

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Kim insults Trump, hints at weapons test

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's leader called President Donald Trump "mentally deranged" and a "dotard" on Friday, and hinted at new missile tests as the war of words between the two leaders evolved into personal insults.

Kim Jong Un issued the statement after Trump warned in his U.N. General Assembly address on Tuesday that he will "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend the United States or its allies.

The U.S. president assailed Kim again on Friday, calling him a "madman" whose regime will be "tested like never before."

North Korea's foreign minister, meanwhile, raised the frightening prospect of detonating a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean, although he stressed the ultimate decision

was up to Kim.

Trump also authorized new sanctions in an executive order aimed at punishing foreign companies that deal with the North, the latest in a series of moves to isolate and impoverish the defiant regime.

The latest war of words escalates already-high tensions that have generated the most serious crisis on the divided peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War.

"The mentally deranged behavior of the U.S. president ... makes even those with normal thinking faculty think about discretion and composure," Kim Jong Un said in a rare personal statement published Friday.

Kim said Trump was "playing with fire" and warned his regime "will consider with seriousness exercising of a corresponding, highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history."

He said Trump's remarks "have convinced me, rather

than frightening or stopping me, that the path I chose is correct and that it is the one I have to follow to the last."

"I will make the man holding the prerogative of the supreme command in the U.S. pay dearly for his speech calling for totally destroying [North Korea]," he added.

"Whatever Trump might have expected, he will face results beyond his expectation," Kim said. "I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged U.S. dotard with fire."

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary's Twitter site said searches for the meaning of "dotard" spiked after the report.

It said the word as used today commonly means "a person in his or her dotage," which it defined as "a state or period of senile decay marked by decline of mental poise and alertness." But the word initially had the meaning of "imbecile" when it was

first used in the 14th Century, according to Merriam-Webster.

North Korea has made swift progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear weapon that could target the U.S. mainland. Kim also has threatened to fire missiles into the waters near the U.S. territory of Guam.

The communist state conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3, claiming it had detonated a hydrogen bomb. It also has test-fired dozens of missiles since last year, including two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July.

Kim didn't elaborate on what countermeasures he may consider. But North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told reporters in New York that "it could be the most powerful detonation of an H-bomb in the Pacific."

"We have no idea about what actions could be taken as it will be ordered by leader Kim Jong Un," he said, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

## Bid to loosen strike rules could lead to expanded action in Africa

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The Trump administration reportedly wants to loosen the criteria for carrying out airstrikes, a move that could open the door to conducting new drone attacks against Islamic militants in parts of Africa and other nations.

President Donald Trump has been presented with a proposal to relax key airstrike rules, and he was expected to approve the measures, The New York Times reported Friday, citing unnamed officials.

If implemented, the plan could have significant implications for the Stuttgart-based U.S. Africa Command, which now routinely

conducts airstrikes against al-Shabab in Somalia, but also is trying to counter extremists in other parts of the continent.

To date, counterextremist efforts in Africa have centered on attempts to bolster indigenous forces leading the fight against groups, such as Boko Haram and al-Qaida affiliates in western Africa. Any extension of airstrikes to other parts of Africa would serve as a dramatic departure for AFRICOM.

The proposed changes would allow the military and CIA to kill targets beyond senior militants that pose an immediate threat. That means regular foot soldiers could now be targeted. Also, those strike decisions would not need "high-level vetting," the Times reported.

"But administration officials have also agreed that they should keep in place one important constraint for such attacks: a requirement of 'near certainty' that no civilian bystanders will be killed," the Times said.

In the case of attacks and raids on new countries, commanders would still need higher-level approval, the Times reported.

In March, Trump gave AFRICOM commander Gen. Thomas Waldhauser the authority to make strike decisions in Somalia without presidential approval, a move military officials have said enables faster strikes against targets in Somalia.

For now, the command's airstrike campaign is largely restricted to Somalia and the occasional attack against Islam-

ic State militants in Libya.

Africa is home to a mix of al-Qaida affiliates and insurgencies that are among the world's most lethal, most notably the Nigerian-based Boko Haram, which also carries out attacks in neighboring countries. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb has been less of a focal point in recent years but still poses a threat in Mali and the loosely governed pockets of the Sahel region.

AFRICOM hasn't publicly indicated an interest in conducting attacks of its own in western Africa, but the military does maintain drone bases in Cameroon and Niger where unarmed surveillance operations could be expanded if agreements are reached with host nations.

# About 2.2K Fort Bragg soldiers deploying

*The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*

Fort Bragg is sending thousands of additional soldiers to Afghanistan to bolster U.S. forces in the nation's longest war.

Approximately 2,200 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers began quietly deploying this month, part of a long-discussed troop surge that involves more than 3,000 U.S. servicemembers on top of the more than 10,000 already serving in Afghanistan.

The soldiers — part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team — were alerted to the mission earlier this month and quickly deployed. Once in Afghanistan, they will be reunited with their brigade leadership and about 1,500 soldiers from the brigade who deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year.

