

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Ex-sailor suspected of sending tainted letters

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A former Navy sailor is suspected by the FBI of sending suspicious envelopes addressed to President Donald Trump, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Adm. John Richardson that authorities believe contained a deadly poison, according to a news report Wednesday.

The letters, which officials suspected contained ricin, were intercepted Monday and no one was reported injured, officials said. At least one of the envelopes contained a return address that led FBI investigators to a suspect who once served in the Navy, according to a Fox News report that cited unnamed U.S. officials.

Pentagon and FBI officials declined to confirm the report. Fox did not name the

suspect.

The Secret Service said Tuesday that the envelope addressed to Trump was not received at the White House, nor did it ever enter the White House. The agency did not speak to the contents of the envelope or where it was received Monday.

The White House had no comment.

The two letters addressed to Mattis and Richardson were discovered Monday at the Pentagon's mail sorting center, a defense official said Tuesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the FBI was leading the probe into the incident.

Neither Mattis, who is now in Brussels, nor Richardson, the chief of naval operations, were endangered, the official said.

The letters never reached the Pentagon building, said Chris Sherwood, a Defense

Department spokesman. The mail center is located on the Pentagon grounds but in a separate facility built after anthrax was found in government mail in 2001.

The FBI took custody of the envelopes, which underwent further testing Tuesday, an FBI spokeswoman said. She declined additional comment.

All mail received Monday at the Pentagon facility was quarantined, according to a Pentagon statement released Tuesday. No Pentagon personnel were endangered.

Ricin is a deadly poison that is found in castor beans, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A small amount of ricin exposure by inhalation or ingestion can be deadly within three days, according to the CDC.

## Pentagon: Mattis' 'deploy or out' policy is working

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has reduced the number of servicemembers listed as undeployable by more than 100,000 in the eight months since the Pentagon announced its new "deploy or out" policy, defense officials said Tuesday.

As of Aug. 31, 126,000 servicemembers — or roughly 6 percent of the military's total force, which includes active duty, reserve and National Guard troops — were listed in a nondeployable status, according to the Pentagon. In January, just before Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced he would implement the new policy, the Pentagon reported there were 235,000 troops, or 11 percent of the force, listed as nondeployable.

The policy is meant to motivate the thousands of troops who have remained in uniform despite being unable to deploy to take the necessary steps to

return to deployable status, officials have said. Troops can be placed on nondeployable status for a variety of reasons including medical conditions, fitness problems and administrative reasons. The vast majority of troops who cannot attain deployable status within one year will be selected for involuntary removal from the service by their commanders, according to the policy.

Mattis, who announced the policy in February, said it would ensure the burden of deploying was better spread throughout the military force and it would increase combat readiness because more servicemembers would be available to deploy.

Servicemembers who cannot deploy "need to find something else to do," he said at the time. "I'm not going to have some people deploying constantly and then other people, who seem not to pay that price, in the U.S. military."

The new policy requires each service to track the number of

nondeployable servicemembers in its ranks and report them to Mattis. Though the service was officially implemented Monday, the services began reporting to Mattis on a voluntary basis earlier this year as they worked to determine the scope of the problem.

The policy does not represent a dramatic change for the military, said Mike Melillo, the Pentagon's deputy director for force management. The Pentagon has long had policies in place to remove troops for medical and administrative reasons, but the new policy is designed to streamline that process and inspire servicemembers who want to remain in uniform to maintain deployable status.

Some troops will be exempted from the new policy, said Patricia Mulcahy, the director of officer and enlisted personnel management. Exempted servicemembers include troops injured in combat and pregnant and postpartum women. Servicemembers within three

years of retirement can be granted an exemption and service secretaries can approve other exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

The Pentagon's goal is to bring each of the military services — the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps — to a maximum of 5 percent of its force in a nondeployable state at any time, Mulcahy said.

Some of the military services had already reached the goal, Mulcahy said. However, she declined to identify which services had reached the goal or provide specific statistics for each service, citing security concerns.

Of the 126,000 servicemembers listed in nondeployable status as of Aug. 31, 66,000 were unable to deploy due to an illness or injury, according to Pentagon statistics. More so, 24,000 of the troops unable to deploy were considered permanently nondeployable and would likely face the possibility of being removed from the service.

# USS Wasp takes a break in Singapore

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

*Stars and Stripes*

The USS Wasp arrived in Singapore on Tuesday, a week after its strike group of 2,200 sailors and Marines were denied a port visit to Hong Kong by Beijing.

The Sasebo, Japan-based Wasp — accompanied by the landing dock ship USS Ashland and members of the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit — have been patrolling the Western Pacific since early August.

The Wasp's commander, Capt. Colby Howard, said the sailors and Marines were "very excited for some well-deserved time ashore after two very successful months" at sea, a Navy statement said.

