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No jail time for Bergdahl

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the former Taliban captive who pleaded guilty last month to deserting his combat post in Afghanistan and endangering his fellow troops, will not serve prison time, a military judge ruled Friday.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery Nance, sentenced Bergdahl to forfeit \$10,000 in pay, a reduction in rank to E-1 private and a dishonorable discharge, barring him from receiving any medical or other benefits to which most veterans are entitled. The soldier will forfeit \$1,000 in pay monthly for 10 months.

On Friday, Bergdahl, wearing his blue Army service uniform, wept, his body trembling as two of his defense attorneys comforted him while Nance read his sentence in the Fort Bragg courtroom. The judge did not elaborate on his reasoning for the lenient punishment.

"We're extremely pleased that Sgt. Bergdahl is not being sentenced to confinement," Eugene Fidell, Bergdahl's lead attorney, said outside the courtroom after the sentencing. "That would have been a scandalous outcome."

Army prosecutors on Thursday recommended Bergdahl, who was held captive by the Taliban for five years after walking off his post in June 2009, serve 14 years in a military prison for deserting and endangering hundreds of troops who, in many cases, spent weeks searching for his location.

Some servicemembers suffered severe injuries searching for Bergdahl after he disappeared.

However, defense attorneys recommended Bergdahl receive no jail time, suggesting the judge hand him a dishonorable discharge. They argued the soldier faced enough punishment at the hands of Taliban-linked Haqqani militants in Pakistan during his captivity. Defense attorneys also cited Bergdahl's cooperation providing information about the Haqqanis' captor network and his documented mental health conditions that include post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bergdahl, 31, pleaded guilty Oct. 16 to charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, admitting leaving his post endangered his fellow troops. He faced a maximum punishment up to life imprisonment, reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge.

The outcome of the court-martial must be approved by a senior military official known as a convening authority, who oversees the court process. The convening authority, Army Gen. Robert Abrams, has the power to reduce the judge's penalty or to disapprove the findings. But convening authorities "almost never" disapprove of the results of a court-martial, said Eric Carpenter, a former Army prosecutor and defense attorney who teaches law at Florida International University.

The punitive discharge triggers an automatic appellate court review for Bergdahl's case. He will not be discharged from duty until the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals completes its review, which is not expected to begin for several months. Fidell said Bergdahl likely remain in the Army on leave until that time.

The attorney vowed Friday that he would seek to have Bergdahl's conviction thrown out, citing "reprehensible" interference in the case by President Donald Trump, who made the soldier a repeated theme in his presidential campaign, drawing cheers from rally crowds as he denounced Bergdahl as a "dirty, rotten traitor" who "should be shot" or returned to the Taliban.

The president decried Nance's decision Friday within two hours of the sentencing hearing's conclusion.

"The decision on Sgt. Bergdahl is a complete and total disgrace to our country and to our military," Trump tweeted.

Fidell charged Trump's scorn toward Bergdahl was directed at former President Barack Obama, whose administration in May 2014 orchestrated the exchange of five Taliban commanders held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba for Bergdahl's release. The controversial deal and Obama's Rose Garden announcement of Bergdahl's return drew the ire of congressional Republicans, launching a political debate around the soldier who the military already knew had walked away from base without permission.

From the witness stand Tuesday, Bergdahl called his desertion a "horrible mistake," delivering an at-times tearful apology to his platoonmates and others sent searching for him.

Fidell said Thursday that Bergdahl was thankful for all the servicemembers who risked their lives to attempt to find him before the Taliban could smuggle him into Pakistan.

The attorney did not indicate what Bergdahl's next step would be.

GIs greet news of sentence with anger, understanding

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A military judge's decision Friday to issue no jail time and a dishonorable discharge for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl unleashed a wide range of emotions.

Army prosecutors had recommended that Bergdahl, who was held captive by the Taliban for years after walking off his post in 2009, serve 14 years. Some servicemembers were injured searching for Bergdahl. He was released in May 2014 in a controversial prisoner exchange for five Taliban commanders.

"I feel he got off too easy," said Marine Cpl. James Hoyet, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. "Not only did he abandon his post, he endangered the lives of those who went looking for him."

"People were injured ... on that mission," Hoyet said. "He should be charged as if he caused those injuries himself."

Defense attorneys had recommended Bergdahl receive no jail time, in part for his documented mental health conditions that include post-traumatic stress disorder.

Jonathan Ryan, an Army veteran from Minnesota who served in Afghanistan in 2011, is not surprised by the sentencing. He believes Bergdahl endured a lot in the five years he spent in the Taliban prison, and thought the judge "avoided a political mess by letting him walk away," Ryan said. "Unfortunately, those hurt by his actions lost their chance at justice."

On social media, Air Force veteran David Scrivens, of Massachusetts, said Bergdahl "suffered greatly."

"As a Veteran of the Vietnam War, I must say I have no problem with this judgement," Scrivens wrote on the Stars and Stripes Facebook page. "I have no idea what was in his head when he walked off his position. ... Unless you walked a mile in Bergdahl's shoes, don't be so fast to judge."

Lawyers to defy order again in USS Cole case

Miami Herald

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — The death-penalty attorney who quit the USS Cole case over a secret ethical dilemma said Thursday that he and his colleagues for a second time will defy the military judge's order to appear in court.

