media activity. The U.S. director of national intelligence would have to make the final decision on whether to admit students into the program.

Finally, the act would order the defense secretary to develop risk profiles for each country that participates in the training program.

## Navy’s Virginia-class subs worth \$161B to be delayed

*Bloomberg*

The Navy’s newest Virginia-class submarines are expected to be 10 to 15 months late as contractors General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls Industries try to recover from assembly faults that have dogged recent boats in the \$161 billion program.

The average delay of 10½ months is an increase from a seven-month average cited a year ago by the Naval Sea Systems Command for 10 vessels being built under a 2014 contract, according to a comparison of dates in Navy budget documents. The contractors, rival shipbuilders who are producing the submarines together, had sought to shave months off of previous construction periods.

The latest delay estimates may raise fresh concerns in Congress about whether the companies have the personnel, expertise and shipyard capacity to juggle three major projects: the 10 “Block IV” vessels now under construction, as many as 10 more under a “Block V” contract signed in December and the start of construction later this year on the Navy’s new \$128 billion Columbia-class submarine program.

The Virginia-class is the military’s primary submarine for land, surface and anti-submarine attack missions, with cruise missiles and torpedoes. It’s also capable of carrying Navy SEALs and is envisioned as a future platform for launching underwater drones. The Columbia will be the nation’s new launcher of intercontinental ballistic missiles to replace the current Ohio class.

Adding to the complexity for the shipbuilders, the next round of Virginia-class submarines will be 30% larger than their predecessors because they’ll have a new “payload module” to carry additional weapons, according to Bryan Clark, a naval analyst and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

The estimated delivery delays for the Virginia class include nine months for the USS Vermont, which is supposed to be delivered next month; 12 months for the USS Oregon, now scheduled for a November delivery; and 15 months for the third, the USS Montana, now scheduled for August 2021 instead of May of this year, according to delivery dates in Navy budget documents confirmed by the Naval Sea Systems Command.

# Sanders losing momentum as Warren exits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It took Joe Biden's moderate rivals just hours to unite behind his presidential campaign after they left the race. Bernie Sanders hasn't been so fortunate.

Elizabeth Warren, one of Sanders' closest ideological allies, declined to endorse anyone after suspending her campaign on Thursday. She didn't rule out an endorsement of her New England neighbor but said she wanted to "take a deep breath and spend a little time on that."

High-profile Warren support-

ers across the country, particularly women, were also hesitant to race into Sanders' camp. And on Capitol Hill, where Biden was racking up new endorsements daily, the Vermont senator hasn't earned a single new endorsement, even among the most progressive elected officials, in two weeks.

The dangerous silence from Warren and progressive officials across the country comes at the worst time for Sanders, who's suddenly losing momentum in a two-man race with the former vice president as another set of high-stakes pri-

mary elections looms. Sanders is moving forward with the same coalition that was beaten soundly earlier this week. And if he cannot find a way to grow, and grow quickly, the Vermont senator's 2020 challenge will only become more dire.

There is an increasing sense of frustration within Sanders' campaign, where a divide over strategy has emerged between opposing camps, according to a person close to the campaign who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose private discussions.

On one side, campaign man-

ager Faiz Shakir wants to empower the pool of existing supporters, such as progressive congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib, because of their organic appeal to voters. On the other, senior adviser Jeff Weaver is pushing for a wider range of endorsements to broaden Sanders' coalition.

Within the campaign, some lament Sanders' unwillingness to court elected officials as Biden's coalition grows exponentially.

# Trump defends rhetoric at TV town hall

Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. — President Donald Trump defended the administration's response to the coronavirus and his confrontational style of name-calling political opponents as he fielded questions Thursday from select members of the public in his first TV town hall of the 2020 election cycle.

Trump, who regularly calls his top Democratic presidential opponents "Sleepy Joe" and "Crazy Bernie," was asked whether he could deliver his message without the controversial rhetoric.

"When they hit us, we have

to hit back. I really feel that," Trump said in response to the first of two questions about civility. "You can't turn your cheek."

