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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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2 GIs die in raid; strikes kill Afghan civilians

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. airstrikes launched after two American servicemembers were killed in a raid in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province claimed the lives of dozens of civilians, including women and children, officials said Thursday.

The troops came under fire during a joint mission with Afghan partners to clear a Taliban position near the provincial capital, NATO's mission and local officials said. Four American servicemembers also were injured.

NATO would not reveal the identities of the casualties until their next of kin were notified.

Foreign forces conducted airstrikes in the area after the troops came under attack, said Kunduz police chief Qasim Jangalbagh. He told The Associated Press that the initial targets of the raid were two Taliban commanders, who were killed in the fighting along with more than 60 other insurgents.

NATO forces were assisting Afghan

commandos during a raid in the Buze Kandahari suburb of Kunduz city on Wednesday night when they came under fire from insurgents, said Kunduz police spokesman Hijratullah Akbari.

Tribal leader Hafizullah, who, like many Afghans, uses just one name, said the airstrikes killed about 30 civilians, including women and children. The Pajhwok news agency cited a provincial council member who claimed that at least 100 civilians had been killed and wounded in the overnight airstrikes.

The casualties outraged residents, who protested by carrying the corpses in Kunduz city on Thursday morning, Hafizullah said.

Taza Gul, a Kunduz resident, told Pajhwok: "I was working on my farm when the bombardment started. On coming home, I saw seven members of my family, including women and children, killed in the raids."

Photographs posted on Twitter showed the corpses of young children allegedly killed by the airstrikes with remarks condemning the United States.

Regarding the civilian casualties, Gen.

Charles Cleveland, spokesman for U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said: "As part of an Afghan operation, friendly forces received direct fire and airstrikes were conducted to defend themselves. We take all allegations of civilian casualties very seriously."

Cleveland said NATO and Afghan officials would conduct an investigation into the incident.

The office of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement Thursday that the president was shocked by the news of the civilian deaths and had "directed the security and defense officials and Kunduz governor to take all necessary steps during operations to prevent civilian casualties."

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said he was "deeply saddened" by the U.S. casualties. "We will honor their sacrifice by finishing our important mission in Afghanistan," he said.

Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said that three Afghan commandos were killed in the clashes and seven others were wounded.

32K Guard outside Calif. might have to repay bonuses

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of Army National Guard soldiers outside of California might have been required to repay re-enlistment and education bonuses, the National Guard Bureau said Thursday.

The National Guard estimates between 21,000 and 32,000 soldiers across the country had their bonuses flagged for review and possible recoupment in 2010. A National Guard spokesman said Wednesday that the service did not track whether state bureaus are actively pursuing repayments in those cases like the California National Guard has.

The estimate is much higher than a Pentagon statement last week that put the number of affected soldiers in other states and territories "in the dozens" and challenges its claim that the issue was overwhelmingly a California concern.

The cases outside California represent

about \$66 million in bonuses, which were \$15,000 or more and were given out during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to boost troop numbers.

An effort by the California National Guard to review and reclaim bonuses from a group of about 10,000 soldiers caused public outcry last week. Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered a temporary halt to the collections and Congress is eyeing new legislation to forgive the debt for those soldiers.

The larger estimate of national cases significantly increases the scope of the re-enlistment bonus issue.

Overall, the service handed out \$600 million in the bonuses and education benefits to 107,000 soldiers in states and territories outside California, according to Lt. Col. Wes Parmer, a National Guard Bureau spokesman. There are about 340,000 soldiers in the Army National Guard.

The National Guard Bureau said its best estimate is 20 to 30 percent of those 107,000 soldiers had their bonuses flagged for re-

view and possible recoupment. The cases could have been flagged for a variety of reasons, including soldiers not fulfilling their agreements, lack of paperwork or fraud.

It was unclear Thursday whether individual state Guard bureaus had pursued reclaiming bonus payments made to the 21,000 to 32,000 soldiers, as has happened in California.

The National Guard Bureau investigation "didn't include tracking each state's actions on recommendations. It's a state-centric process," Parmer wrote in an email.

The National Guard discovered all of the cases in 2010 after fraud related to the re-enlistment bonuses was uncovered in California. It ordered state bureaus to conduct audits and took a statistical sample of the total number of cases, Parmer told Stars and Stripes.

In California, thousands of National Guard members or veterans have been forced to repay bonuses.

Study reviews military wives' health

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military wives are more likely to binge drink and experience mental health issues than other married women, according to the results of a survey from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The agency, which is part of the Department of Human Services, issues an annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health. This year's report is the first one to contain specific information about military spouses and children of military personnel.

The survey found 31.5 percent of military wives between the ages of 18 and 49 binge drink, defined as drinking five

or more alcoholic drinks at one time, as opposed to 22.7 percent of all married women. But researchers said binge drinking results could be attributed to the fact that military wives tend to be younger — a group that is generally more likely to drink heavily.

The report also states 29.1 percent of military wives experienced mental illness in the past year, compared with 19.7 percent of all married women.

The agency sought to find data on military spouses overall — not only wives — but there weren't enough male military spouses who responded to the survey, said Rachel Lipari, the lead researcher on the project.