"Nobody's going," attorney Rick Kammen told the Miami Herald on the eve of a 9 a.m. hearing Friday in which judge Air Force Col. Vance Spath has ordered the Indiana lawyer and two civilian colleagues to appear by teleconference from war court headquarters in Virginia.

Kammen, Rosa Eliades and Mary Spears until last month willingly defended Abd al Rahim al-Nashiri, who is accused of plotting al-Qaida's suicide bombing of the warship off Aden, Yemen, in October 2000. Seventeen U.S. sailors died in the attack, and al-Nashiri could face execution if he's convicted.

Then they quit, with permission of the chief defense counsel for military commissions, Marine Brig. Gen. John Baker. Spath rejected that, saying that only he has the power to excuse an attorney of record in his court, and ordered them to come to Guantanamo on Sunday to litigate. They did not.

On Thursday, Kammen revealed that he and his colleagues had rejected the judge's order to appear Friday.

The heart of the issue for Spath is how to resume pretrial hearings in light of the collapse of the al-Nashiri defense team. Only Navy Lt. Alaric Piette, a 2012 graduate of Georgetown Law School, came to Guantanamo as al-Nashiri's lawyer this week, and he said he is ethically bound to do nothing in court because the man awaiting a capital trial has no qualified death-penalty defense lawyer.

But the underlying issue is the belief of Kammen and the others that they cannot ethically defend al-Nashiri because of a covert breach of attorney-client privilege involving something so secretive that neither the client nor the public can know what it is.

Spath does not agree with the general and the lawyers that they have an ethical obligation to leave the case. Prosecutors earlier this week urged the judge to find the civilians in contempt of the war court.

Navy looking at cases against servicemembers in collisions

The Washington Post

The Navy is examining legal cases against servicemembers it has accused of negligence in the deadly collisions of two destroyers this year, even after it has completed investigations into what happened in each case, the service's top admiral said Thursday.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said at a Pentagon news conference that he has assigned Adm. James "Frank" Caldwell Jr. to serve as a consolidated disposition authority for legal cases related to the collisions of both the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain. The term defines a senior officer who oversees cases that can be both criminal and administrative in nature.

Asked whether there was negligence involved in the mishaps, Richardson indicated that there was, by "several people."

He added: "I mean, we found that the commanding officers were at fault, the executive officers were at fault. There were watch-standers on the ships. And we've been pretty clear about identifying where there was fault and taking appropriate accountability actions."

Caldwell's review is not complete, but Richardson's comments raise the possibility that the service could file criminal charges

against some of the servicemembers aboard the vessels. A report released by the service Wednesday attributed the Fitzgerald disaster to watch teams disregarding established safety precautions, and the McCain catastrophe to confusion over how to steer the vessel.

The Fitzgerald collided with the MV ACX Crystal, a Philippine-flagged container ship, off the coast of Japan on June 17, killing seven sailors. Ten sailors died aboard the McCain on Aug. 21 after a crash off the coast of Singapore with the Alnic MC, a much larger oil tanker.

The Navy has moved to discipline about a dozen people who were aboard the Fitzgerald during the collision, including removing its commanding officer, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, and his second-in-command, Cmdr. Sean Babbitt. The ship's top enlisted sailor, Chief Brice Baldwin, also was removed from his job in August.

The Fitzgerald investigation particularly faulted a more junior officer who was serving as the officer of the deck at the time and was responsible for navigation. The Navy found that the officer exhibited poor seamanship and failed to maneuver the Fitzgerald as required, to sound a danger signal and to contact the Crystal by radio before the collision.

US fighter jets intercept Russian bombers near Korean Peninsula

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. fighter jets have intercepted a pair of Russian bombers that were approaching the USS Ronald Reagan in the sea between Japan and the Korean Peninsula.

The Navy F/A-18 fighters were deployed from the aircraft carrier and escorted the Russian planes Sunday without incident, a Pacific Fleet spokeswoman said.

"The interaction, which occurred more than 80 miles from the ship, was deemed safe and professional," Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman said Friday in an email.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the missile-carrying Tupolev 95MS bombers were carrying out routine flights "over international waters of the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean."

U.S. and Japanese fighter jets accompanied the planes "at certain sections of the route," the ministry said, according to the Russian news agency Tass.

The Reagan, the USS Nimitz and the USS Theodore Roosevelt have been operating in the Navy's 7th Fleet area of operations amid reports they will participate in a rare joint military exercise involving the three carrier strike groups sometime this month.

The exercise is expected to take place about the time that President Donald Trump is visiting the region in his first official trip to Asia, officials have said.

Tensions have spiked after North Korea test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles and sent two other projectiles over Japan this summer. The communist state also conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3.

Assaults in Syria, Iraq oust ISIS from border bastions

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian troops ousted Islamic State extremists Friday from Deir el-Zour, a major city in eastern Syria, while Iraqi forces pushed into the group's last major town across the border in Iraq in simultaneous assaults that dealt further territorial losses to the retreating militants.

With their self-proclaimed "caliphate" crumbling, the extremists have lost almost all their urban strongholds in Syria and Iraq.

