

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Vets group wants to wait for Trump for VA reforms

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

A massive reform bill backed by the Department of Veterans Affairs will face resistance in Congress' lame-duck session starting Tuesday from a group intent on letting the new Republican-controlled Senate and President-elect Donald Trump have a say in how expeditiously VA employees can be fired.

With only a couple of months left as VA secretary, Bob McDonald is making one final appeal to Congress to pass the reform bill that's the culmination of his two-year tenure.

The 400-page Veterans First Act contains dozens of provisions to streamline the appeals process for disability compensation to allow more leeway in disciplining employees and to grant VA medical staff the ability to work flexible hours, among other things.

But the legislation has garnered opponents, and one veterans service organization — conservative-leaning Concerned Veterans for America — is planning a major campaign starting Tuesday to thwart efforts to move it through the Senate.

The bill was authored by Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., the committee's ranking member. In the months after its introduction, six large veterans service organizations came out in support of it: Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS.

Concerned Veterans for America says the legislation is "watered down."

With Trump elected president, Congress should wait to pass a stronger bill that would give the next VA secretary more power to immediately fire employees, said CVA leader Dan Caldwell.

In campaign statements, Trump said he wants to "use the power of the presidency" to discipline and fire VA employees and pass legislation that gives that authority to the new VA secretary. Furthermore, he's said he wants to "drain the swamp" in Washington and cut the number of federal employees.

"They wrote it with the intent of hopefully passing it and having President [Barack] Obama sign it into law," Caldwell said of the Veterans First Act. "It is a compromised bill. With the new reality we're facing as a result of the election, and with the incoming president making it very clear he supports making it easier to fire bad VA employees, it doesn't make sense to pass a watered-down accountability bill at this point."

A piece of the Veterans First Act aims to reduce the amount of time required to notify a federal employee of disciplinary action and allow them to appeal it.

Under the current system, the Merit Systems Protection Board hears appeals from federal employees when they're demoted or fired. The legislation proposes removing that board from the process for VA employees and creating a new Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, which would be under the over-

sight of Congress.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., introduced legislation in the House that competes against that provision of the Veterans First Act. The House passed the bill — the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act — in September.

Miller's bill would set a time limit the MSPB has to decide a case, and it would remove the board altogether from the process of disciplinary action against senior executives.

The Obama administration issued a statement about it, saying that part of the bill would strip VA employees of their rights, raising questions about its constitutionality.

In a report released the day following Election Day, the VA cataloged its achievements since McDonald took the position in 2014.

The report states the VA has completed about 58 million health care appointments in fiscal 2016, up by 1.2 million from fiscal 2015. It also states 82 percent of VA facilities have improved overall quality and that more veterans trust the VA.

In the report and in person Thursday, McDonald criticized Congress for the progress that hasn't been made.

Besides holding up a Senate vote on the Veterans First Act for several months, Congress has stalled the approval of leases for 24 new community clinics, McDonald said.

In a letter topping the new report, McDonald appealed to Congress to pass the Veterans First Act, writing that current members have "one final opportunity to do what's right for veterans."

Amazon glitches fixed in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Most servicemembers can again place orders with Amazon after the online retailer's website blocked some shoppers from completing their purchases for several days.

With the holidays fast approaching, U.S. soldiers and others who use the military postal system in South Korea were shocked to find themselves unable to order from Amazon.com.

The problem was limited to certain zip codes and appeared to mainly affect South Korea, although problems also were reported in Italy.

Servicemembers quickly formed a Facebook group to share information and coordinate their response. Many reached out to Amazon's customer service department, only to be told repeatedly about the company's shipping policy and restricted items.

But the online retailer was listening, and the problem was fixed for most on Sunday afternoon.

Amazon did not immediately provide a formal explanation about what happened in response to a Stars and Stripes query.

A person at Amazon who was familiar with the issue told Stars and Stripes that the problem was limited and occurred because of new updates to the APO, FPO and DPO zip codes.

Iraq: Islamic State driven out of Nimrud

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — The Iraqi army said Sunday that troops have driven Islamic State militants out of the town of Nimrud, south of Mosul, near the site of famed ancient Assyrian ruins that were reportedly destroyed by the extremists.

Iraq's special forces, meanwhile, battled militants in the city of Mosul itself, where they struggled to advance against waves of suicide car bombs.

Troops are converging from several fronts on Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the biggest urban area under Islamic State group control, as part of an offensive launched last month. The special forces have advanced the farthest, and hold a handful of districts on the city's eastern edge.

The Mosul operation commander said troops took Nimrud, 19 miles to the south, after heavy fighting. It was unclear if they had liberated the 13th-century B.C. archaeological site.

"The 9th division of the Iraqi army has liberated the town of Nimrud completely and raised the Iraqi flag over its buildings after the enemy suffered heavy casualties," Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Raheed Yar Allah said in a statement.

The late 1980s discovery of treasures in Nimrud's royal tombs was one of the 20th century's most significant archaeological finds. The government said militants, who captured the site in June 2014, destroyed it the following year using heavy military vehicles.