With military children ages 12 to 17, researchers were un-

able to find many differences from the general population of that age group.

Some people in the health care field have questioned what unique hardships the group might have, with prolonged absences of loved ones and the frequent moving that comes with military service, a summary of the report states. As more information about the population is identified, more can be done preventively, Lipari said.

Findings from each year's survey are sent to preventative health specialists.

"As we are able to combine years of [surveys] together, we'll have a larger pool of respondents to analyze," she said. "We'll be able to detect more differences."

Lockheed unhappy with F-35 award

Bloomberg

Lockheed Martin Corp. was awarded a \$6.1 billion Pentagon contract for 57 of its F-35 fighter planes, but the world's largest defense contractor was less than pleased to hear the news.

It was "not a mutually agreed-upon" contract, Lockheed spokesman Michael Rein said in an email after the Defense Department announced late Wednesday that it had awarded the ninth F-35 production contract, the biggest to date. "We are disappointed with the decision by the government to issue a unilateral contract action."

Lockheed shares fell 3.2 percent to \$237.19 at 10:04 a.m. in New York, the largest intraday decline since Aug. 16.

The public display of displeasure was a rare departure from the mutual praise the Pentagon and its top contractors usually lavish on each other, even when they have differences. This time, defense officials decided to break off talks after 18 months of inconclusive negotiations over the ninth contract for low-rate initial production of the F-35. Talks continue over a 10th contract that once was expected to be issued simultaneously with the one announced Wednesday.

The fighters would be purchased for 3.7 percent less than the previous lot.

Bruce Tanner, Lockheed's chief financial officer, said on an Oct. 25 call that the company's differences with the Defense Department concerned the cost to perform the contract, terms and conditions and "the profit level for the contractor."

The F-35 is the costliest U.S. weapons system, projected at \$379 billion for a fleet of 2,443 U.S. planes, with others to be sold to partners such as the U.K., Australia, Japan and Italy. While Pentagon officials have said the F-35's soaring cost has stabilized and its persistent performance problems are lessening, they said Wednesday that they will need as much as \$530 million extra to finish the plane's development phase.

Report: Change use of special operators

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The next U.S. president should recognize "the sanctity" of the special operations community and consider a few policy changes to better utilize that force, a group of retired generals advised in a new report.

In the "Advice from [Special Operations Forces]" report from the Center for Naval Analyses, six retired special operations officers and generals, a former assistant secretary of defense and about 50 active-duty special operations forces members gathered to voice concerns that they feel the next White House administration should know, said Jonathan Schroder, the center's special operations program director. The participants were not identified in the report by the CNA, a federally funded, nonpartisan think tank.

Since 2009, Special Operations Command has grown from 56,000 personnel with a base budget of about \$6 billion to 70,000 people with a base budget of nearly \$11 billion, the report found.

During the same time, the majority of counterterrorism operations — in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and other countries and training operations in the Philippines — have relied heavily on special operators, and the wear on that force is evident, Schroder said.

"A cadre of senior folks — at least one from each of the four service components of [Special Operations Command] got together to see what we could try and do to help the special operations community," he said. "These guys have been the quiet professionals. They don't typically speak up this way."

For the next administration, the report identified several changes that would benefit special operations forces, including having a more active role in determining when special operators are used.

The special operations community would like to "have a more active voice when the use of [special operations forces] is considered as a policy option," the report found, specifically by placing a special operations general officer on the National Security Council staff.

In current operations, the report stated, the military could have relieved some of the pressure on special operations forces by not using them as basic trainers in rebuilding Iraq's and Afghanistan's militaries.

"Teaching foreign militaries rudimentary skills such as shooting in straight lines at short distances may be more fitting a task for [general purpose forces] to handle," the report found. "Reassigning those missions would free up [special operations forces] to address the most important challenges to our national security."

The report also took issue with the policy of having U.S. special operators remain behind the front lines, or "behind the last terrain feature" as Afghan and Iraqi forces move forward in a ground fight.

The participants in the CNA report said they expect reliance on special operators will continue in the next administration, not only in operations against terrorists such as the Islamic State group but potentially to counter rising tensions with an equal military force, such as China.

Iraqi troops advance into outskirts of Mosul

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

NEAR MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi army troops have entered the eastern outskirts of Mosul, 18 days after the start of an offensive to oust the Islamic State group from the country's second-largest city and its last urban stronghold in Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Raad Mohssan, chief surgeon for the 9th Armored Division, which is taking part in the campaign, said the division, equipped with M1A1 Abrams tanks, entered the al-Entsar neighborhood Wednesday night, withdrew and came back on Thursday.

Kurdish television station Rudaw quoted Iraqi military spokesman Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Rasheed Jarallah as saying the 9th Division also had entered Mosul's Judaydat al-Mufti neighborhood, which is near al-Entsar.

With Iraqi forces closing in, the Islamic State's shadowy leader called on his followers to stand their ground in Mosul, saying there can be no retreat in a "total war."

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in an audio recording released online Thursday, urged suicide bombers to "turn the nights of the unbelievers into days, to wreak havoc in their land and make their blood flow like rivers."