Those soldiers are spread from Bagram Air Field and Kabul to Kandahar and

Helmand provinces.

They also have a variety of missions, tasked with training, advising and assisting Afghan partners and providing security for other U.S. forces in the country.

In addition to the 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers, Army officials in Alaska announced that an additional 1,000 soldiers there would also be deploying to Afghanistan.

Those soldiers are part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Originally, 1,200 paratroopers from the brigade were slated to deploy to Afghanistan, but the pending troop increase in the country increased that number to about 2,100 soldiers.

The commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, Maj. Gen. Erik Kurilla, said the latest deployments are an

example of how the division's paratroopers remain ready for whatever the nation asks.

"This past week, the remainder of our 1st Brigade Combat Team departed Fort Bragg to join their fellow Devil Brigade paratroopers already engaged in Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan," Kurilla said. "We were directed to provide additional forces in Afghanistan and, as always, we stand prepared to provide combat power on short notice while continually maintaining readiness for other contingencies should those emerge. We are the 82nd Airborne Division; this is who we are and the business we are in."

While the latest deployments to Afghanistan came with short notice, they were not completely unexpected.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, like most of the 82nd Air-

borne Division, has repeatedly deployed to the country, with the most recent tours in 2012 and 2014.

And when 1st Brigade soldiers deployed in June, Col. Tobin Magsig told the paratroopers remaining at Fort Bragg to be prepared. He said those not set to deploy would stand ready in case they were needed.

The 1st Brigade soldiers have deployed in small groups over more than a week.

On Sept. 13, nearly 150 paratroopers waited to deploy from a building at Pope Field. They said they had been eagerly awaiting the call that would send them to join their brigade in Afghanistan.

"Absolutely," said 1st Lt. Mason Bell when asked if the soldiers were ready. "We've been waiting for the word since June."

## Experts: Some F-35 ejections pose 'serious' risk

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — The F-35 fighter jets' flawed ejection seats, which Air Force officials said in May had been fixed, still pose a "serious" risk that will probably injure or kill nearly two dozen pilots, according to an internal Air Force safety report that service officials withheld from the press.

The F-35 Joint Program Office — which runs the \$406.5 billion initiative, the most expensive weapons program in history — has declined to try to save those lives by conducting less than a year's worth of additional testing that would cost a relatively paltry few million dollars, the report shows.

Mannequin tests in 2015 had demonstrated that a large portion of F-35 pilots were at risk of fatal neck injuries if they had to eject in the original seats under some emergency conditions. Air Force officials said at a news conference in May that

changes made to the seat since then, including a new head support, had essentially solved the problem.

"I'm confident our pilots are no longer concerned with the F-35 ejection system," Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus, a top official overseeing the program, told reporters.

But two weeks before the news conference, the internal Air Force report from the service's top aviation safety experts, the Technical Airworthiness Authority, had told a different story.

Twenty-two pilots will be injured or killed in the coming decades unless the upgraded ejection seats undergo additional testing to show they work in "off-nominal" cases — in other words, when the plane is out of control, not just in optimal flight conditions, said the May 1 report on "F-35 — A Residual Risk Acceptance," obtained by CQ Roll Call.

Such cases would be rare — perhaps 2 percent of ejections,

by one estimate. But the results could be "catastrophic" for the pilots, the report said.

For "no less than \$1 million" worth of tests taking "nine to 12 months," the result could be "no additional losses" of pilots, the report said. But the program office "nonconcur" with the recommended testing, the report said.

Air Force public affairs officials at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where the safety report was produced, declined to provide CQ Roll Call with a copy of the report and said a Freedom of Information Act Request would have to be filed to obtain it.

The Pentagon's directorate of operational testing agrees with the Technical Airworthiness Authority's safety assessment.

The F-35 program "needs to conduct sufficient testing under off-nominal conditions to adequately characterize and assess the effect of off-nominal (i.e., out-of-control) ejections,"

said Army Lt. Col. Roger Cabiness, a spokesman for the operational testing office.

The canopy issue

Another concern of Pentagon testing officials — one that has gotten less attention than the ejection seat — is the F-35's polymer cockpit canopy, which lifts and shatters by design before the ejection seat is released. The worry is that the canopy's "fragments may hit the pilot during the ejection sequence," Cabiness said, especially if the plane is out of control.

The canopy system, too, has not been sufficiently tested to see how it will perform when the plane is out of control, the testing office has argued.

The discrepancy between F-35 program officials' public optimism and expressions of worry inside the Pentagon is not new to the program, whether the subject is the plane's ejection system or other troubled aspects of its development.

# Air Force: Complaints about chaplain probed

By DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — After initially denying an investigation, the Air Force said Friday that its inspector general's office is reviewing complaints against reserve chaplain Capt. Sonny Hernandez, who proclaimed that Christian servicemembers are wrong to support the rights of other faiths to practice their religion, actions that he said will lead them to hell.

