

STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, October 26, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Man detained in mail-bomb case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities took a man into custody Friday in Florida in connection with the mail-bomb scare that had widened to 12 suspicious packages, the FBI and Justice Department said.

The man was identified by law enforcement officials as Cesar Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Fla. He was arrested at an auto parts store in nearby Plantation, Fla.

Court records show Sayoc has a history of arrests.

Law enforcement officers were seen on television examining a white van, its windows covered with an assortment of stickers, in the city of Plantation, which is in the Miami area. Authorities covered the vehicle with a blue tarp and took it away on the back of a flatbed truck.

The stickers included images of American flags and what appeared to be logos of the Re-

publican National Committee and CNN, although the writing surrounding those images was unclear.

The development came amid a coast-to-coast manhunt for the person responsible for a series of explosive devices addressed to Democrats including former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton.

Law enforcement officials said they had intercepted a dozen packages in states across the country. None had exploded, and it wasn't immediately clear if they were intended to cause physical harm or simply sow fear and anxiety.

Earlier Friday, authorities said suspicious packages addressed to New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper — both similar to those containing pipe bombs sent to other prominent critics of President Donald Trump

— had been intercepted.

Investigators believe the mailings were staggered. The U.S. Postal Service searched their facilities 48 hours ago and the most recent packages didn't turn up. Officials don't think they were sitting in the system without being spotted, but they were working to determine for sure. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

The FBI said the package to Booker was intercepted in Florida. The one discovered at a Manhattan postal facility was addressed to Clapper at CNN's address. An earlier package had been sent to former Obama CIA Director John Brennan via CNN in New York.

Trump, in his first remarks after Sayoc was apprehended, said he will be prosecuted "to the fullest extent of the law." The president also declared that "we must never allow po-

litical violence to take root in America."

Although Trump declared that "these terrorizing acts are despicable" and said Americans "must unify," his remarks came just hours after Trump tweeted a complaint that the media's focus on bombs was distracting from Republican efforts in the upcoming midterm elections.

He also put the word "bomb" in quotes, a seeming nod to those who believed the scare was a hoax.

Investigators were analyzing the innards of the crude devices to reveal whether they were intended to detonate or simply sow fear just before Election Day.

Law enforcement officials told the AP that the devices, containing timers and batteries, were not rigged to explode upon opening. But they were uncertain whether the devices were poorly designed or never intended to cause physical harm.

Website promoting nude photos of servicemembers disabled

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A day after a key senator demanded an official probe into a website that solicits nude photos and videos of female servicemembers, the site has been disabled.

Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, on Thursday called for the Defense Department's inspector general to investigate the website, hotmilitarygirls.com.

By Friday morning, the site appeared to be disabled with a posted message asking viewers

to be patient as lawyers investigate and review the website.

"HMG is currently offline," the posting reads. "We are having our lawyers review the entire site to ensure it does not violate any laws due to a request for an investigation into the website. We STRONGLY disagree with any kind of revenge posting and have went [sic] to great lengths to delete anything close to this."

However, the posting refers visitors to another porn site.

It also appears an affiliated website, hotmilitarygirls.net, is still in operation from a server in the Netherlands, said Kris Goldsmith, a research who tracks websites that target servicemembers and veterans.

Both the .com and .net versions of the site appear to have anonymous registrations through the internet domain company GoDaddy Inc., said Goldsmith, who is assistant director for policy and government affairs for Vietnam Veterans of America.

Goldsmith alerted McCaskill's office about the hotmilitarygirls.com website, which was previously tied to two active Facebook pages — one with about 17,000 followers. Facebook took down the pages during the summer after Goldsmith reported them to the social media giant.

The social media pages and the website appeared to feature nude images of servicemem-

bers or their partners wearing U.S. military uniforms. That, along with other identifiable details connected to the images could let viewers trace the women to their homes, Goldsmith said.

In August, Goldsmith reported the site to federal authorities.

"I recognize there is a First Amendment right to publish porn, but no one has a right to publish porn without the subject's permission," he said of the disabled site Friday.

Now, Goldsmith is concerned hotmilitarygirls.com is getting rid of any images that might have been obtained without consent before the site can be investigated.

President considers shutting US border

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Fixated on the migrant caravan moving north through Mexico, President Donald Trump is weighing a plan to shut the U.S. border to Central Americans and deny them the opportunity to seek asylum, asserting similar emergency powers used during the early 2017 “travel ban,” according to administration officials and people familiar with the proposal.

In addition, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis approved Friday a request for additional troops at the southern border, likely to total several hundred to help the Border Patrol. Mattis signed off on a request for help from the Department of Homeland Security and authorized the military staff to work out details such as the size, composition and estimated cost of the deployments, according to a U.S. official.

Under U.S. law, foreign nationals fleeing persecution have the right to apply for asylum once they reach American soil, but the executive order under consideration would suspend that provision and bar Central Americans as a matter of national security, according to those familiar with the proposal.

Such a move would likely trigger immediate challenges in U.S. courts.

