

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Revolutionary Cuban leader dies at 90

Associated Press

HAVANA — Former President Fidel Castro, who led a rebel army to improbable victory in Cuba, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half century rule, has died at age 90.

With a shaking voice, President Raul Castro said on state television that his older brother died at 10:29 p.m. Friday. He ended the announcement by shouting the revolutionary slogan: "Toward victory, always!"

Castro's reign over the island-nation 90 miles from Florida was marked by the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis a year later that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The bearded revolutionary, who survived a crippling U.S. trade embargo as well as dozens, possibly hundreds, of assassination plots, died 10 years after ill health forced him to hand power over to Raul.

Castro overcame imprisonment at the hands of dictator Fulgencio Batista, exile in Mexico and a disastrous start to his rebellion before triumphantly riding into Havana in January 1959 to become, at age 32, the youngest leader in Latin America. For decades, he served as an inspiration and source of support to revolutionaries from Latin America to Africa.

His commitment to socialism was unwavering, though his power finally began to fade in mid-2006 when a gastrointestinal ailment forced him to hand over the presidency to Raul in 2008, provisionally at first and then permanently. His defiant image lingered long after he gave up his trademark Cohiba cigars for health reasons, and his tall frame grew stooped.

"Socialism or death" remained Castro's rallying cry even as Western-style democracy swept the globe and communist regimes in China and Vietnam embraced capitalism, leaving this island of 11 million

people an economically crippled Marxist curiosity.

He survived long enough to see Raul Castro negotiate an opening with U.S. President Barack Obama on Dec. 17, 2014, when Washington and Havana announced they would move to restore diplomatic ties for the first time since they were severed in 1961. He cautiously blessed the historic deal with his lifelong enemy in a letter published after a monthlong silence. Obama made a historic visit to Havana in March 2016.

Fidel Castro Ruz was born Aug. 13, 1926, in eastern Cuba's sugar country. His life as a rebel began in 1953 with an attack on the Moncada military barracks in the city of Santiago. Most of his comrades were killed, and Fidel and his brother Raul went to prison.

Fidel turned his trial defense into a manifesto that he smuggled out of jail, famously declaring, "History will absolve me."

Freed under a pardon, Castro fled to Mexico and organized

a rebel band that returned in 1956.

Three years later, tens of thousands spilled into the streets of Havana to celebrate Batista's downfall and catch a glimpse of Castro as his rebel caravan arrived in the capital on Jan. 8, 1959. The U.S. was among the first to formally recognize his government, cautiously trusting Castro's early assurances he merely wanted to restore democracy, not install socialism.

Within months, Castro was imposing radical economic reforms. Members of the old government went before summary courts, and at least 582 were shot by firing squads over two years. Independent newspapers were closed and in the early years, homosexuals were herded into camps for "re-education."

By the time Castro resigned 49 years after his triumphant arrival in Havana, he was the world's longest-ruling head of government, aside from monarchs.

## Sailor killed in Syria was EOD technician

The Washington Post

A U.S. Navy bomb disposal technician was killed by an improvised explosive device in northern Syria on Thursday, the Pentagon announced in a statement.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott C. Dayton, 42, of Woodbridge, Va., was killed near Ain Issa, a town roughly 35 miles northwest of the Islamic State group's self-proclaimed capital of Raqqa. The death marks the first time a U.S. servicemember has been killed in the country since a contingent of U.S. Special Operations forces was deployed there in October 2015

to go after the extremist group.

"The entire counter-[Islamic State] coalition sends its condolences to this hero's, family, friends and teammates," said Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the commander of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. "On this Thanksgiving, please be thankful there are servicemembers willing to take up the fight to protect our homeland from [the Islamic State group's] hateful and brutal ideology."

Dayton entered the Navy on Feb. 17, 1993, and received 19 awards, including the Bronze Star and the Combat Action Ribbon, during his time in the

service, according to a Navy release. He also served multiple previous deployments to Iraq.

"I am deeply saddened by the news on this Thanksgiving Day that one of our brave service members has been killed in Syria while protecting us from the evil of ISIL," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement, using another name for the Islamic State group. "Please keep this service member's family, friends and teammates in your thoughts and prayers, and this Thanksgiving I hope you will join me in expressing thanks to all of our dedicated troops who selflessly protect us every day."

Dayton was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 2 based in Virginia Beach, Va., and was also a qualified surface warfare specialist. While Dayton was the first American to die fighting the Islamic State group in Syria, he is the fifth U.S. servicemember killed in combat since the U.S.-led campaign to rid the region of the militants began in 2014. Last month, Chief Petty Officer Jason Finan, 34, was killed outside Mosul in northern Iraq. Finan was also a bomb disposal technician and had been working with a team of Navy SEALs when he was killed.

# Next frontier for drone warfare: Underwater

*The Washington Post*

As unmanned aerial drones have become a critical part of modern warfare, the Pentagon is now looking to deploy autonomous robots underwater, patrolling the sea floor on what one top Navy official called an “Eisenhower highway network,” complete with rest stops where the drones could recharge.

Although still in the development stages, the technology has matured in recent years to be able to overcome the vast difficulties of operating underwater, a far more harsh environment than what aerial drones face in the sky.

Saltwater corrodes metal. Water pressure can be crushing at great depths. And communication is severely limited, so the vehicles must be able to navigate on their own without being remotely piloted.