"I can confirm that the Air Force is reviewing IG complaints made against Chaplain Hernandez that were referred to the Air Force Inspector General's office," Air Force spokesman Col. Patrick Ryder said Friday. "At this time, it would be inappropriate to comment on the nature of those complaints or speculate on potential outcomes."

An Air Force Reserve spokesman said earlier this week that the service was not investigating Hernandez.

Hernandez, with the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is strongly outspoken on his Christian beliefs. On the Christian blog Barbwire.com,

Hernandez wrote last week that Christians in the Armed Forces who support the constitutional rights of people from other religions to practice their faith are wrong. As a chaplain, he said he believes he cannot subvert his religion beneath constitutional law. He wrote that if a Christian supports a person's constitutional right to an abortion, they are serving Satan.

"It is imperative the Bible-believing military chaplains align themselves with the right endorser that has sincerely held beliefs that appeal to Scripture alone and will not support or accommodate evil," he wrote.

In the wake of the post, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed a complaint against Hernandez with the Department of Defense Inspector General. The organization's president and founder, Mikey Weinstein, said the complaint was in addition to others MRFF filed against Hernandez in April. He said he was surprised that the complaints were being reviewed by the Air Force, not Pentagon investigators.

Ryder did not say whether the complaints

from April were still under review nor why spokespeople from the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve did not know about the inspector general's review.

The controversy raises questions over the role of chaplains and where the boundaries lie between spiritual leadership and innate freedoms of religion and speech guaranteed under the Constitution that all servicemembers swear to "support and defend."

All chaplains must be certified as "willing to function in a pluralistic environment ... and to support directly and indirectly the free exercise of religion by all members of the Military Services, their family members and other persons authorized to be served by the military chaplaincies," according to the Department of Defense.

It also is further complicated by the fact that Hernandez is a reserve chaplain, meaning most days, he is a civilian. He told Stars and Stripes this week that he sees his role as that of missionary and said he was espousing purely theological arguments.

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## Man guilty in sabotage of Army Reserve pay program

*The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*

A former defense contractor who sabotaged an Army Reserve computer program was convicted of the crime in federal court this week.

Mittesh Das, 48, of Atlanta, was convicted following a three-day trial in Greenville, N.C., according to the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

A jury found Das guilty of "knowingly transmitting malicious code with the intent to cause damage to a U.S. Army computer used in furtherance of national security."

Sentencing has been scheduled for the Jan. 9 term of court, according to federal court records.

According to court documents, Das used the code to disable the program that handles pay and personnel actions for nearly 200,000 Army reservists in 2014.

At the time, officials blamed

the problems with the program, which delayed Reserve paychecks for 17 days, on a "glitch."

Five of the servers associated with the program are at Fort Bragg, which is home to U.S. Army Reserve Command.

The sabotage cost taxpayers \$2.6 million, according to U.S. Attorney John Stuart Bruce.

The Army discovered the code while troubleshooting the problems that the code caused. That led to an investigation by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command.

Das had worked as a subcontractor responsible for oversight of the computer system. Investigators discovered that when the contract was re-bid and awarded to a different company, Das inserted malicious code known as a "logic bomb."

The contract handover occurred in November 2014, and the system began experiencing problems the next day, officials said.

## New Navy destroyer to be commissioned in SC

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A new Navy destroyer named for a Marine who died in Vietnam will be commissioned in South Carolina next year.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that the USS Ralph Johnson will be commissioned in March in Charleston.

Johnson jumped onto a grenade in Vietnam in 1968, dying

as he saved the life of a fellow Marine. Johnson was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

The Navy said in 2012 the ship would be named for the 19-year-old Johnson, who lived in Charleston.

The Veterans Administration Hospital in Charleston was renamed for Johnson in 1991.

The nearly \$700 million ship will be based in Everett, Wash., when it joins the fleet.

From The Associated Press

## Deployed soldier back to face charges in NC

WASHINGTON — A U.S. soldier from Fort Bragg, N.C., deployed to Afghanistan was sent back to North Carolina this week to face charges of kidnapping and multiple sex offenses, according to law enforcement and Army officials.

Sgt. Andrew Lawrence Porter, 31, was booked into the Cumberland County jail Wednesday on charges of second-degree rape, first-degree kidnapping and two counts of second-degree forcible sex offense, jail

records show. The charges are all felonies and were filed by the Fayetteville Police Department, according to the records.

An Army official confirmed Porter is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and had deployed this summer to Afghanistan from Fort Bragg with his unit, 2nd Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Porter's bond was set at \$300,000 for all the charges.

The charges stem from an incident on March 24, the Fayetteville Observer reported.

From Stripes staff

# Puerto Rico faces weeks without electricity

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The eye of Hurricane Maria was nearing the Turks and Caicos early Friday as Puerto Rico sought to recover from the storm's devastation.

Two days after Maria ravaged Puerto Rico, flooding towns, crushing homes and killing at least two people, millions on the island faced the dispiriting prospect of weeks and perhaps months without electricity. The storm knocked out the entire grid across the U.S. territory of 3.4 million, leaving many without power.