The statement, first reported by the SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S. organization that monitors militant activity online, appeared to signal that the Islamic State

leadership was prepared for a fight to the death to preserve its hold on Mosul, where al-Baghdadi in 2014 proclaimed the caliphate which at one point encompassed nearly a third of Iraq and Syria.

At a field hospital in Kermlis just east of Mosul, one of the soldiers wounded in the Wednesday fighting said he was among the first troops to enter the city. The soldier, Spc. Amjad Hashem, 30, said he was at the wheel of an armored truck when it was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

"The rocket hit the turret behind my head and knocked me out," said the father of two, who still had shrapnel in his head. Doctors said he would be evacuated for treatment to Irbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan.

While Hashem was talking, another soldier arrived in an ambulance. He, too, had been fighting in al-Entsar when an artillery round struck nearby. His right arm and leg were marked with dozens of small cuts from shrapnel.

Nearby, on the main road from Mosul to Irbil, a seemingly endless line of cars, trucks and busses filled with civilians waving white flags streamed toward a large camp set up in anticipation of large numbers of people fleeing the fighting.

At the field hospital, located in front of an empty home in the battle-scarred Christian village, Mohssan, the division's chief surgeon, said the fighting through outlying villages on the approaches to Mosul hasn't been as tough as last winter's battle for the city of Ramadi, which lasted for months

and ended early this year.

The militants have been falling back toward Mosul rather than fighting to the death in surrounding villages, he said.

"The people in Ramadi are fighters. They grew up with guns in their hands. The people in Mosul are educated. They are not fighters. In the city, we are only going to see defense, not attack," he said.

However, Mohssan said the fight in Mosul likely will last months and he expects his division to remain in the field through the winter.

Iraqi army doctors and medics can handle wounded soldiers but they will be challenged to deal with civilian injuries and illnesses. They expect to find large numbers of women, children and the elderly in need of medical aid as Iraqi forces move deeper into Mosul, said Capt. Osama Fuad, 33, one of the division's doctors.

So far, about 100 soldiers from the division have been wounded in action with only a few killed. Some troops have been shot by snipers but most get hit by shrapnel from roadside bombs and mortars, he said.

The medics stabilize the wounded near the front and evacuate them by road to a hospital in Irbil. U.S. forces there are helping Iraqi air crews who medevac some wounded to Baghdad, he said.

The Iraqi medics also have treated Islamic State prisoners, Fuad said.

"Some of them say, 'Why don't you just shoot me,' but some of them are just kids," he said.

Report: More veterans hired, but challenges remain

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American businesses are doing a better job of hiring veterans, yet still struggle to understand them, according to a new report from Hiring our Heroes, a component of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

More businesses are making the recruitment of veterans a higher priority, according to the report released Wednesday titled *Veterans in the Workplace: Understanding the Challenges and Creating Long-term Opportunities for Veteran Employees*.

But more than half of the 400 hiring managers in the survey cited a lack of familiarity with the military. In addition, many companies do not provide train-

ing to help the hired veterans and civilian employees better relate to each other.

"This lack of knowledge inevitably makes it more challenging to recruit and place veterans in the right jobs," the report reads.

Hiring our Heroes concluded from its research that more training could enhance understanding of veterans and create better treatment for them in the workplace.

For the study, 1,000 veterans between the ages of 18 and 45 were surveyed in June. All of them had left active duty within the last five years. About 10 percent of them said they had been a target of negative treatment at work, and another 40 percent said they've experienced positive and negative

treatment.

Much of the negative treatment had to do with a perception of veterans having mental health issues or receiving preferential treatment.

One veteran surveyed was reported as saying, "Nonveterans in the workplace look at veterans as privileged and underqualified people who don't really deserve to be there."

Another veteran surveyed said his or her supervisor "feels as if I have [post-traumatic stress disorder]; therefore I'm not chosen for any training," according to the report.

The study also found veterans "struggle to find their first post-military job," and when they do get into their first job, 44 percent leave within one year.

Many of them reported leav-

ing because they didn't see long-term opportunities.

Four out of 5 veterans surveyed said they faced some period of unemployment after leaving active duty, and 53 percent said they were unemployed for at least four months.

Those veterans who started their job search six months before separating from the military were twice as likely to have a job before leaving active duty.

Female veterans have a harder time finding employment after service than male veterans, the report found.

Fourteen percent of female veterans said they were looking for their first post-military job at the time of the survey, compared with 7 percent of male veterans.

Clinton has edge in early voting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton may not be accumulating the type of early-vote advantage her campaign wanted, but she continues to maintain an apparent edge over Donald Trump, with roughly one-fourth of all expected ballots cast in the 2016 election.

The Democrat's campaign once hoped to bank substantial votes from Democrats in North Carolina and Florida before Election Day. Both are must-win states for Donald Trump.

But data about the early vote suggest she's not doing as well as President Barack Obama in 2012. Ballot requests from likely supporters have been weak in parts of the Midwest, and black turnout has fallen too.

Still, the tens of millions of early votes cast also point to strength from Democratic-leaning Latino voters, potentially giving Clinton a significant advantage in Nevada and Colorado. With more than half the votes already cast in those states, Democrats are matching if not exceeding their successful 2012 pace, according to data compiled by The Associated Press.