With the midterm elections two weeks away, Trump has seized on the migrant caravan as a vehicle for his own campaign messaging, depicting the Central American families as dangerous criminals and Democrats as their enablers.

According to a draft of the proposed rule reviewed by *The Washington Post*, the administration argues that the president can use his authority under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to declare migrants ineligible for asylum because it “would be contrary to the national interest” and “detrimental to the interests of the United States.”

The section is the same legal authority he invoked during the travel ban.

Said another administration

official, when asked about the Central America ban, “everything is on the table.”

The additional troops would reinforce the 2,000 or so National Guard personnel deployed to the border since April. Under a Pentagon order, they would not make arrests or operate in an enforcement role, according to officials with knowledge of the plan.

Dwindling caravan

The migrant caravan remains more than 900 miles from U.S. territory and has dwindled to about 3,000 people, according to the latest estimates from Mexican authorities. But the scenes of young men breaking through gates along the Guatemala-Mexico border earlier this week have alarmed the White House, and Trump continues to depict the Central American migrants as a criminal menace and a security threat.

One potential problem with the border entry ban under consideration is that migrants who cross illegally would still have to be taken into U.S. custody. The administration could attempt to deny them access to U.S. courts and expedite their deportation, but those migrants would have to be returned to Central America unless the Mexican government were to agree to take them.

Any attempt to force Mexico to take the Central Americans back would risk “potentially major conflict” with its government, said one Department of Homeland Security official familiar with some of the policy proposals that have been under discussion.

The United States has the legal authority to return them “since they let them through in the first place,” the person said.

In recent weeks, record numbers of migrant family members have streamed across the border in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas and into south-

ern Arizona, overwhelming detention capacity and prompting mass releases.

U.S. courts have limited the government’s ability to hold children in immigration jails, so “banning” Central Americans who enter illegally could have little practical effect. A denial of their ability to seek asylum could also matter little. Fewer than 10 percent of Central American applicants are granted asylum by U.S. immigration judges, according to the latest statistics, but many have used the process as a way to gain entry to the United States and remain in the country while their claims slowly proceed through the legal system.

White House officials have put escalating pressure on the Mexican government to stop the caravan, but officials there have declined to block its advance by force.

In a Thursday morning tweet, Trump called again for changes to U.S. immigration laws, which he said “make it tough for us to stop people at the Border.” He added that he is “bringing out the military for this National Emergency. They will be stopped!”

Later, the president tweeted: “To those in the Caravan, turn around, we are not letting people into the United States illegally. Go back to your Country and if you want, apply for citizenship like millions of others are doing!”

Weeks away

The caravan is still weeks from reaching the U.S. border, and Mexican authorities said the number of migrants has dwindled rapidly, from an estimate of 7,200 by the United Nations early in the week to 3,630 on Wednesday. The Mexican government said it had processed 1,700 asylum claims.

It is not clear what impact the additional military personnel would have, given that many of the migrants, if they

reach the United States, would probably attempt to surrender to Border Patrol agents. U.S. officials said the troops would not conduct direct law enforcement but would instead play supporting roles. Those duties were still being defined but are likely to include engineers who can oversee construction, aviation support, and possibly doctors or lawyers who can assist migrants.

Critics have said that a military solution would be costly and ineffective, and they accused Trump of trying to fan public fears over inflated security threats of the caravan to stoke his conservative base ahead of the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

“It’s sad and irresponsible that the president would deploy the world’s strongest military against a group of unarmed migrants, including women and children,” said Kevin Appleby, a policy director at the Center for Migration Studies. “It demonstrates that the administration’s deterrence policies have failed and they are at the point of desperation in their immigration policies. They need a new approach, one that addresses regional challenges and the push factors from the [Central American] region. It’s a waste of taxpayer money.”

The addition of active-duty forces could raise concerns among human rights groups, given that the caravan, which originated in Honduras, is made up largely of families, including children. U.S. officials said the additional forces are not expected to include any “trigger pullers.”

The National Guard personnel already at the border are under direct orders from their respective state governors and remain under those governors’ control. Mattis issued a memo this year that prohibited them from interacting directly with “migrants or other persons detained,” and that directive is still in place, said Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman.

Pence says Tyndall will be rebuilt

The News Herald, Panama City, Fla.

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE — Standing amid buildings without roofs, trees snapped like matchsticks and a model F-15 sitting upside down, Vice President Mike Pence brought a message to Tyndall Air Force Base Thursday — that the federal government still supports their mission and is committed to rebuilding the base.

“We will rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base,” Pence told a group of Florida National Guard and Coast Guard personnel.

Fifteen days after the eye of Hurricane Michael passed over the base, Col. Brian Laidlaw said Tyndall personnel and airmen from other nearby bases have made it through 503 buildings — about half the total number on base — and what they’ve seen so far has been encouraging. No more than 30 percent of those buildings are a total loss and many critical areas did not receive as much damage as originally thought.

“Today we have come so much further than I could have ever imagined when I came out of that ride out shelter that night,” Laidlaw said.