The defeats left the Syrian town of Boukamal as the only urban area still completely under ISIS control, along with scattered pockets of territory along the Syria-Iraq border.

Syrian troops backed by Russia and Kurdish-led forces supported by the U.S. are now racing toward Boukamal from opposite sides of the Euphrates River, triggering concerns that a proxy showdown could ensue between the two sides.

Both the U.S. and Russia have embedded special operations forces with their respective partners and are supporting their advances with airstrikes.

Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, said six Tu-22M bombers struck ISIS targets near Boukamal, while two Russian submarines in the Mediterranean also launched six cruise missiles at ISIS targets.

"With the loss of Deir el-Zour, Daesh loses its ability to lead terrorist operations by its militants who are now isolated and encircled eastern countryside of the city," said Gen. Ali Mayhoub, declaring victory in a statement read on Syrian TV. He used an Arabic name for ISIS in the broadcast.

In Iraq, troops pushed into the western neighborhoods of the town of Qaim across the border from Boukamal. An Iraqi officer in the western Anbar region said Iraqi forces have reached the border with Syria.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abdi congratulated Iraqi forces on retaking Qaim just over a week after the operation began. In a statement from his office, al-Abadi described the victory as taking place in "record time."

China disputes Trump claim on fentanyl source

Associated Press

BEIJING — A Chinese official on Friday disputed President Donald Trump's claim that the deadly opioid fentanyl that is flooding the U.S. is mostly produced in China, just days before a visit by Trump at which he has said he will make China's role in the crisis a major theme of his discussions.

China doesn't deny that some fentanyl produced illicitly inside the country is contributing to the epidemic, Wei Xiaojun, deputy director-general of the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security, said at a news conference.

However, according to the intelligence the two countries

have exchanged, "the evidence isn't sufficient to say that the majority of fentanyl or other new psychoactive substances come from China," Wei said.

Trump last month said the U.S. was stepping up measures to "hold back the flood of cheap and deadly fentanyl, a synthetic opioid manufactured in China and 50 times stronger than heroin."

He said he would mention it to Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing next week. "And he will do something about it," Trump said.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's representative in Beijing, Lance Ho, declined to comment on Wei's assessment.

Poll: Pot research popular with veterans

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Most veteran households, regardless of state, age or political affiliation, support researching and legalizing medical marijuana, according to a poll commissioned by the American Legion released Thursday.

The Legion, which recently joined the fight for marijuana research, hired Five Corners Strategies to conduct an automated phone poll of veteran households from Oct. 8 to Oct. 10. It included a sample of 513 veterans and 289 family members across 39 states.

The poll, with a margin of error of 3.45 percentage points, found 92 percent of veterans and 93 percent of veteran caregivers support research into medical cannabis.

That's higher than the public's support of medical marijuana. According to a CBS News poll from April, 88 percent of Americans support medical marijuana use.

"Ninety-two percent of veterans support it. That's a landslide," said Louis Celli, a director at the Legion. "We owe it to them to do the research."

One in five veterans uses marijuana to alleviate symptoms of a physical or a mental medical condition, the poll found. More than 80 percent of veterans and their family caregivers want to see marijuana made a federally legal medical treatment.

Veterans included in the study live in states where medical marijuana is legal and states where it isn't.

Support for medical marijuana transcends politics, the Legion said.

Of the households that identified as politically conservative, 88 percent supported federally legalized medical marijuana. Politically liberal households were slightly more supportive, at 90 percent.

"One of the reasons we did this is to prove to lawmakers this is a politically safe topic,"

Celli said. "It's no longer 'Reefer Madness.' It's legitimate science of the 21st century."

Since May, the American Legion has strongly advocated for more research into medical marijuana. At its national convention in August, the organization adopted a resolution urging the VA to allow doctors to discuss and recommend medical marijuana in states where it's legal. That's in addition to a resolution that the group passed the previous year asking for marijuana to be removed from the list of Schedule I drugs, which include heroin, LSD, ecstasy and others designated as having no medical use.

The Legion has been supportive of research in Phoenix that is the first federally approved study of marijuana's effects on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Last week, a group of House Democrats wrote a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin urging him to initiate marijuana research at the VA. The letter marked the first instance leadership of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has focused on marijuana research, staffers for Democrats on the committee said.

The Democrats asked Shulkin to respond by Nov. 14. Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., the ranking Democrat on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, said they have yet to receive a response.

"It's still early," he said. "I'm very hopeful because I've watched the secretary always act in the manner of what's best for vets. We have seen bold, unilateral decisions come out of this secretary, so we think that will bode well on an issue like this."

If Shulkin doesn't consider medical marijuana research, the group of Democrats plans to try to garner bipartisan support for legislation supporting it. Walz said the American Legion brought "weight and credibility" to the conversation.

Female lawmakers say they were harassed by colleagues on Hill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For GOP Rep. Mary Bono, the suggestive comments wouldn't stop from one male colleague. He even approached her on the House floor to tell her he'd been thinking about her in the shower, she says.

Bono, who served 15 years before being defeated in 2012, is not alone.

As reports flow out almost daily of harassment or worse by men in entertainment, business and the media, one current and three former female lawmakers tell The Associated Press they, too, have been harassed or subjected to hostile sexual comments — by fellow members of Congress.

