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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump senior aides picks are a sharp contrast

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With his first two key personnel appointments, President-elect Donald Trump made an overture to Republican circles by naming GOP chief Reince Priebus as his White House chief of staff and fired a shot across the Washington establishment's bow by tapping Breitbart News executive Stephen Bannon as chief strategist and senior counselor.

The two men had made up the president-elect's chief of staff short list, and while Priebus received that job, Bannon's post also is expected to wield significant clout. The media executive with ties to the alt-right and white nationalist movement was given top billing in the news release announcing their appointments.

The hires were, at first glance, contradictory, though they fit a pattern of Trump creating a veritable Rorschach test that allowed his supporters to see what they wanted. Priebus, who lashed the RNC to Trump this summer despite some intraparty objections, is a GOP operative with deep expertise of the Washington establishment that Trump has vowed to shake up. He has close ties to House Speaker Paul Ryan, a fellow Wisconsinite.

"I am very grateful to the president-elect for this opportunity to serve him and this nation as we work to create an economy that works for everyone, secure our borders, repeal and replace Obamacare and destroy radical Islamic terrorism," Priebus said in a statement. Bannon, meanwhile, helped transform the Breitbart News site into the leading mouthpiece of the party's anti-establishment wing, which helped fuel the businessman's political rise. Ryan has been one of his most frequent targets.

"Steve and Reince are highly qualified leaders who worked well together on our campaign and led us to a historic victory," Trump said Sunday. "Now I will have them both with me in the White House as we work to make America great again."

Neither Priebus nor Bannon brings policy experience to the White House. The chief of staff in particular plays a significant role in policymaking. The official is often one of the last people in the room with the president as major decisions are made.

GOP may get its dream DOD budget under Trump

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Defense hawks are quietly celebrating the election of Donald Trump — now, they might just get more than they ever dreamed possible.

That's because Washington Republicans and the president-elect have more in common on defense spending and priorities than it might seem given Trump's hard-line foreign policy stance against immigration, his questioning of longstanding strategic alliances like NATO and his support for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump ally Rudy Giuliani, a contender for a Cabinet position, said on CNN on Sunday that strengthening the military is a major priority of the president-elect.

"He's going to be facing Putin with a country that is not diminishing its military, but a country that is dramatically increasing it to Reagan-like levels," Giuliani said, invoking former President Ronald Reagan's mantra of "peace through strength."

Trump and congressional Republicans are actually on the same page on a host of defense priorities, including increasing the number of active-duty troops in the Army, and the size of the Navy; large-scale modernization of military facilities, weapons and the nuclear arsenal; and a dramatic spike in missile defense.

And Trump — despite benefiting politically during the campaign from hacks of Democratic political groups — also touts the need for improved cyber security, which is already under discussion on Capitol Hill.

"This is all music to the ears of not only Republican leaders in defense, but many Democrats, too," said Michael Herson, a prominent defense lobbyist.

Trump's team hasn't laid out all the specifics yet on defense policy, which will be largely implemented by his defense secretary. A figure like Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., or Gen. Michael Flynn — both Trump campaign surrogates — could mean a different Pentagon than if the military establishment was headed by former Bush administration adviser Stephen Hadley, or an establishment hawk who has criticized Trump like Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

The biggest obstacle to enacting a wide-

ranging host of GOP defense priorities is the cost — according to an estimate from the American Enterprise Institute's Mackenzie Eaglen and Rick Berger, anywhere from about \$100 billion to \$300 billion more over the next four years than President Barack Obama's current plan.

Congress can't legally spend that money until it gets rid of budget caps as part of the sequester holding spending in check since fiscal 2013. Trump called for the end of those caps on the campaign trail, promising he would "ask Congress to fully eliminate the defense sequester and will submit a new budget to rebuild our military," during a September speech in Pennsylvania.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, "is encouraged by the president-elect's determination to rebuild America's military, a priority that Chairman Thornberry shares," his spokesman Claude Chafin said.

So, apparently, are the markets: Defense stocks spiked the day after Trump's election — with the stock value of some of the biggest defense contractors like Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and Lockheed jumping between more than 5 to 7.5 percent at the news.

But there is still resistance in Congress to Trump's plans — potentially from more fiscally conservative Republicans and from Democrats.

"There is considerably more demand for defense spending than there is money to meet that demand," House Armed Services Committee ranking member Adam Smith, D-Wash., said the morning of the election. "Look at all the programs that are out there, from the B-21 (bomber) to upgrades to our submarines, upgrades to our arsenal, to rising personnel costs — add it all up, and it is vastly more money than we're going to have. How do you deal with that?"

Under a Trump administration, finding a way to lift budget caps depends on whether lawmakers and the president-elect can agree on a series of tax reforms and entitlement cuts, both of which could spark intraparty conflict.

Russian jet from carrier crashes off Syria coast

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian military says one of its fighter jets based on an aircraft carrier currently near Syria's shores has crashed on a training mission but its pilot survived.

The Defense Ministry said Monday that the crash of the MiG-29 fighter will not affect the operations of the Admiral Kuznetsov carrier.

It said the jet's pilot bailed out safely and was picked up by a rescue team.

The ministry said the jet crashed due to a technical problem while on its way to land on the carrier but didn't elaborate on what went wrong.