Residents began hunting for gas canisters for cooking, collecting rainwater or steeling themselves mentally for the hardships to come in the tropical heat. Some contemplated leaving the island.

"You cannot live here without power," said Hector Llanos, 78, a retired New York police officer who planned to leave Sat-

urday for the U.S. mainland to live there temporarily.

Like many Puerto Ricans, Llanos does not have a generator or a gas stove. "The only thing I have is a flashlight," he said, shaking his head. "This is never going to return to normal."

Maria's death toll across the Caribbean, meanwhile, climbed to at least 27. There were at least 15 deaths on Dominica and six on Puerto Rico. Other islands reporting deaths were Haiti, three; Guadeloupe, two; and the Dominican Republic, one.

As of Friday morning, Maria was passing northeast of the Turks and Caicos with winds of 125 mph. A hurricane warning remained in effect for those islands, as well as the southeastern Bahamas. The storm is expected to veer into the open Atlantic and pose no threat to the U.S. mainland.

In Puerto Rico, the grid was in sorry shape long before Maria — and Hurricane

Irma two weeks ago — struck.

The territory's \$73 billion debt crisis has left agencies like the state power company broke. It abandoned most basic maintenance in recent years, leaving the island subject to regular blackouts.

"We knew this was going to happen, given the vulnerable infrastructure," said Gov. Ricardo Rossello.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it would open an air bridge from the mainland on Friday, with three to four military planes flying to the island every day carrying water, food, generators and temporary shelters.

"There's a humanitarian emergency here in Puerto Rico," Rossello said. "This is an event without precedent."

He said his administration was trying to open ports soon to receive shipments of food, water, generators, cots and other supplies.

## Search for Mexico quake survivors enters 4th day

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Survivors are still being pulled from rubble in Mexico City as rescue operations stretch into a fourth day Friday, spurring hope among desperate relatives gathered at the sites of buildings collapsed by a magnitude-7.1 earthquake.

Mexico's federal police said several people were lifted out of the debris of two buildings Thursday. Rescuers removed or broke through slabs until they found cracks that allowed workers to wiggle through to reach the victims, then to lift them to safety. The city government said 60 people in all had been rescued since the quake hit at midday Tuesday.

Still, with the hours passing, fewer of the living were being found, and the official death toll rose to 273 in Mexico City and several nearby states, with 137 in the capital.

The time was nearing when rescuers would be replaced by bulldozers to clear rubble, but officials went to great pains to say it was still a rescue operation.

The federal civil defense director, Luis Felipe Puente,

acknowledged that backhoes and bulldozers were starting to clear away some wrecked buildings where no one had been detected or where teetering piles of rubble threatened to collapse on neighboring structures.

"It is false that we are demolishing structures where there could be survivors," Puente said. "The rescue operations will continue, and they won't stop."

Those who witnessed the buildings collapse said the tragedy could have been much worse. Some buildings didn't fall immediately, giving people time to escape, and some shattered but left airspaces where occupants survived.

In other cases, the salvation seemed almost miraculous.

Security guard Felix Giral Barron said that after the quake started, he had time to run and tell people to evacuate his building. Then an entire apartment building across the street crumbled, and a big tank of heating gas on it slid off, but didn't explode.

"The 550-pound gas tank got caught by the trees on the street, and that prevented it from exploding," he said.

## GOP health bill provisions aimed at aiding 2 states

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Provisions shoehorned into the Republican health care bill dangle extra money for Alaska and Wisconsin, home states of one GOP senator whose vote party leaders desperately need and another who co-sponsored the legislation, according to analysts who've studied the legislation.

The 140-page measure, which top Republicans hope to push through the Senate next week, is stuffed with language making some states winners and others losers. Aides say the legislation is still changing as leaders hunt the 50 GOP "yes" votes they'll need to turn this summer's jarring Senate rejection of the party's crusade to erase President Barack Obama's law into an eleventh-hour triumph.

Alaska is home to GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who's among a handful of Republicans who've not said how they'll vote. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is one of the bill's co-sponsors and his support is not in question, but the episode suggests the value of helping craft of legislation.

The bill was written chiefly

by GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and South Carolina's Lindsey Graham. It would end Obama's Medicaid expansion and subsidies for people buying private insurance and would combine the money into new block grants for states.

With all Democrats opposed, Republicans controlling the Senate 52-48 can lose only two votes if they are to succeed, leaving the bill's fate uncertain. Generally, it would shift money from states that expanded their Medicaid programs for the poor under Obama's statute, which tend to be run by Democrats, to the largely Republican-run states that shunned that expansion.

The measure would shield Alaska from some cuts it imposes on Medicaid, according to analysts, including from the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, by limiting spending to a maximum amount per beneficiary starting in 2020. The federal-state program for low earners always has provided automatically whatever money is needed for eligible recipients. Montana also would qualify for the exemption.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Cops search for poop-and-run jogger

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — Police in Colorado are looking for a jogger they say is repeatedly interrupting her runs to defecate in public in one neighborhood.