Early voting — by mail and at polling stations — is underway in 37 states. More than 31 million votes have been cast, representing nearly 25 percent of the total votes expected nationwide if turnout is similar to 2012. In

all, more than 46 million people — or as much as 40 percent of the electorate — are expected to vote before Tuesday, according to AP data.

The results of those votes won't be known until polls close next week. But early voting data — party affiliation, race and other details — are being carefully examined for clues about the ballots that have been cast.

In North Carolina and Florida, Democrats did better with mail balloting than they had in previous elections. They expected to build on that with the start of in-person voting, where Democrats traditionally do well. But the big turnout — especially among black voters — hasn't yet happened.

In North Carolina, with nearly half of the expected vote already cast, Democrats lead in ballots submitted, 43 percent to 32 percent. That's slightly below the same period in 2012, when Mitt Romney won the state.

In Florida, more than half of voters have already cast ballots. Democrats remain virtually tied with Republicans. At this point in 2008 and 2012, Democrats held an advantage in ballots cast. Obama won the state both years. The black share of ballots is down, while the Latino share is up.

Democrats and Republican analysts say they see signs that Republican early voters are those who previously voted on

Election Day, while Democrats are drawing new voters, good news for Democrats.

Latinos may be providing Clinton with support she needs in key Western states.

In swing-state Nevada, where half the total ballots have been cast, Democrats lead with 43 percent to 37 percent. That's comparable to the party's share at this point in 2012, when Obama won the state by 6 percentage points.

More than 1.2 million residents have cast ballots in Colorado. Democrats hold the advantage, 37 percent to 35 percent. At this point in 2012, Republicans held the edge.

In Arizona, where more than half the votes have been cast, Democrats trail by 5 percentage points. At this point in 2012, Republicans had opened a 10 percentage point lead.

In Republican-leaning Texas, 3.3 million votes have been cast in the top 15 counties, up 36 percent. The state does not present breakdowns by party.

Trump may hold an edge in Ohio and Iowa, two states he's counting on to reach 270.

In Ohio, the heavily Democratic counties of Cuyahoga and Franklin are posting declines in ballot requests compared with 2012, while Republican-leaning counties such as Warren have increased. The state does not break down ballots by party.

CDC: Cuts in uninsured could stall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's legacy health care law has reduced the number of Americans going without health insurance to historically low levels, but continued progress threatens to stall this year, according to a new government report.

The study released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests the law may be reaching a limit to its effectiveness in a nation divided over the government's role in guaranteeing coverage.

The CDC said the number of uninsured people dipped by only 200,000 between 2015 and the first six months of this year, which it called "a nonsignificant difference." The findings come from the National Health Interview Survey, which has queried more than 48,000 people so far this year.

Since the health care law's big coverage expansion in 2014, millions have gained coverage each year. Now the pattern appears to be changing.

Experts say Obama's overhaul deserves most of the credit for 20 million Americans gaining coverage since 2014. But progress has been less and less each year, and now it's slowed to a crawl.

"It has got to be close to tapped out," said Dan Witters, director of a major private survey that also follows insurance trends, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

The CDC study found that during 2015, an estimated 28.6 million U.S. residents were uninsured. The corresponding number through the first six months of 2016 was 28.4 million.

The sobering numbers come as the administration seeks to whip up enthusiasm for the 2017 sign-up season, which started this week and runs through Jan. 31. The White House would like to hit a high note on health care to close out Obama's tenure.

But premiums are going up significantly in HealthCare.gov's subsidized markets, and consumer choice is down with fewer insurers participating.

Clinton campaign-State Department emails released

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A State Department official appeared to coordinate with Hillary Clinton's nascent presidential campaign hours before the former secretary of state's exclusive use of private emails was first detailed in a news account last year, newly released hacked emails show.

Emails purportedly from the files of Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, show that the department official provided Clinton aides with the agency's official response to a New York Times reporter in ad-

vance of the newspaper's March 2015 report that Clinton had used a private email account to conduct all of her work-related business as secretary.

The stolen emails were released Wednesday by WikiLeaks.

In a March 1, 2015, email, State Department press aide Lauren Hickey told Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill and two other advisers that then-State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki had "just cleared" a reply to the Times. Hickey provided the agency's response to the Clinton aides and also appeared

to agree to a change requested by the campaign, saying, "Yes on your point re records — done below." It is not clear what specific change was requested and made.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said Wednesday that the department would not comment on alleged leaked documents.

But he said the department's effort to "provide accurate information to the media" about Clinton's tenure at the agency has "at times required communicating with her representatives to ensure accuracy."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Zoo adding hospital to care for sea turtles

NJ WEST ORANGE — A New Jersey zoo is adding a hospital for injured or sick sea turtles that need long-term care.

Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange is partnering with the group Sea Turtle Recovery to add the hospital. Its goal is to nurse turtles back to health before returning them to the ocean.

An antiquated building was demolished earlier this year at Turtle Back Zoo to make room for the new 4,000-square-foot facility, which is under construction.

It will have five recovery tanks, life support systems, and an intensive care unit for more critically injured turtles. The public will be able to see some of the less-critical patients, while learning about the perils sea turtles face.

New charges filed in abuse of teen sisters

PA FEASTERVILLE — Officials have charged a Bucks County man already accused of impregnating a teenager who allegedly had been “gifted” to him with sexually abusing six girls in total, including one as young as 6.