Despite the immense difficulties, the Navy has been testing and fielding several new systems designed to map the ocean floor, seek out mines, search for submarines and even launch attacks. While the unmanned craft are now able to stay out for days or weeks, the goal is to create an underwater network of service stations that would allow the vehicles to do their jobs for months — and eventually years.

While Russia and China are investing in their submarine fleets, the Pentagon has sought to seize an advantage by introducing new technologies, especially those where humans team up with highly capable robots and autonomous systems.

In 2015, the Navy appointed its first deputy assistant secretary for unmanned sys-

tems. And the Pentagon plans to invest as much as \$3 billion in undersea systems in the coming years.

Last month, the Navy participated in the multination Unmanned Warrior exercise off the coast of Scotland. Autonomous subs worked in concert with aerial drones to pass along intelligence that could be relayed from undersea to the air and then to troops on the ground.

It’s too early to tell how the Trump administration might view the plans. But Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said advancements in undersea warfare should continue to be a priority for the Navy.

The goal is to have the unmanned underwater vehicles, or UUVs, deploy from manned submarines or even large autonomous drone subs the way fighter jets take off from aircraft carriers, he said. The Chinese and others have built sensors that can detect large, manned submarines, but the military could still send in small, hard-to-detect drone subs.

The Office of Naval Research, which looks to develop advanced technologies, is seeking to “build the Eisenhower highway network on the seabeds in the seven oceans,” Rear Adm. Mathias Winter, head of the office, said at a conference hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies this year. The ultimate goal is to “have large-scale deployments of UUVs,” he said. “We want them to go out for decades at a time.”

While the project is still in the conceptual stages, the Navy would one day like to build service stations underwater, similar to highway rest stops. There is even a name

for them: forward-deployed energy and communications outposts.

While that may be a long way off, the Pentagon is testing vehicles that are capable of going out for weeks or even months at a time.

In recent years, Boeing has developed the Echo Ranger and Echo Seeker, autonomous vehicles capable of carrying out dayslong operations. This year, it debuted the Echo Voyager, a 51-foot-long autonomous submarine with the ability to stay out for months; it isn’t dependent on a support ship, the way others are.

This year, General Dynamics boosted its underwater offerings when it acquired Bluefin Robotics, which makes several types of underwater robots. Its 16-foot-long Bluefin-21 vehicle is capable of launching what the company calls “micro UUVs,” known as SandSharks, that weigh only about 15 pounds. The SandSharks could scan an enemy shoreline and pop up to the surface to relay data to aircraft flying overhead. The Bluefin-21 could even launch a tube that goes to the surface, sticks up like a large straw and then shoots out an unmanned aerial vehicle like a spitball.

While there are still huge hurdles to overcome, especially when it comes to battery life, underwater-vehicle technology is about where drone technology for aircraft was in the 1990s, said Carlo Zaffanella, General Dynamics’ vice president and general manager for maritime and strategic systems.

Signal processing is improving. So is autonomy, Zaffanella said. And the advancements are coming “at a time when underwater warfare is becoming more important.”

## Many civilians in Mosul likely killed by US-led coalition strikes

*The Washington Post*

IRBIL, Iraq — Air and artillery strikes by the U.S.-led coalition in the Iraqi city of Mosul appear to have killed more than 80 civilians since a major operation there began last month, a watchdog group said Friday.

Airwars, a Britain-based group that tracks information from activists and other sources, said the frequency of casualty reports had increased since Iraqi troops launched their offensive to clear the city of Islamic State militants on Oct. 17.

In an email, Airwars director Chris Woods said the group be-

lieved coalition strikes, including air and artillery attacks, since then had likely killed 84 to 87 people in Mosul and injured more than 160 others.

The densely packed urban battlefield makes accurately determining deaths tolls extremely difficult, Woods said. The wide array of armed groups involved in the operation, moreover, makes it hard to establish who is responsible for any given attack.

Airwars draws its estimates from a host of sources, including activists, local media organizations and its own research. The U.S. military conducts its

own investigations of civilian casualty reports, sometimes confirming the allegations and sometimes finding they are unjustified.

While some Airwars findings have been challenged by the U.S. military, its investigations have prompted U.S. Central Command, which oversees Middle East operations, to increase its estimate of the number of civilians killed in U.S. strikes.

CENTCOM says American strikes against the Islamic State group have killed at least 119 civilians in Iraq and Syria since they began in 2014, an

estimate that some advocacy groups say is too low.

Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for CENTCOM, said the U.S. military conducts extensive checks before launching airstrikes, using intelligence and surveillance in an attempt to verify targets. He said U.S. and allied strikes had destroyed dozens of car bombs and tunnels that militants have used to attack encroaching forces.

But the challenge of avoiding inadvertent deaths has increased in such a large city, where more than a million people lived under two years of militant rule.

# Trump adds 2 new picks as recount looms

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — President-elect Donald Trump pressed forward Friday with two more administration picks, as failed Green Party candidate Jill Stein took new steps to force recounts across key Midwestern battlegrounds that could complicate Trump's push for national unity.

Stein, who earned little more than 1 percent of the national vote, formally requested a Wisconsin recount Friday afternoon, vowing to do the same in the coming days in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, Hillary Clin-

ton's campaign lawyer announced plans to participate in vote recounts initiated by Stein, Bloomberg News reported.

