

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Marine colonel arrested in Fla. prostitution sting

BY STEPHEN CARLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Marine colonel on temporary assignment at U.S. Central Command was arrested in Florida on Saturday attempting to solicit sex from an undercover cop working as part of a prostitution sting, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Col. Kevin Scott, 51, was arrested after "soliciting sexual intercourse with a condom for \$80," said Brian Bruchey, a public information officer for the Polk County Sheriff's Office. He was released on \$500 bond. Scott is assigned to CENTCOM headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa to coordinate training missions.

Scott, now a logistics officer, entered the Marine Corps in 1984 and was assigned to Joint Staff Suffolk, Va., according to published reports.

Bruchey said Scott solicited sex from an undercover detective who was operating as part of a sting called "Operation No Tricks No Treats," meant to sweep up suspects seeking prostitution and human trafficking operations. The sweep netted 277 suspects, according to Bruchey.

Bruchey said Scott initially posted an advertisement on Backpage.com seeking a prostitute. Police spotted the ad and had an undercover detective respond and wait to meet Scott before making the arrest. The colonel was driving a car leased by the federal government when the arrest was made Saturday about 11:30 p.m.

A police sergeant with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, now relieved, was also arrested.

The arrests in the sting resulted in 36 felony and 298 misdemeanor charges with more to follow, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

The sting was designed specifically to target online prostitution and potential human trafficking. Police placed ads on websites and social media to draw potential suspects while also targeting ads already in place.

At least 51 prostitutes advertising online have been arrested along with solicitors, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

## Honoring war dead is now a political fight for Trump

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — After her Army son died in an armored vehicle rollover in Syria in May, Sheila Murphy says, she got no call or letter from President Donald Trump, even as she waited months for his condolences, wrote to him to say "some days I don't want to live," and still heard nothing.

In contrast, Trump called to comfort Eddie and Aldene Lee about 10 days after their Army son was killed in an explosion while on patrol in Iraq in April. "Lovely young man," Trump said, according to Aldene. She thought that was a beautiful word to hear about her boy, "lovely."

Like presidents before him, Trump has made personal contact with some families of the fallen. What's different is that Trump, alone among them, has picked a political fight over who's done better to honor the war dead and their families.

He placed himself at the top of this pantheon, boasting Tuesday that "I think I've called every family of someone who's died" while past presidents didn't place calls.

The Associated Press found relatives of four soldiers who died overseas during Trump's presidency who said they never received calls from him. Relatives of two also confirmed they did not get letters. Proof is plentiful that Barack Obama and George W. Bush — saddled with far more combat casualties than the roughly two dozen so far under Trump, took painstaking steps to write, call or meet bereaved military families.

The subject arose because nearly two weeks passed before Trump called the families of four U.S. soldiers who were recently killed in Niger. He made the calls Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Rep. Frederica Wilson said late Tuesday that Trump told the widow of a slain soldier that he "knew what he signed up for." Early Wednesday, the president called Wilson's version of the conversation a fabrication.

The Florida Democrat said she was in the car with Myeshia Johnson on the way to Miami International Airport to meet the body of Johnson's husband, Sgt. La David Johnson, when Trump called. Wilson says she heard part of the conversation on speakerphone.

When asked by Miami TV station WPLG

if she indeed heard Trump say that she answered: "Yeah, he said that. To me, that is something that you can say in a conversation, but you shouldn't say that to a grieving widow. That's so insensitive."

Trump took strong issue with that recounting early Wednesday. "Democrat Congresswoman totally fabricated what I said to the wife of a soldier who died in action (and I have proof). Sad!" he said on Twitter.

Johnson was among four servicemen killed in the Niger ambush. Wilson said that she didn't hear the entire conversation and Myeshia Johnson told her she couldn't remember everything that was said.

La David Johnson's mother, Cowanda Jones-Johnson, told the AP on Wednesday that the congresswoman's account was correct. "Yes the statement is true," she said. "I was in the car and I heard the full conversation."

Trump's delay in publicly discussing the men lost in Niger did not appear to be extraordinary, judging from past examples, but his politicization of the matter is. He went so far Tuesday as to cite the death of chief of staff John Kelly's son in Afghanistan to question whether Obama had properly honored the war dead. Kelly was a Marine general under Obama when his Marine son Robert died in 2010. "You could ask General Kelly, did he get a call from Obama?" Trump said on Fox News radio.

Democrats and some former government officials were livid, accusing Trump of "inane cruelty" and a "sick game."

Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, an Iraq veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was attacked, said, "I just wish that this commander in chief would stop using Gold Star families as pawns in whatever sick game he's trying to play here."

Gold Star families told the AP of acts of intimate kindness from Obama and Bush when those commanders in chief consoled them.

Trump initially claimed that only he among presidents made sure to call families. Obama may have done so on occasion, he said, but "other presidents did not call."

He equivocated Tuesday as the record made plain his characterization was false. But he said his own practice was to call all families of the war dead. That hasn't happened.



## Discipline set in Lake Champlain collision

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The commander of a U.S. warship that collided with a South Korean fishing vessel last spring was disciplined along with several members of his crew, the Navy revealed Tuesday.