The sisters allegedly told authorities they believed they were wives of Lee Kaplan, 51, who was arrested in June on charges of rape of the oldest.

Kaplan was arraigned Monday on additional charges of statutory sexual assault, the rape of children, and related offenses. He is being held in the Bucks County jail on \$1.1 million bail.

The sisters’ parents, Daniel and Savilla Stoltzfus, told authorities in June that they had given their oldest daughter, then 14, to Kaplan in 2012

as a thank-you for help with their financial problems. The parents were charged in June with child endangerment and remain jailed.

Plane lands safely after delay over bomb threat

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A Spirit Airlines flight that was delayed for hours after a report of a possible bomb threat landed safely in Dallas.

Local news outlets reported that a passenger alerted flight attendants after noticing a message on another passenger’s cellphone before the flight took off Sunday night. It was scheduled to depart Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport at 8:15 p.m. Sunday but was delayed for hours while authorities investigated.

Broward Sheriff deputies escorted a man off the plane, which was checked by investigators and cleared.

Authorities say the plane eventually took off around 2:30 a.m. Monday and landed safely at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Driver hurt in crash during police chase

OH EAST CLEVELAND — The State Highway Patrol said a driver was hurt during a Cleveland-area police chase when his car struck two utility poles and a tree and split in half.

Cleveland.com reported that police said the chase began Sunday afternoon in East Cleveland and reached speeds of about 75 mph. Authorities say the driver lost control of the car after a city cruiser began chasing it.

The driver was thrown from the car during the crash. He was taken to a hospital, and authorities said his condition wasn’t known.

Closed funeral home sued over body mix-up

WV CHARLESTON — A now-shuttered Charleston funeral home is being sued after a family says it mixed up their relative’s body with another woman’s.

Madeline Yost’s daughter, Peggy Bowles, told WCHS-TV that her mother’s dying wish was to have a closed casket funeral, but instead the Bartlett Burdett-Cox Funeral Home displayed Yost, open casket, to another woman’s family and friends at a viewing before burying her in that woman’s grave the same day in January.

The funeral home closed shortly after the lawsuit says the mix-up happened. The funeral home’s parent company didn’t respond to WCHS for comment.

Yost’s remains were exhumed and she was buried next to her husband.

Police warn drivers to watch out for deer

KY FRANKFORT — Kentucky State Police are warning motorists to watch for deer.

Police say the animals are prone to roaming in the fall during mating season, which leads to more collisions.

Police Lt. Michael Webb said drivers should remain “engaged, alert and on the lookout” for bucks and does, especially in the early morning and evening hours when deer are most active.

Police say drivers should travel at a moderate speed, wear their seat belts and use high-beam headlights for increased visibility if there’s no oncoming traffic.

If a deer is sighted, police recommend slowing down without swerving because it is generally safer to hit a deer

than to run off the road or hit another vehicle.

Man charged in killing of family’s pet cat

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — A Virginia Beach man has been accused of poisoning his family’s pet cat, choking it and dumping it in the garbage.

Local news outlets report that court documents show Curtis Kinzey was arrested and charged with animal cruelty.

WAVY-TV reported that police went to a home after receiving a call from someone saying Kinzey had killed the family pet. Arriving officers found the dead cat in the trash.

An arrest warrant says Kinzey told officers that he killed his cat.

Information is sought in bid to name lake

MT KALISPELL — A Montana lake that residents want to name may already have a title.

John and Sharon Ramsey’s quest to label the lake so it could be stocked with fish led two people to come forward with options that they each say are the original, reported the Missoulian.

About six decades of maps from the U.S. Geological Survey carry no name for the lake, which partially sits on the couple’s property.

Montana State Library geographer Gerry Daumiller started looking into the issue after the two proposed Lone Coyote Lake. One person who came forward said the lake is already named after the nearby Moon Lake Trail.

Daumiller is asking anyone with information about the two names to contact him.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

Cubs win 1st World Series title since 1908

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kris Bryant started to smile even before he fielded the ball. And with his throw to first for the final out, the agonizing wait 'til next year was over at last.

No more Billy Goat, no more Bartman, no more black-cat curses.

For a legion of fans who waited a lifetime, fly that W: Your Chicago Cubs are World Series champions.

Ending more than a century of flops, futility and frustration, the Cubs won their first title since 1908, outlasting the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in 10 innings of a Game 7 thriller early Thursday.

They even had to endure an extra-inning rain delay to end the drought.

"It happened. It happened. Chicago, it happened," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said after gloving the ball for the final out. "We did it. We're world champions. I tell ya, we're world champions. I can't believe it."

Rizzo put that final ball in his pocket as the Cubs piled up in the middle of the diamond, David Ross got carried off the field by his teammates and Bill Murray partied in the clubhouse.

And the whole time, blue-clad fans who traveled from Wrigley Field filled nearly the entire lower deck behind the Chicago dugout at Progressive Field, singing "Go, Cubs, Go!" in the rain. They held up those white flags with the large blue "W" on a night many of their forebears had waited for in vain.