The carrier and escorting ships arrived in the eastern Mediterranean Sea last week. Pilots of the carrier-borne fighters have been conducting flights over Syria to survey the area.

Bombing in Iraq kills at least 6

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bombing in Iraq targeted the Shiite sacred city of Karbala on Monday, killing at least six civilians, the latest attempt by the Islamic State group to distract from the government forces' offensive on the Islamic State-held northern city of Mosul.

According to Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen Saad Maan, six suicide bombers tried to sneak into Karbala from its western outskirts earlier in the day but security forces detected and killed five of them.

The sixth attacker broke into a house in the city's Ayn al-Tamer neighborhood, where he detonated his suicide vest, killing six people and wounding another six.

The attack came as hundreds of thousands of faithful Shiites have been walking to Karbala to commemorate the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, Prophet Muhammad's grandson and an iconic Shiite martyr. The city, where Imam Hussein and his brother are buried, is some 55 miles south of Baghdad. On Sunday, pilgrims are expected to converge on the city for the climax of a 40-day mourning period, known as al-Arbaeen.

In an online statement, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it targeted "polytheists ... in filthy Karbala." It put the number of the suicide bombers at five, saying they clashed for hours with the security forces and set off their explosives consecutively when they ran out ammunition.

The militants often exaggerate their claims. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statement, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremist group.

Like other Sunni extremist groups, the Islamic State considers the Shiites heretics and frequently has targeted Shiite civilians and places of worship.

"We are walking all these long distances; we are not afraid of terrorists; we are not afraid of Daesh," said pilgrim Sattar Hussein, 56, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. "We are not afraid of anyone who defames Islam. And especially those who are targeting the al-Arbaeen."

Wearing black, traditional, Arab dress, Hussein was among hundreds of pilgrims leaving Baghdad on foot to head to Karbala under tight security measures. Some of the marchers were carrying religious flags, including some with a portrait depicting Imam Hussein, as security forces set up checkpoints to search them.

In southern Iraq's Shiite heartland, Karbala is far from Mosul, where a massive Iraqi military operation — launched last month and backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes and paramilitary militias — is underway to free the city, Iraq's second-largest, from Islamic State control.

On Sunday, a wave of attacks in and around Baghdad killed at least 23 people and wounded 70 others. Many of the assaults targeted Shiite pilgrims walking toward Karbala.

DOD identifies US soldiers killed at Bagram

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Pentagon has identified two American soldiers killed in Sunday's attack by a suspected Taliban suicide bomber on the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan.

Sgt. John W. Perry, 30, of Stockton, Calif., and Pfc. Tyler R. Iubelt, 20, of Tamaroa, Ill., died of injuries sustained from the explosion at Bagram Air Field, the Defense Department said in a statement Monday.

The soldiers were assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. They were participating in Operation Freedom's Sentinel, a U.S. training-and-counterterrorism mission.

Two American contractors also were killed in the blast. Sixteen other American servicemembers and one Polish soldier

were wounded. Twelve of those wounded have been flown to Landstuhl, Germany, where NATO said they are "receiving the best care possible."

Iubelt graduated high school last year and had been in Afghanistan only a few months, KFCS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo., reported.

"No one could have believed it in such a small community that something like that would happen," Matthew Doerflein, a friend of Iubelt's, told KFCS-TV. "You just don't expect something like that to affect such a small community and small town."

The attack, which occurred at the beginning of a Veterans Day 5K race on Saturday morning, was the first suicide bombing inside Bagram Air Field, some 35 miles north of Kabul, since American forces started operating there in 2001.

An investigation has been launched to determine how the attacker managed to bring explosives onto the base, which is

one of the most heavily guarded facilities in the country.

NATO, which heads the Resolute Support train-and-advise mission, would not specify the security measures in place at Bagram, but Afghans who visit and work at its headquarters in Kabul are required to have full-body X-rays and biometric scans before entering.

"We have implemented additional security measures in response to (Saturday's) attack," NATO said in a statement.

Servicemembers and contractors living on the base described a "somber mood" during the weekend. Residents were said to be traveling in pairs and had been asked to wear protective equipment such as body armor and helmets at most times.

The Taliban claimed that one of their insurgents who worked at the airfield had blown himself up. It took him four months to plan the attack, the group said in a statement.

Marines focus on Pacific during Japan drill

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

IE ISLAND, Okinawa — Something roused the U.S. Marines “sleeping” on the ground around the Ie Island airstrip off the coast of Okinawa. The night watchman rushed into the tall grass, peering through his rifle scope. Another Marine popped up, then another, silhouettes in pitch blackness. Night vision cast its all-seeing gaze, and soon, there were rifles pointed toward the windswept grasslands and jungle.

The Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, forward-deployed to Okinawa’s 3rd Marine Division from Kaneohe Bay, had just seized the airfield in a surprise raid as part of Exercise Blue Chromite 2017, which ran from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4. About 2,000 Marines and sailors from Okinawa and Sasebo took part in the fourth annual Navy-Marine Corps interoperability exercise in the central, northern and Ie Shima training areas of Okinawa.

This year, the exercise was designed to bring the Corps back to its Pacific roots after more than a decade in the desert, focusing on lightning-quick expeditionary operations in which stealth and camouflage are the keys to success.

“Potential adversaries in

this region have the capability of challenging us in many domains,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Simcock II, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division.