The incidents occurred years or even decades ago, usually when the women were young newcomers to Congress. They range from isolated comments at one hearing to repeated unwanted come-ons to lewd remarks and even groping on the House floor.

"This is about power," said

former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., after describing an incident at a hearing in the 1980s in which a male colleague made a sexually suggestive comment about her from the dais, which was met with laughter and an approving second from the committee chairman. "It's hostile and embarrasses, and therefore could take away a person's power."

Boxer and the other female lawmakers spoke on the record to tell their stories in the wake of revelations about Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's attacks on women, as well as disclosures from current and former Capitol Hill staffers about harassment by lawmakers and aides. Those accounts noted Congress has few training or reporting requirements.

Largely untold before now is that some female lawmakers, themselves, say they have been harassed by male colleagues.

The lawmakers declined to identify the perpetrators by name, but at least two of the men continue to serve in the House. None of the female law-

makers interviewed reported the incidents — some noted it was not clear where to lodge such a complaint.

"When I was a very new member of Congress in my early 30s, there was a more senior member who outright propositioned me, who was married, and despite trying to laugh it off and brush it aside, it would repeat. And I would avoid that member," said Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif. She declined to identify him, while saying he remains in Congress.

Sanchez also said a different male colleague repeatedly ogled her, and at one point touched her inappropriately on the House floor while trying to make it appear accidental.

A few former female lawmakers expressed surprise and even disbelief at the notion that lawmakers, themselves, could be victims of harassment.

Bono disputed any suggestion she or other female lawmakers could not be harassed.

"My career didn't suffer, I didn't suffer," Bono said. "But it did happen."

Weinstein faces 2 new criminal probes

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Authorities in Los Angeles and New York said Thursday they opened new investigations into film mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said a senior prosecutor has been assigned to investigate allegations by "Boardwalk Empire" actress Paz de la Huerta, who told CBS News that Weinstein raped her twice in her apartment in 2010.

De la Huerta spoke to CBS News and said the first rape occurred in October 2010 after Weinstein gave her a ride home from a party, insisted on having a drink in her apartment and forced himself on her. She said the second rape occurred in December 2010 after Weinstein came to her apartment; she had been drinking and was not in a condition to give consent, CBS reported the actress said.

Los Angeles police are investigating allegations about Weinstein that occurred in 2015. The department is also investigating a report by an Italian actress and model who said she was raped by Weinstein in 2013.

Weinstein representative Sallie Hofmeister reiterated a statement that Weinstein, 65, denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Authorities in Beverly Hills and London are investigating Weinstein.

The accusations against Weinstein have prompted numerous allegations of sexual harassment and abuse against powerful men in Hollywood and other industries.

CNN reported that eight current or former "House of Cards" workers claim Kevin Spacey made the production a "toxic" workplace, and one ex-employee alleges the actor sexually assaulted him.

The report accuses Spacey of allegedly targeting staffers who were typically young and male with nonconsensual touching and crude comments.

Apple under pressure to live up to iPhone X hype

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The iPhone X's lush screen, facial-recognition skills and \$1,000 price tag are breaking new ground in Apple's marquee product line.

Now, the much-anticipated device is testing the patience of consumers and investors as demand outstrips suppliers' capacity.

Apple said Thursday that iPhone sales rose 3 percent in the July-September quarter, a period that saw the iPhone 8 and 8 Plus come out in the final weeks. Sales could have been higher if many customers hadn't been waiting for the iPhone X, which came out Friday.

Apple shipped 46.7 million iPhones during the period, according to its fiscal fourth-quarter report released Thursday. That's up from 45.5 million at the same time last year after the iPhone 7 came out but represents a step back from the same time in 2015, when Apple shipped 48 million iPhones during the quarter.

The just-ended quarter largely became an afterthought once Apple decided to release the

iPhone X six weeks after the iPhone 8.

But it also brings a potential stumbling block. While conspiracy theorists might suspect that Apple is artificially reducing supply to generate buzz, analysts say the real reason is that Apple's suppliers so far haven't been able to manufacture the iPhone X quickly enough.

Making the iPhone X is proving to be a challenge because it boasts a color-popping OLED screen, which isn't as readily available as standard LCD displays in other iPhone models. The new iPhone also requires more sophisticated components to power the facial-recognition technology for unlocking the device.

Most analysts predict Apple won't be able to catch up with demand until early next year.

On Thursday, Apple predicted revenue for this quarter from \$84 billion to \$87 billion. Analysts, who have already factored in the supply challenges, expected \$85.2 billion, according to FactSet.

Analysts are expecting Apple to ship 80 million iPhones during the current quarter, which includes the crucial holiday shopping season, according to FactSet.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Assailant in pink bunny outfit stabs man

OR PORTLAND — Portland police said a man is expected to survive after getting stabbed by someone dressed in a pink bunny costume.

Sgt. Chris Burley said the stabbing happened shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday in Old Town Chinatown. He said the victim was approached and then attacked by a costumed man he didn't know.

Officers searched for a suspect but could not find anyone matching the description.

An ambulance took the victim to the hospital after officers provided first aid.

Woman wins 2 lottery prizes on same day

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina woman has won two lottery prizes on the same day.