Lovable losers for generations, the Cubs nearly let this one get away, too. All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman blew a 6-3 lead with two outs in the eighth when Rajai Davis hit a tying, two-run homer.

But the Cubs, after tormenting their fans one more time, came right back after a 17-minute rain delay before the top of the 10th.

Series MVP Ben Zobrist hit an RBI double and Miguel Montero singled home a run

to make it 8-6. Davis delivered an RBI single with two outs in the bottom half, but Mike Montgomery closed it out at 12:47 a.m., and the celebration was on.

"I think about so many millions of people giving so much love and support to this team for so many years," said owner Tom Ricketts, whose family bought the team in 2009.

Manager Joe Maddon's team halted the longest stretch without a title in baseball, becoming the first club to overcome a 3-1 Series deficit since the 1985 Kansas City Royals.

"This is an epic game. It's epic. I can't believe we were able to do it — 108 years in the making," Zobrist said. "We did it."

"They never quit, either," Zobrist said. "They kept coming at us."

Cleveland was trying to win its first crown since 1948, but manager Terry Francona's club lost the last two games at home.

World Series favorites since

spring training, Chicago led the majors with 103 wins this season.

The Cubs then ended more than a century of misery for their loyal fans — barely. Bryant, one of Chicago's young stars, began to celebrate even before fielding a grounder by Michael Martinez to third base and throwing it across to Rizzo for the last out.

"It's the best rain delay of all-time," Rizzo said.

Zobrist got a Series-high 10 hits, a year after he helped the Royals win the championship. Zobrist was among the players brought to the Cubs by Theo Epstein, the baseball guru who added another crown to his collection. He also assembled the Red Sox team that broke Boston's 86-year drought by winning in 2004.

From Curse of the Bambino to the Billy Goat Curse, he ended another jinx.

"We don't need a plane to fly home," Epstein said. "It's fitting it's got to be done with one of the best games of all time."

Zobrist's big hit gives Chicago newcomer MVP award

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — This is why Ben Zobrist came back home. And this is why manager Joe Maddon wanted him so badly.

The Cubs needed a veteran in the clubhouse to teach their seemingly endless supply of budding young stars. Someone who'd been there. Who'd done that. Who cared little about curses or droughts. Who knew what Maddon wanted and how to translate it.

Zobrist, fresh off a World Series title with the Kansas City Royals, was searching for a place to spend the final years of a consistently fine career. What better place to do it than a 2-hour drive from where he grew up in central Illinois?

And there he was early Thursday morning, standing in the batter's box in the top of the 10th inning in Game 7, facing a two-strike count with two runners on. Then the 35-year-old switch-hitter did something that may have encapsulated everything Maddon loves about him.

Zobrist shortened his swing. He fouled off one pitch to stay alive. The next provided the biggest blow in Chicago's season-long bout with the weight of its own

history, a double inside third base that scored pinch-runner Albert Almora Jr. with the go-ahead run in an 8-7 win that gave the Cubs their first championship since 1908 and earned Zobrist the World Series MVP award.

"It's a team game and I can't believe I get the opportunity to hold this trophy," he said.

Cleveland reliever Bryan Shaw intentionally walked Chicago slugger Anthony Rizzo to get to Zobrist, who entered the game hitting .391 in the Series but had gone hitless in four at-bats. Shaw quickly got ahead 1-2 before Zobrist — batting left-handed — poked a foul ball down the third-base line past a diving Jose Ramirez. The next pitch was more of the same. In a situation where some of his teammates would have swung for the outer reaches of Progressive Field, Zobrist settled for making contact.

The normally understated Zobrist pointed toward the sky after his 10th and final hit of the series as the blue-clad fans who spent hundreds if not thousands of dollars to turn portions of the Indians' home field into an eastern suburb of Wrigleyville

roared once more.

"I know he threw a pretty hard cutter," Zobrist said. "I just barely hung in there and fortunately he put one just close enough to the plate where I could slap it down the line."

By the time Zobrist went to the dugout to fetch his glove and ran back out to his spot in left field, the lead was two. Barely 10 minutes later, Zobrist was sprinting to join the dogpile in the infield after Kris Bryant threw to good friend Anthony Rizzo at first for the final out, the second time in as many years Zobrist found himself awash in the joy.

Last fall he helped the Kansas City Royals beat the New York Mets in five Series games. When he went looking for a job, there was really only one place to go: Chicago.

"Ben is a winning baseball player," Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein said the day Zobrist signed a four-year, \$56 million deal last December. "His offense, his defense, his baserunning. He's been one of the more valuable players in the game for a long time."

Never more valuable than he was for Epstein and the Cubs on Thursday.

DeRozan's 40 keep Wizards winless

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — DeMar DeRozan wouldn't let a little ankle injury keep him from carrying the Toronto Raptors.

DeRozan shook it off and scored 40 points, outdueling John Wall in a showcase of All-Star guards as the Raptors beat the winless Washington Wizards 113-103 on Wednesday night. Despite leaving the game briefly to get his ankles re-taped, DeRozan was 14-for-23 from the floor and cracked the 30-point mark for the fourth time in four games to start the season.

"He's playing on another level right now," said backcourt mate Kyle Lowry, who scored 18. "He's making my life a lot easier and making I think everybody on our team's life a lot easier. He's saving possessions, he's creating possessions. He's creating offense."