Late last month, China turned down a U.S. request for the group to stop in Hong Kong in October. The denial came a day after 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports went into effect.

The U.S. also had recently issued sanctions on China after discovering the country had bought fighter jets from Russia and a surface-to-air missile system, and in May disinvited China from its large-scale multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise.

The Wasp strike group recently conducted a drill focused on defending its ships in the South China Sea, where on Sunday a Chinese destroyer veered within 45 yards of the USS Decatur in "an unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" in the Spratly Islands, the Navy said.

The Navy regularly sends its ships on patrols through the South and East China seas to maintain freedom of navigation through the international waters that China attempts to claim.

The strike group's patrol has also included disaster relief operations. After Typhoon Mangkhut struck the Northern Marianas on Sept. 10, its ships positioned themselves behind the then-Category 2 storm and had aircraft in the air by sunrise the next day, said Task Force 76 commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper.

"Within hours, we had Marines and sailors on ground assessing damage and preparing for recovery," he told Stars and Stripes via telephone from the Wasp on Sept. 13.

## USS Blue Ridge back at sea after 2 years of repairs

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — One of the most prominent berths at Yokosuka was unusually bare Wednesday morning, causing passersby to stop along the sidewalk and take photos of the pier.

The USS Blue Ridge returned to sea Tuesday after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs, said 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley, leaving empty its berth near a major base intersection where it has sat since leaving dry dock in January.

"While at sea, the crew and embarked 7th Fleet staff are exercising the ship's primary mission to command and control 7th Fleet," Keiley said.

Commissioned in 1970, the Blue Ridge is the Navy's oldest operational ship. It was scheduled in June 2016 to undergo 14 months of maintenance, repairs, refurbishments and system upgrades, but unexpected issues arose with its engineering plant, causing it to be kept in dry dock past the scheduled completion date of August 2017.

The repairs cost more than \$60 million and took about

135,000 man-hours to complete, the Navy previously said. Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William Moran told Stars and Stripes last month that having the Blue Ridge back to sea would be worth the effort and expense.

"We have invested a lot of money into keeping that ship relevant for what that ship is made for, which is a command ship for the 7th Fleet commander," he said. "It's an old ship, but she's got all the modern capabilities and then some, which says a lot about our commitment."

Seventh Fleet staff moved

back onto their flagship this past summer from temporary on-base offices used since 2016 when maintenance on the vessel began.

The ship's boilers were relit in June. In combat, the Blue Ridge would be used as a central planning vessel. During peacetime, bringing the flagship and the 7th Fleet's leadership on port visits sends a strong message to allies.

Keiley said this concept is unique in that it "is the only fleet that brings the staff out to sea to operate this way" for long lengths of time.

## US says it's willing to lend cyberwarfare tools to NATO

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. will make cyberwarfare capabilities available to NATO to bolster the alliance's efforts to counter Russian hacking and network espionage, a senior U.S. official said.

The announcement is likely to come during a two-day defense ministers' meeting at

NATO headquarters in Brussels, which opened Wednesday. The U.K. and Denmark are expected to offer similar support.

"We will formally announce that the United States is prepared to offer NATO its cyber capabilities if asked," Katie Wheelbarger, a senior Pentagon official, told reporters traveling to Brussels with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. The U.S. will maintain control

of its capabilities but would use them for NATO operations if called upon, Wheelbarger told Reuters.

NATO has begun to make cyberwarfare a priority as attacks on the West have increased from adversaries such as Russia and China. In July, NATO heads of state agreed to establish a new cyber operations center. Allies have designated the cyber realm as a

military domain on a par with land, sea and air operations. The White House last month said it has authorized offensive cyber operations against unnamed adversaries, a move that coincided with the Trump administration's loosening of rules governing the use of cyberweapons. The Pentagon's 2018 cyber strategy document also emphasizes taking the initiative against adversaries.



## Report: Agencies weren't ready for immigration policy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Immigration officials were not prepared this past summer to manage the consequences of a “zero tolerance” policy at the Southwest border, which resulted in the separation of nearly 3,000 children from their parents, Homeland Security’s watchdog said in a report made public Tuesday.

The resulting confusion along the border led to misinformation among separated parents who did not know why they had been taken from their children or how to reach them, longer detention for children at border facilities meant for short-term stays, and difficulty in identifying and reuniting families. Backlogs at ports of entry may have pushed some into illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, the report found.

While the Trump administration had been widely criticized for the policy, the criticism previously came mostly from political opponents and not from independent, nonpolitical investigators.