There were no injuries when the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain collided with the 60- to 70-foot-long fishing boat east of the Korean Peninsula on May 9. The warship was able to finish its 5½-month deployment, and Capt. Chris Cegielski, in charge of the warship during the collision, kept his job until last month when he handed command to Capt. Jen Ellinger.

However, “administrative and disciplinary actions” were taken against Cegielski, his executive officer and several members of the Lake Champlain’s watch team after the crash, U.S. Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman said in an email.

Results of an accident investigation, which concluded in June, won’t be released to the public pending litigation, she said.

The mishap was one of several accidents involving U.S. warships in the Pacific this year.

# Marines say Super Stallions safe, resume Okinawa flights

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps resumed CH-53E Super Stallion flights on Okinawa on Wednesday despite Japanese officials’ calls to ground the legacy heavy-lift helicopters over safety concerns.

No one was injured Oct. 11 when a Super Stallion from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing caught fire during routine training and was forced to land in a farmer’s field just outside the Northern Training Area, Marine officials said. The aircraft then burst into flames, resulting in more than \$2 million in damage.

A 96-hour operational pause for all Okinawa-based Super Stallions was declared on Oct. 12.

Okinawa-based Super Stallions were deemed safe to fly this week by U.S. aviation experts after a thorough review of maintenance records, including maintenance practices, actions, technical directives and periodic inspections, Marine officials said in a statement. Experts from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Naval Safety Center contrib-

uted to the decision.

“We are committed to the safety of flight for all USMC aviation assets in Japan. We take the safety of our aircrews and the citizens of Okinawa seriously,” Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commander of Marine Corps Forces Japan and III Marine Expeditionary Force, said in the statement.

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Wednesday morning that a briefing given to Self-Defense Force representatives the previous evening was not enough to dispel fears over the aircraft’s safety.

Onodera said he would continue to seek an explanation from the U.S. military.

U.S. military officials said they were working closely with the Japanese government and would share details of the incident as they became available.

Last week’s incident caused anxiety among residents of the tiny island prefecture who often recall deadly crashes of U.S. military aircraft in the decades following World War II and near misses like the CH-53D Sea Stallion that crashed on the campus of Okinawa International University in 2004. Residents were already upset over an MV-22

Osprey crash last December in shallow water just off Camp Schwab and a deadly Osprey crash off the Australian coast in August when the latest mishap occurred.

The incident led to small-scale protests last week and calls for U.S. military helipads to be shuttered in the Northern Training Area. The Okinawa prefectural assembly unanimously passed a protest resolution Monday.

“It is abominable and cannot be accepted that the U.S. Forces have forcibly resumed flight operations by unilaterally notifying that the flight operations will be resumed without explaining the investigation of the cause and preventative measures,” Okinawa’s anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga said in a Wednesday statement.

Onaga said Okinawa prefecture has asked the U.S. military to cease all CH-53E operations until a thorough investigation into the mishap is conducted and those results are released to the public, along with any preventative measures being taken. He also criticized the Japanese government for ultimately allowing the flights.

## Nuclear attack submarine USS South Dakota christened

*The Hartford (Conn.) Courant*

The USS South Dakota, the ninth Virginia-class submarine built by General Dynamics Electric Boat for the U.S. Navy, was unveiled and christened in Groton, Conn., on Saturday.

The nuclear attack submarine, which will have a crew of about 130 people, was built in the early stages of a massive ramping-up for Electric Boat, which operates

a shipyard in Groton and a design and engineering facility in New London. U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, one of several Connecticut officials who participated in Saturday’s christening, called it a “renaissance area of growth and innovation” for the town.

Nine years ago, Electric Boat’s facilities in Groton and Quonset Point, R.I., were producing just one submarine a year, he said.

Since then, Electric Boat’s

workforce has grown from fewer than 10,000 people to 16,000. The company also is planning to modernize its Groton and Rhode Island shipyards and hire another 2,000 people to help develop the next generation of nuclear submarines, Electric Boat President Jeff Geiger said Saturday.

Six more Virginia-class ships are under construction as part of a contract for 28 ships, shared with Newport News Shipbuild-

ing. The South Dakota was the 17th Virginia-class ship to be completed.

Electric Boat is preparing for its next Navy contract, a \$5.1 billion award to design and build the lead submarine in the new Columbia class, a ship that will be nearly three times bigger than the South Dakota, which can displace about 7,700 tons of water.

# Allies practice missile defense

By SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. Navy and its allies defended themselves against incoming missiles during a monthlong exercise in the north Atlantic Ocean that ended Tuesday, sending a readiness message in light of a more assertive Russia and a growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

Formidable Shield 2017 brought together 10 countries off the Scottish Hebrides isles to improve the teamwork of NATO's missile defense at sea and demonstrate the accuracy of ship anti-missile systems.

The exercise represented NATO's first full-scale, naval missile-defense exercise. The allies held a missile defense demonstration in the area two years ago.

A main objective was training NATO countries to work tightly as a team with missile defense, which has little margin for error, the Navy said.

"Unlike mission areas like anti-submarine warfare, NATO ships do not have decades of experience operating together"

on missile defense, said Paul James, senior war gaming analyst at the Naval War College.