“In the air, sea, land, also in the electromagnetic spectrum. We have to be able to fight and win in that environment. It’s going to require us to do things a little bit different. Blue Chromite gets us the opportunity to take advantage of the equipment and capabilities that we have, that we believe will be very successful in this region and have been in the past.”

Every time Marine planners build an exercise, they work to incorporate new elements, said Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, commander of the Navy’s Pacific-based, forward-deployed amphibious force. This year’s exercise featured short- and long-range raids, command-and-control operations in a jungle setting, bridge-building and movement of Marines by air and by sea with the additions of the amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay and the fast transport USNS Fall River. It also incorporated Air Force C-130 aircraft and Army landing craft.

Members of both services said they enjoyed the chance for joint operations.

“I think it’s a great experience,” said Marine Cpl. Derek Brisendine, a bridge master

Camp Foster bomb threat investigated

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Military police are investigating a bomb threat made during the weekend at a Marines base on Okinawa.

A call came in just after 3 p.m. Sunday stating that there was an explosive device at Camp Foster’s movie theater, Marine Corps officials said in a statement Monday.

Military police “secured

and quickly evacuated personnel from the area” and searched the theater and surrounding buildings with help from Marines from explosive ordnance disposal and military working dogs.

No hazardous materials or devices were found, Marine officials said.

The theater and surrounding buildings were reopened about 4:15 p.m.

The incident is under investigation, and no other information was available.

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with the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. “It helps with cooperation between us all and it just helps get the mission done and completed faster and successfully.”

Brisendine looked up to see Super Stallions circling. During the weeklong exercise, anytime you looked up, it seemed there was some aircraft watching from above, whether it was an Osprey, a UH-1Y Venom or an AH-1W Super Cobra.

That meant their maintenance teams worked virtually around the clock. Aviators ferried Marines from one end of Japan to the other, flying for countless hours. They refueled aircraft

and vehicles on the ground, and they moved equipment including vehicles and bridges. They also operated off the USS Green Bay, which planners said was great for readiness.

“Blue Chromite is a great exercise for us,” said Col. Thomas Euler, commander of Marine Aircraft Group 36. “We’re out there; we’re sleeping overnight in the field; we’re using camouflage; we’re using deception; we’re reducing our signature across all domains. We’re working aviation command and control as hard as we can, and then supporting 3rd Marine Division and everything they’re doing,” he said. “We look forward to this every year.”

Brisk government hiring of veterans continues

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration last year continued its 7-year-old commitment to bringing veterans into the federal government, with former servicemembers making up 44 percent of all full-time hires.

The largest share of veterans joined the Air Force, where they made up 62.1 percent of new employees in nonseasonal, permanent full-time jobs in fiscal 2015, according to federal data released late last week.

Veterans also were well-represented at other agencies,

from the Transportation Department (55 percent) to the Social Security Administration (39.3 percent). They made up 46.4 percent of new hires at the State Department and 39.2 percent at the Labor Department.

Overall, including seasonal and full-time jobs, just under a third of new hires into federal agencies were veterans in fiscal 2015, data from the Office of Personnel Management show.

There was good news for disabled veterans, who represented 43 percent of veteran hires and more than 7 percent of total new employees. Federal em-

ployment data show that one in four disabled veterans who are employed work for the federal government.

Since Obama pledged in 2009 to give veterans — particularly those who fought in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — an advantage in the long federal hiring queue, the share of full-time, permanent jobs going to them has hovered around 45 percent.

The government brought on more veterans in fiscal 2015 than 2014. But since hiring and turnover affect the overall number of veterans in the workforce,

their share dropped slightly, to 43.7 percent from 47.4 percent.

The picture for veteran hiring into government could change under President-elect Donald Trump. He won the support of a majority of former servicemembers in last week’s election. But he also has pledged to shrink the size of government, a shift that would affect veterans and nonveterans alike.

Some bad news for the government: Once veterans get in, they don’t stay as long as nonveterans, the data show, even if they’ve transferred from another federal agency.

Chili's issues apology after free meal taken from vet

Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

CEDAR HILL, Texas — Dallas-based Chili's restaurant chain has apologized after video showed a manager taking away a man's free meal on Veterans Day.

Ernest Walker, 47, went to Chili's Grill & Bar on Friday for the chain's promotion of a free meal for veterans. Walker said he brought his military ID, discharge papers and service dog, Barack, and sat down to eat. Walker, who is black, wrote on Facebook that an elderly, white man wearing a Donald Trump shirt approached him and "he said he was in Germany, and that they did not let Blacks serve over there." The man left, came back to pet Walker's dog, and left again.

Later, as Walker was getting ready to leave with a to-go box, a manager he identified as Wesley Patrick approached him from the same area where the older man had come from, Walker wrote. The manager said a customer told him that Walker is "not a real soldier because I had my hat on indoors," and customers nearby could hear him, Walker wrote. Walker showed him his military ID and discharge papers, and then the manager told him "the guest also said your dog is not a service dog," though "Barack had his service vest on, and his certified service tags."

That's where the video picks up, Walker wrote, where the manager refused to acknowledge Walker's military documents and took away his to-go box. The video has been viewed more than 260,000 times.

Chili's responded in a Facebook comment, saying "we fell short" to "make every guest feel special," and the situation has been "escalated to the highest levels of our company."