Fox News, the president's favorite network, hosted the live event in Scranton, Pa., a rare instance where the president answered questions from the public.

The first question, from an undecided voter, was about the administration's response to the virus.

"Everybody has to be calm. It's all going to work out," Trump said, sounding defensive at times as a pair of Fox News journalists pressed him

on the issue. "We hope it doesn't last too long."

It was Trump's first 2020 visit to Pennsylvania, a battleground state he won by about 44,000 votes in 2016. He did particularly well in northeastern Pennsylvania, where Scranton and Wilkes-Barre have long anchored a strong Democratic presence. The state is home turf to former Vice President Joe Biden, who spent his first 10 years in Scranton before his family moved to Wilmington, Del.

Asked about the Democratic race, the Republican Trump said several times that he was "mentally" prepared to take on

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I was ready ... and now I have a whole different deal," Trump said at the event, which was scheduled before Biden's resurgence. Trump chose Scranton as the setting.

He blamed Elizabeth Warren, who dropped out of the Democratic race Thursday, for hurting Sanders' chances by not folding her campaign sooner.

The audience seemed overwhelmingly supportive of Trump, greeting the president with thunderous applause and "USA, USA" chants.

# Russia-Turkey truce halts bombing in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Idlib's skies were completely free of Russian and Syrian government warplanes for the first time in weeks Friday, and residents reported a relative but tense calm as a cease-fire deal brokered by Turkey and Russia took hold in Syria's northwestern province.

The truce halted a terrifying campaign of bombing from above that killed hundreds and

sent a million people fleeing toward the Turkish border during the Russian-backed assault by Syrian government forces on the country's last rebel stronghold.

The agreement, announced Thursday after a six-hour meeting between the Turkish and Russian presidents in Moscow, essentially froze the conflict lines. The deal does not force Syrian President Bashar

Assad's forces to roll back military gains made in the past three months, which had been a key Turkish demand.

That effectively rules out the possibility of hundreds of thousands of displaced people returning to their homes.

The deal also lacked specifics or a known mechanism to enforce the truce. It is the latest of many cease-fire agreements for Idlib over the past

few years. All have ended up unraveling after a few months.

"This is nothing more than a time for fighters to rest," Salwa Abdul-Rahman, a citizen journalist, told The Associated Press by phone from Idlib's provincial capital, which bears the same name. Although warplanes no longer launched sorties, the activists said there was minor shelling in some areas after the truce went into effect.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman goes to jail for 100th birthday

**NC** ROXBORO — For her 100th birthday, Ruth Bryant crossed a significant item off her bucket list. She went to jail.

The Person County Sheriff's Office helped fulfill Bryant's unusual wish when two deputies showed up at her assisted living facility to serve her a warrant charging her with indecent exposure, news outlets reported.

The two deputies handcuffed Bryant to her walker and placed her in a patrol car, giving her the full experience with lights and sirens flashing and blaring. Before she got in, the deputies warned her not to put up a fight, and she playfully kicked at them, WRAL reported.

Once in the jail, Bryant was treated like, well, a criminal. She had a mugshot taken, spent a few minutes in a jail cell, and left with an orange shirt with the words "PERSON COUNTY JAIL" on it.

Before long, Bryant was released. She returned to her assisted living center to a party complete with a birthday cake. No word on whether the cake had a file in it.

## Town elects therapy dog as its pet mayor

**VT** FAIR HAVEN— A town in Vermont elected a dog as its pet mayor on Wednesday.

Murfee won the race in Fair Haven, WCAX-TV reported. The therapy dog beat out the incumbent goat, Mayor Mara Lincoln, and K-9 Sammy, a town police dog. Eight eighth-graders counted 350 ballots Wednesday morning to determine the winner.

The pet mayor race aims to raise money for a new playground and get children inter-

ested in politics.

Murfee visits nursing homes, schools and hospitals as part of Caring Canines Therapy Dogs of Southern Vermont.

## Black bear scratches man outside of his home

**FL** GULF BREEZE — A black bear attacked a man and scratched him on the chest outside his Florida Panhandle home, officials said.