Working together on the tactical and technical facets of missile defense is crucial given the worldwide proliferation of ballistic missiles, James said.

This was NATO's first "no-notice" anti-missile exercise at sea. Ships received no warning when missiles were launched, so the crews could practice reacting as they would in combat.

It was also the first time NATO organized an anti-missile flotilla while using "smart defense," a concept developed to encourage nations to specialize in their strengths, particularly amid tightening military budgets on the Continent.

The concept played out during the exercise with warships shooting down cruise and ballistic missiles while other ships in the group guarded them.

"By using the smart defense concept and pooling our resources, we can maintain our competitive edge in the maritime environment," said Vice Adm. Christopher Grady, 6th Fleet commander.

Ships from Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and the U.S. fired a total of 11 times at target missiles, including supersonic ballistic missiles launched on Tuesday.

The Navy doesn't typically name countries that it plans exercises around; however, the U.S. military in Europe is increasingly focused on near-peer adversaries after years of preparing for counterinsurgency conflicts in the Middle East.

Many analysts have singled out Russia as the largest threat to European stability because of its proximity, missile capability and aggressive actions, such as annexing Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014.

"It doesn't mean NATO is all about Russia, but Russia is the primary state-based threat that NATO countries worry about," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general at Royal United Services Institute in London.

Analysts also said that the exercise, with its spectacular show of destroying launched missiles, could be partly intended to deter North Korea.

# Lawmakers look for end of road in Russia probes

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As congressional investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 elections wear on in the Capitol, some lawmakers are starting to wonder when — and how — the probes will end.

After months of clandestine interviews and a few public, partisan committee clashes, some Republicans on the House intelligence panel have been pushing for their probe to wrap up by the end of the year.

And Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., is signaling he wants his more bipartisan investigation to finish in the next several months, before the 2018 elections get into full swing and the Russians have a chance to again interfere.

It's still unclear whether the congressional committees looking into the interference will come to firm conclusions about whether President Donald Trump's campaign was involved, or if they have found any direct evidence of any collaboration with Russia. Those involved say it's too early to know if they will be able to issue bipartisan reports and whether those reports will have firm conclusions or just be a series of findings.

With no ability to conduct criminal investigations and difficulty in getting some witnesses to appear, the panels could leave some of the more controversial assessments to special counsel Robert Mueller, who is also investigating the meddling and the question of whether Trump's campaign was involved.

Mueller has the ability to prosecute, and Congress must refer any criminal findings to him.

Trump made his views clear, again, at a Monday news conference, saying "the whole Russian thing" is an excuse for Democrats who lost the presidential election.

# Judge cites same issues in halting travel ban

*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — A federal judge in Hawaii blocked most of President Donald Trump's latest travel ban Tuesday just hours before it was set to take effect, saying the revised order "suffers from precisely the same maladies as its predecessor."

It was the third set of travel restrictions issued by the president to be thwarted, in whole or in part, by the courts.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson issued the ruling after the ban on a set of mostly Muslim countries was challenged by the state of Hawaii, which warned that the restrictions would separate families and undermine the recruiting of diverse college students.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the ruling "dangerously flawed" and said it "undercuts the president's efforts to keep the American people safe." The Justice Department said it will quickly appeal.

At issue was a ban, announced in September and set to go into effect early Wednesday, on travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with some Venezuelan

government officials and their families.

The Trump administration said the ban was based on an assessment of each country's security situation and willingness to share information with the U.S.

Watson, appointed to the bench by President Barack Obama, said the new restrictions ignore a federal appeals court ruling against Trump's previous ban.

The latest version "plainly discriminates based on nationality in the manner that the 9th Circuit has found antithetical to ... the founding principles of this nation," Watson wrote.

The judge's ruling applies only to the six Muslim-majority countries on the list. It does not affect the restrictions against North Korea or Venezuela, because Hawaii did not ask for that.

His Tuesday ruling said the new ban, like its predecessor, fails to show that nationality alone makes a person a greater security risk to the U.S.

The judge said he would set an expedited hearing to determine whether the temporary restraining order blocking the ban should be extended. It comes as other courts weigh challenges to the ban.



# McCain blocks Defense picks over strategy for Afghan War

BY RICHARD LARDNER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the influential Senate Armed Services Committee said Tuesday he'll hold up President Donald Trump's nominees for key Defense Department posts until the administration delivers details about its new strategy for the war in Afghanistan.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said his committee needs the particulars in order to properly outfit the armed forces with training and equipment.

"If we don't get the information we need, we can't do that," he told reporters.

McCain said the Trump administration acts as though Congress isn't a co-equal branch of government, "and that they don't have to respond to what the Constitution says."

Trump in August outlined in broad strokes his plan for Afghanistan, declaring that American troops would "fight to win" by attacking enemies, "crushing" al-Qaida and preventing terrorist attacks against Americans. As part of

the plan, the Pentagon is boosting troop numbers by about 3,500, augmenting the roughly 11,000 Americans currently stationed there.

What remains unclear to the committee, according to McCain, is how this modest increase in troop strength can turn the tide in Afghanistan when that goal couldn't be achieved with tens of thousands of U.S. forces.