In Mosul, the special forces say they have cleared the Qadisiya and Zahra neighborhoods and are planning to advance further. Over the past week they have inched forward slowly, trying to avoid casualties among their troops and civilians as suicide bombers in armor-plated vehicles rush forward from hiding spots among densely populated areas.

"The only weapons they have left are car bombs and explosives," Iraqi special forces Maj.

Gen. Sami al-Aridi said as he radioed with commanders in the field. "There are so many civilian cars and any one of them could be a bomb."

Troops were building berms and roadblocks to prevent car bombs from breaching the front lines. Since last week's quick advance into Mosul proper, they have struggled to hold territory. Several suicide car bombers attacked the advancing special forces on Saturday, wounding around a dozen troops and three civilians and killing a child, officers said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief reporters.

Civilians are paying a heavy toll in the battle for Mosul, with nearly 50,000 forced from their homes, most living in displaced persons camps. The Norwegian Refugee Council said Sunday that conditions were worsening for noncombatants, especially over the past week.

"Civilians have told us of horrific stories from inside Mosul," said Wolfgang Gressmann, the

group's Iraq director. "They have given terrifying accounts of [the Islamic State group] moving them from neighborhood to neighborhood, and from house to house, in tactics identical with being used as human shields."

Meanwhile, a leading U.S.-based rights group released a report alleging that security forces of Iraq's regional Kurdish government had destroyed Arab homes and even some whole villages in areas retaken from the Islamic State group over the past two years.

The Human Rights Watch report said that between September 2014 and May 2016, Kurdish forces advancing against the Islamic State group destroyed Arab homes in disputed areas of Kirkuk and Ninevah provinces while Kurdish homes were left intact. It says the demolitions took place in disputed areas in northern Iraq that the Kurds want to incorporate into their autonomous region over the objections of the central government.

Militants realign as their presence in Pakistan grows

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Islamic State group is increasing its presence in Pakistan, recruiting Uzbek militants, attracting disgruntled Taliban fighters and partnering with one of Pakistan's most violent sectarian groups, according to police officers, Taliban officials and analysts.

Its latest atrocity was an attack Saturday on a Sufi shrine in southwestern Pakistan that killed at least 50 people and wounded 100. The group said in a statement that a suicide bomber attacked the shrine with the intent of killing Shiite Muslims and issued a picture of the attacker. When the Islamic State group circulated a photograph of one of the attackers in last month's deadly assault on a police academy in southwest-

ern Baluchistan province, two Taliban officials told The Associated Press that the attacker was an Uzbek, most likely a member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. More than 60 people, most of them police recruits, were killed in that Oct. 26 attack when three assailants battled security forces for hours before being killed or detonating their suicide vests.

The Taliban officials, both of whom are familiar with the IMU, spoke on condition of anonymity because they are banned from talking to the media.

Authorities initially said the police academy attack was orchestrated by militants hiding out in Afghanistan and blamed Pakistan's virulently anti-Shiite group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. But the Islamic State later claimed responsibility and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi spokesman Ali Bin Su-

fyman said they partnered with the Islamic State group to carry out the assault. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the extremist group has adopted the name the Islamic State in Khorasan — a reference to an ancient geographical region that encompassed a vast swath of territory stretching from Turkmenistan through Iran and Afghanistan. The Islamic State in Khorasan has set up its base in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, and while it has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, it remains unclear whether there are direct operational or financial links between the two.

According to police, Afghan officials and Islamic State media outlets, the majority of Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan are Pakistani nationals, mostly from the tribal regions. Dis-

gruntled Taliban fighters from Pakistan and Afghanistan have joined along with foreign fighters, mainly from central Asia.

Counterterrorism officials in Pakistan say the Islamic State group has begun reaching out to local militants through its rich social media presence.

"They are inspiring the like-minded youth in Pakistan through their strong social media propaganda," said Junaid Sheikh, a senior counterterrorism commander in the southern city of Karachi.

A senior police official in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province said the Islamic State group is entrenched in Pakistan and its roots are growing stronger as it aligns with Pakistan's Sunni extremist groups. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Trump demonstrations go on for 4th day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's presidential upset win sparked a fourth day of protests across the United States, with tens of thousands of protesters marching and railing against him.

Saturday protests — held in big cities such as Los Angeles, New York and Chicago as well as smaller ones, such as Worcester, Mass., and Iowa City, Iowa — were largely peaceful, although two police officers were slightly injured in protests in Indianapolis.

Demonstrators rallied at New York's Union Square before taking their cause up Fifth Avenue toward Trump Tower, where they were held back by police barricades.

The Republican president-elect was inside his tower apartment, working with aides on the transition to the White House.

Among those railing against him was filmmaker Michael Moore, who tweeted a demand that Trump "step aside."

Fashion designer Noemi Abad, 30, agreed.

"I just can't have Donald Trump running this country and teaching our children racism, sexism and bigotry," she said. "Out of his own mouth he made this division. He needs to go — there's no place for racism in society in America."

Trump's comments — particularly a 2005 recording of him making lewd comments about women — sparked outrage during his campaign. That spilled over into demonstrations following an election that ended with half of U.S. voters choosing the other candidate, Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Demonstrators in Indianapolis on Saturday threw rocks at police, slightly injuring two officers, said Police Chief Troy Riggs. Some protesters began chanting threats including "Kill the Police," and officers moved in to arrest seven demonstrators.