The man was not seriously injured in his brush with the bear Wednesday evening. The attack occurred near Gulf Breeze, just south of Pensacola, according to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission news release.

The man was on his porch when the bear approached and scratched him on the chest, officials said in a statement. The man declined medical attention. Santa Rosa deputies and wildlife commission staff went to the scene, but no bears were present.

Traps were set to capture the bear, officials said. Wildlife officers were speaking with residents about bear activity and how to avoid conflicts.

## Zoo confirms it lost national accreditation

**MD** SALISBURY — A Maryland zoo recently confirmed that it lost its national accreditation during a standard five-year renewal process.

The Association of Zoos & Aquarium cited the Salisbury Zoo for not meeting certain industry standards during its fall 2019 evaluation, the zoo's Acting Director, Leanora Dillon, told The Salisbury Times this week.

The zoo's level of deferred maintenance, inadequately maintained buildings and the lack of a full-time veterinarian

all contributed to the zoo losing its standing, the newspaper reported.

Representatives didn't share further specifics on where the zoo fell short, but Dillon emphasized that none of the concerns had to do with animal welfare and that zoo is not in danger of losing any animals immediately.

The zoo must wait one year to reapply for accreditation while making progress toward fixing its citations.

## Town bans roosters; restricts other animals

**LA** LAKE ARTHUR — Complaints about noise and smell prompted a Louisiana town to ban roosters and place restrictions on other animals such as chickens and horses.

The Lake Arthur Town Council voted 4-1 on a measure Wednesday to ban roosters within town limits, The American Press reported. The new rule also bans pigs, hogs, sheep, goats and emus.

Chickens and hens are now limited to six per resident and cannot roam at large. Residents must keep horses and cows on a minimum of four acres of land.

"I've gotten numerous complaints about chickens roaming in other people's yards and roosters making noise when people who work nights are trying to sleep in the day," Lake Arthur Mayor Sherry Crochet said.

Anyone who violates the ordinance could face a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail.

## Iconic soda shop and pharmacy to close

**MS** GULFPORT — An iconic soda shop and pharmacy in Gulfport, Miss., is set to close after more than six decades in business.

The Sun Herald reported that Triplett-Day will shut down on March 31. The owners of the striped green downtown business said in a Facebook post that they want to enjoy time with their children, grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Triplett-Day opened in 1955 and served breakfast and lunch. It was renowned for its beignets.

## 10-year-old boy fires shotgun during standoff

**CA** SAN DIEGO — A 10-year-old boy is in custody after he fired shotgun rounds at police in San Diego during a two-hour standoff Thursday morning, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The boy turned himself in after he'd holed up behind a shed at his home, San Diego Police Lt. Shawn Takeuchi told reporters.

His parents had called police shortly after 9 a.m. because he was having an emotional and mental crisis, authorities said. Crisis negotiators and SWAT officers responded to the home.

## Man arrested in cockfighting probe

**VA** MANASSAS — Authorities have arrested a northern Virginia man and seized more than 60 chickens as part of an investigation into an alleged cockfighting operation.

Prince William County Police announced Wednesday that Arwin Pingol, 35, of Manassas has been charged with 38 felony counts of animal fighting.

Police say they carried out a search warrant after receiving a tip and found 63 chickens and two dogs at Pingol's home on Ellsworth Road.

From wire reports

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# Rangers' Zibanejad matches team record with five goals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The puck kept finding Mika Zibanejad — and he kept burying them in the back of the net.

Five times.

And, the last put him in the New York Rangers' record books and delivered them a big-time victory.

Zibanejad scored five goals to match the franchise record, capping the scoring spree 33 seconds into overtime in a wild 6-5 win over the Washington Capitals on Thursday night.

"The puck followed me today, I guess," he said. "You look at the goals and it's unbelievable plays being made and today I was at the right spot at the right time.

"It's a night I will remember for a long time."

Zibanejad is the second player in NHL history to score his fifth goal in OT, joining Detroit's Sergei Fedorov, who accomplished the feat on Dec. 26, 1996 — also against Washington.