Local media reported that Kimberly Morris of Wake Forest thought things were going well when she bought a ticket at a grocery store Monday afternoon and scratched off the \$10,000 prize. She went to the lottery headquarters in Raleigh to claim her prize.

On the way home, she stopped and bought another ticket. It was worth \$1 million.

Man, 79, returning to prison in another killing

CT ST. LOUIS — A 79-year-old St. Louis man who previously spent several years in prison for killing three people is going back to prison after pleading guilty in another murder case.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Torrance Epps pleaded guilty Monday to a reduced charge of second-degree

murder in the death of Tiandra Johnson, 32. The deal calls for an 18-year sentence.

In January, Epps rolled his wheelchair through a senior housing complex and shot Johnson. He suspected her of stealing from him.

Epps received a 30-year sentence for killing three of his wife's relatives in 1973. He was paroled after 14 years and was sent to a halfway house, escaped a month later, and was a fugitive for eight years before being returned to prison. He was paroled again in 2003.

Police: Child injured by metal in candy wrapper

CT GROTON — Police in Connecticut are investigating after a 1-year-old child suffered a minor injury from a piece of metal hidden inside the wrapper of a candy bar gathered while trick-or-treating.

Groton police say they received a call from the child's mother at about 10 p.m. Tuesday. The "small, thin piece of metal" was found inside the wrapper of a Snickers Fun Size candy bar.

Police are trying to figure out the source of the candy.

Mall of America plans to close Thanksgiving

MN BLOOMINGTON — The Mall of America again will push back on early Black Friday sales and close on Thanksgiving.

The Bloomington megamall is taking it a step further this year and offering holiday pay on Black Friday for the 1,200 people it directly employs. Mall of America took a stand against encroaching on Thanksgiving last year while other big box stores and shopping centers opened on the holiday to capture early sales.

The Star Tribune said CBL

Properties owns more than 75 shopping centers around the country, including Burnsville Center. It also plans to close its malls on Thanksgiving.

Police: Woman applies for job, steals cash

MI ALPENA — Authorities said it didn't take long for them to catch a woman suspected of stealing cash from a northern Michigan restaurant because she'd just filled out a job application at the eatery.

Michigan State Police were told a 47-year-old woman filled out the application at Mandarin Garden in Alpena County this week, and then took money out of the cash register. WHSB-FM reported she was confronted by employees and fled, but police said they quickly found her at home.

She was arrested and is expected to face charges including larceny. The stolen money was recovered.

Bishop encourages church naloxone supply

WV CHARLESTON — The bishop of West Virginia's Episcopal Church is encouraging congregations to carry the opioid overdose-reversing drug naloxone.

The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported the Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer made the request at the West Virginia Episcopal diocese's annual convention in Charleston.

Klusmeyer said naloxone should be available not only to members of the surrounding neighborhood who might overdose, but to church members who might have substance abuse problems.

Klusmeyer said he hates "seeing young people and old people die because of opioids, and I hate seeing it destroy our communities and families."

West Virginia has the nation's highest death rate from drug overdoses. State health officials say overdose deaths rose nearly 18 percent last year, killing 864 people.

Copper State has its first baby sea lion

AZ LITCHFIELD PARK — The Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park west of Phoenix has welcomed Arizona's first baby sea lion.

Officials said the pup was born a few weeks ago.

Because it's the first marine mammal to be born in Arizona, the baby has been named Sunny.

Wildlife World officials said guests also will be able to feed the sea lions during their two scheduled feeding times.

The park is located in Litchfield Park and is home to more than 6,000 animals.

New odor rules, fees coming to pot farms

WA SPOKANE — Spokane County marijuana farms soon will have to register with an air pollution agency that's instituting new rules in response to odor complaints.

The Spokesman-Review reported Wednesday that the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency proposed the rules, stating a large number of odor complaints have come in since commercial production started three years ago.

The rules include a fee structure requiring businesses to pay the agency based on the size of the operation.

Marijuana farmer Crystal Oliver says the fees would range annually from \$528 for small-scale indoor grows to nearly \$5,000 for some large-scale outdoor operations.

From wire reports

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World, National
and Military News

Jets' defense saves season

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Muhammad Wilkerson challenged the New York Jets' defense to hold the Buffalo Bills to 60 yards rushing. Steve McLendon thought 80 would be more realistic.

The two D-linemen compromised and settled on 70 — and then went out and got the job done.

The Jets kept the Bills to just 63 yards on the ground, including 25 on 12 carries by LeSean McCoy, in an impressive 34-21 victory Thursday night. It was a glimmer of what New York has been hoping to see all season from its beleaguered defense.

"Mo, after the last game, brought us all up and said, 'This isn't who we are going to be. This isn't us,'" linebacker Jordan Jenkins said. "He said, 'We have to keep fighting. We have to stop messing around, and we have to finish.'"

Mission accomplished.

After blowing fourth-quarter leads in their last two games, the Jets (4-5) snapped a three-game skid by making big plays on defense and harassing Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor all night. New York came in second-to-last in the NFL with just 11 sacks through the first eight games. The Jets had seven in this one, including two by Jenkins.

"We've got a high ceiling," said defensive end Leonard Williams, who got his first half-sack of the season. "We showed we can get takeaways, we showed we can get sacks, we showed we can stop the run. This is our first game putting it all together in a complete game."