Trump also said the U.S. would shift from a "time-based" approach, instead linking its assistance to results and to cooperation from the beleaguered Afghan government, Pakistan and others. McCain said he wants to know what those conditions are. He also is seeking answers for how and when Trump would accomplish his goal of a political settlement in Afghanistan that includes elements of the Taliban.

McCain said he has great respect for Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and doesn't "want any differences between us." But he said the flow of information between his committee and the Pentagon on important military issues was better dur-

ing the Obama administration, when Ash Carter served as the top civilian official at the Defense Department.

"We may not have agreed, but there was a lot of communications," McCain said of Carter.

A Senate website shows 17 Defense Department nominations before the committee that could be affected by the impasse. Among them are Mark Esper, the nominee for Army secretary; Joseph Kernan, the nominee for undersecretary of defense for intelligence; and Robert Wilkie, the nominee for undersecretary of personnel and readiness.

"I have no idea, nor do I care," McCain said when he was asked how many nominees are being delayed.

McCain is making exceptions, however. The Senate late last month confirmed Gen. Joseph Dunford for a second term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after McCain's committee approved the nomination. And on Tuesday the Senate confirmed David Trachtenberg to be principal deputy undersecretary of defense.

## White man indicted for hate crime in slaying

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A white man was indicted Tuesday on a hate crime charge for allegedly stabbing a black college student to death "because of his race," a Maryland prosecutor said.

Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks announced the grand jury indictment against Sean Urbanski at a news conference in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Richard Collins III was stabbed to death on May 20 at the University of Maryland, days before he was set to graduate from Bowie State University. He had just been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Authorities analyzed "lots and lots of digital evidence," including evidence from Urbanski's phone and computer data, Alsobrooks said.

"There was lots of digital evidence that we could look at to get a sense for the motive in this case," Alsobrooks said, though she declined to elaborate.

Collins, 23, was visiting friends at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland when the stabbing happened.

Authorities quickly focused on the possibility that the slaying was a hate crime because Urbanski became a member of a racist Facebook group several months before the stabbing.

Officials said Collins was with two friends near a campus bus stop about 3 a.m. when they heard Urbanski screaming and watched him approach. Urbanski said, "Step left, step left if you know what's best for you," according to the charging documents. Collins said "no" before Urbanski stabbed him once in the chest, the documents said.

Urbanski, 22, has been held on a murder charge since the stabbing.

William Brennan, Urbanski's attorney, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

## Thousands rally in Somalia after truck blast that killed hundreds

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Thousands of people took to the streets of Somalia's capital Wednesday in a show of defiance after the country's deadliest attack as officials shared a detailed account of how Saturday's truck bombing that killed more than 300 was carried out. They said two people have been arrested.

Wearing red headbands, the crowd of mostly young men and women marched through Mogadishu amid tight security.

They answered a call to unity by Mayor Thabit Abdi, who said "we must liberate this city which is awash with graves."

Some in Somalia have called the bombing their 9/11, while asking why one of the world's deadliest attacks in years hasn't drawn the kind of global at-

tention given to extremist assaults elsewhere.

Another nearly 400 were wounded. Scores remain missing.

"You can kill us, but not our spirit and desire for peace," said high school teacher Zainab Muse. "May Allah punish those who massacred our people," said university student Mohamed Salad.

It was not all peaceful.

At least three people were injured after security forces opened fire while trying to disperse protesters marching toward the attack site, said police Capt. Mohammed Hussein. Both Somali police and African Union soldiers were at the scene and opened fire, he said.

Somalia's government has blamed Saturday's attack on the al-Shabab extremist group, which often targets Mogadishu but has not commented.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Escaped cubs' curiosity leads to their capture

**SD** RAPID CITY — Two bear cubs that went on the lam from the Bear Country USA wildlife park attraction in western South Dakota didn't get far, due in part to their own curiosity.

The Rapid City Journal reported a man spotted the cubs lollygagging in his neighbor's yard about a block away from Bear Country on Sunday evening.

Pennington County Sheriff's Deputy Kylie Kintigh responded to the scene and kept the cubs in check until park workers could come round them up.

Kintigh said, "It definitely was the best call I have had — and that might stand true to the end of my career."

## Attorney: Tax schemer is too obese for prison

**FL** TAMPA — The attorney for a Florida man who was convicted in a tax scheme is using obesity to try to keep his client out of prison.

Curtis Fallgatter wrote in a court filing on Monday that Stephen Donaldson Sr., 72, doesn't have an average man's life expectancy because he's 5-foot-9 and weighs 273 pounds. For that reason, the attorney wrote, it's not right to make him serve six years and four months in prison. The Tampa Bay Times reported Donaldson was sentenced last week in Tampa for his part of peddling an offshore tax shelter that cost the IRS an estimated \$10 million.

## Authorities rescue man who fell into sinkhole

**CA** SAN BERNARDINO — Authorities said a 75-year-old California man was rescued after falling into a

sinkhole.

The San Bernardino Sun reported the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said neighbors, sheriff's deputies and Apple Valley firefighters rescued Dennis Love on Sunday after the ground became unstable around the faulty septic system that authorities say caused the sinkhole. A news release said dirt, rocks and debris fell onto Love, and an emergency medical technician fell into the hole and was pulled to safety by a deputy who caught him by his belt.