While the base is still seriously compromised and the air strip inoperable, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson said the “schoolhouse” — where F-22 pilots from across the country are trained with flight simulators — should be up and running by the first of the year, with the aircraft flying out of Eglin Air Force Base.

Over 11,000 personnel were evacuated from Tyndall in the 22 hours before the storm, along with all of the aircraft that were safe to fly, officials said. The federal government has already committed \$100 million to both help the base recover and help the thousands of military families that have been displaced in the storm’s aftermath.

UN investigators check weapons seized by US Navy ship in Gulf

Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS JASON DUNHAM, Persian Gulf — The huge pile of rusting AK-47 assault rifles is tucked into a corner below the deck of the USS Jason Dunham, serving as a grim reminder of how hard it is to catch weapons smugglers believed to be trafficking arms into Yemen.

On Thursday U.N. inspectors boarded the American guided-missile destroyer, to examine the more than 2,500 guns the crew seized in late August and determine if suspicions are true that the weapons originated in Iran.

U.S. officials have long accused Iran of smuggling arms across the waters to Yemen’s Shiite Houthi rebels, who have held Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, since September 2014. But they have only managed to seize a handful of weapons caches in recent years, underscoring the

difficulties in tracking down arms smugglers working the vast waters around Yemen.

“It’s one big traffic corridor,” Vice Adm. Scott Stearney, commander of U.S. 5th Fleet, told reporters Thursday. “It’s not blocked, and it’s not just lines on a map that people don’t penetrate.”

Stearney declined to say if he thought Iran was responsible for the shipment, but he said the U.N. inspectors were experts on illicit weapons from Iran, Yemen and Somalia.

The USS Jason Dunham on patrol in the region noticed large bags being transferred from a dhow about 70 miles off the coast of Yemen and into a smaller skiff. A dhow is a traditional ship that commonly sails the waters of the Persian Gulf region. The Navy ship intercepted the skiff and, after talking to the crew on board, determined they were smuggling weapons.

The rifles, in bundles of four or five, were wrapped in plastic, then wrapped in Styrofoam and hidden in green burlap bags, according to Navy Cmdr. John Hamilton, commander of the Dunham.

On Wednesday, a small number of reporters were allowed to see the assault rifles, which were stained with rust after nearly two months at sea. The weapons had been unpacked and piled up, and were ready to be inspected the following day by the U.N. team.

Hamilton said the crew on the dhow initially told them they were carrying flour and wheat.

Navy Capt. Adan Cruz, commodore of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said it was likely the weapons were being shipped from Somalia to Yemen, but that’s still not proven.

US Pacific territory will need help to recover

Associated Press

Residents of a U.S. territory in the Pacific ravaged by Super Typhoon Yutu are hopeful for help from the federal government as they dig out from damage including crumbled concrete houses, smashed cars and fallen utility poles.

Used to riding out monster storms, about 50,000 people living in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands expect to be without electricity and running water for months after getting slammed by the strongest storm to hit the U.S. this year.

Officials toured villages in Saipan and saw cars crushed under a collapsed garage, the ground ripped clean of vegetation and people injured by spraying glass and other debris. As of Friday local time, there was one storm-related

death confirmed.

A military plane was bringing food, water, tarps and other supplies, U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman David Gervino said.

The agency had already significant water and food in place because it had stored more than 220,000 liters of water and 260,000 shelf-stable meals at a distribution center on nearby Guam to prepare for Typhoon Mangkhut, which struck last month.

Mangkhut’s effects turned out to be not as bad as expected, so those supplies are still available.

The agency is focused on helping restore power, opening sea and air ports and ensuring cell towers can operate on emergency power until utility power returns, Gervino said.

One change the agency adopted because of Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm that struck Puerto Rico last year, is it has created task forces to tackle different areas such as transportation, communications, food and water and energy and fuel.

Federal and territory officials are in constant communication to address each of these areas, he said.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, the territory’s delegate to Congress, said residents will need significant help to recover. Colleagues in Congress have offered aid. Sablan expects a presidential disaster declaration to free up resources for storm relief.

“We want people to remember we are Americans and we exist,” local lawmaker Edwin Propst said.

Navy tests ship-based defense system

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy on Friday successfully shot down a medium-range ballistic missile in a test of the ship-based missile defense system that it is developing with Japan, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency said.

Sailors on the destroyer USS John Finn intercepted the test missile off the west coast of Hawaii using a Standard Missile-3 Block IIA, part of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system, the MDA said in a statement.

“This was a superb accomplishment and key milestone for the SM-3 Block IIA return to flight,” Air Force Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves, the MDA director, said in a statement. “My congratulations to the entire team, including our sailors, industry partners, and allies who helped achieve this milestone.”

It marked the second consecutive successful test of the U.S.-Japan developed Aegis missile defense system after a Japanese destroyer shot down a replicated missile in September, also off the coast of Hawaii. Japanese officials have said they want the system to protect against the threat of ballistic missiles from North Korea.

The North Koreans have demonstrated the ability to fire missiles that could reach the U.S. mainland, though they have not tested a ballistic missile since August 2017. North Korean missile tests in the Pacific region had increased tensions with the United States, though the friction between the two nations has dissipated amid diplomatic talks that include negotiations over North Korea’s nuclear program.