Investigators with Homeland Security’s Office of the Inspector General compiled the report after speaking with about 50 immigration employees, plus 17 detainees and parents who had been separated from their children and later released. They also reviewed documents and data. Homeland Security is the umbrella department for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Homeland Security officials say the report illustrates how difficult it is to enforce broken and poorly written immigration laws. The inspector general, they said, wrongly mixed up what happens to immigrants caught crossing illegally between borders with immigrants who come to legal ports of entry seeking asylum.

“This administration will no longer turn a blind eye to illegal immigration and will continue to refer illegal border crossers for prosecution,” Homeland Security spokeswoman Katie Waldman said. “We are committed to enforcing the rule of law and ensuring that there are consequences for illegal actions.”

Illegally crossing the U.S. border had already been a criminal charge, but authorities had previously avoided large-scale family separation. Trump has made curbing immigration a focus, working to harden what administration officials say are lax laws. In May, officials began criminally prosecuting anyone caught crossing the border illegally. Children were separated from their parents as the adults went through criminal proceedings. The move prompted international outrage, and President Donald Trump eventually signed an executive order stopping the separations.

# Senators hit Trump for mocking Ford’s account

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two wavering Republican senators lambasted President Donald Trump on Wednesday for mocking a woman who has claimed Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in the 1980s, underscoring the risks of assailing Kavanaugh’s three accusers as Senate support teeters for the Supreme Court nominee.

The blowback to Trump’s scoffing at Christine Blasey Ford came as lawmakers awaited results of a revived FBI background check, expected imminently, on accusations of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in high school and college. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said the chamber will vote on Kavanaugh later this week, and the conservative jurist’s fate is in the hands of a handful of undecided GOP and Democratic senators.

At a political rally in Mississippi on Tuesday night, Trump mimicked Ford’s responses at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last week at which she recounted Kavanaugh’s alleged attack on her when both were in high school. The audience laughed as Trump recounted what he described as holes in her testimony.

“I had one beer — that’s the only thing I remember,” Trump said.

On NBC’s “Today” show Wednesday, Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said that ridiculing “something this sensitive at a political rally is just not right.” Flake added, “I wish he hadn’t done it. It’s kind of appalling.”

Separately, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters, “The president’s comments were just plain wrong.”

Trump’s aggressive criticism of Ford seems to reflect the sentiments of some of his conservative supporters. But it raises questions about how such words will affect five senators — all moderates — whose votes on Kavanaugh will be decisive.

Besides Flake and Collins, Republican Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, and Democrats Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, and Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota, have yet to declare their positions on Kavanaugh.

Trump’s comments about Ford reflected a growing frustration among some in the White House, and by the president, that her story has not received the same level of scrutiny as Kavanaugh’s, said a person close to the process who was not authorized to speak publicly.

## Newspaper report refutes Trump’s claim of being self-made billionaire

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Times reported Tuesday that President Donald Trump received at least \$413 million from his father over the decades, much of that through dubious tax dodges, including outright fraud.

The report contradicts Trump’s portrayal of himself as a self-made billionaire who started with just a \$1 million loan from his father. The Times says Trump and his father, Fred, avoided gift and inheritance taxes by setting up a sham corporation and undervaluing assets to tax authorities. The Times says its report is based on more than 100,000 pages of financial documents, including confidential tax returns from the father and his companies.

A lawyer for Trump, Charles J. Harder, told the Times that there was no “fraud or tax evasion” and that the facts cited in the report are “extremely inaccurate.”

The White House dismissed the report

as a “misleading attack against the Trump family by the failing New York Times.” It criticized the newspaper and other media outlets, saying their low credibility with the public is “because they are consumed with attacking the president and his family 24/7 instead of reporting the news.”

The New York state tax department said it is reviewing the allegations in the Times and “is vigorously pursuing all appropriate avenues of investigation.”

The Times says the Trump family hid millions of dollars of transfers from the father to his children through a sham company owned by the children.

The Times says that before Fred Trump died in the late 1990s, he transferred ownership of most of his real estate empire to his four living children. The value of the properties in tax returns summed up to \$41.4 million, vastly less than the Times says they were worth. The same properties would be sold off over the next decade for more than 16 times that amount.

# 4 arrested for conduct at Charlottesville rally

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Four members of a militant white supremacist group from California were arrested on charges they traveled to Virginia last year to incite a riot and attack counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally that turned deadly, federal authorities said Tuesday.

The defendants — Benjamin Drake Daley, Michael Paul Miselis, Thomas Walter Gillen and Cole Evan White — are part of the Rise Above Movement, which espouses anti-Semitic views and meets regularly in public parks to train in boxing and

other fighting techniques, according to an affidavit written by an FBI agent.