## Police: Man sprayed brown liquid on produce

**SC** CHARLESTON — A man is accused of spraying a foul-smelling brown liquid on produce at a grocery store in South Carolina, telling police the store owed him money.

Charleston police spokesman Charles Francis said Pau Hang, 41, was arrested Sunday afternoon at a Harris Teeter.

A police report said the manager called 911 after seeing Hang in the store. Hang has been told to stay away for two years. Police said the manager saw Hang empty a bottle with a brown liquid and a bad odor on the produce.

Hang is charged with damage to personal property and trespassing after notice.

## Horse is welcome at this pet-friendly motel

**KY** GEORGETOWN — A Canadian horse has had the opportunity to watch television for the first time at a pet-friendly Kentucky motel.

Lindsey Partridge, of Ontario, Canada, told The Lexington Herald-Leader she stopped to check in Oct. 4 at the Super 8 in Georgetown on her way to compete in the Retired Racehorse

Project's Thoroughbred Make-over competition.

Partridge said she received approval when she jokingly inquired if the motel's pet-friendly policy would apply to her horse.

Partridge made a video of Blizz, a retired Thoroughbred mare who raced as Here Comes Adri.

Partridge said she then took Blizz and her two other horses to Kentucky Horse Park, the local equine motel of choice.

## Wild turkey flies into orthodontics office

**RI** CRANSTON — An orthodontics office in Rhode Island received an unexpected patient in their waiting room — a wild turkey that crashed through the office window.

Pezza Orthodontics in Cranston said in a Facebook post they thought the office had been robbed when they found the windows broken Monday.

Staff quickly figured out what happened when they saw a wild turkey on a waiting room chair.

The office said the glass has since been cleared and the room disinfected.

## Kids hurt as wind sends bounce house airborne

**NY** WHEATFIELD — Authorities said several children and a 76-year-old woman were treated for injuries received when a wind gust sent a bounce house airborne at a western New York event.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office said the inflatable structure was set up at a corn maze Sunday when a strong gust of wind lifted it into the air and blew it about 50 feet.

Deputies said several children inside the bounce house suffered minor injuries. A woman standing next to it was

dragged about 20 feet. She was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

## 1800s letters found among stolen items

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Detectives are searching for the rightful owners of letters dating to the 1800s and other old items found among what they said were heaps of stolen property in a California storage unit.

Sacramento County sheriff's officials said the memorabilia includes an edition of Vermont's Rutland Herald newspaper published in 1945, reporting the death of Adolf Hitler. A 1963 Sacramento Bee newspaper announces the death of President John F. Kennedy.

## 2 accused bank robbers suspected in a third try

**PA** TANNERSVILLE — Two women charged with robbing a pair of New Jersey banks are also suspected of trying to rob a bank in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains while dressed as nuns.

Swahilys Pedraza-Rodriguez, 19, of New Haven, Conn., and Melisa Aquino Arias, 23, of the Dominican Republic, appeared before a judge in Newark, N.J., on Monday. They're charged with robbing banks in Garfield and Teaneck, N.J., while one or both wore head scarves.

The Garfield heist was Sept. 27. The Teaneck heist was Sunday, when the women were arrested.

Law enforcement officials say the women are also suspected in an attempted robbery of the Citizens Bank in Tannersville, Pa., on Aug. 28. Those robbers were dressed as nuns and ran away without money after an alarm was triggered.

From wire reports

# STARS AND STRIPES

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# Celtics lose Hayward in opening loss

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Gordon Hayward's face was etched in pain and shock.

Of all the juicy subplots for this hyped homecoming and a season opener between heated rivals, a serious injury to Hayward wasn't on the list.

Boston's season changed in a gruesome instant Tuesday night.

Hayward, one of the new Celtics who was going to help them close the gap on Cleveland, broke his left ankle just five minutes into his debut, and Boston was beaten 102-99 on Tuesday night by LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

Hayward's horrific injury overshadowed Kyrie Irving's return to Cleveland and redirected Boston's immediate future and potential.

After the 27-year-old was wheeled from Quicken Loans Arena on a stretcher, offering a thumbs-up on his way to the ambulance, the Celtics rallied but came up short.

The outcome, though, hardly mattered.

"You hurt for him," Celtics

coach Brad Stevens said of Hayward, his former star at Butler. "It's a tough, tough deal, but I guess that's part of the risk of injury. I really feel for him."

James scored 29 points — 13 in the fourth quarter — in his most extensive action in three weeks because of a sprained left ankle. The superstar also fed Kevin Love for a critical three-pointer with 46.3 seconds left to put the Cavs up 102-98.

Irving, who asked to be traded this past summer after six seasons in Cleveland, had a chance to tie it with a three-pointer at the horn but his shot was short. As the crowd exhaled, Irving shared a warm handshake and embrace with James, his teammate for three seasons and the one he wanted to get away from by demanding a trade.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Irving 22 and 10 assists for the Celtics, who overcame an 18-point deficit in the third and led with 2:04 left.