Walker told NBCDFW that he served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division from 1987 to 1991. He said he wears the uniform without his name or rank on it once a year because he doesn't want to be mistaken for an active-duty soldier.

Vets who translated in war: DOD didn't pay full bonuses

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When the California National Guard desperately needed interpreters to accompany troops headed to Iraq and Afghanistan, it promised enlistment bonuses of up to \$20,000 each to dozens of Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers.

The Pentagon's need for crucial language skills on the battlefield was so great that some interpreters were put into uniforms even though they were too old or had health problems that might have disqualified them from military service.

That relaxing of rules has come back to haunt them. Many interpreters who went to war were only partially paid their bonuses because the California Guard later decided they were unfit for the military service that they already had given.

"As far as I know, it's only the interpreters who didn't

get paid," said Khatchig Khatchadourian, an Arabic interpreter who says the California Guard still owes him half the \$20,000 bonus it agreed to pay when he enlisted in 2008.

The plight of the interpreters, known in military jargon as 09 Limas, offers a new wrinkle in the enlistment bonus scandal that has roiled the California Guard and the top levels of the Pentagon. The Los Angeles Times/Tribune Washington Bureau reported last month that the Pentagon was demanding repayment of enlistment bonuses paid to nearly 10,000 California Guard soldiers at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan a decade ago. In response to a public outcry, and at the urging of the White House, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered a suspension of the repayment program and set up an appeals process to review

the debts.

But unlike soldiers who received bonuses and were ordered to repay the money years later, the interpreters say they were never paid.

Before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon didn't recruit many soldiers who were fluent in Middle Eastern and South Asian languages, relying on contract interpreters instead. But as the conflicts intensified, deploying combat units needed thousands of native speakers to communicate with Iraqis and Afghans.

In return for a \$20,000 bonus, Khatchadourian agreed to sign up for three years as an Arabic interpreter.

In October 2015, after years of appeals, he received a letter from the National Guard Bureau, ruling that he was eligible for his full bonus. A year later, he's still waiting for the money.

Judge delays Bergdahl trial until May 2017

Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A military officer testified Monday that he saw another soldier shot in the head during the 2009 search for U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who's accused of endangering his comrades when he walked off his post in Afghanistan.

The testimony came at a pre-trial hearing at which an Army judge also agreed to delay Bergdahl's trial by several months until May 15, 2017.

Prosecutors are arguing that the judge should allow evidence of two wounded soldiers' injuries into the case to help them show that Bergdahl's disappearance effectively put other military members in harm's way.

Bergdahl is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, the latter of which carries a maximum penalty of

life in prison.

Air Force Maj. John Marx testified about a firefight on July 8, 2009, when he and several other U.S. military members were seeking information on Bergdahl's whereabouts, with members of the Afghan National Army. They were attacked after setting up a checkpoint near a town in Afghanistan.

One of the two wounded soldiers cited by prosecutors is U.S. Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Mark Allen. Prosecutors said he was shot in the head and suffered a traumatic brain injury that has left him in a wheelchair. Another soldier had hand injuries and required surgery because of a rocket-propelled grenade.

Marx, who said the mission's sole purpose was to search for Bergdahl, testified that he was sitting next to Allen as bullets flew overhead.

"I looked at him, then I see

a trickle of blood coming down his head," Marx testified. Asked where Allen was wounded, Marx pointed at his temples and said: "Right through his head."

Bergdahl appeared stoic as he listened to the testimony.

Prosecutors have written in a motion that the injuries will help them show that Bergdahl endangered his comrades, one of the elements of the misbehavior before the enemy charge.

Defense attorneys have argued in motions that: "Allen's injuries were directly caused by the Taliban, not by SGT Bergdahl."

Bergdahl, who's from Hailey, Idaho, walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held captive by the Taliban and its allies for five years. The Obama administration's decision to swap prisoners for his return was heavily criticized by some Republicans.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police superintendent helps catch suspects

IL CHICAGO — Chicago's top police officer has helped apprehend three carjacking suspects.

The Chicago Tribune reported police Superintendent Eddie Johnson was on his way Friday to a news briefing when he and other officers saw a car that had been carjacked in suburban Cicero. The officers pursued the speeding vehicle.

The driver crashed the car and fled on foot, and the officers caught up with him and placed him in custody. Two other people inside the car also were arrested.

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi told the newspaper that police are investigating whether the incident was related to a recent string of thefts of luxury sports cars taken from the suburbs and used in the city to commit shootings and robberies.

Biker leads cops on over hourlong chase

VA FAIRFAX — Police said a motorcyclist was arrested after leading police on a chase in northern Virginia for more than an hour.

Fairfax County Police said Anders N. Kinsler, 20, of Sterling, was charged with reckless driving and eluding police. He's being held at the Loudoun Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Police said the pursuit began after a patrol officer tried to stop Kinsler on Friday for not having registration displayed on the motorcycle.

Video captured by WRC-TV shows police following the motorcyclist as he weaved through rush-hour traffic. Police said he surrendered voluntarily

after the more than hourlong pursuit.

Woman in staged robbery case jailed

IA SIOUX CITY — A woman on probation for her role in a staged Sioux City bank robbery is now behind bars.