For more than a year, the Pentagon has been undergoing a study of its missile defense systems.

Pentagon aims for \$700B budget for next fiscal year

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department is developing a \$700 billion national security budget for fiscal year 2020 after being told by White House officials last week to cut the spending plan, Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan said Friday.

Pentagon officials are now looking at potentially \$33 billion in spending cuts, Shanahan said after being notified by Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, to slash the Defense Department’s projected \$733 billion budget for fiscal year 2020.

“So we are not going to reverse course on all of that planning, but we will build two budgets,” Shanahan told reporters during the 2018 Military Reporters and Editors Conference in Arlington, Va.

The comments come more than a week after President

Donald Trump surprised Cabinet and Pentagon officials with a new request to cut federal spending. At a Cabinet meeting at the White House, Trump told his secretaries that he wanted them to cut 5 percent from their department budgets for fiscal year 2020, which begins Oct. 1, 2019.

But when it came to the Defense Department, Trump didn’t describe a percentage cut, but instead said the budget would be \$700 billion for fiscal year 2020.

The budget should be completed by about Dec. 1, Shanahan said.

For Pentagon spending to stay on track with inflation next year, the Pentagon budget would have to be closer to \$730 billion, Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies, said last week following Trump’s remarks.

Such a dramatic slash in

spending would threaten pay raises for servicemembers and include cuts to new programs and acquisitions, Cancian said. For example, spending could decline for shipbuilding, aircraft acquisitions and other plans. Among some possible scenarios, a 2.4 percent pay raise could get dramatically cut, or there could be reductions to modernization programs for long-range strike bombers and the Army could have to pull back on spending for its vehicles programs.

Trump conceded tough decisions were made to increase defense spending during the first two years of his administration.

The spending cap is slated to decrease the defense budget to \$576 billion for the 2020 fiscal year, if no action is taken. And if no deal is reached and budget caps are exceeded in the new fiscal year, it raises the threat of sequestration — automatic, across-the-board budget cuts.

Location of Khashoggi’s body still unknown

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — The Saudi officials who killed journalist Jamal Khashoggi in their Istanbul consulate must reveal the location of his body, Turkey’s president said Friday in remarks that were sharply critical of the kingdom’s handling of the case.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also said Saudi Arabia’s chief prosecutor will arrive in Turkey on Sunday as part of the investigation and will meet with Turkish counterparts. On Thursday, Saudi prosecutors said Khashoggi’s killing was premeditated, citing Turkish evidence and changing the country’s account again to try to ease international outrage over the slaying of a prominent critic of Crown Prince Moham-

med bin Salman.

Turkey has other “information and evidence” about the killing by Saudi officials after Khashoggi entered the consulate on Oct. 2, and it will eventually reveal that information, Erdogan said without elaborating.

“There is no point in being too hasty,” he said in an indication that Turkey is prepared to maintain pressure on Saudi Arabia, even as the kingdom struggles for ways to end the crisis.

CIA director Gina Haspel was in Turkey earlier this week to review evidence, and she briefed U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington on Thursday.

What Trump called “one of the worst cover-ups in the

history of cover-ups” was revealed to the world by Turkish leaks of information, including references to purported audio recordings of the killing, and security camera footage of the Saudi officials who were involved as they moved around Istanbul. Key mysteries remaining include whether the killing was carried out with the knowledge of the crown prince, who denies it, and the location of Khashoggi’s body.

“It is clear that he has been killed but where is it? You have to show the body,” Erdogan said Friday during an address to Turkey’s ruling party leaders.

“If you cannot get them to speak... then hand them over to us and let us put them on trial,” he added.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Craigslist gun sale, robbery probed

AK ANCHORAGE — Police in Alaska are investigating the robbery of a man who tried to buy a gun off Craigslist.

Anchorage police say the victim met the seller at a local park Wednesday after he responded to the Craigslist ad for the handgun. According to police, the victim handed the seller \$400 and signed a bill of sale. Police said the seller loaded the gun, pointed it at the buyer and told him to walk away, then ran off with the money and the gun.

Jailer charged with having sex with inmate

MO FORSYTH — Court documents say a southwest Missouri jailer who is charged with having sex with an inmate told a detective that the inmate was “tempting” him.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that Jay Senger, 51, was charged Tuesday with three felony counts of having sex with a prisoner while working at the Taney County Jail. He is free on bond.

Charging documents say the inmate told a jail administrator Monday that she performed oral sex on Senger and consented to his touching her sexually while he stood in the doorway of her cell after lockdown.

The documents say Senger told a detective during an interview that the inmate was “tempting” and “teasing” him.

Cops: Woman tried to bite off man’s genitals

SC HANAHAN — Police in South Carolina say a naked woman tried to bite off a man’s genitals and then rushed on all fours at respond-

ing officers, who shocked her with a stun gun.

WCSC-TV reported that a man called police for help after a three-way sex party went awry Monday night. Hanahan Police said responding officers were rushed at by the bloody woman crawling on all fours.