"I feel like I'm speechless right now, to be honest with you," Zibanejad said.

Zibanejad's 38th of the season helped New York end a three-game skid and pulled the Rangers within two points of the Islanders for the final wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. He took a pass from Artemi Panarin and broke in alone and beat Ilya Samsonov with a backhand. Zibanejad is the first Rangers center with at least 35 goals in a season since Hall of Famer Eric Lindros in 2001-02.

"You'd be hard pressed to match that," Rangers coach David Quinn said. "Early on, he gets the hat trick and just doesn't stop."

## NHL roundup

# Surging Flyers win eighth straight

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The label has a nice ring to it around Philly: The first-place Flyers.

It's a tie, for now, in the Metropolitan Division and it's still March, but for a franchise that 15 months ago was nestled at the bottom of the standings and fired their coach, their GM, and ran through goalies like dirty laundry, the Flyers will enjoy their moment in the top spot.

"It's quite normal for everybody to be excited," coach Alain Vigneault said. "Players, coaches, fans, Flyers fans, hockey fans. I mean, this is great hockey. The competition is unreal and we're playing well right now. Everybody should be excited."

Carter Hart stopped 28 shots and four players scored to lead Philadelphia to its eighth straight win, 4-1 over the Carolina Hurricanes on Thursday night.

Ivan Provorov, Michael Raffl, Nicolas Aube-Kubel and Sean Couturier scored for the Flyers, who continued their scorching turnaround from

last season and won their 24th home game (24-5-4). They won on consecutive nights after beating the Washington Capitals 5-2 and have positioned themselves as a serious threat to make run in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Flyers moved into a tie for first place in the Metropolitan with the Capitals, who lost 6-5 in overtime to the New York Rangers.

The Flyers, who tied a franchise record with 10 wins in February, have been one of the best teams in the league the last three months and have fans in Philly excited about hockey again. They have scored at least four goals in each game of their winning streak.

**Bruins 2, Panthers 1 (OT):** Torey Krug scored 4:08 into overtime, Patrice Bergeron also had a goal and Boston beat host Florida for its fourth straight win.

**Lightning 4, Canadiens 0:** Andrei Vasilevskiy made 32 saves, Victor Hedman scored twice and Tampa Bay blanked visiting Montreal.

**Penguins 4, Sabres 2:** Patric Hornqvist scored twice in leading Pittsburgh to a win that extended host Buffalo's losing streak to five straight.

**Predators 2, Stars 0:** Filip Forsberg and Matt Duchene each scored power-play goals as Nashville shut out visiting Dallas to snap a three-game skid.

**Senators 4, Islanders 3:** Craig Anderson made 37 saves and host Ottawa beat New York, spoiling Jean-Gabriel Pageau's return to his former hometown after being traded 11 days ago.

**Blackhawks 4, Oilers 3:** Alex DeBrincat scored two goals, rookie Adam Boqvist had two assists, and host Chicago beat Edmonton.

**Kings 1, Maple Leafs 0 (SO):** Anze Kopitar and Adrian Kempe scored in the shootout, and Los Angeles beat visiting Toronto for its fourth consecutive victory.

**Wild 3, Sharks 2:** Zach Parise and Ryan Suter each had a goal and assist and Minnesota extended its mastery on the road, beating host San Jose.

# World Cup skiing finals canceled due to outbreak

Associated Press

Mikaela Shiffrin's chances of extending her three-year reign as overall champion took another hit when the World Cup skiing finals were canceled Friday because of the virus outbreak.

Shiffrin already lost her lead in the standings because of a month-long absence following the death of her father.

Shiffrin announced on Thursday that she was returning to the circuit in Europe but now she has only one set of races left in Are, Sweden — if she enters — to try to erase her 153-point deficit to Italian rival Federica Brignone.

Considering the virus, the Italian Winter Sports Federation was hoping to host the finals, scheduled for March 18-22 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, without fans. But during an emergency International Ski Federation board meeting on Friday, every nation besides Italy voted to cancel the event, the Italian federation said.

World Cup rules prevent the finals from being moved to another location.