Wisconsin officials confirmed Friday evening they would move forward with the first presidential recount in state history. There is no evidence of election tampering in the states where Trump scored razor-thin victories, but Green Party spokesman George Martin insisted "the American public needs to have it investigated to make sure our votes count."

"We're doing this to ensure the integrity of our system," he said.

Trump's team ignored questions about the looming recounts. Set to assume the presidency in 55 days, he was focused instead on the daunting task of building an administration from scratch.

Gathered with family at his Mar-a-Lago Palm Beach estate for the holiday weekend, the incoming president made two senior-level staff appointments and scheduled meetings with several more prospective administration officials.

He tapped Fox News analyst Kathleen Troia "KT" McFarland to serve as deputy national security adviser and campaign attorney Donald McGahn as

White House counsel. In a statement, Trump cited McFarland's "tremendous experience and innate talent" and said McGahn "has a brilliant legal mind, excellent character and a deep understanding of constitutional law."

Having faced criticism about the inexperience of his initial picks, Trump finds in McFarland someone who previously worked under three presidents, although none since Ronald Reagan. McGahn, a veteran Republican election lawyer, served as Trump's attorney during the campaign. Neither position requires Senate confirmation.

## Army Corps to close protest camp

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe said Friday that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to close the area where people have been camping for months to protest the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Dave Archambault said in a statement that he received a letter from the Corps, dated Friday, which says all lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed Dec. 5.

"The letter states that the lands will be closed to public access for safety concerns," Archambault said.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers didn't immediately return messages seeking comment and verification of the letter.

Archambault said the land to be closed includes the Oceti Sakowin camp, a sprawling encampment on Army Corps land about 50 miles south of Bismarck. For months, opponents of the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline have been camping in the area to protest the pipeline.

The Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes are fighting the project because they fear it will harm drinking water and cultural sites. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer

Partners disputes that and says the 1,200-mile pipeline through the Dakotas, Iowa and Illinois will be safe.

The pipeline is nearly complete outside of a stretch beneath a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota, just to the north of the Standing Rock reservation.

Archambault said the letter indicates the Corps will set up a free speech zone south of the Cannonball River.

"Our Tribe is deeply disappointed in this decision by the United States, but our resolve to protect our water is stronger than ever," he said. He's asking pipeline opponents to continue to fight the pipeline's permitting process.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Cheyenne River Sioux in South Dakota called for pipeline opponents to boycott businesses in North Dakota's capital, a move Bismarck's city administrator says is uncalled for and disappointing.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council voted in September to not spend money in Bismarck and Mandan, and Chairman Harold Frazier at the time called on all tribal members to join the effort. Earlier this week, he sought to broaden the boycott to make a statement against what he calls

"heavy-handed, illegal and violent oppression" of people who have protested against the pipeline.

Bismarck City Administrator Keith Hunke said Friday the boycott is disappointing given that the city's businesses aren't involved in the dispute.

"They really don't have any part in any of the concerns expressed by the Standing Rock Sioux Nation," Hunke said.

Hunke said increasingly frequent protest activity in the Bismarck-Mandan area is "an inconvenience" but hasn't cut into business's bottom lines.

"We've had some of our streets blocked for a period of time, but generally after a period of time the protesters disband and business gets back to normal," he said.

More than 560 protesters have been arrested since August in the Bismarck-Mandan area and at the main protest camp about 50 miles south of the city, including more than 30 at a Bismarck mall on Friday — one of the busiest days of the year. Police said protesters gathered for a prayer at Kirkwood Mall, and some refused to leave the entrance to a Target store when ordered.

## Trump faces hurdles over waterboarding

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump backs waterboarding and his pick for CIA director has called those who have done it "patriots" not "torturers." Yet a Trump administration faces steep legal and legislative hurdles to reinstate the interrogation practice that simulates drowning.

Under a law approved last year, all government employees, including intelligence agents, must abide by Army guidelines for interrogating prisoners — guidelines that don't permit waterboarding. Those rules are subject to review, but it's not clear if they can be revised to allow the practice.

If the Trump administration were to try to change the law or the guidelines, the effort would run into bipartisan opposition in Congress. The most formidable obstacle there would be a fellow Republican, John McCain. The Arizona senator, who was beaten as a prisoner of war in Vietnam in the 1960s, adamantly opposes waterboarding. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he would be well-positioned to block any attempt to revive it.

# Anti-Park protesters march in Seoul for 5th straight week

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — For South Korean farmer Lee Hyoshin, demanding the ouster of President Park Geun-hye was a slow and grueling 10-day journey atop a vehicle unable to move faster than 12 miles per hour.

He was one of hundreds of thousands of South Koreans who marched on Saturday in streets near Seoul's presidential palace, where Park is bracing for what's likely to be a bitter and prolonged fight against lawmakers who may attempt to impeach her as early as this week.

Police said 260,000 people took part in the fifth straight weekend of massive protests against the extremely unpopular president, who prosecutors accuse of assisting criminal activities of a secretive confidante who allegedly manipulated power from the shadows and

extorted companies to build an illicit fortune. Organizers put the turnout at 1.3 million.

"The fatigue is really starting to kick in," said Lee, 53, who, while leading a convoy of farmers, traveled nearly 186 miles from the seaside county of Haenam on his tractor before police on Friday stopped the vehicles near Seoul.

"Pulling Park down isn't going to be easy, but we farmers are good at injecting energy into demonstrations," Lee said.