Rowdy demonstrators marched through downtown Portland, Ore., for the fourth night Saturday despite calls from the mayor and police chief for calm.

Several hundred people took to the streets and Portland authorities made multiple arrests after protesters threw bottles and other items at officers in riot gear and blocked streets and light rail lines. The exact number of arrests wasn't immediately available.

In Los Angeles, an estimated 8,000 people marched through downtown streets Saturday to condemn what they saw as Trump's hate speech about Muslims, his pledge to deport people in the country illegally and

his crude comments about women.

Meanwhile, several dozen Trump supporters gathered at his vandalized star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to urge the protesters to give him a chance. One person held a cross that read "All lives matter to me."

In other parts of the country, spirited demonstrations on college campuses and peaceful marches along downtown streets have taken place since Wednesday.

Evening marches disrupted traffic in Miami and Atlanta.

Protests also were held in Detroit; Minneapolis; Kansas City, Mo.; Olympia, Wash.; Iowa City; and more.

Several hundred anti-Trump protesters joined the trial protesters and marched through downtown Cincinnati.

Demonstrations also took place internationally. About 300 people protested Trump's election as the next American president outside the U.S. Embassy near the landmark Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

President Barack Obama meets in Berlin next week with Chancellor Angela Merkel and several other European leaders and is expected to confront global concerns about Trump's election.

EU officials gather to discuss Trump's impact

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union foreign ministers will gather Sunday to discuss the impact of Donald Trump's election on trans-Atlantic ties and whether it will complicate relations with an increasingly belligerent Russia.

At informal dinner talks in Brussels, well away from the media, the ministers will debate how many of Trump's campaign announcements — like isolationist positions on security, his rejection of international trade pacts and refusal to criticize Russian President Vladimir Putin — might translate into real policy.

Before the dinner, EU diplomats were at a loss to explain Trump's stunning victory or understand yet what it might really mean.

Giovanni Grevi, senior fellow at the European Policy Centre think tank, said that "cooperation between Europe and the U.S. will not become impossible, but it will become much more difficult."

"Donald Trump has been putting America first ... in defining his foreign policy and it seems he is taking a very transactional approach to international affairs. This is

'Donald Trump has been putting America first ... in defining his foreign policy, and it seems he is taking a very transactional approach to international affairs. This is very likely to apply also to trans-Atlantic relations.'

Giovanni Grevi

senior fellow at the European Policy Centre

very likely to apply also to trans-Atlantic relations. He will value Europeans in so far as they can match his priorities," Grevi said.

Given Trump's clear opposition to major trade pacts, EU officials are all but certain that the massive Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP, will have to be renegotiated, if any life remains in the project at all.

"With the new president-elect we don't

really know what will happen. There is strong reason to believe that there would be a pause in TTIP, that this might not be the biggest priority for the new administration," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said Friday.

Perhaps the most pressing problem though is to understand how Trump wants to deal with Putin.

The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Crimea and destabilizing role elsewhere in Ukraine. Some of those measures, including asset freezes on individuals and organizations, come up for renewal in January.

EU leaders are due to discuss them at a summit in Brussels on Dec. 15-16, but any signal from Trump about a softening of U.S. relations with Russia is likely to embolden already reluctant countries like Germany, Italy and others to push for an end the sanctions regime, diplomats said.

The EU foreign ministers will meet again formally on Monday, to discuss strained ties with membership candidate country Turkey, the conflict in Syria and Libya, and defense cooperation with the NATO military alliance.

Quake hits New Zealand, triggers tsunami

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A powerful earthquake struck New Zealand's South Island early Monday, shaking residents awake, causing damage to buildings and prompting emergency services to warn people along the coast to move to higher ground to avoid tsunami waves.

The magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck just after midnight in a mostly rural area close to the city of Christchurch, but appeared to be more strongly felt in Wellington, the capital, more than 120 miles to the north. The quake was followed by a number of strong aftershocks.

The quake temporarily knocked out New Zealand's emergency call number, 111, police reported. It caused items to fall from shelves and windows to break in Wellington and forced hundreds of tourists onto the streets as hotels were evacuated. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries in the city.

New Zealand's Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management reported that a tsunami wave struck about 1:50 a.m., they warned residents living in low-lying areas anywhere along the country's

east coast to move to higher ground.

Information from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center indicated that the tsunami waves could be highest around the South Island town of Kaikoura, at about 5 feet. The Hawaii-based center said it did not expect the quake to generate a destructive, Pacific-wide tsunami.

Within New Zealand, there was confusion about the tsunami threat.

The ministry earlier had sent out a message on Twitter saying there was no tsunami threat to the country. But then it sent out another message — "situation has changed - tsunami is possible" — before reporting that a tsunami had hit.

The ministry said people on the coast near the epicenter could expect waves of between 10 and 16 feet.

While there were no immediate reports of any major damage or injuries in Christchurch, the quake brought back memories of a magnitude-6.3 earthquake that struck the city in 2011, destroying much of the downtown area and killing 185 people in one of New Zealand's worst disasters. Monday's quake was centered farther away from

Christchurch than the one in 2011, which caused an estimated \$25 billion in damage.