Also:

■ Despite the spreading virus, Tokyo Olympic organizers finally held a test event.

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus has forced them to rearrange or postpone several. But they allowed a sport climbing event on Friday to go ahead, with a few restrictions: no fans and no top athletes. Instead they used amateurs to test the climbing facility.

Almost all sports events and large gatherings have been shut down in Japan.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers say the Olympics will open as scheduled on July 24. The Paralympics are set for Aug. 25.

Virologists, however, say it's impossible to tell if the spreading virus will allow that to happen, and a cancellation or a postponement are possible.

Twelve deaths in Japan have been attributed to the virus.

## Sports briefs

### Source: Angels' clubbie fired

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Los Angeles Angels have fired longtime visiting clubhouse manager Brian “Bubba” Harkins for allegedly aiding opposing pitchers in obtaining illegal substances to put on baseballs, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

The Angels confirmed Harkins' dismissal Thursday to The Associated Press.

Harkins was fired Tuesday while the Angels are in Arizona for spring training. He has worked at Angel Stadium for most of the past four decades.

Major League Baseball has been cracking down this spring on the use of pine tar and other substances pitchers use to get a better grip on the ball. Such practices, including a popular concoction from sunscreen and resin, have technically been outlawed for years, but those rules had been enforced sparingly.

The Angels moved immediately to dismiss Harkins after learning of his actions in previous seasons, the source said.

In other MLB news::

■ The Chicago White Sox have agreed to a \$70 million, five-year contract with Yoan Moncada, locking up another one of their promising young hitters.

The deal includes a \$25 million club option for 2025 with a \$5 million buyout that if exercised would make the agreement worth \$90 million for six seasons.

■ Right-hander Collin McHugh agreed Thursday to a \$600,000, one-year contract with the pitching-needy Boston Red Sox, a deal that allows him earn up to \$4.25 million.

### Jets' Williams arrested for gun

NEW YORK — New York Jets defensive lineman Quinnen Williams was arrested for criminal possession of a weapon Thursday night when he attempted to board a plane, police said in a statement.

New York/New Jersey Port Authority Police said Williams, the team's first-round draft pick last season, was arrested at LaGuardia Airport around 9:15 p.m. and charged. Police said Williams has a permit in his home state of Alabama — but not in New York — for the Glock 19 pistol he was carrying onto the flight. It was not immediately known whether the gun was loaded.

The 22-year-old Williams was drafted with the No. 3 overall pick last year out of the University of Alabama. He played in 13 games as a rookie, including nine starts, and had 31 tackles with 2½ sacks and a fumble recovery for the Jets.

— Associated Press

# Curry's 23 not enough for Warriors

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Stephen Curry seemed every bit himself after a four-month layoff, save for a little long-range rust.

“He looks exactly the same to me,” coach Steve Kerr said.

Curry scored 23 points for Golden State in his anticipated return from a broken left hand, but the Toronto Raptors beat the Warriors 121-113 Thursday night to clinch a playoff spot.

After being sidelined 58 games, Curry led Golden State out of the tunnel to a big ovation — as loud as his neon sneakers, one pink and one yellow — and the crowd stirred every time he pulled up to shoot.

He missed his first two attempts, but had three quick assists, including a no-look, behind-the-back dish to Andrew Wiggins. He finished with seven assists and seven

rebounds in 27 minutes.

“I was trying to be out there and not think about it,” Curry said. “If I needed to make that pass, make it and no hesitation. It was a good feeling, throwing the first one.”

The two-time MVP hit a 17-footer for his first basket early in the second quarter, then got a huge reaction for a three-pointer from well beyond the arc shortly before halftime. He was 3-for-12 from three-point range and 6-for-16 overall for the game, the only blemish on an otherwise encouraging night for the three-time champion.

Norman Powell scored a career-high 37 points for Toronto, which won in a rematch of last year's NBA Finals. The Raptors won that series in six games, finishing with a victory in Golden State's final game at its old arena in Oakland.

Kyle Lowry added 26 points and 10 assists for the Raptors, who ended a three-game losing streak on Tuesday at Phoenix.