Hayward, who signed a four-year, \$128 million free-agent contract with the Celtics this past summer, was bumped by James while trying to catch an

alley-oop pass with 6:45 left in the first quarter. The forward's leg got twisted underneath him as he came back to the floor and snapped his ankle grotesquely, his foot pointing awkwardly to one side.

The 27-year-old sat up, looked at his foot and yelled while some players covered their mouths and others turned their heads.

James said seeing Hayward get hurt reminded him of grisly injuries to Paul George, Shaun Livingston and Louisville's Kevin Ware.

"My thoughts and prayers go out to Gordon's family. Hope for a speedy recovery, a healthy recovery," James said. "Those are the injuries that you never see coming, you never want to happen, no matter who it is, no matter what the stature, no matter how much competitive nature that you have. It's just very unfortunate."

Hayward's injury changed the tenor of the highly anticipated matchup, and will alter the direction of Boston's season. Hayward will require surgery and need months to recover.

Stevens said Hayward will be taken directly to the hospital in Boston once the Celtics' plane lands.

The Celtics were understandably shaken at halftime, and went to the locker room down 16.

However, they battled back and were leading 98-97 when James, who only played in one exhibition after spraining his ankle on Sept. 27, spun in the lane and made a layup to put Cleveland up by one.

On Boston's next possession, James cut off Marcus Smart and deflected the ball off the guard's leg and out of bounds.

James then made a cross-court pass to a wide-open Love, who drained his three to give the Cavs a four-point cushion.

"I just found a familiar face and Kevin was in the right place at the right time," James said.

Irving's free throw made it 102-99, and the Celtics had two late chances but both Brown and Irving missed late threes.

Love had 15 and Derrick Rose 14 in his debut for the Cavs.

## Rockets edge defending champion Warriors in opener

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Confetti began to fall and the Golden State Warriors thought they had pulled off a wild opening-night win.

The Houston Rockets emphatically signaled otherwise — insisting that Kevin Durant's baseline jumper had left his hands after the buzzer.

After one official got hurt, two remaining referees reviewed the play and ruled the Rockets had escaped with a 122-121 victory Tuesday on the night the Warriors received their championship rings.

"I thought it had a chance but I knew it was a little late. I knew I was cutting it close," Durant said. "Tough loss. First game of 82; we've definitely got to move

on. We've got to get better."

The Warriors got the ball for one final chance with 10.6 seconds left and Durant came up with the ball after Stephen Curry had missed.

"I didn't think it counted," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "When I saw it, it looked to me like it was a little late. Didn't surprise me it was overturned."

Trevor Ariza's three-pointer with 2:09 remaining pulled Houston within 119-118 then Patrick McCaw hit a baseline jumper immediately after Golden State's timeout. James Harden made a layup and PJ Tucker hit two free throws with 44.1 to make it 122-121.

Nick Young came off the bench to hit six three-pointers and score 23 points in a bril-

liant Warriors debut, Curry scored 22 points and Durant had 20 after a slow start. Klay Thompson added 16 points.

Chris Paul had four points on 2-for-9 shooting in his Rockets debut, while Harden scored 27 points, Eric Gordon 24 and Tucker 20 for the Rockets. Houston opened the fourth with a 9-0 run to get back in it.

"It's very encouraging to be able to beat a great team like that on a huge night for them," Anderson said.

The Warriors found their rhythm early but couldn't close it out after an abbreviated pre-season in terms of practice time given their recent trip to China for a pair of games against Minnesota.

Draymond Green exited in the second half with a strained

left knee after he contributed nine points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds.

"When we're lacking conditioning like we are right now you have to have your high-energy guys," Kerr said. "It doesn't matter what it's because of, we just have to get in better shape."

Still, this opener was a far cry for the forgettable 129-100 defeat at home to San Antonio in Durant's Warriors debut a year ago when Golden State came off a record 73-win season and runner-up finish to Cleveland in the 2016 Finals.

"I just remember the last game of the season we played," Durant said of the Game 5 Finals clincher in June.

# Dodgers take 3-0 lead against Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Los Angeles Dodgers have a tough lineup, a talented pitching staff and a manager making all the right moves.

Yup, it's beginning to look a lot like 1988.

Yu Darvish pitched sparkling ball into the seventh inning, Chris Taylor homered again and the Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1 on Tuesday night to open a 3-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Andre Ethier also went deep and Taylor added an RBI triple in the fifth as Los Angeles improved to 6-0 in this postseason, setting a franchise record for consecutive playoff wins. Yasiel Puig had two more hits in another entertaining performance that included an impressive bat flip — on a long foul ball in the first inning.

"The focus has certainly been heightened in the postseason," manager Dave Roberts said.

Looking for a four-game sweep and their 22nd pennant, the Dodgers were going to send Alex Wood to the mound Wednesday night at Wrigley Field with a chance to reach the World Series for the first time since Hall

of Famer Tommy Lasorda managed Kirk Gibson, Orel Hershiser and Co. to the club's last championship 29 years ago.

"I think we've won four games in a row before," Chicago slugger Kris Bryant said. "Obviously, it's going to be a tougher road. But it'll make the story that much better. Can you imagine that?"