DeRozan tied Mike James' 2005 franchise record with four consecutive 30-point games after previously dropping 40, 32 and 33 in games against Detroit, Cleveland and Denver. He said he didn't care about Sports Illustrated ranking him the 46th-best player in the NBA

but tries to improve each night.

"I'm just a student of the game," DeRozan said. "I just try and put everything together, be a student of the game while working, always feeling like I'm new to the game so I can soak up as much as possible. I try to release it once I get out there on the court."

DeRozan released enough that the Raptors (3-1) withstood a dominant performance from Wall, who scored 33 points on 13-for-19 shooting and dished out 11 assists. Otto Porter also shot 11-for-13 and had 23 points for the Wizards (0-3), who committed 21 turnovers that turned into 30 Toronto points.

"That's hard to overcome," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "There's a few things that we have to correct."

Hornets 109, 76ers 93: Kemba Walker had 22 points and Nicolas Batum scored 17 of 20 points in a pivotal third quarter as host Charlotte handed Philadelphia its fourth straight loss to open the season.

Nets 109, Pistons 101: Brook Lopez had 34 points and 11 rebounds and Sean Kilpatrick added 24 points as the host Nets beat the Pistons.

Brooklyn hit 16 of its 20 shots

in the first quarter to take a 38-30 advantage. Detroit cut the lead to 11 heading into the fourth quarter and then as close as five with 1:34 remaining.

Lakers 123, Hawks 116: Lou Williams scored 16 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers rallied after trailing most of the game to beat the host Hawks.

D'Angelo Russell led the Lakers with 23 points.

Rockets 118, Knicks 99: James Harden had 30 points and 15 assists as the Rockets routed the host Knicks.

Eric Gordon added 21 points for Houston while Harden also grabbed six rebounds in Cleveland.

Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points for the Knicks, who besides their poor defense also heard loud boos for their rebounding and turnovers in a dismal performance.

Grizzlies 89, Pelicans 83 (OT): JaMychal Green scored 21 points and Mike Conley as the host Grizzlies beat the still-winless Pelicans.

James Ennis had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, while Zach Randolph finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds,

Thunder 85, Clippers 83: Russell Westbrook hit a jumper with 18.7 seconds left and finished with 35 points as visiting Oklahoma City remained unbeaten with victory over Los Angeles.

Westbrook added six rebounds and five assists for the Thunder, who surged in the final minutes of a tight meeting between Western Conference contenders.

Suns 118, Trail Blazers 115 (OT): Eric Bledsoe dropped in a rainbow three-pointer at the overtime buzzer, giving Phoenix victory over Portland.

Bledsoe finished with 20 points, his only three being the game-winner. The shot gave the Suns their first win of the season.

Celtics 107, Bulls 100: Isaiah Thomas had 23 points and 10 assists as host Boston handed the Bulls their first loss of the season.

Amir Johnson also finished with 23 points, including four three-pointers.

Jazz 97, Mavericks 81: George Hill scored 25 points as the host Jazz defeated the Mavericks.

Price extends Canucks' streak with shutout

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Carey Price made 42 saves for his first shutout of the season as the Montreal Canadiens beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-0 on Wednesday night to extend their winning streak to eight games.

Nathan Beaulieu, Torrey Mitchell and Alexander Radulov, into an empty net, scored for Montreal. At 9-0-1, the Canadiens are the only undefeated NHL team in regulation time this season. Alex Galchenyuk and Brendan Gallagher each had two assists.

Ryan Miller made 19 saves for the Canucks. They are winless in five games and 4-5-1 overall.

Montreal hardly looked like the league's best team for much of the game. The Canadiens were disorganized and struggled to generate any momentum in the first pe-

riod. The Canucks won most puck battles while Montreal failed to string passes together. The shots were 13-3 for Vancouver after 20 minutes.

Price kept Montreal in the game to start the second period, robbing winger Sven Baertschi from close range. The visitors led 24-3 in shots before the Canadiens struck midway through the second.

Flyers 4, Red Wings 3 (OT): Mark Streit tied the score with 1:02 left in regulation then Jakub Voracek scored in overtime to lift host Philadelphia past Detroit.

Voracek completed Philadelphia's comeback by finishing a 2-on-1 with Claude Giroux 1:41 into the 3-on-3 overtime. The assist extended Giroux's points streak to a career-high 10 games.

Chris VandeVelde and Roman Lyubimov also scored to help the Flyers run their reg-

ular-season home winning streak against the Red Wings to 12 games.

Henrik Zetterberg, Dylan Larkin and Andreas Athanasiou scored for Detroit.

Penguins 5, Ducks 1: Kris Letang scored a power-play goal and had an assist in his return from an upper-body injury while Matthew Murray stopped 32 shots in his season debut as visiting Pittsburgh defeated Anaheim.

Patrick Hornqvist, Bryan Rust, Matt Cullen and Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins, who improved to 7-2-1 despite not having Murray to start the season after breaking his hand during the World Cup of Hockey.

Ducks goaltender John Gibson made 29 saves, including stopping a penalty shot by Scott Wilson after being bowled over by the Penguins forward.