## NBA roundup

# Clippers roll to win over Rockets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points and the Los Angeles Clippers rolled over the Houston Rockets 120-105 on Thursday night for their sixth straight victory.

The Rockets were done in by their shooting woes in a game that was billed as a matchup of two of the top teams in the Western Conference, but was a rout almost from the start. Houston had a chance to take the season series and secure the tiebreaker over the Clippers, but the loss left the teams tied 2-2.

Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers was asked about Houston's small-ball lineup where they play without a true center.

“What they do is smart for what they do, it really is, but we couldn't get caught in trying to play that way and I thought we didn't,” he said. “We stayed calm, moved the ball, found the open guy and our bigs were big.”

Houston made just 7 of 42 three-pointers to drop its second straight game in embarrassing fashion after losing to the lowly New York Knicks on Monday night. The Rockets ended their streak of 18 straight games with 10 or more three-pointers dating to Jan. 20.

Russell Westbrook led the Rockets with 29 points and 15 rebounds. James Harden was 4-for-17 and missed all eight three-pointers he attempted to finish with 16 points.

**Nuggets 114, Hornets 112:** Jamal Murray hit a running, off-balance 13-footer from the baseline with 5.1 seconds left and Denver overcame an eight-point fourth quarter deficit to beat host Charlotte.

Murray had 18 points, and Nikola Jokic added 14 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Devonte Graham had 24 points and seven assists for the Hornets. P.J. Washington added 20 points and Terry Rozier had 19. Rozier's three-pointer at the buzzer rimmed out.

**76ers 125, Kings 108:** Tobias Harris had 28 points and 14 rebounds and short-handed Philadelphia beat Sacramento for its first road win in more than a month.

Shake Milton scored 20 points and Al Horford had 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Sixers, who also won in Sacramento for the first time since 2015. Alec Burks added 17 points and Raul Neto had 16.

De'Aaron Fox had 23 points and seven assists for Sacramento. Buddy Hield scored 22.

Philadelphia ended its nine-game road losing streak while continuing to play without Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons. Embiid sat out a fourth straight game because of a left shoulder sprain, while Simmons missed his sixth straight with a nerve impingement in his back.

## Roundup

# No. 5 San Diego St. holds off Air Force

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jordan Schakel's teammates kept telling him to shoot. San Diego State needed every basket to avoid a major upset.

Schakel scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half as the fifth-ranked Aztecs rallied for a 73-60 win over Air Force in the quarterfinals of the Mountain West Conference tournament on Thursday.

Schakel, who shot 1-for-5 in the first half, hit four three-pointers in the second half for the top-seeded Aztecs (29-1), who rode a 21-3 run to their 13th consecutive quarterfinal victory.

"Nothing different happened," Schakel said. "I just had to keep shooting. My teammates continued to keep finding me and believing in me, so I thank them for that."

Yanni Wetzell and Malachi Flynn had 16 points each for San Diego State, which is hoping to earn a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

AJ Walker scored 18 points for Air Force (12-20). Seniors Caleb Morris (12 points) and Sid Tomes (10 points) were the other Falcons in double figures.

**No. 13 Oregon 90, California 56:** Payton Pritchard led four teammates in double figures with 20 points and the host Ducks used an early scoring outburst to pull away from the Golden Bears in the first half.

The win moved Oregon (23-7) back into a tie with UCLA for first place in the Pac-12 at 12-5 with the regular season ending Saturday.

Pritchard added nine assists in the Ducks' 21st consecutive home victory, including all 16 home games this season. He shot 6-for-8 overall, including making all three of his three-point attempts.

Oregon shot 63% from the field overall,

including 71% (12-for-17) on threes as Anthony Matthis added 17 points on 5-for-6 shooting from three-point range. Will Richardson and Addison Patterson each had 13, and Shakur Juiston chipped in 10.

Matt Bradley led the Bears (13-17, 7-10) with 15 points. Grant Anticevich added 10.