"I feel like now that we showed it and put in on film, we'll definitely challenge ourselves to keep progressing."

Add in a rejuvenated running game that rumbled for 194 yards just four days after Matt Forte complained about offensive coordinator John Morton not sticking to the run, and New York might just be able to stick around in the AFC

playoff hunt.

"The defense was lights out," said quarterback Josh McCown, who threw for 140 yards and a touchdown and also ran for a score. "They set the tone getting stops. We went three-and-out that first drive and we were committed to running it and we showed it."

Here are some other things to know from the Jets' victory over the Bills:

Thumbs down on Thursdays: Buffalo guard Richie Incognito made it clear that he's no fan of the short work week.

"It's tough man. These Thursday night games (stink)," he said. "They throw a wrench in our schedules. It's absolutely ridiculous that we have to do this. As physical as this game is and as much work and preparation that goes into this, to force us to play games on four-day weeks is completely unfair and ... the league makes money off it and that's all they care about anyway."

"We just keep trucking, we have a tough group of guys in this locker room, and back to the drawing board and back to Buffalo."

Cool running: New York had just 43 yards on 22 carries in its 25-20 loss to Atlanta on Sunday in rain-soaked conditions. That prompted Forte, who gained 7 yards on four attempts, to criticize Morton for not sticking to the run-heavy game plan.

Well, no complaints after this one.

Forte had a season-high 77 yards on 14 carries, Bilal Powell ran for 74 yards on nine attempts and rookie Elijah McGuire added 30 yards on 13 rushes.

"We had some difficulties and frustrations, and on a short week, addressed them on Monday," Forte said. "And to come out on a Thursday and run the ball like we did and throw the ball like we did as well, we did a great job. Kudos to coach Johnny Mo for sticking with the run, like he said he'd do."

Shut down Shady: McCoy ran for 110 yards in the teams'

first meeting, Buffalo's 21-12 victory in Week 1. He also had five catches for 49 yards.

The Jets made him a non-factor this time around, with his 25 yards being his second-lowest rushing total this year. McCoy was also held without a catch for the first time this season.

"They beat us down," McCoy said.

Don't let it linger: The Bills had won four of their last five to start turning some doubters into believers.

But they struggled all night in pass protection, running the ball and with their discipline. While no one was saying they should forget what happened, the message throughout the locker room was to not allow the loss to poison the rest of the season.

"I don't think this is who we are," linebacker Lorenzo Alexander said. "It's about pride and how we approach the game. You've got to be strong in your fundamentals and we weren't tonight."

Taylor likes where the Bills stand at 5-3 in what looks like a wide-open AFC wild-card race.

"I think we're in a good spot," he said. "Tonight definitely was a challenge for us and we didn't step up. As a team, we have a choice to make and I think we will make the right steps and move forward."

No Kelvin: The Bills opted to deactivate wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin, who they acquired Tuesday from Carolina. Benjamin, in his third NFL season — he sat out 2015 with an injury — is expected to be a starting wideout when he's ready.

"You don't want to put a guy out there who isn't ready," Taylor said. "It was a smart move."

Coach Sean McDermott wouldn't speculate when Benjamin might be ready, but the Bills are off until Nov. 12, when they face New Orleans.

Briefly

Court: Cowboys' RB Elliott can play Sunday

NEW YORK — Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott can play in Sunday's home game against Kansas City while a federal appeals court considers a challenge to his six-game suspension.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City issued a one-page order Friday temporarily blocking a lower-court ruling that cleared the way this week for Elliott to begin serving the disciplinary penalty.

Circuit Judge Susan Carney granted a request from the NFL Players Association for Elliott to be allowed to play Sunday. In the meantime, a three-judge panel will decide whether the appeal will be handled in expedited fashion and whether Elliott will continue to be allowed to play before the appeal is decided.

The Cowboys (4-3) are in second place in the NFC East. They face a Chiefs team that is 6-2 and leads the AFC West.

Texans' QB Watson, Colts' Luck both out

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans and Indianapolis Colts will both start backup quarterbacks when they meet on Sunday after Deshaun Watson sustained a knee injury in practice on Thursday and is heading to injured reserve with Andrew Luck.

Watson suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in one of his knees and is out for the season, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the injury.

His injury comes on the same day that the Colts placed Luck on injured reserve. The move wasn't that surprising considering Luck hasn't played since undergoing shoulder surgery in January. The Colts (2-6) have struggled in his absence, and have lost three straight.

From The Associated Press

Monken has turned Army into a winner

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Jeff Monken intently studies a group of players at practice when a ruckus erupts in another group.

Monken makes a beeline for two players grappling on the ground in a heated exchange, yanks each up by the shoulder pads and escorts them off the field. Practice is over for them, and Monken makes that clear with a few harsh words. Then it's back to teaching as the Black Knights continue preparing for their first rivalry game of the season at Air Force with a sense of confidence that's been building since Monken was hired four years ago.

With a no-nonsense demeanor and a steely resolve, Monken has transformed Army into a winner, something the academy had desperately sought for the better part of two decades. The Black Knights, with their ground-gobbling, triple-option offense, are 6-2, the only losses coming on the road against Ohio State (38-7) and Tulane (21-17), and the school is the first in America to accept a bowl bid. Army has a tie-in with the Armed Forces Bowl and accepted its bid after beating Temple in overtime last month.