The Sioux City Journal reported that Heaven Zevenbergen, 19, of Holstein, was ordered to spend 30 days in jail.

Zevenbergen admitted to smoking marijuana in August and quitting her job for two months — both violations of her probation.

Zevenbergen and her friend, Angelica Perez, 19, were sentenced in February to five years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree theft but had their sentences suspended in May. Prosecutors said Perez entered the bank in disguise and passed Zevenbergen, who was a bank teller, a note demanding cash.

Curator gathers Jesse Owens tree acorns

OH CLEVELAND — Cleveland school officials said a museum curator recently gathered acorns and buds from an oak tree planted at a Cleveland high school in honor of Olympic hero Jesse Owens.

The plan is to grow replica trees at a Southern California botanical garden.

A curator at the Henry E. Huntington Library & Art Galleries in San Marino, Calif., thinks the oak tree planted at Cleveland's Rhodes High School might be one of only three surviving trees from the 20 given to Owens and other U.S. Olympians after the 1936 Summer Games in Berlin.

Owens won four track gold

medals in Berlin.

Owens attended East Tech High School in Cleveland but mostly trained at Rhodes High School.

Organization hopes to maintain dog chapel

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — A Vermont group is hoping to preserve a chapel and art gallery dedicated to dogs with the help of a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The group Friends of Dog Mountain is working to transfer the St. Johnsbury property, which features an art gallery and a chapel dedicated to dogs, to nonprofit ownership.

Acting Executive Director Scott Buckingham told the Caledonian Record the grant is "a terrific start-up of funding for our nonprofit and its mission."

Dog Mountain is located on 150 acres in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom that are always open to people and their dogs.

Teen wins election commissioner post

MS HATTIESBURG — An 18-year-old is expected to take office in January as Forrest County's next District 1 election commissioner.

Local media reports that teenager Tyler Wood beat out incumbent Charlie Phillips during the Nov. 8 balloting.

Wood, who's a student at Pearl River Community College in Hattiesburg, said he'll be up to the job despite his age. He said it's not about how old you are; it's about having the "integrity, the knowledge and the experience" to do the job.

Wood said he got interested in the job while helping out

during Forrest County's recent primaries.

Lawyer pulled from case over online post

MD BALTIMORE — An attorney assigned to represent a correctional officer charged with smuggling drugs into a state prison has been removed from the case after posting about it on Facebook.

The Baltimore Sun reported that U.S. District Judge James K. Bredar ruled that Anton J.S. Keating can no longer represent Jocelyn Byrd of the Eastern Correctional institution.

Keating posted a link to a WBAL-TV story about the case on his personal Facebook page and said he was "back in the saddle again. ... need the action and the fee..."

Bredar said in his order that it was "highly inappropriate" for Keating to imply that he "might be out of practice."

Keating told the newspaper that the judge overreacted and that his client was disappointed that he can no longer represent her.

Police find man's burning body in alley

MI SOUTHFIELD — A man's body was found burning in an alley north of Detroit.

Police in Southfield said an officer of an adjacent Oakland County community found the body about 1:30 a.m. Saturday after investigating smoke behind a business. The man was near a large trash container, which also was burning.

The man's death is under investigation. He has not been identified.

From wire reports

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3 teams get potentially defining wins

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Coaches and well-trained players will tell you that every win is worth the same.

They're wrong.

No better examples can be found than the way Seattle, Dallas and Denver won on Sunday. Those victories are the kind that can define a season, catapult you to special things.

Most impressive was the Seahawks' 31-24 win at Foxborough, a place visitors rarely leave with smiles on their faces. Particularly after settling for three field goals, missing an extra point kick and a dubious 2-point conversion attempt.

But in one of the most bone-rattling games imaginable — look for Earl Thomas' hit on Rob Gronkowski for proof — Seattle re-established its credentials as an opponent to be reckoned with. The Seahawks often come on in the second half of the schedule, and the way they punished the Patriots and also handled the hits they were given in return bodes very well for Pete Carroll's club.

"It says exactly what our creed is: We fight until we can't

fight no more," said safety Kam Chancellor, whose tight coverage on Gronkowski resulted in an incompleteness from the Seattle 1 to end New England's chances. "No matter what the circumstances are, we never look back. We keep pushing forward and we keep fighting."

Seattle (6-2-1) won on Russell Wilson's arm (348 yards, 124.6 passer rating), Doug Baldwin's mitts (three TD catches) and that fierce defense. It won even though Wilson remains almost stationary (for him) in the pocket because of bothersome leg injuries.

"It's been a tougher year in the sense of obviously, the injuries, and haven't faced that (limitation) before," Wilson said. "But there was no way I was going to let that stop me. And the mentality was to do whatever I could to play the games, and get ready, and just continue to battle, and continue to have that mulish approach, and continue to stay steadfast."

Denver, like Seattle, has had plenty of success recently, albeit with a certain No. 18 at quarterback. It is now 7-3 thanks greatly to its still-staunch defense.

And, of course, to a special

teams play for the ages.

Justin Simmons leaped over the offensive line and blocked a potential go-ahead extra-point kick by Wil Lutz. Will Parks grabbed the loose ball, returning it 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conversion with 1:28 left. The defensive 2-point play was only added to the rules prior to the 2015 season, and this was the first time the winning points came on such a play.