**No. 19 Ohio State 71, No. 23 Illinois 63:** Kaleb Wesson scored 19 points to lead the host Buckeyes past the Illini.

E.J. Liddell tied a career high with 17 points and had 11 rebounds for Ohio State (21-9, 11-8 Big Ten), which has won four in a row and nine of its last 11. The Buckeyes are playing well at a critical time, with a road matchup against No. 16 Michigan State looming this weekend and the Big Ten tournament beginning Wednesday in Indianapolis.

Ayo Dosunmu had 21 points and five assists to pace Illinois (20-10, 12-7), which remains poised for its first NCAA Tournament berth in seven years.

**UConn 77, No. 21 Houston 71:** Christian Vital scored 26 points in his final home game and the host Huskies beat the Cougars.

Freshman James Bouknight added 17 points and Isaiah Whaley had 13 for Connecticut (18-12, 9-8 American Athletic Conference), which won its fourth straight game, but just its second this season over a ranked opponent.

Quentin Grimes scored 24 points and Caleb Mills added 20 for Houston (22-8, 12-5), which fell into a tie for second place in the conference.

**No. 25 Michigan 82, Nebraska 58:** Jon Teske scored 12 points and Zavier Simpson added 11 in their home finale, and the host Wolverines beat the Cornhuskers as fans welcomed former coach John Beilein back to Crisler Center.

Nebraska (7-23, 2-17) was without guard Cam Mack, suspended for a violation of team rules. The Cornhuskers have lost 15 straight.

Isaiah Livers had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Michigan (19-11, 10-9 Big Ten), and Simpson had 10 assists. Haanif Cheatham led Nebraska with 19 points.

Beilein, who was in the crowd, coached the Wolverines for 12 seasons before accepting the head coaching job with the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers.

**Lafayette 73, Army 68:** Leo O'Boyle scored 20 points, E.J. Stephens added 14 and Lukas Jarrett 13 as the fifth-seeded Leopards eliminated the fourth-seeded Black Knights in a Patriot League quarterfinal.

The win sets up a semifinal match against No. 1-seeded Colgate on Sunday.

Army's Tommy Funk scored nine of his 21 points in a late surge and cut the 14-point gap down to 69-65 with a layup at 1:10 left to play. Funk also made 12 assists for the Black Knights (15-15).

**Boston U. 69, Navy 63:** Javante McCoy scored 19 points, Walter Whyte added 18 points and 10 rebounds as the third-seeded Terriers beat the sixth-seeded Midshipmen in a Patriot League quarterfinal.

BU moves on to host a semifinal on Sunday against No. 7 seed Bucknell (16-14). The Terriers swept the season series against the Bison.

Cam Davis scored 13 points to lead Navy (14-16). Evan Wieck added 12 points and John Carter Jr. and Tyler Nelson had 10 apiece.

Navy pulled to 65-63 with 1:10 left following a Davis three-pointer and a Greg Summers layup, but the Midshipmen then committed a turnover and missed their last three shots.

## Kansas disputes NCAA allegations of 'high-level' violations

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The University of Kansas forcefully objected to charges that its storied men's basketball program, currently No. 1 in the nation, and its football programs had committed significant violations tied primarily to recruiting when it issued its formal response to the NCAA's notice of allegations Thursday night.

In a series of documents totaling nearly 300 pages of arguments and supporting materials, the school claims several facts involving Bill Self's basketball program are in dispute, including charges that Kansas lacked institutional control and its Hall of Fame coach and his assistant, Kurtis Townsend, had committed a series of high-level violations.

"There is no reasonable con-

clusion that members of the university, including the men's basketball staff, knew or should have known about any violations of NCAA rules," the response said. "Self had no knowledge of any NCAA rules violations or illicit conduct exhibited by Adidas, its employees or its consultants. ... Voluminous evidence demonstrates uncontestedly that Coach Self did, in fact, promote an atmosphere of

compliance."

The NCAA issued its original notice of allegations on Sept. 23, which included five violations for men's basketball — all Level 1, the most severe — and two lesser violations for football. The school then received an amended notice Jan. 30 that added an eighth, low-level violation involving the current football staff led by Les Miles.