Police Chief Dennis Turner said officers shocked her with a stun gun to subdue her, then used an overdose-fighting drug to revive her after they were told she was high on heroin and methamphetamine. The woman was taken to a hospital. No charges have been filed yet.

Ex-corrections worker guilty of aiding escape

WY CASPER — A former employee of a Wyoming corrections center has pleaded guilty to helping two inmates escape.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports Shayne Jones pleaded guilty Thursday in Natrona County District Court to two counts of aiding and abetting an escape after reaching a deal with prosecutors, who agreed to drop two counts of sexual assault. Prosecutors had accused Jones of having sex with a Casper Re-Entry Center inmate. According to court documents, Jones drove two inmates to California after stopping in Las Vegas.

Defense attorney Dylan Rosalez said he and prosecutor Kevin Taheri have agreed to seek three years of probation for Jones.

Police: Mother put bag over son’s head

OH ALLIANCE — Police say an Ohio woman whose son told her he was going to kill himself said she would do it for him before placing a plastic trash bag over his head and

pulling the drawstrings.

The Repository in Canton reported a 36-year-old Alliance woman was charged with attempted murder after Alliance police were called to her northeast Ohio home Sunday to investigate a domestic violence report. Stark County jail records show the young man, whose age wasn’t available, was able to tear open the bag to breathe.

Court records say the woman confronted him over theft or abuse of medication. The records say another family member had to intervene and the woman later said “she was upset and out of control.”

Man gets 5 years for hitting cops’ vehicles

IA SIOUX CITY — A Sioux City man accused of ramming police cars on a chase that began in Nebraska has been sentenced to five more years in an Iowa prison.

Woodbury County court records say Larry Johnson II, 43, pleaded guilty to felony eluding after prosecutors dropped an assault charge. His plea agreement says the sentence must be served after the remainder of his 15-year sentence for forgery. He was on parole when the chase occurred July 6.

The Nebraska State Patrol said a Nebraska trooper tried to stop Johnson’s pickup as it was being pursued by South Sioux City police. Officials said the truck rammed the trooper’s car before crossing into Iowa.

Officials said the truck again rammed both the trooper’s car and a sheriff’s vehicle before becoming stuck on a median.

Teacher gets program over ‘fight club’ case

CT NORWICH — Connecticut prosecutors have dropped criminal charg-

es against a superintendent charged with failing to report a student “fight club,” while the substitute teacher charged with organizing the fights has been granted a probation program.

The Norwich Bulletin reports that a judge granted Ryan Fish, 23, accelerated pretrial rehabilitation Tuesday. If he completes the program, charges will be dismissed.

Charges against Montville Superintendent Brian Levesque were dropped.

Prosecutors called the allegations “serious” but said Fish’s age and need for treatment were considered.

Charges were dropped last month against recently retired Montville High School Principal Jeffrey Theodoss.

Investigators said Fish allowed “slap boxing” fights inside a math classroom during school hours last year. Officials fired Fish and disciplined students, but police said administrators didn’t alert authorities until two months later.

Sex offenders go to city hall for Halloween

GA ATLANTA — At least one Georgia town is requiring sex offenders on parole or probation to spend part of Halloween at city hall.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported sex offenders must be in the City Council chambers from 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31 in Grovetown.

Grovetown Mayor Gary Jones said the move is designed to make sure children are safe. Jones said the town has about 25 or 30 registered sex offenders. He said four officers will supervise the offenders.

The Georgia Department of Community Supervision said it can require people on parole to report to a location, and can impose curfews on sex offenders.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Texans stretch winning streak to five

Associated Press

HOUSTON — This is the Deshaun Watson the Houston Texans have been waiting for all season.

Watson matched his career high with five touchdown passes to lead the Texans to their fifth straight victory, 42-23 over the Miami Dolphins on Thursday night.

The second-year quarterback has played well at times this year but hadn't had a breakout game while dealing with rib and lung injuries over the past few weeks.

The Texans (5-3) have left their 0-3 start behind with their longest single-season winning streak since reeling off six victories in a row in 2012.

"I think we've got the best offense in the NFL," receiver DeAndre Hopkins said. "What we put up tonight against a pretty good defense, what we've shown in these past five games that we've won, we're up there with the best of the best."

Watson threw touchdown

passes of 13, 2, 73, 49 and 2 yards to give him 34 career scoring passes, moving ahead of Dan Marino (32) for second-most in NFL history after 15 games.

"This offense can be very explosive," Watson said. "We can do a lot of good things, put a lot of points on the board."

Miami's Brock Osweiler, who had one tough season in Houston after signing a \$72 million contract in 2016, threw for 241 yards with an interception in his third straight start in place of injured starter Ryan Tannehill.

Kenyan Drake had a touchdown run and touchdown reception for the Dolphins (4-4). They lost for the second straight week.

"I'm fairly irritated right now," Miami coach Adam Gase said. "I'm going to re-evaluate everything this weekend and figure out how to get better on defense, figure out how to sustain drives and get the ball into the end zone on offense."