Thousands of people marched in streets close to the presidential Blue House, areas police usually don't permit, carrying signs and flags. Protesters later turned a darkened boulevard in front of an old palace gate into a sea of light, waving candles and singing and shouting for Park's removal.

The country's largest opposition party said it will seek to propose an impeachment mo-

tion for vote as early as Friday and no later than Dec. 9. Some members of Park's conservative party have vowed to support an impeachment attempt, arguing it would serve the party's interests to distance itself from Park ahead of next year's presidential election.

The massive rallies in recent weeks have been mostly peaceful, but there was tension Friday night as police clashed with some anti-Park farmers who had planned to roll into the capital on tractors and trucks, injuring several farmers.

Lee and other members of the Korean Peasant League had departed from two towns in the country's southwest and southeast on Nov. 15 and 16, creating a duo of crawling motorcades. Police blocked the vehicles after a court ruled that the farmers shouldn't be allowed to park or drive them in rally areas.

## Afghanistan tries to purge high-level corruption

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — The courtroom was tense. The prosecutor's team fiddled with their new equipment. The defendant, tall and imposing in the dock, fidgeted with his shirt cuffs. Then the lights were switched off and a video scene flashed on the wall.

It showed a brief scuffle on a garden path outside a housing complex in the capital. Plainclothes detectives surrounded the defendant, who protested and pulled back sharply. The camera zoomed in on his hands and pockets, then shifted to the nearby bushes, where some crumpled currency bills lay.

This was the "gotcha" moment in the first of two trials held in the new Anti-Corruption Justice Center this month, the opening salvo in the government's ambitious, much-touted effort to penetrate and purge an entrenched system of high-level official corruption.

The proceedings were held Nov. 19 in a makeshift courtroom, converted from a cafeteria inside a high-security police compound. There were U.N. and international police officials in the audience, and a bank of TV cameras filming at the back.

The defendant, Abdulhai Jurat, stood silently through most of the trial. He was convicted of accepting a \$750 bribe and sentenced to 2½ years in prison.

Afghanistan Attorney General Farid Hamidi had pledged that his new anti-corruption team would go after individuals considered too powerful to touch.

In this case, officials said it was not the amount of the bribe that mattered. It was that Jurat was himself a longtime military prosecutor. The cash he was convicted of pocketing came from relatives of an ex-cop, sent to prison for illegally keeping his service weapon, whom Jurat had the power to set free. The attorney general's office, long discredited as politicized and corrupt, was going after one of its own.

## Students complained before bus crash

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Students and administrators raised concerns about a Tennessee school bus driver's behavior behind the wheel in the weeks before a crash that killed six children.

Police have charged driver Johnthony Walker with vehicular homicide after the Chattanooga crash. Federal authorities said Walker was driving off the designated bus route when he wrecked on a curvy road while carrying 37 children on their way home from Woodmore Elementary School.

Records released by the school district Friday include two written statements by students complaining about Walker's driving.

"The bus driver drives fast," one student wrote earlier this

month. "It feels like the bus is going to flip over. ... When someone is in the aisle he stops the bus and he makes people hit their heads."

Another student wrote: "The bus driver was doing sharp turns and he made me fly over to the next seat. We need seat belts."

On Nov. 2, a school official boarded the bus after the driver complained that students were not listening to him. One student had complained about the heat on the bus and cursed about it to the bus driver.

"The driver was now visibly upset and continued on by saying that he had another job and driving this bus was just a part-time job for him," wrote Carlis Shackelford, a behavioral specialist at the school. "Driver stated that he could just leave

him at the school. He then stated 'or I can just leave the student on the bus and I will get off the bus and leave the school.'"

"Driver stated that he did not care about the students and proceeded to tell the students he did not care about them," Shackelford wrote.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Christopher A. Hart said in a news conference last week that Walker had taken on a second job at an Amazon fulfillment center, and part of the agency's investigation will look at whether fatigue played a role in the wreck.

Walker was in custody at the Hamilton County Correctional Facility on Friday and had a court hearing scheduled for Tuesday.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## DNA from PB&J matched burglar

**WY** CHEYENNE— A man is charged with three counts of burglary after police matched his DNA to a partially eaten peanut butter and jelly sandwich left at the scene of the break-ins.

KTWO-AM reported Zachary Munoz, 25, made an initial appearance in Laramie County Circuit Court on Wednesday. His bail was set at \$5,000 and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for Dec. 1.

Prosecutors allege he broke into 4 Rivers Equipment on three separate occasions and stole thousands of dollars' worth of power tools.

## Pizzeria offers police free slices for arrest

**MD** TOWSON — A Towson pizzeria owner is offering police free slices next month as a thank you for arresting the man suspected of burglarizing the shop in the buff two weeks ago.

Baltimore County police may eat for free during December at Slice of Towson New York Pizza, owner Paul Rizas said.

The naked burglar was caught on security cameras ransacking the shop early Nov. 10.

"I'm grateful to them for taking it seriously," Rizas said.

On Monday, police announced they had charged Jonathan Karon Newman, 23, with second-degree burglary. He has been released on \$50,000 bail.

## Troopers find drugs wrapped as presents

**OH** BOWLING GREEN — The State Highway Patrol says troopers found 71 pounds of marijuana and

other drugs wrapped as Christmas gifts in a vehicle that was stopped for a driving violation.

The patrol said the drugs seized Monday have an estimated street value of \$330,000.