Los Angeles was eliminated by Chicago in the NLCS last year, but this is a different group of Dodgers. Their patient lineup is coming up big in key spots and the pitching staff is much deeper, especially since Darvish was acquired in a trade with Texas in the final minutes before the July 31 deadline.

Not even a return to Wrigley could get the Cubs back on track after a rough stay in Los Angeles. Chicago manager Joe Maddon juggled his lineup, inserting Kyle Schwarber into the No. 2 slot and benching slumping second baseman Javier Baez, but the defending World Series champions were shut down by another Dodgers starter and more stellar relief from the NL West champions.

"I really didn't change much approach-wise from first inning until the end of the game," Darvish said through a translator.

"I just kept pitching the same way."

Making their third straight appearance in the NLCS, the weary Cubs also hurt themselves with a couple of big mistakes. Carl Edwards Jr. walked Darvish on four pitches with the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth, continuing a rocky postseason for the reliever and leading to a round of boos from a frustrated crowd of 41,871.

A passed ball brought home another run in the eighth, and pinch hitter Kyle Farmer hit a sacrifice fly to make it 6-1.

Darvish departed after striking out Addison Russell in the seventh, pausing for congratulations from his whole infield before heading to the dugout. The Japanese right-hander allowed six hits, including Schwarber's first-inning homer, in his second career playoff win — both this year. He struck out seven and walked one.

Tony Watson got two outs, Brandon Morrow worked the eighth and Kenley Jansen closed it out after Ross Stripling gave up two hits in the ninth. With Roberts pushing the right buttons, Los Angeles' bullpen has yet to allow a run in the series.

"I think everybody's just been attacking," Morrow said. "That's the No. 1 thing."

# Judge helps fuel Yankees' rally to tie ALCS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a soaring shot headed for Monument Park, Aaron Judge got New York back on course for another memorable October.

Judge ignited a comeback with a home run, then hit a tying double during a four-run eighth inning to spur the Yankees over the Houston Astros 6-4 Tuesday night and level the AL Championship Series 2-2.

The Baby Bombers trailed 4-0 against starter Lance McCullers Jr. until Judge homered leading off the seventh. He tied it with a line drive that nearly left the park in the eighth and scored when Gary Sanchez hit a go-ahead two-run double off loser Ken Giles.

"I didn't know what to do after I touched home plate," Judge said. "I can't describe it."

The Yankees overcame three errors and have rallied from a second straight 0-2 series deficit — they beat Cleveland in the Division Series by winning

three in a row to take that best-of-five matchup.

Aroldis Chapman struck out two in a perfect ninth to cap a three-hitter and get the save. Before a sellout crowd of 48,804, New York improved to 5-0 at home in the playoffs and won for the 18th time in its last 21 home games.

"Every home game has been special," manager Joe Girardi said. "I just feel like the fans are back. And I see things that I haven't in a while, and it reminds me a lot of when I was playing here."

Yankee Stadium will be rocking again when Masahiro Tanaka pitches for New York against Dallas Keuchel in Game 5 Wednesday. It's a rematch of the series opener, when Keuchel outdid the Japanese right-hander in a 2-1 Astros win.

An AL MVP candidate mired in a sluggish October, Judge sparked the Yankees by chasing McCullers, who baffled the Yankees with his power break-

ing ball.

Except for the last one.

Judge launched a curveball into the netting above center field's Monument Park for New York's second hit.

"I thought Aaron's home run just lit a little spark," Girardi said.

Houston manager A.J. Hinch pulled McCullers after 81 pitches, Didi Gregorius tripled off Chris Devenski and Sanchez brought Gregorius in with a sacrifice fly.

Todd Frazier led off the eighth with a single to left, and pinch-hitter Chase Headley, in a 1-for-18 postseason slide, singled. He lost his balance stepping on first, fell en route to second, then took a step back before continuing on and getting his left hand in ahead of Jose Altuve's tag.

"Just stumbled and stumbled and stumbled and finally went down," Headley said. "I went from one of the best feelings of my career to one of the worst in

just a matter of seconds."

Headley was awarded second after a video review, and the ballpark boomed when crew chief Gary Cederstrom gave the signal. It got so loud that on-deck hitter Brett Gardner said he "kind of blacked out for a second."

Gardner brought in Frazier on a groundout, and Judge came to bat with the bundled, buzzing crowd on its feet.

He lunged for a low slider and drilled a double high off the left-field wall as a fan in a long-sleeved yellow shirt reached down and touched the ball. Pinch-runner Jacoby Ellsbury came home with the tying run, and Gregorius grounded a single just beyond shortstop Carlos Correa's reach to put runners at the corner. Sanchez, who had been 0-for-13 in the series, scored them both with a slicing drive that skipped to the wall in right-center.

"Those guys came up big for us today," Girardi said.



# Chiefs aim to stretch division streak

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs have played nearly a season's worth of games against the AFC West without a loss, dominating one of the toughest divisions in football with ruthless efficiency.

They've figured out a way to solve their nemesis, the Broncos. They've found a solution to their hated rival, the Raiders. They've certainly had their way with the also-rans, the Chargers.

Good luck trying to explain how they've done it.