These are heady days along the banks of the Hudson River, and the good feeling on campus is palpable.

"It's hard not to walk around and hold your head a little higher when you're actually winning some games," said former

running back Joe Walker, now on staff as an athletic intern. "You can see it in the Corps of Cadets. They're pretty excited about Army football, I think now more than ever."

"It's pats on the back all week long," added linebacker Cole Christiansen. "Everywhere we're going, everyone's saying, 'Go beat them! Go beat them!' I wasn't here back in the old days when it (West Point) was a little rougher than it is now, but I know that the vibe around campus is a lot better now."

The atmosphere wasn't so great when Monken was hired in December 2013. Since the 1996 team won an academy-record 10 games under Bob Sutton, losing had become the norm, reaching a nadir under Todd Berry when Army posted a record that has never been duplicated by any team — 0-13 in 2003. Before Monken guided the Black Knights to an 8-5 mark last year that included an all-important win over archrival Navy and a bowl victory, Army had managed only one winning season — 7-6 under Rich Ellerson in 2010 — in 19 years under six coaches and had lost to the Midshipmen 14 straight times.

This season Army is 5-0 at home, the last two victories by a combined four points over Eastern Michigan (28-27) and Temple (31-28). The success at Michie Stadium has been special for both the players and Monken, who has endeared himself to the entire academy by storming across the

field to celebrate with the Corps of Cadets after each win.

"We're on the flip side now," junior linebacker James Nachtigal said. "We're finally winning the ones that come down to the wire. We've got a lot of belief in each other. It builds the brotherhood. It gives you a stronger connection to the team. The seniors know how to win, they expect to win, and that just trickles down from there."

The win over the Owls gave Monken 20 in four years, the first time that's been accomplished at the academy since Jim Young in 1986. West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr. isn't surprised.

"It's how the players connect to him. They respect him, they admire him, they know he's a man of standards," said Caslen, a center on the 1973 Army team that finished 0-10 under Tom Cahill as the Vietnam War was winding down. "That's what you saw in the locker room (after the Temple game) — a tremendous bond that he has earned ... and building in them the mental and physical toughness where they now believe in themselves and they're willing to lay it on the line for each other."

"He's what we thought he was," said athletic director Boo Corrigan, who hired Monken. "He came in here and energized us."

Temple gets past slumping Midshipmen

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Temple coach Geoff Collins needed his deep, booming voice for his postgame press conference.

In the adjacent locker room, the music was loud and so was the chanting. And why not? Amid an uneven first season in charge, Collins' Owls put together their best performance of the season.

Frank Nutile threw for 289 yards and four touchdowns, and Temple's struggling offense awoke to beat slumping Navy 34-26 on Thursday night.

Nutile, making his second straight start in place of the injured Logan Marchi, completed 22 of 30 passes with one interception as Temple (4-5, 2-3 American Athletic Conference) snapped a two-game skid.

"We lost a heartbreaker two weeks ago and we had 10 days to really get together as a team and regroup," Nutile said. "We have this mindset that it's a championship game

very week. So it feels really good to win a game like this."

Adonis Jennings had five catches for 127 yards, including touchdown catches of 34 and 40 yards. Keith Kirkwood and Jake Robinson also caught TDs for the Owls, who entered averaging just 20.9 points a game, 112th best in the FBS.

Enter Nutile, who praised his offensive line by saying "I maybe got hit once all game" as he picked apart Navy's secondary.

"We knew what a competitor he was. We knew how smart he was," Collins said of his junior QB. "But just the command he had over the offense and his gamesmanship, I'm really proud of him."

Navy quarterback Zach Abey, who sustained a concussion in a loss to Central Florida on Oct. 21, rushed for 87 yards and caught a touchdown pass on a trick play before leaving with a shoulder injury.

The Midshipmen (5-3, 3-3) rushed for 136 yards, well below their nation-best average of 376, in their third straight loss.

"We don't have any excuses," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "We were rested. We had a lot of guys back. They beat the crap out of us."

A trip to Lincoln Financial Field had always ended on a positive note for the Midshipmen, who entered 12-0 at the home of the Philadelphia Eagles — including a 10-0 mark against rival Army.

But much like a year ago when Temple cruised to a 34-10 win in the AAC title game, Navy's defense faltered.

"Not going in the right direction. We've got to figure things out quickly," Niumatalolo said. "I coach by feelings, and just something has been amiss with us."

Navy hosts SMU on Nov. 11.

Ovechkin denies political statement

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin says he isn't trying to make a political statement by voicing his support for Vladimir Putin ahead of the Russian presidential election.

Ovechkin posted a message in Russian on Instagram Thursday saying that he's starting "a social movement called Putin Team. Ovechkin added that he has never hidden his feelings about Putin and has "always supported him openly."

On Thursday night, Ovechkin painted it as a show of support for Russia.

"I just support my country, you know?" Ovechkin said. "That's where I'm from, my parents live there, all my friends. Like every human from different countries, they support their president."