Roethlisberger won't rule himself out

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said there's still pain two weeks after undergoing surgery to repair the meniscus in his left knee, but he isn't ruling himself out of Sunday's game at Baltimore.

"You have surgery two weeks ago, there's going to be a little bit (of pain)," Roethlisberger said.

"But listen, anybody in this locker room who's not feeling pain hasn't been on the football field. Everyone's feeling pain right now."

Roethlisberger took first-team snaps while practicing in a limited capacity on Wednesday. He practiced in a limited capacity last week and again on Monday.

Roethlisberger said it is important to feel comfortable on the field, protect himself in the pocket and keep the swelling down on his surgically re-

paired knee.

"I'm going to take it one day at a time," Roethlisberger said. "When I feel healthy and ready to go, I'll be ready."

Roethlisberger said the decision on whether he can play will be made by coach Mike Tomlin. Swelling has not been an issue so far, though Roethlisberger will continue to remain in contact with team physician Dr. James Bradley and monitor his knee as he ramps up his workload.

"Dr. Bradley said I've gone through this before so my body will tell me best how I feel," Roethlisberger said.

Roethlisberger injured his left knee during a loss against Miami and was initially expected to miss 4 to 6 weeks following the surgery. He underwent surgery the following day and missed a home loss against New England the next Sunday, though he jogged onto the field to greet his defensive teammates and was spotted

walking in the locker room without a limp.

Roethlisberger began throwing passes during individual portions of practice two days later, just eight days after surgery. He practiced some with the first team and scout team on Monday, two weeks after his procedure, and again on Wednesday.

"I'm not sure how he feels, but he looked good," offensive lineman Ramon Foster said. "His health and how he's feeling, we're going to determine that at the rest of the week, but he looked like Ben."

The Steelers will go with fourth-year veteran Landry Jones if Roethlisberger can't play. Jones played respectably during a 27-16 loss against New England on Oct. 23, throwing for 281 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

"I'm just going to prepare like I have been this whole season," Jones said. "(Ben) is kind of feeling good. I don't know

what his plan is this week as far as all that goes, but for me, it's the same old type of deal, just preparing and getting ready to go."

Jones said he is OK if it takes the entire week to decide whether or not Roethlisberger is healthy enough to start.

"That's kind of what I'm expecting," Jones said. "Typically, that's how it's worked out in the past, just seeing how he feels the entire week and then making the decision."

Running back Le'Veon Bell liked how Roethlisberger looked on Wednesday, but he cautioned an early return.

"I don't know exactly how he feels, but he looked good," Bell said. "We're always pushing for him to come back, but I want him to take his time."

"I want to make sure he's good when he does come back and he doesn't have any setbacks, whether it's in practice or a game because it's a long season."

Big Ten will start playing Friday night football games

Associated Press

The Big Ten will play six Friday night football games a year starting in 2017 and continuing through at least 2022, the conference announced Wednesday.

Not every school wants to host those games, though.

The Friday night games are being added to the conference's television agreements with ESPN/ABC and Fox, Senior Associate Commissioner Mark Rudner said. No team will play more than one Friday night home game a year.

The Big Ten already has had Friday night games on Labor Day weekend. Those games will continue and be counted among the six each year. Iowa and Nebraska play each other the day after Thanksgiving in a game that won't count among the six.

Penn State announced it wouldn't play at home on a Fri-

day night, and Commissioner Jim Delany told the Chicago Tribune that Michigan has said no to playing home or away on a Friday night.

"We fully support the Big Ten's scheduling decisions as well as conference peers who are able to play on Friday nights," Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel said in a statement. "With our large fan base, Michigan fans and alumni travel significant distances to attend games, making Saturdays our preferred day for all football games."

Ohio State is willing to host once every three years, but only when the Friday falls during fall break on the academic calendar. Iowa and Michigan State don't want to host except on Labor Day weekend. Wisconsin would be open to playing at home on Labor Day weekend in "selected years," athletic director Barry Alvarez said.

Nebraska and Indiana have

agreed to host once every three years. Maryland had no comment, and Northwestern and Rutgers did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

"It does create additional opportunities for certain programs that heretofore have not had that kind of national prime-time exposure on Saturday night to maybe have that on Friday night," Rudner said.

Among those are Illinois and Purdue, which say they're on board with hosting Friday night games.

"There are traditionalists who say Friday is for high school football, but if we can get our product out there on national television when all eyes are on us, that's great for Purdue," Boilermakers spokesman Matthew Rector said.

Minnesota athletic director Mark Coyle wrote in an email to The Associated Press, "We will play the schedule assigned

to us by the Big Ten."

The Big Ten plans to announce the 2017 Friday night schedule within the next four to seven days.

To give schools adequate time to address logistical challenges, the Friday night games will be announced in early October of the preceding year. The 2018 Friday games, for example, will be announced in October 2017.

Friday night college football has become more common in recent years. There were 53 games on that night in 2014, 63 in 2015 and 65 this year. The Big 12, Pac-12 and Atlantic Coast Conference are among the leagues that play some games on Fridays.

Penn State spokesman Jeff Nelson, noting the importance of high school football across the state, said his school would agree only to an occasional home day game on the Friday following Thanksgiving.