Cathy Budde said she was first alerted to the woman she's dubbed "The Mad Pooper" by her children, who caught the jogger in the act weeks ago. Budde told KKTU-TV the woman apologized after she questioned her. But Budde said the jogger has left something behind on her runs at least once a week for the past seven weeks.

Police have asked Budde to take pictures of the woman so they can try to identify her. Budde has put up a sign asking the woman to stop. She said there are public restrooms in the area.

## Cops: Woman attacks man, steals his pizza

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey police said a 24-year-old woman was charged with robbery, saying she stole pizza from a man in Atlantic City.

Atlantic City police said they responded to a call early Tuesday, finding a 60-year-old man on the ground who was hit on the head. Atlantic City Police Sgt. Kevin Fair said the woman stole the man's pizza and ran away.

She was located and arrested roughly 20 minutes later and is currently being held at county jail on robbery charges.

## Suspects target cars at funeral homes

**NY** ROCHESTER — Authorities said they've arrested three people who used

obituaries to plan out thefts of items left in vehicles parked at western New York funeral homes.

Law enforcement officials from several agencies in the Rochester area said a 39-year-old man and two women, ages 20 and 23, would find out when and where funerals were being held, then go to the funeral home's parking lot and commit smash-and-grab thefts.

Thefts were reported over the past three months in neighboring Monroe and Livingston counties. Police said the thieves would use stolen credit cards to make purchases at local stores.

Officials were able to track down the suspects after a funeral home's surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects' vehicle.

## Giant cactus gift rejected by Amazon

**AZ** TUCSON — Amazon rejected the 21-foot Saguaro cactus southern Arizona economic leaders planned to send as a gift to CEO Jeff Bezos, in a bid to attract the company's second headquarters.

"Unfortunately we can't accept gifts (even really cool ones)," an Amazon tweet read.

Amazon said it is instead donating the cactus to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. Sun Corridor Inc., an economic development group, said it was sending the cactus last week, saying it symbolizes Tucson has the room to grow with the online retailer.

Sun Corridor Inc. spokeswoman Laura Shaw said it will be an intense competition for Amazon's second headquarters and that the project has the power to transform a community.

Tucson will be competing with Chicago, Detroit, El Paso, Philadelphia, Toronto, Pittsburgh and others, although no other city appears to have

made a gesture as big as offering a massive plant.

## Pierogis made for Broadway find home

**NY** NEW YORK — Producers of the now-closed Broadway musical "Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812" are keeping enthusiasm in the show going by opening up a place to serve pierogis like the ones made for show attendees.

The new restaurant, Samovarchik, is located in the Lower East Side neighborhood. The New York Times reported it offers a menu of Russian specialties, including the pierogis made for the musical.

"Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812" served pierogis to audience members at the beginning of the show.

The menu is based on recipes of Lena Gambourg, the mother of producer Roman Gambourg.

## Senators put politics aside for festival gig

**TN** BRISTOL — Their politics may not always be in harmony, but that didn't keep Sens. Tim Kaine and Lamar Alexander from playing a bipartisan gig at a country music festival.

Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, and Alexander, a Tennessee Republican, opened the 17th annual Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion festival on Friday in Tennessee.

Alexander played piano, while Kaine played harmonica. They performed some old-time classics like "Keep on the Sunny Side of Life" and "Tennessee Waltz." While the two senators have held some jam sessions in Alexander's office, it was the first time the two played in public. They called themselves The Amateurs.

They joined members of the

Buck Mountain Band for the festival on the Tennessee-Virginia state line.

## Cop helps driver who lost diamond on road

**NJ** PARAMUS — A police officer has come to the rescue of a New Jersey woman who lost her diamond engagement ring on a highway while changing a flat tire.

Police in Paramus said Kimberly Garcia realized when she got home Sunday that she had lost her ring after pulling over to change the tire on Route 4.

She went back to the highway that day with police, but they couldn't find the ring.

But Officer Jon Henderson returned to the highway during his free patrol time Monday and found the ring. The department posted a photo of Henderson and Garcia, smiling with the ring back on her finger.

## Man dresses as clown, runs for city council

**MA** BOSTON — A man dressed as a clown is running for city council in Boston.

The Boston Herald reported that Roxbury resident Pat Payaso — whose last name means "clown" in Spanish — will be on the November ballot along with seven other candidates for an at-large city council seat.

Payaso has donned a rainbow wig, red nose and clown makeup in recent campaign photos and videos on social media.

The newspaper reported he registered his campaign with the state in April and has \$45 in his campaign account.

But City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, an incumbent at-large councilor, told the Herald that Payaso is making a "mockery" of the election.

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# Rams top 49ers in exciting, tiring thriller

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — What many expected to be a typical Thursday night snoozer between a couple of teams lacking star power turned into quite a thriller.

With Jared Goff and Todd Gurley leading a resurgent Rams offense, Brian Hoyer sparking what had been a dormant San Francisco attack and a few late special teams blunders that almost produced an epic comeback, the 41-39 win for Los Angeles over the 49ers was exciting to watch and exhausting for those involved.