Rookie Jordan Thomas

caught the first two touchdown passes of his career, Hopkins had 82 yards receiving and two scores, and Will Fuller added 124 yards receiving and a touchdown.

Texans running back Lamar Miller, who grew up in Miami and spent his first four seasons with the Dolphins, had 133 yards rushing and a touchdown for his second straight 100-yard game.

Houston led by eight when Watson threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Hopkins on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 35-20.

Watson found the speedy Fuller in front of the defense for a 73-yard touchdown that left Houston up 28-17 late in the third quarter. It was the longest touchdown pass of Watson's career and the longest reception of Fuller's. Fuller has caught 11 touchdown passes in 11 career games with Watson.

But Friday the team announced Fuller tore a knee ligament in the game and will miss the rest of the season. He was

injured during the fourth quarter when he became entangled with a defender and tumbled to the ground.

The Dolphins used a 41-yard field goal to cut the lead to 28-20 with less than a minute left in the third quarter. That score came after a drive featuring a crazy 46-yard pass by Osweiler. He threw the ball to Jakeem Grant, who lost it after being hit by two Texans defenders, but it sailed down the field and into the hands of DeVante Parker for the big gain.

A 58-yard run by Miller got the Texans to the 9-yard line early in the third quarter. Houston extended the lead to 21-10 when Watson found Thomas again, this time on a 2-yard pass.

The Dolphins used some trickery later in the third quarter when Osweiler pitched a lateral to Danny Amendola, who threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Drake to cut the lead to 21-17.

Dodgers glad to be back in warm climate of LA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Palm trees! Shorts! Sunglasses!

While the World Series isn't quite a trip to the beach, the Boston Red Sox anticipate staying hot in balmy California, and the Los Angeles Dodgers hope a warm welcome will help them reverse a 2-0 deficit.

"I think the climate is a little different," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts deadpanned Thursday. "There's a familiarity, obviously, for us. There's been a lot of talk of outfield depth; we're very familiar with the ballpark."

Walker Buehler, a 24-year-old rookie right-hander, was the center of attention when he started Game 3 for the Dodgers in Friday's late-afternoon twilight against Rick Porcello. Not so Wednesday, when Buehler flew home from Boston ahead of his team and went

unrecognized.

He missed a 4-2 win by the Red Sox at Fenway Park that opened a 2-0 Series lead. The Dodgers once again looked off-kilter in the cold of autumn in New England.

Los Angeles traveled Thursday, deciding to get a full night's sleep in a Boston hotel rather than flop on flat-bed airplane seats while cruising cross-country through the night. Boston's players spent the night at home, then jetted west.

Porcello went straight from the charter to Dodger Stadium, GQ ready in a dark suit, dress shirt and violet necktie.

"I actually have it buttoned up because I have a stain on my white shirt," he said. "I've been walking around Dodger Stadium with this thing snug, so nobody could see that. It's not as good as it looks right now. I'm hiding everything."

Boston burst ahead in the Se-

ries at its 106-year-old ballpark, defined by the 37-foot Green Monster in left, the triangle in center, the Pesky Pole in right and the Citgo sign beyond. The Red Sox thrived in the chilly, damp nights. The Dodgers bundled up and tried to endure.

Now Los Angeles is back in its own element. The yellow, light orange, turquoise and sky blue seats looked like 55,000 or so dominoes lined up, the San Gabriel Mountains shimmering beyond the hexagonal video boards and the parking lots. While there were no formal workouts by either team, a few Dodgers played catch in left field.

"You get on the road and things can be a little quirky," Buehler said. "I would think that most people would be better at their home ballpark and to have their home crowd behind them. And we expect them to be out and loud."

With the shift to the National League, the designated hitter vanished. Boston manager Alex Cora was forced to decide whether to insert J.D. Martinez into an outfield corner to keep the major league RBI leader in the batting order. He ruled out shifting Mookie Betts from right field to second base to create room.

Roberts was a member of the 2004 Red Sox, who became the first team to overcome a 3-0 postseason deficit when they beat the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series. Boston then swept St. Louis for its first title since 1918. Roberts remembered the message of then-Red Sox manager Terry Francona: win tonight.

"You can't win four games in one night," Roberts said. "So just the focus-on-one-game-at-a-time mentality. I know it's easier said than done."

College football roundup

Georgia Southern upsets No. 25 Appalachian State

Associated Press

STATESBORO, Ga. — Shai Werts rushed for 129 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown run, and Georgia Southern upset No. 25 Appalachian State 34-14 on Thursday night to spoil the Mountaineers' first week in the Top 25.

Werts threw a 57-yard scoring pass to Darion Anderson early in the second quarter. It was Werts' only completion in three attempts for Georgia Southern (7-1, 4-0 Sun Belt). Wesley Fields had scoring runs of 10 and 18 yards in the Eagles' fifth straight win.

Georgia Southern fans stormed the field following the school's first home game against a Top 25 team.