As Monday's quake hit, Christchurch resident Hannah Gin had just sat down in her living room to watch a replay of the weekend's All Blacks-versus-Italy rugby match when her house started shaking. Upstairs, her mother let out a scream.

Gin, 24, a lifelong Christchurch resident, is accustomed to quakes, so she said she sat calmly and waited, figuring the rumbling would stop in a few seconds. Instead, the shaking just went on and on — for at least three minutes, according to the clock on her phone, she said.

The quake was far less violent than the one that struck her city in 2011, Gin said, adding that there was no jarring up and down or side to side, just a long, rolling sensation. But it went on for much longer than the typical quakes that strike the area, she said. She was less concerned about running for cover than she was about vomiting from the motion sickness, she said with a chuckle.

"I could hear the sliding door sliding back and forth and we've got washing hanging up

and I could see the washing moving," Gin said. "It just kept going and going."

She said that her house, which was damaged in the 2011 quake, did not appear to have sustained any new damage from Monday's quake. She also said she had heard from many of her friends who live in the city, and all were safe.

"As far as I know, everyone's fine," she said. "We're all just really shaken."

In Wellington, 132 miles north of the quake's epicenter, power was knocked out in some places, and some windows were smashed and some chimneys collapsed.

The quake was centered 57 miles northeast of Christchurch, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The USGS initially estimated that the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.4 before revising it to 7.8. It said the quake struck at a depth of 14 miles, after initially putting the depth at 6 miles. Earthquakes tend to be more strongly felt on the surface when they're shallow.

New Zealand sits on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common.

Kerry says he'll continue anti-global warming efforts

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday he will continue his efforts to implement the Paris Agreement on global warming until the day President Barack Obama leaves office on Jan. 20.

Speaking in New Zealand following a trip to Antarctica, Kerry said his administration would continue to do everything possible to meet its responsibility to future generations.

Kerry has long championed climate action but now his legacy is under threat. President-elect Donald Trump has called

climate change a hoax and said he would "cancel" U.S. involvement in the landmark Paris deal.

Under the deal, which came into force this month, countries have agreed to limit global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-industrial levels. Achieving the goal will require a major shift away from fossil fuels.

Kerry said it would be up to the Trump administration to define itself on climate change. He said that sometimes there is a divide between what is said on the campaign trail and what is done in governance.

But Kerry appeared to take

a swipe at Trump when he listed some of the ways in which global warming could already be seen. He said that globally, there were more fires, floods and damaging storms, and sea levels were rising.

"The evidence is mounting in ways that people in public life should not dare to avoid accepting as a mandate for action," Kerry said.

He also made a point of crediting a previous Republican president, George H.W. Bush, with first joining the global effort to address climate change in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

"Now the world's scientific community has concluded that

climate change is happening beyond any doubt. And the evidence is there for everybody to see," Kerry said.

He said he thinks his administration is on the right track because the majority of Americans believe climate change is happening and want action.

"So we will wait to see how the next administration addresses this," he said.

Kerry plans to fly this week to a global climate conference in Morocco, where he will give a major speech. Officials there have begun working on a "rule-book" to implement the Paris deal.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

FBI: Fake cop sought nude pics from girls

LA NEW ORLEANS — Authorities have arrested a New Orleans man accused of posing as a police officer and demanding that girls send him nude photos.

The FBI New Orleans division said in a news release that Triston Grant, 18, was arrested Thursday on charges of impersonating a police officer and computer-aided solicitation of a minor.

An FBI investigation found that Grant intimidated female minors online, threatening to arrest them if they didn't send him nude pictures of themselves.

Man fined for lying about military service

MT GREAT FALLS — A Montana man who lied about serving in the military in order to have his burglary and theft case assigned to a Veterans Treatment Court has been found in contempt of court.

The Great Falls Tribune reported District Judge Greg Pinski fined Ryan Patrick Morris \$500 on Wednesday and ordered him to complete 441 hours of community service with a veterans' service organization — one hour for each Montana veteran killed in the line of duty since the Korean War.

Morris told the court that he had done seven combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His father contacted the Veterans Court in October to say that his son had never served in the military.

Woman sentenced for biting husband's lip

IA SIOUX CITY — A northwest Iowa woman has been given probation and suspended jail time for biting and

tearing her husband's lower lip when she feigned desire for a kiss.

The Sioux City Journal reported that Carol Smith, 60, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to domestic abuse assault. A charge of willful injury was dismissed.

Court documents say the incident occurred in the couple's Sioux City home on May 24 last year. Police said Smith's husband required plastic surgery.

The judge gave Smith two years of probation, suspended all but 60 days of a 365-day jail sentence and ruled that Smith may serve 120 days on an electronic monitoring device in lieu of serving the jail time. He also fined her \$315.

Boaters warned over migrating manatees

FL TALLAHASSEE — Florida's beloved manatees are on the move and looking for warmer waters, and state officials are warning boaters that the whiskered marine mammals can pose a hazard.

The Tallahassee Democrat reported that seasonal protection zones for manatees are going into effect on Tuesday.