A trooper stopped the rented sport utility vehicle for following another vehicle too closely, and that led to a search of the SUV with help from a K-9. Investigators found the drugs in 10 gift-wrapped boxes.

The patrol says the 31-year-old driver from Eureka, Calif., was jailed on suspicion of drug trafficking. He has a court appearance scheduled next week.

## Repo man gives back vehicle, pays it off

**IL** RED BUD — An elderly Illinois couple has something to be thankful for after a repo man who took their car had a change of heart and helped them get it paid off.

Illini Asset Recovery co-owner Jim Ford told KTRK-TV that after repossessing the Buick from Stan and Pat Kipling, he pulled over to call the bank in order to see if he could pay it off for the couple. Ford set up an online fundraiser and says he raised the bulk of the cash needed in the first eight hours. The newly paid off car was returned to the Kiplings on Monday.

Ford said the couple reminded him of his late grandparents.

Stan Kipling said getting the car back is "just like hitting the lottery."

## Cat atop power pole for 9 days is rescued

**CA** FRESNO — Utility workers in Fresno rescued a cat that was stuck atop a 45-foot-high power pole for nine days.

The Fresno Bee reported Pacific Gas and Electric Co. line-

men on Tuesday retrieved the black and white, big-boned cat named Fat Boy after cutting power to homes in the area.

Fat Boy's owner, Andrew Perez, 14, says the cat probably climbed the pole after being scared by a dog. He says he had called several agencies for help to no avail.

Local tree services also had declined to help, but Silver Villa of nonprofit Paw Lives Matter said she made sure someone helped the feline. She said the cat is in pretty good health.

PG&E spokesman Denny Boyles said power on the 1,200-volt line was cut off, leaving 250 homes without power for a few hours.

## State OKs purchase of opioid antidote

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia is now allowing anyone in the state to buy naloxone, an opioid overdose treatment drug, without a prescription.

Health Commissioner Marissa Levine issued the order Monday allowing the change, while also declaring the state's growing opioid addiction problem a public health emergency.

Some pharmacies in Virginia already provide naloxone without a prescription, but Levine said she wants to make sure the opioid overdose antidote is available throughout the state.

Several other states have recently enacted similar laws and policies.

The number of opioid-related fatal overdoses has been climbing steadily since 2012. On average, three Virginians die of drug overdoses every day.

## Cursive writing makes dramatic comeback

**AL** DOTHAN — Cursive writing is making a

comeback like it never left.

These days, rows of students can be seen using paper and pen instead of tapping on iPads or Chromebooks. It's becoming more of the norm because of the recently enacted Alabama law called "Lexi Law" requiring all public schools to teach cursive handwriting by the end of third grade.

The Dothan Eagle reported third grade students at Montana Magnet have already been abiding by the law, which went into effect Aug. 1.

Montana Magnet Principal Sue Clark says before the new law, the school had been providing cursive instructions, which had been falling by the wayside. She says cursive writing helps young students develop fine motor skills necessary for art and other activities.

## Fire-eating workshop sparks a fire alarm

**PA** MCKEES ROCKS — A workshop on fire eating sparked a false fire alarm at a former church near Pittsburgh.

Neighbors called 911 after spotting flames inside the building in McKees Rocks about 9 p.m. Monday.

Firefighters arrived to find flames — but they weren't burning out of control.

Instead, a group of 25 people was participating in a workshop, learning to perform the circus trick of fire eating.

Fire Chief Nick Radoycis says the building didn't have running water or fire extinguishers, so the group might be cited for trespassing or using the building without a proper permit.

Ed Pinto, one of the participants, says there was no harm done or intended, saying the group was "hanging out and doing our crazy stuff" and someone called the fire department.

From wire reports

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and Military News

# Washington wallops Washington State

Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Budda Baker was walking to the sideline in the fourth quarter when he was jostled from behind by someone in crimson, who then proceeded to chirp at Washington's standout safety.

Baker heard what was said, turned, and pointed at the closed end of Martin Stadium.

"All I had to do was look at the scoreboard," Baker said.

It told the story of a day of dominance by No. 6 Washington in a 45-17 rout of No. 23 Washington State that put the Huskies into the Pac-12 championship game and on the cusp of a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Washington (11-1, 8-1 Pac-12, No. 5 CFP) rolled from the outset, using a 28-point first quarter behind three touchdown passes from quarterback Jake Browning to claim the Pac-12 North title and keep the Apple Cup in Seattle for a fourth straight year.

A win in the Pac-12 title game next Friday against Colorado or Southern California would

likely land the Huskies in the college football version of the final four.

"It doesn't matter. I'm just glad the (Huskies) are there and hopefully we'll show up and play our best game of the year," Washington coach Chris Petersen said.

Browning threw for 292 yards but it was the first quarter that set the stage. Browning tossed all three touchdown passes in the first 15 minutes, hitting Dante Pettis on plays of 18 and 61 yards and John Ross on a 6-yarder. Browning had 243 yards passing by halftime, the Huskies had 386 total yards at the break and even Washington State's third-quarter rally didn't make Washington sweat.

Washington tied a school record with the 28-point first quarter and the four straight over the Cougars (8-4, 7-2, No. 23 CFP) is the longest streak since the Huskies won six straight between 1998-2003.

"It's what we expected. We expected to be off to a fast start," Washington defensive lineman Elijah Qualls said. "That's what we worked on all

week. We knew we could do it."