"I've never had an ending like that, especially on special teams," DeMarcus Ware said, and he's been in the NFL for nearly 12 seasons. "It was just big, a big victory. I mean usually a game ends from the defense because of a forced fumble or interception or something like that. But seeing it happen from special teams, you never see that."

The effect it could have, particularly with two rookies combining for such a brilliant and rare play, is immeasurable.

The significance of an eight-game winning streak powered by two other kids — quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott — is that Dallas is thinking big. After its 35-30 comeback sizzler in Pittsburgh, the Cowboys have

earned the right to think as big as, well, Big D, itself.

Asked if he's been around a team where two rookies have had such a quick impact, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones replied, "Not two that are so in sync to where they're feeding off each other and the team feeding off them. I haven't seen that."

What the world saw at Heinz Field was the kind of determination and resilience that can lead to championships. Every time the more-veteran Steelers delivered a haymaker — including a touchdown off a fake spike by Ben Roethlisberger — Dallas responded.

Elliott burst through a defense he said "parted like the Red Sea" and streaked to the end zone for a 32-yard touchdown to win it with 9 seconds remaining, and it might have been the most impressive act the fourth overall draft pick has delivered. And boy, has he been delivering all year for a team that hasn't been a true championship contender for decades.

If the Broncos, Cowboys or Seahawks find their way to the Super Bowl, they surely can point to Week 10 as a catalyst.

QB Wentz helps rally Eagles past Falcons

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — On his fifth try, Carson Wentz got his first comeback win.

Wentz got a big assist from Ryan Mathews and a resurgent run game to rally the Philadelphia Eagles past the Atlanta Falcons, 24-15 on Sunday.

Mathews ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns, and Caleb Sturgis made a clutch field goal from 48 yards to seal the win late.

In their four losses, the Eagles (5-4) had the ball and a chance to take the lead late but couldn't pull it out.

After the Falcons took a 15-13 lead on a 76-yard TD pass from Matt Ryan to Taylor Gabriel, Wentz led an eight-play, 76-yard drive that Mathews finished off by running in from the 5. Mathews also scored the 2-point conversion for a 21-15 lead.

"It was good to finally finish a game and we are going to build on that for sure," Wentz said. "Obviously, the other four

games we had a chance. It's good to get over that hump."

A tenacious defense then did its job twice when Ryan and the Falcons (6-4) had chances to drive for go-ahead scores.

The NFC South-leading Falcons have a week off before they host the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 27. The Eagles visit the Seattle Seahawks next week.

Here's some things we learned from Philadelphia's win over Atlanta:

Ryan's run: Mathews returned from the doghouse — he had nine carries in the past two games — and helped the Eagles gain a season-best 208 yards on the ground. Rookie Wendell Smallwood chipped in with 70 yards. Their success allowed Philadelphia to control the ball for 38:10 and keep Ryan and the high-powered offense off the field.

"We did what we needed to do to win," Mathews said. "I know the linemen love run blocking. They played great. They did all they could to open up holes for us."

Julio can't catch them all: Julio Jones had 10 receptions for 135 yards, but he dropped a pass on third-and-12 after the Eagles reclaimed the lead. Jones couldn't make a difficult catch on fourth-and-5 on Atlanta's next drive.

"We were just off today," Jones said. "We were just missing things here and there."

Bringin' the heat: The Eagles only sacked Ryan twice but pressured him into several quick throws that misfired. Defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz called some blitzes and the Falcons were only 2 for 11 on third downs.

"We were disruptive in the pass game and got him to move around the pocket," said Connor Barwin, who had one of the sacks.

Perfect at home: The Eagles are 4-0 at home, including convincing wins over the Steelers and Vikings. They've outscored their opponents 108-38. "It's a lot of fun playing in front of this crowd," Wentz said. "We have a lot of energy."

Dallas rookies shine against Steelers

PITTSBURGH — Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott have little interest in the big picture. Yes, the rookies understand the Dallas Cowboys are on a historic roll. Just don't expect them to start thinking about what it all means.

"I really don't think about what's normal and what's abnormal," Prescott said.

Maybe because what's happening in Dallas might be the new normal.

Elliott ran for 114 yards and two touchdowns — both in the final two minutes — and turned a screen pass into an 83-yard score as the Cowboys pulled off a thrilling 35-30 victory for their eighth straight win.

Twice late in the fourth quarter Dallas (8-1) had the ball in Pittsburgh territory with a chance to run out the clock and attempt a game-winning field goal. Twice Elliott found himself running free into the end zone, the last a 32-yard sprint up the middle with 9 seconds left.

"It parted like the Red Sea," Elliott said after pushing his season rushing total to an NFL-best 1,005 yards. "All I had to do was run."

Texans 24, Jaguars 13: Brock Osweiler threw two touchdown passes and Kareem Jackson returned an interception 42 yards for a score. Visiting Houston (6-3) scored on offense and defense and set up another score with special teams, a complete team effort that led to its first road win of the season. It kept the Texans a perfect (3-0) against the AFC South. They won their fifth in a row against Jacksonville.

The Jaguars (2-7) lost their fourth straight and fell to 0-4 at home. Coach Gus Bradley's team rallied late, with Blake Bortles hitting Allen Robinson for a touchdown and again for a 2-point conversion.