So far, there have been 91 reported manatee deaths this year from boat strikes, and officials want boaters to slow down and to keep an eye out.

Theft caught on video; stolen reptile returned

NY WEST ISLIP — A Long Island reptile store said a baby snake that was stolen last week has been returned.

Police said earlier that surveillance video captured a man removing a ball python from a drawer and placing it inside his jacket pocket at Repxotica in West Islip in Suffolk County. The man buys several items

and then leaves the store with the snake.

The store's owners said the snake is worth several hundred dollars. Newsday reported the store said in a Facebook post Wednesday afternoon that an anonymous third party returned the snake.

Flag dispute spurs shooting, 2 arrests

NH MANCHESTER — Police say a dispute about a flag at a home led to a shooting in Manchester and two men arrested.

Police said one of them, Michael Sirois, 22, found the flag offensive Nov. 5. Police didn't describe it, but media reports say it was a play off the old "Don't Tread on Me" flag with a snake. It featured a porcupine, the mascot of the Free State Project.

Police said Jarrod Ean-Dixon, 36, was shot and was hospitalized. A woman who suffered a gunshot wound to the leg was released from the hospital.

Sirois, of Chester, was charged with first-degree assault with a deadly weapon. Jason Gerry, 21, of Sandown, was charged with second-degree assault.

Man pleads guilty in lottery theft case

IA STORM LAKE — A northwest Iowa man pleaded guilty to theft of a lottery ticket or share.

Johnny Long Jr., 26, of Sioux Rapids, entered the plea Nov. 7. He's scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 19.

Prosecutors have said Long's girlfriend, Ashley Bosler, was working at a convenience store when she found a winning ticket by scratching off a corner and scanning the bar code that confirmed it was a winner of a \$250,000 prize. Prosecu-

tors said she was 20 at the time — too young to play the game — so Long tried to claim it for her.

Her mother, Sally Bosler, had pleaded not guilty to a charge of aiding and abetting, but prosecutors dropped the charge, saying they didn't have enough evidence to convict her.

Police: Intoxicated driver sped wrong way

NY EAST MORICHES — Police on Long Island said an intoxicated driver sped the wrong way along a county road, narrowly missing other cars and a bus.

Southampton Town Police said officers began chasing the driver about 12:40 a.m. Saturday in Northampton. She was going south in the northbound lanes of County Road 51. The pursuing officers drove parallel to her in the southbound lanes.

The driver finally turned onto the correct side of the highway but kept fleeing. After the 6½-mile chase, she pulled over in East Moriches.

Oahu seaweed farm linked to salmonella

HI HONOLULU — The state Department of Health has ordered an Oahu seaweed farm to stop selling and distributing some of its products, which have been linked to several salmonella cases.

The products from Marine Agrifuture LLC, also known as Olakai Hawaii, include Kahu-ku Ogo, Robusta Ogo and Sea Asparagus.

They are sold wholesale and used in retail products, such as salad dressing, tea and condiments.

State officials have confirmed 14 cases of salmonella on Oahu.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Brash McGregor becomes 1st 2-class UFC champion

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Conor McGregor raised his arms in triumph before he stepped inside the cage, the cocky Irishman playing to a crowd going wild for UFC's greatest champion.

McGregor ran a circle around the mat, a victory lap of sorts before he even threw a punch. McGregor packed fans to the Madison Square Garden rafters and drove them into a frenzy as he packed a vicious punch against Eddie Alvarez.

McGregor used a brash and brilliant performance to knock out Alvarez in the second round to win the UFC lightweight title Saturday in the main event of UFC 205 on a record night.

He dubbed himself this week the King of New York.

Now, he's been crowned a two-class champ.

"What's next for me," McGregor bellowed inside the cage.

The easy answer: Whatever the "Notorious" one wants.

McGregor dominated from the opening bell of the biggest card in UFC history — on pace to set an MMA pay-per-view record — and the sold-out crowd of 20,427 loaded with A-listers from Madonna to Hugh Jackman went wild with each punishing blow.

McGregor, also UFC's featherweight champ following a 13-second knockout of Jose Aldo, had predicted a fourth-round KO.

Unlike UFC's laborious legal battle to reach New York, McGregor wouldn't make anyone wait.

UFC has not decided if McGregor (21-3) will be allowed to defend both championships. UFC

President Dana White said McGregor could be about the only fighter in the promotion to handle that kind of grueling fight load.

"Who knows," White said. "I'm going to let him enjoy his night."

McGregor crouched inside the cage waiting for the bell to ring and attack Alvarez (28-5). McGregor was the clear aggressor from the start, dropping Alvarez three times in the first round. Alvarez, out of Philadelphia, bounced up the first two times and took a severe beating on the third. McGregor forced Alvarez to fight with his back to the cage and never absorbed a serious strike.

McGregor, 28, put his hands behind his back in the second, taunting and toying Alvarez to hit him. McGregor, UFC's biggest box office star, unloaded a left and ended the fight at 1:52 of the second. McGregor lay waste to a battered Alvarez and brazenly demanded in a speech peppered with profanities his second UFC championship belt.

"I was literally losing my head in there," he said.