The affidavit alleges the four were “among the most violent individuals present in Charlottesville” in August 2017 during a torch-lit march on the University of Virginia campus and a larger rally in downtown the following day. It says photos and video footage shows they attacked counter-protesters, “which in some cases resulted in serious injuries.” The men have also taken part in “acts of violence” at political rallies in Huntington Beach and Berkeley, Calif., the affidavit alleges.

“This is a group that essentially subscribes to an anti-Semitic, racist ideology and then organizes, trains and deploys to various political rallies, not only to espouse this particular ideology but also to engage in acts of violence against folks who are taking a contrary point of view,” U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen said at a news conference in Charlottesville. The men were arrested Tuesday morning, Cullen said.

Los Angeles Magistrate Judge Jean Rosenbluth denied bail for Miselis; detention hearings for Gillen and Daley were postponed.

# N. Korea said to have stolen fortune by hacking banks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — North Korea’s nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

U.S. security firm FireEye raised the alarm Wednesday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses “an active global threat.”

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyberactivity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea — along with Russia, Iran and China — as one of the main online threats facing the United States.

Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to

have conspired in devastating cyberattacks, including an \$81 million heist of Bangladesh’s central bank and the Wanna-Cry virus that crippled parts of Britain’s National Health Service.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned of the use of malware by Hidden Cobra, the U.S. government’s byword for North Korea hackers, in fraudulent ATM cash withdrawals from banks in Asia and Africa. It said that Hidden Cobra was behind the theft of tens of millions of dollars from teller machines in the past two years. In one incident this year, cash had been simultaneously withdrawn from ATMs in 23 different countries, it said.

North Korea, which prohibits access to the world wide web for virtually all its people, has previously denied involvement in cyberattacks, and attribution for such attacks is rarely made with absolute certainty. It is typically based on technical indicators such as the Internet Protocol addresses that identify computers and characteristics of the coding used in malware,

which is the software a hacker may use to damage or disable computers.

Other cybersecurity experts told The Associated Press that they also see continued signs that North Korea’s authoritarian government, which has a long track record of criminality to raise cash, is conducting malign activity online. That activity includes targeting of financial institutions and crypto-currency-related organizations, as well as spying on its adversaries, despite the easing of tensions between Pyongyang and Washington.

“The reality is they are starved for cash and are continuing to try and generate revenue, at least until sanctions are diminished,” said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike.

CrowdStrike said it has detected continuing North Korean cyberintrusions in the past two months, including the use of a known malware against a potentially broad set of targets in South Korea, and a new variant of malware against users of mobile devices that use a Linux-based operating system.

# Disaster aid trickles in as Indonesian death toll tops 1,400

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — For some who survived the massive earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia’s Sulawesi island last week, the memories and the horror of experiencing a disaster that has left more than 1,400 people dead are both hard to erase and understand. Nature simply unleashed its fury on them.

Furniture maker Khairul Hassan recalled working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground came alive and shook violently.

He ran to a nearby hill and watched as the ocean heaved up and hurled forward. Now he can’t forget.

“I saw the waves come and sweep out everything — buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children,” he said Wednesday. “Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods, all swept by the sea. It’s so tragic. It’s so scary to remember.”

Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas where victims have become in-

creasingly desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine. In one neighborhood in the city of Palu, residents celebrated as they swarmed a truck delivering aid — clapping, cheering and high-fiving.

The official death toll increased to 1,407 on Wednesday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced from their homes, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but rescue crews had reached all affected areas.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teens accused of sex act in classroom

**CT** NEW BRITAIN — Police said two Connecticut high school students are facing charges after allegedly engaging in a sex act in a classroom that was recorded by another student and posted on social media.

New Britain police said the 16-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy will be summoned to juvenile court to answer to charges of public indecency and risk of injury or impairing the morals of a minor.

Police said the Sept. 27 encounter at New Britain High School was consensual. The students were released to their parents.

## 'Bad Luck Bandit' hit by brick in burglary

**MD** SUTTLAND — Maryland police are searching for a man they've dubbed the "Bad Luck Bandit" who was hit on the head by a brick he threw at a store window.

News outlets reported that the Prince George's County Police Department said Monday a man was caught on surveillance footage breaking into a restaurant last month with a brick. Police said the man shattered the store's front window, walked in and then tried to use the same brick to break what turned out to be bulletproof glass.

Police said that as the man repeatedly tried to break the window, the brick bounced back and apparently hit the man in the head. He fell and lay there for a few minutes before leaving.

## Bowling alley owner is killed in pinsetter

**CO** FLORENCE — The owner of a southern

Colorado bowling alley died after getting stuck in a pinsetting machine.

Police in Florence said they responded to a call Sunday afternoon and found Ector Rodriguez, 65, of Penrose, stuck in the machine. He was unconscious and not breathing.

Emergency responders determined he was dead.