Buccaneers 36, Bears 10: At Tampa, Fla., Jameis Winston threw for 312 yards and two touchdowns against mistake-prone Chicago.

Winston threw for TDs of 10 yards to Cameron Brate and 43 yards to Freddie Martino, the latter set up by a bizarre highlight-reel play. The No. 1 pick in last year's

draft scrambled 23 yards backward into his end zone before avoiding a safety and launching a 39-yard completion to Mike Evans at the Chicago 38.

Rams 9, Jets 6: Alec Ogletree intercepted Bryce Petty with just under two minutes left to clinch this snoozer. Petty made his first NFL start in place of an injured Ryan Fitzpatrick, but couldn't get much going against visiting Los Angeles' defense.

Redskins 26, Vikings 20: Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns, Preston Smith had two sacks and a game-altering interception in host Washington's first victory in almost a month.

Washington (5-3-1) got all of its second-half points off the foot of Dustin Hopkins, who hit four field goals, including a 50-yarder. The Redskins shut out Minnesota (5-4) in the second half, and Smith sacked Sam Bradford in the final seconds to hand the Vikings their fourth consecutive loss.

Titans 47, Packers 25: Marcus Mariota threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns in the rout. Five Titans scored a touchdown in the first half as host Tennessee put together its best scoring performance this season with 35 points.

DeMarco Murray set the tone on the opening play from scrimmage, running 75 yards for a touchdown. He finished with 123 yards and also threw a TD pass, becoming the first non-quarterback to do that for this franchise in the same game since Earl Campbell on Sept. 7, 1980, for the then-Houston Oilers.

Cardinals 23, 49ers 20: Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired. Catanzaro missed twice on winning field goal tries earlier in the season, most memorably a 24-yarder in OT of a 6-6 tie against Seattle.

But this attempt was right down the middle as host Arizona (4-4-1) narrowly averted a devastating loss.

Chiefs 20, Panthers 17: Marcus Peters stripped Kelvin Benjamin with 20 seconds left, Cairo Santos kicked a 37-yard field goal as time expired, and the visiting

Chiefs overcame a 17-point deficit.

Eric Berry also returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City's defense came up with big plays when needed. The Chiefs failed to score an offensive touchdown.

Dolphins 31, Chargers 24: Kiko Alonso intercepted Philip Rivers' pass and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown with 1:01 left to give visiting Miami a fourth straight win. The Dolphins (5-4) intercepted Rivers four times in the fourth quarter.

Alonso jumped in front of Tyrell Williams and outraced everybody into the end zone for the winning score.

Broncos 25, Saints 23: Denver's Justin Simmons used a perfectly timed leap over the offensive line to block an extra-point kick that would have given host New Orleans a late lead, Will Parks ran it back 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conversion, and the Broncos pulled out a wild victory.

The decisive play came while the Superdome crowd was still celebrating Brandin Cooks' twisting, 32-yard touchdown catch between two defenders. That put New Orleans (4-5) in position to take the lead with 1:28 left. Simmons' block of Wil Lutz's kick was scooped up by Parks, who nearly stepped out of bounds as he raced down the left sideline.

It was the first such play to provide the winning points in an NFL game. The rule was instituted last year.

Seahawks 31, Patriots 24: This time, Seattle won it at the goal line. It certainly won't make up for the Super Bowl loss two seasons ago, but the visiting Seahawks' goal-line stand lifted them over New England.

Tom Brady couldn't connect with Rob Gronkowski on a fade pattern on fourth down as New England (7-2) failed four times from inside the 2 in the dying moments.

It was reminiscent of how the Seahawks (6-2-1) lost the 2015 Super Bowl when Malcolm Butler intercepted at the goal line to win the NFL title for the Patriots.

From wire reports

Logano, Busch complete Sprint Cup Chase final four

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Matt Kenseth's misfortune gave Joey Logano a chance to race for the championship.

In an improbable turn of events, Kenseth came within two laps of a spot next week in the title-deciding finale to

eliminated from NASCAR's playoffs. Logano was gifted a victory Sunday that put him in the final four after a tense double-overtime event at Phoenix International Raceway.

Kenseth had the win in hand until a late caution sent the race to extra laps. Although he cleared traffic on the restart,

teammate Kyle Busch had contact with Alex Bowman that altered Bowman's racing line.

Kenseth's spotter told the driver he was clear, but he actually cut down on Bowman and the contact caused him to crash.

Logano saw the sequence unfolding, let off his gas early, and slid into the lead after the acci-

dent. He then held off Busch in the second overtime for the win that qualified him for the championship next week at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Prior to Kenseth's accident, Logano was in danger of elimination.

"Disappointing would be the way to put it lightly," Kenseth said.

Golden State scorches Phoenix

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — Klay Thompson hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 4:31 left and another with 3:13 remaining to score a season-high 30 points, Stephen Curry also had 30 points with five threes, and the balanced Golden State Warriors held off the Phoenix Suns 133-120 on Sunday night.

Kevin Durant added 29 points, nine rebounds and five assists as Golden State just missed a third 30-point performance by its star three. The Warriors avoided a second home loss at this early stage that would have matched their total of two defeats at Oracle Arena in each of the past two regular seasons.

Thompson shot 11 for 18 also with five threes and scored 14 of his points in the fourth, while Draymond Green finished with 14 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds for Golden State.