McGregor snatched his new lightweight championship belt, paired it with his featherweight title, and UFC's first two-class champion in the promotion's history plopped himself on top of the cage and absorbed the scene of his historic night.

"I've spent a lot of time slaying everybody in the company," McGregor said.

Alvarez is the latest victim on the list.

"Eddie is a warrior but he shouldn't be in there with me," he said. "I'm at a different level. Now, I celebrate as champion of two divisions."

Pitt stuns Clemson

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — James Conner's smile said it all — Pittsburgh was happy to once again shuffle up the national championship picture.

"Hey, sorry to do that. But we wanted this one bad," said Conner, who had two touchdowns and ran for 132 yards in the Panthers' 43-42 stunner over No. 3 Clemson on Saturday.

Conner's 20-yard TD run with 5:17 left inched the Panthers into striking range and Chris Blewitt — after a kiss on the cheek from coach Pat Narduzzi — struck a perfect, 48-yard field goal with six seconds left for the winning points.

"We'll remember this one forever," Conner said.

So, too, will Clemson (9-1, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) which saw its run at perfection halted after escaping so many other jams this season. A fourth-down stop a yard shy saved the Tigers' 42-36 win over No. 5 Louisville on Oct. 1. North Carolina State's missed field goal at the end of regulation boosted Clemson to a 24-17 overtime win.

This time, it was the Panthers (6-4, 3-3) who made the critical plays.

"Our team had a lot of guts tonight," Narduzzi said.

Navy tops Tulsa, takes charge of AAC West

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Navy quarterback Will Worth ran for 122 yards and scored three touchdowns and the Midshipmen took control of the American Athletic Conference's West Division with a 42-40 victory over Tulsa on Saturday.

Navy (7-2, 5-1) is now in the driver's seat to earn a spot, and possibly to host, the AAC championship game on Dec. 3. The Midshipmen have won 15 consecutive games at home — the second-longest home streak in the nation behind Clemson,

which has won 20 straight.

"This was a great football game," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "Sometimes, I wish I was just in the stands, watching as a fan. These games are not good on the heart. I'm proud of our guys. We found a way to make enough plays. We had a hard time trying to stop those guys."

Notre Dame 44, Army 6: Notre Dame quarterback DeShone Kizer loosened up the Army defense with his arm. Then the Irish took advantage with their legs.

Kizer threw for three touchdowns and collected 72 of Notre Dame's season-high 261 yards rushing, helping the Irish beat Army in San Antonio.

Kell Walker had a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter for Army's only score.

The Black Knights (5-5) began the day ranked in the top 25 nationally in several defensive categories, but the Irish (4-6) were in complete control right from the start.

"I really don't know what to say after a tail-whipping like that," Army coach Jeff Monken

said. "We couldn't stop the ball and couldn't run the ball effectively enough to keep drives going. Credit Notre Dame."

Air Force 49, Colorado State 46: On a night when the Air Force defense was battered and burned, linebacker Grant Ross turned in the biggest play of the game.

To think, he nearly got ejected in the first half for targeting.

Tim McVey scored four touchdowns, Ross forced a late fumble and Air Force held off Colorado State in the highest-scoring game of the rivalry.

Iowa stuns No. 2 Michigan on late FG

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Michigan failed its first major road test of the season.

It might not matter for the Wolverines and their playoff hopes — if they win out.

Freshman Keith Duncan kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired and Iowa stunned second-ranked Michigan 14-13 on Saturday night, damaging the Wolverines' playoff hopes.

"We just have to look in the mirror and look at the film and become better because of this," Michigan tight end Jake Butt said. "There's really no excuse, there's absolutely no excuse."

But Michigan is still very much alive, in part because No. 3 Clemson and No. 4 Washington lost earlier in the day — at home, no less.

Still, it's the middle of November and the Wolverines have yet to beat a team with more than one league win on the road.

Wilton Speight threw for 103 yards with a pick for the Wolverines, who gained just 201 yards of offense.

"We didn't make enough plays to extend drives, first downs. We missed on some deep throws," Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Every little thing doesn't always go your way, and to win, you've got to make it that way."

Akrum Wadley had 115 yards rushing to help the Hawkeyes (6-4, 4-3 Big Ten) beat a top-five team for the first time in six years.

Michigan (9-1, 6-1, No. 3 CFP) appeared to have the game wrapped up when Channing Stribling intercepted C.J. Beathard's pass with 1:54 left. But the Hawkeyes stuffed the Wolverines, and a facemask penalty put Iowa at Michigan's 36 with 1:23 to go.

Duncan then drilled the ball through the uprights from nearly the exact same spot where Daniel Murray hit the winner eight years ago to knock Penn State out of the na-

tional title picture.

"It was an incredible feeling," said Duncan, who was immediately mobbed by teammates and fans. "It's definitely the biggest kick I've had."

Poll implications: It's hard to see Michigan falling further than fourth in the Top 25. One-loss Louisville and Ohio State could jump past the Wolverines, but all that matters is being in the top four when the playoff committee makes its selections.