“That takes a toll on you,” Rams coach Sean McVay said. “Just getting ready on a short week, and then that emotional up-and-down right there certainly wears you out. I know that I’ll sleep very well tonight.”

With the short week to recover and game plan, Thursday night games have often turned into duds. That wasn’t the case in this game as even the many imperfections couldn’t overshadow the drama in the NFL’s highest-scoring Thursday contest since Minnesota’s 46-36 Thanksgiving win over Dallas in 1998.

There was Goff connecting on big pass plays to Sammy Watkins and Robert Woods on a night he threw for 292 yards, including three touchdowns and no interceptions for the Rams (2-1).

Hoyer did his part as well — after shaking off an interception on the first play from scrimmage. He threw for 332 yards and two scores, including key passes to Pierre Garcon and Marquise Goodwin for the 49ers (0-3).

And there was plenty of drama after the Rams went ahead 41-26 with 8:43 to play on

Goff’s 13-yard TD pass to Watkins.

The 49ers scored a few minutes later on a 3-yard pass to Trent Taylor, and then got another chance right away when Pharoh Brown fumbled the kickoff. Carlos Hyde then ran it in from the 1 on fourth down to make it 41-39 and set up a potential tying 2-point conversion.

The Niners needed to go for 2 because Robbie Gould had missed an extra point earlier in the fourth quarter. That proved costly when Troy Hill broke up the pass to Taylor on the 2-point try.

But San Francisco wasn’t done. The Niners recovered the ensuing onside kick, but after an offensive pass interference on Taylor wiped out a gain to Los Angeles’ 39, Aaron Donald ended the comeback with a fourth-down sack.

“It was a roller coaster,” Garcon said. “We played well, the guys fought hard, the special teams showed us and gave us those opportunities and on offense we just have to finish drives. That has been a thing for us all year. We are still figuring it out but we will move forward and get things figured out.”

Here’s what else stood out from the Rams dramatic win:

**Touchdown Todd:** Gurley had two TD runs and caught a touchdown pass, giving him six touchdowns through three weeks. That matches his entire total from 2016 and is the most for any player after three games since Calvin Johnson had six in 2010. Gurley also ran for 113 yards for his first 100-yard game since Dec. 13, 2015, against Detroit.

**By the numbers:** With two 40-point performances in the first three weeks, the Rams have gone from the NFL’s low-

est-scoring team a year ago to a dynamic threat. Their 107 points so far are the second-most in franchise history after three games to the 119 by “The Greatest Show on Turf” squad with Marshall Faulk and Kurt Warner in 2000.

“It feels good, feels good,” Gurley said. “We haven’t been able to put up points like that since Marshall and them left.”

The 49ers scored their most points in four seasons but still ended up on the losing end. They had won 50 straight games when scoring at least 39 points with the last loss coming in 1965 to Minnesota.

**Third down:** A key part of the game was Los Angeles’ success on third down. The Rams converted 8 of 12 opportunities as San Francisco struggled to get off the field. All three of Goff’s touchdown passes came on third downs and Gurley iced the game with a 20-yard run on third-and-10 in the final minute.

**Injuries:** The short week took its toll on several players who were forced to leave the game with injuries. Rams safety Lamaricus Joyner went down in the first half with a hamstring injury and center John Sullivan left with an injured groin in the second half.

Los Angeles also lost Watkins and Tavon Austin to concussions, and defensive lineman Michael Brockers also was in and out with injuries.

The game wasn’t any easier on the 49ers, who lost safety Jaquiski Tartt (concussion), fullback Kyle Juszczyk (neck), defensive lineman Tank Carradine (ankle) and linebacker Brock Coyle (concussion) to injuries in the second half.

## Researchers: Ex-Pats’ TE Hernandez had severe CTE

Associated Press

BOSTON — Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez had a severe case of the degenerative brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy, researchers said on Thursday. His lawyer announced a lawsuit against the NFL and the team, accusing them of hiding the true dangers of the sport.

Dr. Ann McKee, the director of the CTE Center at Boston University, said Hernandez had Stage 3 (out of 4) of the disease, which can cause violent mood swings, depression and other cognitive disorders.

“We’re told it was the most severe case they had ever seen for someone of Aaron’s age,” attorney Jose Baez said.

Hernandez killed himself in April in the prison cell where he was serving a life-without-parole sentence for murder. Baez said Hernandez had shown signs of memory loss, impulsivity and aggression that could be attributed to CTE.

“When hindsight is 20-20, you look back and there are things you might have noticed,” he said. “But you don’t know.”

CTE, which can only be diagnosed in an autopsy, has

been found in former members of the military, football players and boxers and others who have been subjected to repeated head trauma. A recent study found signs of the disease in 110 of 111 NFL players whose brains were inspected.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court claimed that the league and Patriots failed to protect their players’ safety, leading to the disease that deprived Hernandez’s 4-year-old daughter, Avielle, of her father’s companionship.