Appalachian State quarterback Zac Thomas was knocked out of the game on the opening series for the Mountaineers (5-2, 3-1). The back of Thomas' helmet hit the ground as he was tackled following a 5-yard run. He was taken to the medical tent on the sideline and then escorted to the locker room. He didn't return. Backup quarterbacks Peyton Derrick and Jacob Huesman combined to throw four interceptions, and the Mountaineers also lost a fumble on a punt return.

No. 13 West Virginia 58, Baylor 14: Will Grier threw three touchdown passes and the host Mountaineers used a big second quarter to cruise past the Bears.

West Virginia (6-1, 4-1 Big 12) bounced back from a blowout loss at Iowa State with arguably its best performance of the season on both sides of the ball.

During a 31-point second quarter, Grier had TD tosses of 25 and 65 yards to David Sills, and Grier ran for a 1-yard score for a 41-0 halftime lead.

Baylor (4-4, 2-3) had 287 total yards.

Georgia Tech 49, Virginia Tech 28: Backup quarterback Tobias Oliver ran for 215 yards and three touchdowns and the visiting Yellow Jackets ran all over the Hokies.

Georgia Tech (4-4, 2-3 ACC), playing without starter TaQuon Marshall, finished with 465 yards — all on the ground. Jordan Mason also scored three times as the Yellow Jackets won their third straight against the Hokies and third straight in Lane Stadium — without completing a pass.

Virginia Tech (4-3, 3-1), which led 21-14, faded after its defense forced a punt and Sean Savoy muffed it.

Georgia Tech scored the next 35 points.

Kansas coach Self moving on from corruption verdict

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Bill Self and his coaching staff have been recruiting for more than a year while the specter of a widespread investigation into college basketball has loomed over the storied Kansas program.

They've sat in gyms for AAU tournaments and watched the next generation of stars as they showcase their talent for coaches just like them. The hours they've spent on the road have been eclipsed only by those spent on the telephone as they try to land the next five-star stud.

Soon, Self will be making in-home visits to prospects considering the top-ranked Jayhawks, and inevitably he will be asked about his role in the corruption scandal engulfing the sport.

What will the Hall of Fame coach tell the kid? What will he tell mom and dad?

"That's a hard one," Self acknowledged, "because the things I can't say to you are the same things I can't say to them. All I can do is encourage them to — well, this is what you heard or is this what was actually said? I'm not going to run. If our name comes up, I'll talk to recruits — 'This is how our name came up. Those are the facts as it came out.'"

Indeed, the path forward promises to be a bumpy one for Self and the Jayhawks, who are so loaded with talent this season they were picked No. 1 in the AP's preseason poll and are the runaway choice of the Big

12's coaches to win their 15th straight conference crown.

In a New York courtroom this week, former Adidas executive Jim Gatto, consultant Merl Code and NBA agent runner Christian Dawkins were found guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud after they were linked to a pay-for-play scheme in which they would funnel money from Adidas to families of recruits at Kansas, Louisville and its other sponsored schools.

During testimony, text messages presented by the defense indicated Self and Kansas assistant Kurtis Townsend may have been aware that ex-AAU coach T.J. Gassnola had helped to deliver money to the legal guardian of one of their current players, sophomore forward Silvio De Sousa.

Gassnola denied that Self or any assistants knew of the payments, and the school said Wednesday that it would withhold De Sousa from competition until an eligibility review is complete. Nevertheless, it was a black eye for a coach and program that prides itself on transparency.

"I have total confidence in all members of my staff, including (Townsend), and feel as strongly about that today as I did five, 10, 15 years ago," Self said. "We do not operate in that manner."

The investigation could hover for a while, though. There are two more federal cases pending next year, and the three men found guilty Wednesday also will be sentenced in the spring.

Briefly

Twins hire Baldelli as manager

Associated Press

The Minnesota Twins have hired Tampa Bay Rays assistant coach Rocco Baldelli as their new manager, seeking a young voice to help revive a struggling team.

The 37-year-old Baldelli replaces Paul Molitor, who was fired after four seasons with a 305-343 record. Baldelli will be the youngest manager in the major leagues, the first skipper ever born in the 1980s.

Baldelli spent the last four years on the staff of Rays manager Kevin Cash. For four seasons prior to that, he was a special assistant in the front office of the team that drafted him sixth overall in 2000 out of high school in Rhode Island. Baldelli debuted with the Rays at age 21 in 2003, finishing third in the American League Rookie of the Year award voting.

IndyCar driver Wickens paralyzed from waist down

IndyCar driver Robert Wickens is paralyzed from the waist down from injuries suffered in an August crash.

The 29-year-old Wickens has been updating his rehabilitation progress on social media and posted a video Thursday of his "first slide transfer as a paraplegic" that showed him moving from a table to his wheelchair. Thursday's post was the first time he publicly confirmed his paralysis.

Wickens crashed at Pocono on Aug. 19, suffering a thoracic spinal fracture, spinal cord injury, neck fracture, tibia and fibula fractures to both legs, fractures in both hands, fractured right forearm, four fractured ribs and a pulmonary contusion.

NHL Roundup

Hornqvist, Kessel lead Pens' rout of Flames

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Patric Hornqvist and Phil Kessel each scored twice and the Pittsburgh Penguins pounded the Calgary Flames 9-1 on Thursday night.