History repeats itself: Duncan's big kick was not only reminiscent to 2008, but 1985 — and Michigan was involved in that one. In what is remembered as perhaps the biggest game in the history of Kinnick Stadium, top-ranked Iowa beat No. 2 Michigan 12-10 on a field goal at the final whistle. The Hawkeyes were later knocked off by Ohio State — and if the same happens to Michigan on Nov. 26, it can likely forget about the playoffs.

USC snaps No. 4 Washington's win streak

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Sam Darnold threw for 287 yards and two touchdowns and Southern California upset No. 4 Washington 26-13, snapping the Huskies' 12-game winning streak and damaging their College Football Playoff hopes.

Darnold was outstanding against one of the top defenses in the Pac-12, showing why USC has surged since he became the starter. Darnold's lofted pass over linebacker D.J. Beavers and into the arms of tight end Daniel Imatorbhebhe for an 8-yard touchdown strike in the opening moments of the fourth quarter gave USC an 11-point lead that Washington (9-1, 6-1 Pac-12, No. 4 CFP) couldn't overcome.

Ronald Jones II added 93 yards rushing and a touchdown. USC (7-3, 6-2, No. 20 CFP) won its sixth straight. The Trojans also kept alive their slim hopes of winning the Pac-12 South.

No. 1 Alabama 51, Mississippi State 3: Jalen Hurts passed for career highs of 347 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 100 yards in less than three quarters for host Alabama.

No. 5 Louisville 44, Wake

Forest 12: Brandon Radcliff ran for three touchdowns during Louisville's 41-point second half, and the host Cardinals routed Wake Forest despite a relatively quiet night from Lamar Jackson.

No. 6 Ohio State 62, Maryland 3: J.T. Barrett accounted for four touchdowns, Curtis Samuel scored three TDs and visiting Ohio State enjoyed another lopsided victory.

No. 7 Wisconsin 48, Illinois 3: Corey Clement ran for 123 yards and three touchdowns and host Wisconsin intercepted four of Illinois quarterback Jeff George Jr.'s passes.

Georgia 13, No. 8 Auburn 7: Rodrigo Blankenship kicked two fourth-quarter field goals and Georgia's defense shut down visiting Auburn in the second half.

The loss ended Auburn's Southeastern Conference championship hopes and knocked the Tigers (7-3, 5-2 SEC, No. 9 CFP) out of consideration for a spot in the playoff.

No. 9 Oklahoma 45, No. 25 Baylor 24: Baker Mayfield passed for 300 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score to help host Oklahoma

beat Baylor.

Joe Mixon had 187 yards from scrimmage and Samaje Perine ran for 100 yards and two touchdowns after missing three games with a pulled muscle in his right leg.

Mississippi 29, No. 10 Texas A&M 28: Shea Patterson threw for 338 yards and two touchdowns in his debut and Gary Wunderlich made a 39-yard field goal with 37 seconds left to lift Mississippi past host Texas A&M.

No. 11 West Virginia 24, Texas 20: Kennedy McCoy ran for two touchdowns and West Virginia's defense withstood a final pass attempt into the end zone to hold off host Texas.

No. 12 Penn State 45, Indiana 31: Saquon Barkley ran for two go-ahead touchdowns in the fourth quarter, helping Penn State beat host Indiana.

No. 16 Colorado 49, Arizona 24: Sefo Liufau passed for three touchdowns and ran for another, helping Colorado roll over host Arizona for its first four-game winning streak in 14 years.

No. 17 Oklahoma State 45, Texas Tech 44: Clayton Hatfield missed the extra point after Quinton White's 1-yard scoring

run for Texas Tech with 1:39 left, and host Oklahoma State escaped with the victory.

Georgia Tech 30, No. 18 Virginia Tech 20: Georgia Tech backup quarterback Matthew Jordan rushed for 121 yards and two touchdowns to lead the visiting Yellow Jackets.

No. 19 LSU 38, Arkansas 10: Derrius Guice rushed for a career-high 252 yards, Leonard Fournette added three touchdowns and visiting LSU improved to 4-1 under interim coach Ed Orgeron.

No. 21 Nebraska 24, Minnesota 17: Tommy Armstrong Jr. led a 91-yard tiebreaking touchdown drive after being helped off the field with an ankle injury the previous series, and Kieron Williams' interception with 1:29 left secured host Nebraska's victory.

No. 22 Florida 20, South Carolina 7: Austin Appleby threw two touchdown passes, Jordan Scarlett ran for a career-high 134 yards and host Florida beat South Carolina and former coach Will Muschamp.

No. 24 Boise St 52, Hawaii 16: Brett Rypien passed for 338 yards and four touchdowns for visiting Boise State.

Clippers win 6th straight

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Blake Griffin had 20 points and 11 rebounds and DeAndre Jordan had 18 points and 16 boards to lead the Clippers to their sixth straight win, 119-105 over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday.

Chris Paul had 19 points and eight assists for Los Angeles (9-1), which has the NBA's best record.

Raptors 118, Knicks 107: DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, Norman Powell added 19 and host Toronto beat New York for the fourth straight time.

Spurs 106, Rockets 100: Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points to lead visiting San Antonio over Houston.

Jazz 102, Heat 91: Gordon Hayward scored 25 points, Rodney Hood added 17 and visiting Utah handed Miami a fourth consecutive loss.