“Defendants were fully aware of the dangers of expos-

ing NFL players, such as Aaron, to repeated traumatic head impacts,” the lawsuit said. “Yet, defendants concealed and misrepresented the risks of repeated traumatic head impacts.”

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league had not yet seen the lawsuit and could not comment. A Patriots spokesman did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The league recently agreed to pay \$1 billion to retired players who claimed it misled them about the dangers of playing football.

# Warriors and Wolves to open camp early

Associated Press

The Golden State Warriors were the last team standing when the NBA season closed in June. Thanks to a preseason trip to China, they are one of the first teams to get going this season as the league gets up and rolling again.

The Warriors and Minnesota Timberwolves held their media days on Friday and will open training camps Saturday, a few days ahead of the rest of the league as they prepare for an early October trip to China for games in Shanghai and Shenzhen as part of the league's ongoing efforts to grow the game in the basketball-crazy nation.

Golden State will be the headliner in China, just like it has been in the NBA for the last three seasons. And the Warriors open camp this season with a major advantage over everyone else that goes above and beyond the sheer talent the organization has assembled with Kevin Durant, Steph Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green.

While the rest of the league spent the entire summer scrambling to upgrade in a desperate attempt to enter Golden State's stratosphere, the Warriors return almost the entire roster from the team that won its second championship in three seasons. In fact, Golden

State should only be better this year because it will not have to spend part of the early season figuring out how to incorporate Durant's game with three other All-Stars.

Meanwhile, teams like the Rockets, Cavaliers, Thunder, Timberwolves and Celtics will need all of the preseason and then some to get on the same page with the new stars in town.

There will be no such orientation process in Golden State. Free agents Nick Young and Omri Casspi will have to acclimate, but that is a lot easier to do when Durant and Curry are showing them around.

So as media days and training camps get up and running, here are a few things to watch at the outset:

**Hard feelings?** It appeared that Durant was on his way to mending some fences in Oklahoma City after he left the organization to join Golden State last season. But the fence posts may have been torn down again when Durant disparaged the Thunder team and coach Billy Donovan as the biggest reasons he left to join the Warriors. Durant has since apologized. It should be interesting to see if Russell Westbrook has anything to say about it when the Thunder open early next week.

**CP3 arrives:** The most intriguing roster experiment this year may be in Houston, where GM Daryl Morey is teaming James Harden with Chris Paul in a star-studded backcourt. Harden finished second in the MVP voting last season after moving from shooting guard to point guard and now will have to move back to accommodate Paul. Both players are used to having the ball in their hands and orchestrating the offense, so there will likely be some feeling-out that needs to be done in camp. The two have already appeared in a television commercial together, so they're off to a running start.

**Kyrie's move:** The biggest headline in a wild offseason was Kyrie Irving's request for a trade from the Cavaliers. He landed in Boston in a move that could define his legacy, the All-Star who didn't want to play with LeBron James. Irving did little to shed light on his motives in an enigmatic interview with ESPN and likely will be bombarded with questions about it at media day. How the Celtics handle the early crush of attention and move past Irving's exit from Cleveland could play a big role in their ability to truly challenge the Cavs in the Eastern Conference.

**Crash course:** The Timber-

wolves are one of the teams that made significant roster changes this summer after a disappointing 31-win season in Tom Thibodeau's first year as coach. They added Jimmy Butler, Jeff Teague, Taj Gibson and Jamal Crawford while trading away Ricky Rubio in an offseason overhaul aimed at ending the league's longest active playoff drought at 13 seasons. Thibodeau asked owner Glen Taylor to allow the team to hold training camp in San Diego before they head out to China to get them away from the distractions of home and allow them to bond in a preseason that only includes three games. That Butler and Gibson played for Thibodeau with the Bulls should help that transition, but it will no doubt be a process worth watching.

**Rules changes:** When players start taking the court for exhibition games, it will offer an opportunity for them to start to adjust to rules changes and points of emphasis that are new every season. One notable difference this year will be the "James Harden rule," a change in the way the game is called aimed at reducing the number of instances a player tricks a defender into fouling them and then goes into a shooting motion to try to earn free-throw attempts.

## No. 21 South Florida has easy time beating Temple

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — An improved defense is setting up No. 21 South Florida for a potentially big season.

The Bulls forced six turnovers and held defending American Athletic Conference champion Temple to minus-4 yards rushing Thursday night in a 43-7 victory that extends the team's winning streak to a school-record nine straight games.

Darius Tice rushed for 117 yards and two touchdowns, and USF (4-0) scored at least 30 points in a nation-leading 21st consecutive game.

Dual-threat quarterback

Quinton Flowers and an explosive offense usually key the team's success, but that's beginning to change.

The team had four interceptions Thursday night, boosting its season total to 12 in four games. The Bulls had eight all last season, when USF prospered despite having a leaky defense.

In part because of the strides made on defense, the Bulls have not lost since falling by 16 points to Temple last October in Philadelphia — a setback that wound up costing them a berth in the AAC championship game.