Florence police Chief Michael De Laurentis said no foul play is suspected.

## FBI agent shot in leg by rigged wheelchair

**OR** PORTLAND — A former southern Oregon property owner has been charged with assault on a federal officer after authorities say an FBI agent sent to the property was shot from a booby-trapped wheelchair.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that authorities responded to the home in Williams on Sept. 7 at the request of a lawyer tasked with selling the property. A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Medford says officers found multiple traps and the agent was wounded in the leg when he entered the home.

Authorities allege the makeshift weapons were created by Gregory Rodvelt, who was forced to forfeit his property as part of an elder abuse case.

The Mail Tribune reported that Rodvelt is being held in Arizona's Maricopa County Jail on unrelated assault charges.

## Man tries to buy girl from mom at Walmart

**FL** PORT ORANGE — Police said an elderly man attempted to buy an 8-year-old girl from her mother for \$200,000 at a Florida Walmart.

WKMG-TV reported that Port Orange police said Hellmuth

Kolb, 81, was arrested Saturday and charged with simple battery and false imprisonment.

Police said Tracy Nigh was sitting with her daughter on a bench inside the Walmart when Kolb approached, asked if she was married and started bidding on her daughter.

Nigh said she got up to leave but Kolb grabbed her daughter and kissed her wrist. An arrest report says Nigh left with her daughter and alerted store security.

Authorities said another woman described a similar experience.

## Man accused of theft, setting gas pump afire

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A Louisiana man is accused of setting a New Orleans gas pump on fire with a lighter stolen from the gas station's convenience store.

Citing a Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal release, The New Orleans Advocate reported that Marlon Coleman, 32, was arrested Sunday and charged with aggravated arson.

Another man put out the blaze. The news release says Coleman then asked the man to be a witness in a lawsuit Coleman planned to file and the man declined.

Coleman was identified through store surveillance video.

## Cows escape after livestock truck crash

**GA** ATLANTA — Officials in Georgia had to call in the cavalry Monday after dozens of cows escaped when a tractor-trailer transporting them overturned on a busy junction north of Atlanta.

The truck carrying 89 cows overturned about 3 a.m. on the cloverleaf of Interstate 75 and I-285. Many of the cows scat-

tered, causing wrecks and clogging rush-hour traffic.

The effort to round up the herd included real cowboys, the Georgia Department of Transportation said.

Cobb County police Sgt. Wayne Delk said 87 of the cows had been accounted for by Monday afternoon. Ten cows were killed and two were still missing.

## Man cooking chicken starts apartment fire

**VT** NEWPORT — Firefighters in Vermont knocked down a fire that began when a man fell asleep while cooking chicken.

Newport City fire Lt. James LeClair and firefighter Ryan Abel arrived at the scene late Friday to find heavy smoke in a first-floor apartment. The Caledonian-Record reported that the occupant, known to neighbors as "Dave," fell asleep while cooking and his pan caught fire.

A neighbor reported the fire after hearing a smoke alarm go off. Abel and LeClair said they plunged into the apartment and pulled out the man, then snuffed out the fire.

## Teens accused in theft, vehicle damage

**MO** ST. PETERS — Three teenagers are in custody for allegedly stealing vehicles at a suburban St. Louis dealership and ramming one of them through a glass showroom window. The suspects are 14, 17 and 19.

A security monitoring company alerted police to a robbery in progress at 3:25 a.m. Sept. 24 at a CarMax in St. Peters.

One of the suspects was arrested immediately and the other two hours later.

Police said total damage from the crime was around \$175,000.

From wire reports

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# Rockies oust Cubs in NL wild-card game

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

“Probably the biggest hit I’ve ever had, that’s for sure,” he said.

Wolters, 26, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

“We didn’t make it easy on ourselves, that’s for sure,” Story said, “but we’re going to enjoy this one tonight and we’re definitely not done.”

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley. Terrance Gore tried to sell that he was hit by a pitch, but was sent back to the plate after a replay review confirmed the initial call.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging for the final out, Wolters ran out and grabbed Oberg. They were soon joined by the rest of the excited Rockies in a rollicking purple mob near the mound.

“You’re always wondering, ‘How’s this going to end?’ But

our guys fought all night and to be able to get that last out there was great,” Oberg said.

Wolters got his first hit since Sept. 10 in his playoff debut, and it was just the second postseason game for Oberg. Previously, the longest winner-take-all games in the postseason were 12-inning affairs in the 2014 AL wild-card round and Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

This one lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes, and had pretty much everything, too. Hendricks was the third starting pitcher used by the Cubs, after Jon Lester worked six solid innings and Cole Hamels was pressed into action after the teams were tied at 1 through nine. Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado exchanged a memorable hug with Javier Baez after he tagged the excitable Cubs star in the 11th.