Browning completed 21 of 29 passes, becoming the third quarterback in Pac-12 history with at least 40 TD passes in a season. Ross had eight catches for 80 yards and his 16th TD catch of the season.

Washington State quarterback Luke Falk was 33-for-50 passing for 269 yards and a 9-yard TD pass to Gabe Marks in the third quarter, but was intercepted three times. More damaging, the Cougars were unable to score on three drives inside the Washington 10.

"I thought we were too quick to press. I thought we made more out of it than it was," Washington State coach Mike Leach said.

Eight years after this matchup was mocked because of how bad the two teams were, the Apple Cup was back on a stage of national relevance as the North title game and regarded by many fans as the most important matchup of the 109 meetings.

It became a purple party for the Huskies that made the trip over the Cascade Mountains to

the Palouse.

Lavon Coleman added 82 yards rushing and a pair of touchdowns. His 15-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter capped a 98-yard drive and sent many clad in crimson back to the tailgating lots.

Washington rolled up 386 yards in the first half, 252 coming in the first quarter and capitalized on three mistakes by Washington State.

Jamal Morrow fumbled on Washington State's opening possession and eight plays later, Pettis caught an 18-yard touchdown and Washington had a 14-0 lead. Later in the half, Gerard Wicks was stopped at the 1 on fourth-and-goal on a great play by Benning Potoa'e. And on the final drive of the first half, Falk was intercepted by Beavers in the end zone.

Down 35-17, Washington State had a chance to pull within 11 late in the third quarter, but Wicks was again stuffed on fourth-and-goal.

"On offense, we weren't trying to do enough," Marks said. "We were soft."

## Goal-line stand helps Falcons stun No. 20 Boise State

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Jeremy McNichols, one of the nation's leading rushers, was stuffed, stymied and stood up on three cracks from inside the 5. A quarterback sneak didn't work, either.

Wyoming certainly appreciated it.

Air Force had a late goal-line stand, Tyler Weaver returned a blocked punt 11 yards for a first-half touchdown and the Falcons beat No. 20 Boise State 27-20 on Friday, ending the Broncos' bid for the Mountain West title.

Wyoming will face San Diego State in the conference championship game Dec. 3.

Haji Dunn Jr. recovered quarterback Brett Rypien's fumble on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with just under 2

minutes remaining to help the Falcons (9-3, 5-3 Mountain West) knock off Boise State for a third straight season. They join Idaho (1982-93) and Nevada (1996-98) as the only teams to beat the Broncos in at least three straight years.

"Thank goodness they didn't run wide," said senior safety Brodie Hicks, who forced the fumble. "We put all our marbles inside."

The Broncos (10-2, 6-2, No. 19 CFP) needed a win at Air Force and for New Mexico to upset Mountain Division-leading Wyoming on Saturday to earn a spot in the conference's title game.

No reason to watch now.

"It's like an empty feeling," Boise State receiver Cedrick Wilson said. "We wish we could have pulled through like we

practiced but sometimes you fall short."

**Memphis 48, No. 18 Houston 44:** In what might be sought-after coach Tom Herman's final game with the Cougars, Riley Ferguson threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Miller with 19 seconds left to lift the host Tigers.

Herman helped guide the Cougars (9-3, 5-3 American Athletic, No. 20 CFP) back from a 17-point halftime deficit. Greg Ward gave Houston a 44-41 lead with 1:29 remaining with his fourth touchdown pass, a 3-yarder to Chance Allen. But Memphis (8-4, 5-3) drove 72 yards in five plays for the winner.

**No. 14 W. Michigan 55, Toledo 35:** Corey Davis and the Broncos wrapped up an undefeated regular season in style,

routing the visiting Rockets to secure a berth next week in the Mid-American Conference championship game.

Davis became the career FBS leader in yards receiving, and the Broncos (12-0, 8-0, No. 21 CFP) never trailed, scoring a defensive touchdown on the first play from scrimmage and eventually breaking it open in the third quarter.

**Iowa 40, No. 17 Nebraska 10:** C.J. Beathard threw three touchdown passes and the host Hawkeyes pummeled the Cornhuskers, knocking them out of Big Ten title contention and sending Wisconsin to the championship game.

LeShun Daniels Jr. ran for 158 yards and two scores and George Kittle caught two TD passes for the Hawkeyes (8-4, 6-3 Big Ten).

# Texas fires Charlie Strong after 3 seasons

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Charlie Strong is done at Texas.

The first black coach in the history of the proud program was fired Saturday with a 16-21 record in three seasons. Strong had two years left on a guaranteed contract that pays more than \$5 million per year, but was the first coach in Texas history with three consecutive losing seasons.

Reports that he would be fired swirled after a late-season loss to lowly Kansas, and school officials made it official after Friday's 31-9 loss to TCU meant Texas would finish 5-7 without a bowl game for the second straight year.

"Charlie Strong is an outstanding leader and role model who worked hard with great integrity to move Longhorn football in the right direction," university President Greg Fenves said in a statement on Saturday. "In the end, the results over three seasons were not there. It was not clear the future was going to be at the levels expected of Longhorn football."

Texas moved quickly to replace him. Less than two hours after Strong was dismissed, a person with direct knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press that Houston's Tom Herman had informed the school he was leaving to become the Longhorns' new coach. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither school had yet announced the move publicly.