Asked if it meant he supported Putin's political beliefs, Ovechkin said, "It's not about political stuff" and that he doesn't try to be a political person. The Russian presidential election is scheduled for March 18.

Putin has dominated U.S. political headlines because of government probes into Russia's potential interference in the 2016 presidential election and connections to Donald Trump's campaign.

The 32-year-old Ovechkin is from Moscow and has often been photographed with Putin. A photograph of Ovechkin and Putin accompanied the post, which read, "Being part of this team makes me proud and it's similar to the feeling you get when you put on a Russian national team jersey, knowing that the whole country is rooting for you."

"I'm confident that there's a lot of us who support Vladimir Putin," Ovechkin wrote. "So let's come together and show everyone a strong and unified Russia!"

NHL roundup

Flyers blank Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Michal Neuvirth looked perfectly comfortable in the black cape with white fur along the collar.

The Philadelphia Flyers' goalie enjoyed wearing the rather hideous garment, which also featured bright sequins on the sleeve proclaiming him the player of the game.

Neuvirth made 33 saves and Brandon Manning broke a scoreless tie with a second-period goal to lead Philadelphia over the St. Louis Blues 2-0 on Thursday night.

The Flyers started a tradition this season, forcing their top player each night to wear the cape during postgame interviews.

"It doesn't look that bad," Neuvirth said. "Anyway, I'm happy to get to wear it."

Neuvirth, making his fifth start this season, earned his 11th career shutout and first since Nov. 7, 2015.

"They put a lot of pucks (on me) early," Neuvirth said. "I just found my game. And the guys stepped up and really blocked a lot of shots."

Claude Giroux added an empty-net goal with six seconds left in Philadelphia's first shutout of the season.

St. Louis lost at home for the first time after opening 5-0. The Blues were the only team in the league that hadn't been beaten at home.

Neuvirth, who serves as a backup to Brian Elliott, made his first start in a week and picked up his first win since Oct. 17.

Captials 4, Islanders 3: Lars Eller scored two goals, including the winner, and had an assist to lead host Washington past New York.

Braden Holtby made 35 saves, including many in the third while the Islanders were pouring it on. Taylor Chorney and Alex Chiasson each scored his first goal of the season for the Capitals.

Bruins 2, Golden Knights 1:

Sean Kuraly scored his first career goal to snap a tie midway through the third period, lifting host Boston over Vegas.

Cody Eakin scored for Vegas, which fell to 0-3 on a six-game road trip out East.

Jets 5, Stars 2: Mark Scheifele had hat trick, Patrik Laine scored his first goal in five games and host Winnipeg beat Dallas to extend its points streak to six games.

Wild 6, Canadiens 3: Matt Cullen scored his first goal of the season on his 41st birthday and added an assist during his team's three-goal first period, giving sputtering Minnesota a welcome spark in a victory over visiting Montreal.

Blue Jackets 7, Panthers 3: Oliver Bjorkstrand and Josh Anderson each scored twice to lift visiting Columbus over Florida.

Rangers 2, Lightning 1 (OT): J.T. Miller scored 1:19 into overtime and visiting New York beat Tampa Bay.

Senators 3, Red Wings 1: Mark Stone had a goal and an assist and Craig Anderson made 24 saves to lead host Ottawa past Detroit.

Avalanche 5, Hurricanes 3: Semyon Varlamov stopped a career-high 57 shots, Blake Comeau scored the first of his team's three second-period goals over a 3:33 span and host Colorado beat Carolina.

Flames 2, Penguins 1 (OT): Mark Giordano scored 2:19 into overtime, Mike Smith made 43 saves and host Calgary edged Pittsburgh.

Sabres 5, Coyotes 4: Benoit Pouliot had two goals and an assist as visiting Buffalo held off Arizona.

Kings 5, Maple Leafs 3: Tyler Toffoli scored twice, Michael Amadio got his first NHL goal and host Los Angeles topped Toronto for its eighth victory in 10 games.

NBA roundup

Golden State routs beat-up San Antonio

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry are already thinking about Golden State's postseason possibilities.

The Warriors' slow start could be a byproduct of that early daydreaming.

Klay Thompson scored 27 points, Durant had 24 and the Warriors overcame a lethargic first half to beat injury-riddled San Antonio 112-92 on Thursday night, handing the Spurs their fourth straight loss.

Curry added 21 points for Golden State in its first meeting against San Antonio since sweeping the Western Conference finals en route to the NBA title.

"Me and (Durant) were talking about it on the bench tonight," Curry said. "It is tough to still be Nov. 1st or 2nd and be looking forward to April, May, June. But having gone through the experience last year and three years ago and understanding what it takes to win a championship, it's kind of cliché, but every game you can learn a little bit something about yourself and continue to build great habits to get there."

Trail Blazers 113, Lakers 110: Damian Lillard made a three-pointer with 0.7 seconds left and host Portland extended its winning streak over Los Angeles to 13 games.

Lillard finished with 32 points, and Portland snapped a two-game skid. Jusuf Nurkic added 28 points for Portland.

Brook Lopez had 27 points and rookie Kyle Kuzma added a season-high 22 for the Lakers, who were short-handed after Larry Nance Jr. injured his left hand in the second half. Fellow rookie Lonzo Ball was 0-for-2 from the field with no points, four assists and three rebounds.