Colorado moved on to the Division Series for the first time since 2009. The Rockies lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game a year ago.

“Such a crazy game,” Story said.

The Cubs made it to the NLCS in each of the previous three seasons, winning the 2016 World Series to break a 108-year drought, but they were plagued by an inconsistent offense all season long. Chicago finished with six hits and left 10 runners on base after managing only three hits in Monday’s 3-1 home loss to the Brewers in the NL Central tiebreaker.

“We played that game a lot,” said manager Joe Maddon, who matched a postseason record by using 23 players. “Believe me, it was on my mind for a large part of it.”

This time, it was Kyle Freeland cruising through Maddon’s lineup.

Starting on three days’ rest for the first time in the pros, Freeland struck out six in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings. The Denver native looked quite comfortable in his first career playoff appearance, helping his hometown team bounce back from Monday’s NL West tiebreaker loss to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

## Twins fire Molitor with eye on developing young talent

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Two years ago, the Minnesota Twins made Derek Falvey their chief baseball officer with the precondition that Paul Molitor remain as manager.

Molitor presided over a playoff team and won the American League Manager of the Year award in 2017, but the Twins slipped backward this season. Last week, Falvey and general manager Thad Levine decided the time was right to hire their own manager.

Citing pursuit of more productive development by their younger players, Falvey and Levine fired Molitor on Tuesday while offering him an opportunity to remain with the organization in an undefined position in baseball operations.

“This wasn’t about our record this year. This is about what we

think is best as we continue to grow a young team in the direction toward being a championship contender,” Falvey said.

Falvey and other club executives expressed confidence that Molitor would stay with the Twins beyond the 20 years he has already worked for them in various roles, including the final three seasons of his Hall of Fame playing career.

“I fully respect that decision,” Molitor said in a statement distributed by the team. “I will forever be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to serve in the role as manager for these past four years. I’m going to consider their genuine offer to serve in a different capacity to positively impact the Twins from a different role.”

The Twins went 305-343 under the 62-year-old Molitor, with one appearance in the

playoffs in 2017. They were 78-84 this year, long out of postseason contention after a series of early setbacks to several key players.

Falvey and Levine, in a news conference at Target Field to announce the change, didn’t articulate specific reasons for firing Molitor or desired qualities they’re seeking with his replacement. The 20-minute session with reporters was largely filled with praise of Molitor’s acumen and attitude, including a willingness to employ data-driven, new-age strategy like defensive shifts and starting a game with a relief pitcher.

With a backdrop of the struggles this year by center fielder Byron Buxton and third baseman Miguel Sano, the players long targeted as franchise cornerstones, the Twins have a need for new approaches and voices for their prospects that

stretches beyond the main man in the dugout, however. Soon after Molitor was dismissed from his post, the Twins announced the firing of seven minor-league coaches and two strength and conditioning coaches from the major league staff.

After the Twins went 85-77 and reached the wild-card game last season, Molitor was given a new three-year contract. Before Minnesota edged into the postseason, there was buzz that Molitor might’ve been let go at the end of last season.

“I don’t really think that that was a huge roadblock to them,” Pohl said. “I mean, everybody wanted the situation to work out, and I did too, because Paul’s a personal friend and he’s done so much for our organization and is so important to our community. So I feel good about that decision.”



# Bengals making big plays at right time

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Sitting in the end zone after his game-turning catch, A.J. Green raised the ball in celebration as Bengals teammates streamed toward him. They haven't had many moments like this one — not in recent years, not in their 51-year history.

The moment captured the difference between this Bengals team and the past few: It's developed a knack for the big play in the final minutes.

Green's diving 13-yard touchdown catch with 7 seconds left gave Cincinnati a 37-36 victory Sunday in Atlanta and left the Bengals (3-1) tied with Baltimore atop the AFC North after a challenging opening month.

They played three of their first four on the road, and won two of them with a last-minute play. A fumble return for a touchdown got them a 34-23 win in Indianapolis, the type of play they've lacked the past two seasons as they missed out on the playoffs.

On Sunday in Atlanta, they had plenty of big plays under the most intense pressure.

Andy Dalton converted a third down and a pair of fourth-down plays during the winning drive, then finished it off with a perfect throw to a sliding Green in the corner of the end zone. It was only the second time in franchise history that Cincinnati got a winning touchdown pass with less than 10 seconds left.

"I think in the NFL, your great players have got to play great, and right now we're getting that," coach Marvin Lewis said Monday.

"Our other guys are growing up around them because they want to be 'look at me, too.' So I think we're gaining some of that."