Strong's tenure was notable at first for his disciplinarian style and "core values" code of conduct. But the losses quickly mounted and Texas struggled just to qualify for bowl games despite recruiting classes hailed as some of the nation's best. Texas had hoped for a turnaround this season after a 2-0 start, but a three-game losing streak and a 0-2 start in the Big 12 quickly followed.

In other college football news:

■ A person familiar with the situation says LSU has decided to keep Ed Orgeron, giving the interim football coach the job on a permanent basis.

The person spoke to The Associated

Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because LSU does not plan to make the decision public until an announcement scheduled for the afternoon.

The move comes two days after the No. 25 Tigers defeated No. 22 Texas A&M 54-39. Following Thursday night's the game, chants of "Keep coach O" could be heard from the LSU's locker room.

Orgeron, a Louisiana native, has gone 5-2 since taking over for Les Miles, who was fired in late September after LSU started 2-2. LSU's two losses since Orgeron was promoted came against No. 1 Alabama and Southeastern Conference East Division champion Florida.

■ North Carolina State says Dave Doeren will be back for a fifth season as the Wolfpack's coach.

Athletic director Debbie Yow affirmed Doeren's status Saturday, one day after N.C. State upset rival North Carolina 28-21 in the regular-season finale to improve to 6-6 and become bowl eligible for the third straight year.

## Martin, Butler knock off No. 8 Arizona

LAS VEGAS — Kelan Martin had 16 points, while Andrew Chrabaszcz had 14 points and seven rebounds to lead Butler to a 69-65 victory over No. 8 Arizona on Friday night in the championship game of the Continental Las Vegas Invitational.

Avery Woodson contributed 13 points, Kamar Baldwin had 11 and Tyler Wideman had eight rebounds for the Bulldogs (6-0).

Chrabaszcz was named MVP of the tournament.

Lauri Markkanen and Kobi Simmons led Arizona (5-1) with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

**No. 1 Kentucky 111, UT-Martin 76:** Malik Monk scored a career-high 26 points, De'Aaron Fox added 16 and the host Wildcats scored most points scored in the John Calipari Era.

**No. 5 Kansas 95, UNC Asheville 57:** Frank Mason III had 21 points and Udoka Azubuike added 17 as the host Jayhawks dunked their way to a victory.

**No. 7 Virginia 74, Iowa 41:** At Niceville, Fla., Jerred Reuter led a well-balanced scoring attack with 14 points and the Cavaliers' stifling trademark defense set the tone for a victory in the semifinals of the Emerald Coast Classic.

**No. 20 Baylor 66, No. 10 Louisville 63:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, King McClure scored all 15 of his points in the second half and the Bears rallied from 22 points down in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game.

**No. 11 Gonzaga 77, Florida 72:** At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Josh Perkins had 18 points and Silas Melson scored 10 of his 12 during a second-half rally for the Bulldogs in a semifinal at the AdvoCare Invitational.

**No. 14 UCLA 82, Nebraska 71:** At Fullerton, Calif., Bryce Alford scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half to pace the Bruins in the Wooden Legacy semifinals at Cal State Fullerton.

**Temple 81, No. 19 West Virginia 77:** At New York, Obi Enechionya had 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Owls to the upset in the championship game of the NIT Season Tip-Off.

Enechionya scored 18 points in the first half for Temple (4-2), but it was his free throw with 1 second left that sealed the win. Alani Moore II added 18 points for the Owls, while Daniel Dingle finished with 15 and Quinton Rose had 12.

Enechionya was named the Most Outstanding Player of the two-day tournament.

**No. 21 Iowa St. 73, Miami 56:** At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Deonte Burton scored 21 points and Darrell Bowie keyed a second-half surge that carried the Cyclones in the AdvoCare Invitational.

**No. 23 Rhode Island 82, Belmont 73:** Hassan Martin scored a career-high 31 points and Jarvis Garrett added a season-high 23 for the host Rams.

**No. 24 Michigan St. 77,**

**Wichita St. 72:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Miles Bridges scored 21 points for the Spartans in the Battle 4 Atlantis third-place game.

**No. 25 Florida St. 72, Illinois 61:** At New York, Dwayne Bacon scored 17 points to lead the Seminoles in the third-place game of the NIT Season Tip-Off.

### Service academies

**Akron 84, Air Force 75:** At Savannah, Ga., Isaiah Johnson had 19 points, six rebounds and five assists, Josh Williams hit four three-pointers and scored 16 points and the Zips beat the Falcons in the Savannah Invitational.

Johnson made 7 of 10 from the field and Antino Jackson scored 15 for the Zips, who have won four in a row.

A three-pointer by Jacob Van pulled Air Force within four with 4:35 to play, but Jackson scored 11 points as Akron (4-1) made 12 of 16 from the free-throw line from there to seal it.

# Anthony lifts Knicks over Hornets in OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carmelo Anthony made the most of a second chance in the clutch.

Anthony scored a season-high 35 points, including the tiebreaking jumper with 3.1 seconds left in overtime, and the New York Knicks beat the Charlotte Hornets 113-111 on Friday night.

“Honestly, I wanted that shot,” Anthony said. “I wanted that moment to be honest with you. I felt like I had an ample opportunity to close it in regulation.”

Derrick Rose added 16 points and blocked Kemba Walker’s three-pointer that would have won it just before the buzzer.

“I rushed it,” Walker said. “I could have gotten a better shot I think. I should have taken my time more. They made a great defensive play.”