Sidney Crosby, Bryan Rust, Jack Johnson, Jake Guentzel and Matt Cullen also scored, and Matt Murray made 38 saves to help the Penguins improve to 5-1-2 overall and 3-0 on a four-game Canadian trip.

Crosby has scored three times in his last two games after going six without a goal to start this season. Evgeni Malkin had a pair of assists to extend his points streak to six straight games.

James Neal spoiled Murray's shutout bid late in the third period.

Flames starter Mike Smith was pulled for David Rittich midway through the sec-

ond period after allowing six goals on 21 shots. Rittich turned away 12 of 15 shots.

Bruins 3, Flyers 2: Zdeno Chara scored twice and Jaroslav Halak stopped 26 shots in Boston's victory over visiting Philadelphia.

Predators 4, Devils 3 (OT): Kyle Turris made a length-of-the-ice rush and snapped a shot past Keith Kinkaid 3:35 into overtime to lift visiting Nashville past New Jersey.

Blackhawks 4, Rangers 1: Nick Schmaltz set up Alexandre Fortin's tie-breaking goal in the second period in host Chicago's victory over New York.

Oilers 4, Capitals 1: Rookie Evan Bouchard scored his first goal, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had a goal and an assist and host Edmonton beat Washington.

Blue Jackets 7, Blues 4: Boone Jenner

and Anthony Duclair each scored twice and visiting Columbus overcame a two-goal deficit to beat St. Louis.

Sabres 4, Canadiens 3: Kyle Okposo scored on a power play with 1:01 left in the third period in host Buffalo's comeback victory over Montreal.

Wild 4, Kings 1: Eric Fehr and Jonas Brodin scored their first goals of the season to help host Minnesota send Los Angeles to its sixth straight loss.

Stars 5, Ducks 2: Jason Dickinson had two goals and an assist in his first multi-point game, and Ben Bishop made 23 in host Dallas' victory over Anaheim.

Coyotes 4, Canucks 1: Clayton Keller broke a tie early in the third period and host Arizona beat Vancouver for its first home victory of the season.

NBA Roundup

Celtics rally past winless Thunder

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jayson Tatum scored 24 points, and the Boston Celtics rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit to beat the winless Oklahoma City Thunder 101-95 on Thursday night.

Marcus Morris added 21 points, Al Horford scored 19 and Kyrie Irving had 15 for the Celtics.

Paul George scored 22 points for Oklahoma City, but shot just 7-for-22. Russell Westbrook had 13 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, but he shot 5-for-20. The Thunder and Cleveland Cavaliers are the only winless teams in the league.

Morris hit a three-pointer with 27 seconds left to give the Celtics a 98-95 lead, and they held on.

Oklahoma City led 50-34 at halftime. Boston shot just 32 percent in the first half and missed all 11 of its three-point

attempts.

Trail Blazers 128, Magic 114: Damian Lillard scored 34 of his 41 points in the second half to help Portland beat host Orlando.

CJ McCollum added 22 points, and Jusuf Nurkic had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Terrence Ross had 21 points.

Pistons 110, Cavaliers 103: Andre Drummond had 26 points and 22 rebounds, and Detroit improved to 4-0 and dropped visiting Cleveland to 0-6 for the first time since 2003-04 — when LeBron James was a rookie.

Blake Griffin scored 26 points in his first game since a 50-point night against Philadelphia on Tuesday. Reggie Jackson added 16 points.

Kyle Korver led Cleveland with 21 points. Kevin Love missed the game because of a sore left foot.

LeBron's triple leads Lakers past Nuggets

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When Kobe Bryant took a courtside seat in the first quarter, Staples Center buzzed with excitement for the mere sight of the most popular athlete in this building's history.

The crowd even started a "Kobe! Kobe!" chant in the fourth quarter — and it was immediately drowned out by cheers when LeBron James hit a three-pointer.

With the symbol of the Los Angeles Lakers' past watching in approval, James and the Lakers' young core proved that their present and future is pretty tantalizing, too.

James had 28 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds while leading a late rally for his first home victory with the Lakers, 128-111 over the previously unbeaten Denver Nuggets on Thursday night.

LeBron and Kobe didn't get a chance to talk, but the longtime friendly rivals likely both left happy with the Lakers' new direction after James' first tri-

ple-double for LA.

"Of course I noticed him sitting right on the baseline over there," James said. "One of the all-time Laker greats. What he's done for this franchise in his 20-plus years here speaks wonders for me. To be able to compete against him all those years, and for me to be able to share a jersey, the same jersey as him at this point, is pretty special."

With Bryant in attendance for the first time since LeBron's arrival in LA, Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points and JaVale McGee added 21.

The Lakers trailed by eight points with six minutes left in the fourth quarter before Lance Stephenson, who finished with 12 points, started a 15-2 rally with back-to-back three-pointers.

"The first couple of games, when we fell behind, we stayed behind," James said. "Tonight when we fell behind, we learned from our mistakes, and that's one of the most important things in life."