Celtics 105, Pacers 99: Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points as Boston beat host Indiana.

Hawks 117, 76ers 96: Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 points, Kent Bazemore added 17 and host Atlanta topped Philadelphia for its fourth straight win.

Lakers 126, Pelicans 99: Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points, Lou Williams added 21, and visiting Los Angeles won for the fifth time in six games.

Bulls 106, Wizards 95: Jimmy Butler scored 37 points, and Chicago beat short-handed visiting Washington.

Bucks 106, Grizzlies 96: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points and Michael Beasley added a season-high 19 to help host Milwaukee beat Memphis.

Pistons 106, Nuggets 95: Tobias Harris scored 19 points, Marcus Morris had 17 and Detroit beat Denver for its first road win of the season.

Nets 122, Suns 104: Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, leading Brooklyn to its first road victory of the season.

Shaw helps Habs set record

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Andrew Shaw's best game of the season helped the Montreal Canadiens set a franchise record.

Shaw scored and added two assists to lead the Canadiens to a 5-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Saturday night to extend their winning streak to four games.

The victory was Montreal's 10th at the Bell Centre this season, a club record for consecutive home wins to start a season. The previous record was established in 1953.

"I haven't played great this year," said Shaw, who has six points this season. "I haven't played my game, I've gotten away from that. I'm just trying to keep things easy. Last year I had a terrible start and I didn't start great this year again. It's about learning from those experiences and busting through that wall."

Shaw's goal was his first since Montreal's opener Oct. 13. The third-line winger had his first multipoint game with the Canadiens.

The 25-year-old made it 4-0 in the second period when Alex Galchenyuk's slap shot from the point went off Shaw's left skate and in.

Shaw says he was inspired by his good friend Bryan Bickell, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis this week. They were teammates in Chicago, winning two Stanley Cups together.

"A friend, a great guy all around," Shaw said about Bickell, who now plays for the Carolina Hurricanes. "For him to go through this, it's got to be hard. He's a tough kid. He's strong mentally and physically. He's surrounded by great people and they're going to help him through this. I talked to him yesterday and his spirits were good for his situation."

Carey Price did the rest for Montreal, making

25 saves for his second shutout of the season.

Blue Jackets 8, Blues 4: Sam Gagner scored twice, Nick Foligno got a goal and two assists and 13 Blue Jackets had at least a point, helping host Columbus beat St. Louis.

Penguins 4, Maple Leafs 1: Sidney Crosby and Bryan Rust scored in the third period to help host Pittsburgh pull away from Toronto.

Rangers 4, Flames 1: Michael Grabner and Derek Stepan scored in the first period, Henrik Lundqvist stopped 35 shots and New York beat host Calgary.

Panthers 3, Islanders 2 (OT): Jonathan Marchessault tied the game with 13.6 seconds left in regulation and Denis Malgin scored late in overtime, helping host Florida beat New York.

Sharks 3, Lightning 1: Patrick Marleau had a goal that required two video reviews, Martin Jones made 25 saves and visiting San Jose beat Tampa Bay.

Predators 5, Ducks 0: James Neal scored twice and Pekka Rinne stopped 27 shots for his 41st career shutout in host Nashville's win over Anaheim.

Flyers 3, Wild 2: Brayden Schenn scored the tiebreaking goal at 8:43 of the third period, lifting host Philadelphia over Minnesota.

Bruins 2, Coyotes 1: David Pastrnak got his team-leading 10th goal, Tuukka Rask stopped 31 shots and visiting Boston held on to beat Arizona.

Hurricanes 5, Capitals 1: Rookie Sebastian Aho scored his first two NHL goals, Jordan Staal had a goal and three assists and host Carolina beat Washington.

Devils 4, Sabres 2: Nick Lappin and Kyle Palmieri scored in the second period to lead host New Jersey over Buffalo.

Blue Devils' guards lead way in blowout

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — With three big men out with injuries, top-ranked Duke is leaning on its guards for a little bit of everything.

Grayson Allen had 25 points and 10 rebounds, freshman Frank Jackson added 21 points and the Blue Devils beat Grand Canyon 96-61 on Saturday.

"We have to rebound — the whole perimeter has to rebound," said Allen, who finished one rebound shy of his career best. "We know the big guys that we do have in the game, they're going to be battling, boxing out the other bigs,

so the perimeter, we need to crash in and rebound and clean up all the loose stuff."

Amile Jefferson scored 15 points, Luke Kennard finished with 14 and Matt Jones had 11 points for the short-handed Blue Devils (2-0).

Once again playing without three injured freshman post players, they kept things largely in their guards' hands and shot 53 percent to win their second game in less than 24 hours.

"I like my team a lot. We just have to keep getting better, and then once all these injuries are taken care of in some time, we can become a different team," coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

"Right now, we have to be this team and not think about who we could be. Our complete focus has got to be how to win with this team."

Now, with those two tuneup games out of the way, the focus squarely falls on one of the marquee matchups of the early season: a date with No. 3 Kansas on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

Shaq Carr had 18 points to lead pesky Grand Canyon (0-1), which gave Duke more of a test than Marist did in a 94-49 rout a night earlier but came up empty in its second opener against a top-ranked team in three years.