Kristaps Porzingis also scored 16 points in the Knicks’ sixth straight home victory.

Former Hornets guard Courtney Lee finished with 12 points in the opener of a home-and-home series.

Marco Belinelli scored 19 points, Nicolas Batum had 18 and Walker added 17 for the Hornets, who have lost four

straight games.

Porzingis’ three-pointer from the corner gave New York a 111-109 lead before Michael Kidd-Gilchrist tied it on a backdoor layup. Anthony then made a fadeaway jumper after previously missing a potential game-winning elbow jumper in regulation.

**Thunder 132, Nuggets 129 (OT):** Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 18 assists and 12 rebounds for his sixth triple-double, and visiting Oklahoma City beat Denver in overtime.

Westbrook scored 24 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to help the Thunder rally from 13 down and end a three-game losing streak. His 18 assists were a season high.

**Spurs 109, Celtics 103:** Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 10 rebounds and Patty Mills scored 19 to lead visiting San Antonio to its eighth straight victory.

Isaiah Thomas scored 24 points with eight assists and Avery Bradley had 19 points and eight rebounds for Boston, which had won three in a row.

**Cavaliers 128, Mavericks 90:** Kevin Love scored 27 points, Kyrie Irving added 25 and host Cleveland led by as

many as 45 points in a rout of Dallas.

LeBron James, playing in his 1,000th regular-season game, had 19 points and 11 assists.

**Rockets 117, Kings 104:** James Harden had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in his fourth triple-double of the season, and visiting Houston set an NBA record with 50 three-point attempts in its victory over Sacramento.

The Rockets went 21-for-50 from beyond the arc and came within two makes of matching the single-game record they already share with the Orlando Magic.

**Warriors 109, Lakers 85:** Kevin Durant had 29 points, nine assists and six rebounds, and visiting Golden State beat injury-depleted Los Angeles for the second time in three days.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Klay Thompson had 18 in the Warriors’ 10th consecutive victory.

**Pistons 108, Clippers 97:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and a career-high 10 assists as host Detroit beat Los Angeles.

**Trail Blazers 119, Pelicans 104:** Damian Lillard scored 27 points, CJ McCollum added

24 and Portland snapped visiting New Orleans’ four-game winning streak.

**Jazz 95, Hawks 68:** Gordon Hayward scored 24 points as host Utah beat Atlanta, which has lost four of five after starting the season 9-2.

**Bulls 105, 76ers 89:** Jimmy Butler and Dwyane Wade had 26 points apiece to lead visiting Chicago over Philadelphia.

**Heat 90, Grizzlies 81:** Tyler Johnson matched his season high with 22 points, Dion Waiters added 15 and Miami snapped its two-game losing streak by beating host Memphis.

**Raptors 105, Bucks 99:** DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points and Kyle Lowry added 19 to lead visiting Toronto over Milwaukee.

**Pacers 118, Nets 97:** Glenn Robinson III scored 20 points as host Indiana beat Brooklyn.

**Wizards 94, Magic 91:** John Wall had 26 points and 10 assists to help visiting Washington hold on and beat Orlando.

**Timberwolves 98, Suns 85:** Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 and Minnesota rallied from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat host Phoenix.

## Anaheim unable to solve Chicago in Black Friday series

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — When the Chicago Blackhawks make their usual visit to Anaheim on Black Friday, they always have a raucous cheering section of jersey-clad fans crowded against the glass from the pregame warmup onward.

Although those fans didn’t get to see captain Jonathan Toews this time, that only made the Blackhawks’ latest win in Orange County even more impressive.

Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist, and the Blackhawks hung on to beat the Ducks 3-2 for their fifth consecutive win in the clubs’ post-Thanksgiving rivalry game. The Western

Conference leaders have won five straight regular-season games in Anaheim since March 2013.

**Sharks 3, Islanders 2:** Patrick Marleau scored with 22.5 seconds left and host San Jose rebounded after allowing the tying goal to New York in the closing minute.

**Red Wings, 5, Devils 4 (OT):** Defenseman Mike Green scored from the right circle at 3:18 of overtime and visiting Detroit handed New Jersey a rare home loss.

**Wild 6, Penguins 2:** Charlie Coyle scored twice in the first period to set the tone as host Minnesota matched its season high for goals, and Nino Nie-

derreiter had two of his team’s three goals on the power play on their way to the victory over Pittsburgh.

**Stars 2, Canucks 1:** Esa Lindell scored his first NHL goal and had an assist to help host Dallas beat Vancouver.

**Blue Jackets 5, Lightning 3:** Brandon Saad scored on a power play and Cam Atkinson had a short-handed goal in the third period in visiting Columbus’ victory over Tampa Bay.

**Predators 5, Jets 1:** Colin Wilson and Ryan Johansen scored twice, Mike Fisher added three assists and host Nashville beat Winnipeg.

**Flames 2, Bruins 1:** Chad Johnson made 35 saves and

Alex Chiasson broke a tie at 7:05 of the third period in visiting Calgary’s victory over Boston.

**Capitals 3, Sabres 1:** Marcus Johansson scored, Philipp Grubauer made 29 saves and host Washington beat Buffalo.

**Coyotes 3, Oilers 2 (SO):** Radim Vrbata and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored in a shootout to give host Arizona a 3-comeback victory over Edmonton.

**Rangers 3, Flyers 2:** Matt Puempel scored in his first game with his new team, and Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves to help visiting New York beat Philadelphia.