"I wish I could tell you," quarterback Alex Smith said, when asked about the string of 12 straight division wins, which the Chiefs hope to push to 13 when they visit Oakland on Thursday night.

"I wish I had the secret," he said. "I'm sure it's a ton of things. It's ultimately about the 53 guys. It's about us scratching and fighting and clawing for the

smallest of little victories that end up being the difference to winning these games, because the margins are so small."

Well, not so small against the Raiders.

The Chiefs have won five straight and seven of their last eight against Oakland, and those five most recent haven't been particularly close. Only one of them has been decided by less than a touchdown, and that was a 23-17 victory in January 2016. The rest have mostly been lopsided.

Smith has been just as dominant against the Raiders, going 9-1 in a career that began with games for San Francisco. He's thrown 19 touchdown passes and just four interceptions against them.

So yes, there's been a measure of dominance. But not even Smith knows why.

"Maybe it's because we know [the division] and we've been playing in it for a while now,"

he said. "Top to bottom, this division is tough. It's tough, competitive and there's a great rivalry with every team. Every one of these games seems to come down to the end. Every one is pretty good."

Chiefs coach Andy Reid has had similar success against the Raiders, going 7-1 against them since taking over Kansas City's franchise. He's also had similar success against the AFC West, going 24-12 in his career.

That includes a 3-0 mark against the Chiefs while he was with Philadelphia.

He's also at a loss for explaining the one-sided nature of the AFC West race, which includes seven straight road wins — already a franchise divisional record. It could be the extra work that the Chiefs put into those opponents during the offseason, or the familiarity that comes with playing them so often, or the simple fact that those teams represent some of the Chiefs' biggest rivals.

"When you play a team twice and they're in your division, you need to spend a little time on them about that midway point between when you are really going to play them and the offseason," Reid said. "I think it's important that you do that."

Then again, the rest of the division is probably doing the same thing.

Perhaps the Chiefs have built a roster for counteracting those teams, an offense that can expose their weaknesses and a defense that can take away their strengths. That might explain why they've been able to handle the Raiders' Derek Carr and the Chargers' Philip Rivers and been able to score enough against the Broncos' vaunted defense to keep winning games.

"That probably gets a little overrated," said Reid, almost dismissively. "What I think you try to do is find the best players that fit your system and then you go from there."

## NHL roundup

### Four-goal second period propels Flyers past Panthers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Wayne Simmonds pounded Florida's enforcer with a series of rights and dropped him with a left. Simmonds waved his arms toward the Flyers crowd and exhorted them to get louder as he skated toward the locker room to serve his major penalty. He high-fived fans and the orange-and-black faithful went wild for a period on the short list of the best in three years under coach Dave Hakstol.

Score the round for Simmonds.

Give the KO to the Flyers.

Sean Couturier, Shayne Gostisbehere, Claude Giroux and Dale Weise all scored in the second period to lead Philadelphia to a 5-1 win over the Panthers on Tuesday night.

The Flyers followed an 8-2 win against Washington with

another dominant offensive effort, capped by the four-goal second.

"This is fun hockey," Gostisbehere said. "It's fun when you're winning and making plays, that's the biggest thing. Coach has given us the leeway to do that and I think we've responded well."

Simmonds, who left in the third with an undisclosed injury, stole the show after the fourth goal when he fought agitated Panthers center Michael Haley to a decisive victory at center ice.

By then, this one was over.

Michal Neuvirth made the lead stand with 40 saves in his first win of the season.

**Canucks 3, Senators 0:** Brock Boeser and Alexander Burmistrov had a goal and an assist each in visiting Vancouver's win over Ottawa.

**Penguins 5, Rangers 4 (OT):**

Sidney Crosby scored the tying goal with less than a minute remaining in regulation, Evgeni Malkin put in the winner 58 seconds into overtime and visiting Pittsburgh beat struggling New York.

**Maple Leafs 2, Capitals 0:** Connor Brown scored the game-winning goal in the third period and Frederik Andersen stopped all 30 shots he faced for the shutout as visiting Toronto continued its tremendous start by beating Washington.

**Predators 4, Avalanche 1:** Viktor Arvidsson and Roman Josi each scored a goal and added an assist to lead host Nashville to a win over Colorado.

**Devils 5, Lightning 4 (SO):** Kyle Palmieri scored the lone goal in a shootout, lifting host New Jersey to a win over Tampa Bay.

**Hurricanes 5, Oilers 3:**

Teuvo Teravainen had a pair of goals and Jordan Staal a goal and three assists to help visiting Carolina beat Edmonton.

**Blue Jackets 5, Jets 2:** Jack Johnson's goal 13:54 into the second period was the eventual winner as visiting Columbus extended its winning streak to four with a commanding victory over Winnipeg.

**Stars 3, Coyotes 1:** Radek Faksa, Dan Hamhuis and Alexander Radulov scored their first goals of the season, and host Dallas held off winless Arizona.

**Golden Knights 5, Sabres 4 (OT):** David Perron scored two goals, including the game-winner with 1:08 left in overtime, to lead host Vegas to a victory over Buffalo.

**Sharks 5, Canadiens 2:** Logan Couture scored a pair of goals and host San Jose extended its dominance of Montreal.