Dalton and Green are reviving an offense that finished last in the league last season and was overhauled by coordinator Bill Lazor, putting more of an emphasis on throwing the ball downfield. Green had a career-high three touchdown catches

during a 34-23 win over the Ravens in Cincinnati's only home game.

Dalton was nearly perfect in the first half against the Falcons, going 14-for-16 for 211 yards with two touchdowns, no interceptions and a passer rating of 158.3 — the best possible. He finished 29-for-41 for 337 yards with three touchdowns and one interception.

On the last 12 plays of the winning drive, Dalton either scrambled or threw. Players found the 16-play drive significant, given how they'd been unable to do anything like it recently.

"Whether or not it is just a win, it felt different," running back Giovani Bernard said.

The Bengals will have to replace tight end Tyler Eifert for their home game Sunday against Miami (3-1), which is coming off a 38-7 loss to New England. Eifert dislocated and broke his right ankle while being tackled early in the second half, his latest season-scuttling injury.

"It's rough, especially over the years how he's dealt with some things and people try to say he's not tough and stuff, but it's real things that are happening to him," tight end Tyler Kroft said Monday. "It's not little things keeping him out. That's what's a shame."

Eifert stayed in Cincinnati with an incentive-laden one-year deal, extending a career that's been sidetracked by major back, shoulder, elbow and ankle injuries. He's played six games the past two seasons.

"When you lose a great player, a lot is going to change, so we have to figure that out," Lazor said.

**Burfict back:** Linebacker Vontaze Burfict can return this week from his four-game suspension for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers. When he returned from injury or suspensions the past three seasons, he played a significant amount in his first game back.

## Sixth-ranked Irish prepare for visit to Virginia Tech

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — It is a little noisy this week around the Notre Dame campus, and it has nothing to do with the undefeated start by the sixth-ranked Fighting Irish.

It has everything to do with their first visit ever to Virginia Tech, where the 24th-ranked Hokies will enjoy the advantage of playing in a packed and deafening Lane Stadium after running onto the field to Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

After dominating both sides of the line of scrimmage against Stanford in a 38-17 victory last weekend, Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly wants to see a similar performance on the road against the Hokies (3-1), who are coming off a 31-14 victory at Duke.

"We've got to be able to do that on the road against a quality opponent and in an incred-

ible atmosphere," Kelly said Tuesday. "[This] is something that we knew we were going to face. We get a chance to work on the things that have embedded in our program over the last seven months in terms of handling these tough environments."

Less than a year ago, one of those environments was too much for Notre Dame: Last Nov. 11, the third-ranked Irish were blown out 41-8 on the road by seventh-ranked Miami after Hurricanes fans taunted Notre Dame's buses on the way to the stadium.

"I was public in saying that I don't think I even handled it the right way and giving them enough information about the situation," Kelly said. "I can't be caught off guard, and maybe I was caught off guard because I didn't prepare them the right way. We won't be caught

off guard going into Lane Stadium."

Kelly plans to show his team video clips of the stadium, where fans are being asked this week to color coordinate their outfits to specific sections.

"They will be much more accustomed to the situation," Kelly said of his players. "They know there will be a lot of orange. The decibels will be loud."

When asked if he talked to his team about Miami, Kelly said he hadn't. But things were awfully noisy at times during spring practice and are expected to be again this week before the team flies to Blacksburg on Friday.

"It will be as loud as allowable," Kelly said with a smile. "On campus, we have some restrictions, but you'll definitely know that there's a practice going on. No doubt."

Kelly expects his team won't see the Virginia Tech team that was stunned 40-35 last month at Old Dominion.

"Virginia Tech has really shown under coach (Justin) Fuente the ability to score points ... and (defensive coordinator Bud) Foster can do about anything from a defensive standpoint," Kelly said. "And their special teams have that 'Beamer Ball' mentality."

Kelly talked about his relationship to long-time Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, whose playing and coaching career at the school will be remembered with the dedication of a statue outside Lane Stadium before the game. Beamer goes into the College Football Hall of Fame this December.

"I've always admired the way he handled himself both on and off the field," Kelly said. "He's a gentleman."

# Several new coaches dot NHL landscape

Associated Press

While the Washington Capitals are watching their Stanley Cup banner rise to the rafters, Barry Trotz will be fresh off a plane in North Carolina, preparing for his own season opener.

Trotz guided the Capitals to their first title last season and in winning it triggered an automatic contract extension far under the present-day market value for top NHL coaches. He resigned less than a week after the parade, joined the New York Islanders and brings with him almost two decades of NHL coaching experience along with that Cup ring.

"Everything he's gone through and his success, it's going to be just perfect for us," Islanders forward Anders Lee said. "There's plenty of guys on our team that are going to be able to learn from him and his experiences and he's going to be able to give it to us and make

us a better team."