Eric Bledsoe and T.J. Warren scored 20 points apiece to lead six players in double figures for the Suns.

Cavaliers 100, Hornets 93: LeBron James sparked a fourth-quarter comeback with 11 points, Channing Frye scored a season-high 20 and host Cleveland beat Charlotte.

James, who finished with 19 points, also had five assists in the final period. He had eight points on 4-for-15 shooting through three quarters.

Kyrie Irving scored 19 points and Kevin Love added 17, but neither played in the fourth quarter as Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue stuck with the

group that helped Cleveland take control of the game.

Kemba Walker scored 21 points for the Hornets, who have lost two straight after starting the season 6-1.

Magic 119, Thunder 117: Serge Ibaka's baseline jumper with less than a second remaining lifted visiting Orlando past Oklahoma City.

Ibaka, who was traded from the Thunder to the Magic in the offseason, scored a career-high 31 points and added nine rebounds and four blocks.

With the score tied in the final minute, Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook missed a pull-up jumper, and Orlando rebounded and called time-out with 11 seconds remaining to set up Ibaka's winner with 0.4 seconds left.

Russell Westbrook finished with 41 points, 16 assists and 12 rebounds for his third triple-double of the season and 40th of his career. The Thunder had won 20 straight when Westbrook tallied a triple-double.

Trail Blazers 112, Nuggets 105: Damian Lillard scored 32 points and host Portland handed struggling Denver its fourth straight loss.

CJ McCollum added 21 points for the Blazers, who have won five of their last six games. Portland trailed 57-50 at the break, but came alive in the second half and outscored Denver 36-15 in the third quarter.

Jamal Murray hit a three-pointer to pull Denver within 110-105 in the final seconds, but the rally came up short.

Wiggins lifts LA

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins: 47. All five Los Angeles Lakers starters: 47.

Wiggins hit 14 of 21 shots to blow past his previous career high of 36, leading the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 125-99 victory over the Lakers on Sunday night.

"I'm finding myself, finding things I'm good at and things I need to work on," said Wiggins, nine games into his third season in the league. "The game has kind of slowed down for me a little bit. I'm able to read defenses better now and see how the defense is set."

Wiggins hit 17 of 22 free throws and Nemanja Bjelica added a career-high 24 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who played without starting guard Zach LaVine and reserve forward Shabazz Muhammad. Both missed the game with sore right knees.

Lou Williams scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers, who got 47 points from their starters and 52 from their bench. Julius Randle had 14 points and six rebounds and Jordan Clarkson scored 14.

"You let a player as good as him get an additional 22 free chances on that, one he's going to score a lot and two he's going to get hot because he's in a rhythm from all the free throws he's shooting," Lakers coach Luke Walton said. "We couldn't really contain him tonight."

The game featured two of the most promising young cores in the league, with Wiggins, LaVine and Karl-Anthony Towns hoping to end Minnesota's 12-year playoff drought and D'Angelo Russell, Randle and Brandon Ingram reviving the Lakers in the post-Kobe era.

Entering the season, the Lakers were believed to be a step behind the Wolves in the process, but they won six of their first 10 games while Minnesota got off to a disappointing 2-6 start.

Kane snaps Canadiens' win streak

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Kane keeps finding new ways to score big goals — and the Chicago Blackhawks keep on rolling.

Kane, the reigning NHL scoring leader and MVP, scored a spectacular tiebreaking goal late in the second period and the Blackhawks beat Montreal 3-2 on Sunday night, handing the league-leading Canadiens just their second regulation loss of the season.

Kane snapped a 2-all tie with 3:37 left in the second to cap a terrific individual effort. He skated down the slot, fooled Jeff Petry with a move and chipped a shot past Al Montoya — while falling to the ice with Max Pacioretty checking him closely from behind.

So where does that one rate in Kane's growing highlight reel library?

"It was a different one, that's

for sure," Kane said. "I don't know if I've scored going to the ground like that. Pretty cool, for sure."

"That had the wow factor all over it," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville added. "All of a sudden he makes a play with a guy draped all over him, makes a great shot falling to the ice."

Even Montoya was impressed.

"There's not many guys that can make that play," Montoya said. "He's one of two, and I think (former Red Wings star Pavel) Datsyuk is already gone. Heck of a goal."

Marian Hossa added his team-leading ninth and rookie Gustav Forsling scored his first in the NHL as Chicago improved to 9-0-2 in its last 11 and ended Montreal's four-game winning streak. The Blackhawks haven't lost in regulation since Oct. 21 at Columbus.

Rangers 3, Oilers 1: Michael Grabner scored twice, Antti Raanta stopped 38 shots and New York beat host Edmonton.

Canucks 5, Stars 4 (OT): Troy Stecher tied it with 1:40 left in the third period and Markus Granlund scored in overtime, helping host Vancouver rally.

Jets 3, Kings 2 (SO): Mark Scheifele scored the deciding goal in a shootout to give host Winnipeg a victory over Los Angeles.

Wild 2, Senators 1 (OT): Matt Dumba scored late in overtime and Darcy Kuemper stopped 35 shots for host Minnesota.

Ryan Suter scored a short-handed goal for the Wild, and Kuemper was nearly perfect in his third start of the season.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0: Tuukka Rask stopped 21 shots and David Krejci scored in the first period.