The Islanders are one of six teams with a new coach this season. The cross-town Rangers went the college route by hiring David Quinn from Boston University, while the Dallas Stars hired Jim Montgomery from the University of Denver. The Carolina Hurricanes promoted assistant Rod Brind'Amour to replace Bill Peters when he left for Calgary and the Capitals made the no-brainer choice of elevating associate coach Todd Reirden to take over for Trotz.

As Trotz begins what he and general manager Lou Lamoriello hope is an organizational culture change with the Islanders, Reirden has assumed control of a team he knows well from four years as an assistant. Familiarity is Reirden's biggest asset as he becomes just the fourth coach to take over a defending Cup champion.

"This is probably going to

be the smoothest transition of any coaching change that I've ever heard of," Capitals right winger T.J. Oshie said. "Everyone respects Todd, respects the way he coaches, respects how he treats people. What a guy Trotz is. He's going to be missed. But he's on the other side now."

Trotz bears significant responsibility for changing the culture around the Capitals, buttoning down structure and fostering the right habits for success. New York doesn't have the talent his old Washington teams did, especially after captain John Tavares left to sign with Toronto, but the Islanders will get a taste of how Trotz makes teams perform better than they look on paper.

"When you say culture change, it's just a way of doing things," Trotz said. "It may be the way we present ourselves, the way we react, the way we respond to adversity and all

those things."

Trotz could easily go back to his coaching style from 15 years in Nashville, when he oversaw a team that was short on high-end skill but long on hard work and fundamentals.

It worked there, as Trotz took the Predators to the playoffs seven times. He made four postseason appearances in six seasons with the Capitals.

While it's Trotz's goal to get the Islanders back into playoff contention as soon as possible, Quinn's job with the Rangers is much more about teaching and developing. New York still has All-Star goaltender Henrik Lundqvist and some veterans but is in the middle of a youth movement Quinn seems perfect for.

"[He is] communicative, disarming, caring, approachable," Rangers forward Chris Kreider said. "I think kind of the ideal pedigree that you'd want in a coach."

## This time, it's the chest protector that's getting smaller

Associated Press

Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck recently stopped a puck near his collarbone. It was a shot that, in years past, he might not have thought about twice.

This time, it hurt.

"Didn't feel very good," Hellebuyck said.

He and his fellow NHL goalies will be wearing a smaller chest protector this season as the league continues to reduce the size of equipment, following recent reductions for pads and pants. The overall aim is to boost scoring while at the same time rewarding athletic ability in the crease by eliminating unnecessary padding that wasn't protecting goalies, but instead simply helping them block pucks.

A 190-pound goalie and a 240-pound goalie will no longer cut the same figure on the ice.

"Three or four years ago, talking to some of the best goal-

ies in hockey ... they wanted us to try to find a way to make goalies look closer to the size they were," Kay Whitmore, NHL vice president of hockey operations, told The Canadian Press. "The biggest complaint was, 'If I weigh 50 pounds more than another guy, why do we look the same?'"

The league, working in conjunction with the NHL Players' Association, has focused on reducing the size of the shoulders on chest protectors by roughly an inch to make them less boxy and more form-fitting. The same goes for the padding on a goalie's arms.

Getting the new equipment has taken longer because of delays with manufacturers, but Whitmore said the league is close to what will become the "new normal."

"We wanted to get it right once and for all," he said. "It was a more complicated piece of equipment than when we

introduced the new pants or pads. We can ask companies to make changes, but things didn't move very fast until we created a standard, gave them specifics and asked them to build to it."

Whitmore, who played the position for 155 games with four NHL teams in his 15-year pro career, said safety remains a top priority.

"There's no expectation that a goalie should have to do his job getting bruised daily," he said. "I don't want to see guys go on the ice fearful of getting hit with pucks, because that's what they do for a living."

Mathieu Schneider, special assistant to NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, said the personal nature of chest protectors has been a challenge. Some goalies had worn their old ones for a decade or more.

"The irony is each time we've made equipment smaller, it's gotten lighter and goalies have gotten better," said Schneider, a

former NHL defenseman. "It's not like this snuck up on us."

Toronto goalie Frederik Andersen said he is fine with the changes, adding that an inch of missing shoulder coverage shouldn't make a difference in terms of results if he's on his game.

"It's about being square," Andersen said. "If I'm relying on that extra inch, I'm in trouble already."

Fellow Maple Leafs goalie Garret Sparks said he thinks the change could eventually help raise the skill level at the position.

"It just pushes me to be better," he said. "I'm open to the challenge as long as everybody's covered."

NHL shooters scored more times in 2017-18 than in any season since 2005-06, averaging nearly six goals per game.

With that in mind, Hellebuyck said he doesn't see a need to change — for any reason.