Coach Charlie Strong said rather than dwell on what trans-

pired last year, he and his players focused on the importance of setting a tone for this season's conference race.

"When you play with passion and enthusiasm, that's the kind of performance you'll get," Strong said.

Tice scored on runs of 47 and 3 yards. Flowers, coming off accounting for 386 yards and five TDs in a 24-point blowout of Illinois, also ran for two touchdowns to take sole possession of first place on the Bulls' career rushing TD list with 34.

USF's defense, meanwhile, dominated from the start, pressuring Temple's Logan Marchi and coming up with the

first three interceptions of the season thrown by the Owls quarterback.

Backup quarterback Frank Nutile was intercepted once, and the Owls also lost two fumbles.

"You're not going to lead very many games when you turn the ball over six times," Temple coach Geoff Collins said.

The Owls (2-2) were held to minus-4 yards net rushing and were outgained 408 yards to 85. Marchi threw for 767 yards, five TDs and no interceptions in his first three starts for Temple, but was just 3-for-13 for 32 yards on Thursday night.

# Cubs tie game late, beat Brewers in 10th

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The pressure was on and Javier Baez delivered for the Chicago Cubs.

Baez grounded a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning, Kris Bryant hit a two-run homer in the 10th and the Cubs widened their NL Central lead over Milwaukee, rallying past the Brewers 5-3 Thursday night.

Chicago is now 4½ games ahead of the Brewers after winning the opener of a four-game series. The Cubs have won eight of nine.

The Cubs trailed 3-2 when Ian Happ led off the ninth by hitting a grounder that first baseman Neil Walker fielded wide of the bag. Reliever Jeremy Jeffress covered first and Happ was called safe in a close play, a ruling upheld on replay.

Happ moved to second on a

one-out grounder and scored when Baez, down to his last strike, singled up the middle.

“There were so many plays tonight that could have been the turning point,” Cubs starter Jake Arrieta said. “But down to our last strike, Javy comes up with a huge base hit up the middle to score the tying run. Just an incredible baseball game.”

Cubs manager Joe Maddon wholeheartedly agreed.

“It was a pretty special game,” he said. “Javy has been there before.”

Brewers manager Craig Counsell didn’t blame Jeffress.

“He did exactly what he was supposed to do,” Counsell said. “He made great pitches. He threw a ball on his last pitch. It looked like it was just off the ground, and he just rolled the ball up the middle. Nothing wrong with the pitch. We just didn’t have a fielder there.”

Milwaukee was in position to win it in the bottom of the ninth, loading the bases with one out. But Wade Davis (4-1) struck out Domingo Santana and then, after falling behind 3-1 in the count to Orlando Arcia, came back to retire him on an easy comebacker on a full-count pitch.

Davis struck out the side in the 10th.

Jon Jay opened the Cubs 10th with a double and Bryant followed with his 28th homer, connecting off Oliver Drake (3-5).

“It was supposed to be down and away,” Drake said. “I just left it up middle. That’s what he does with those mistake pitches.”

Anthony Rizzo followed Bryant with a drive off the top of the wall in center and wound up with a triple when a crew chief review showed the ball

didn’t leave the park.

“It could have gone one way or the other, but we made one more play than they did,” Arrieta said. “That is what it boiled down to tonight.”

Santana hit his 28th home run in the fourth. He doubled off Justin Wilson in the eighth, stole third and scored on Eric Thames’ single for a 3-2 lead.

Jeffress took over the ninth because closer Corey Knebel had pitched three days in a row. On Wednesday night, the Brewers lost at Pittsburgh 6-4 on Adam Frazier’s walk-off homer against Knebel with two outs in the ninth.

Arrieta gave up one run and five hits over five innings in his first game since Sept. 4. The 2015 NL Cy Young winner had been sidelined by a strained right hamstring.

# Lindor homers, helps Indians complete sweep of Angels

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — It’s time for the 2017 Cleveland Indians to be introduced to the one and only ... 1884 Providence Grays.

They share some unlikely history. The two teams, which played a mere 141 years apart, are the only two clubs to have ever won 27 out of 28 games.

The Indians joined the Grays on Thursday when Francisco Lindor’s three-run homer led Cleveland to a 4-1 victory and three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Angels.

The Grays ended up winning 28 of 29, leaving the Indians one game shy of matching the record.

“We want to keep it going,” Cleveland reliever Dan Otero said. “I mean, it’s crazy. That stuff doesn’t happen in baseball.”

It may have looked a little too familiar to the Angels, who lost to the Indians for the 11th consecutive time.

“They’re good, but any team can be beaten if you’re doing the things you need to do,” An-

gels manager Mike Scioscia said. “We didn’t do it consistently enough.”

It was a damaging series for the Angels, who have lost four of their last five overall in a struggling effort to overtake the Minnesota Twins for the final AL wild-card berth.

After hitting a two-run homer Wednesday night, Lindor came back with a game-winning, three-run homer in the fifth Thursday off Parker Bridwell (8-3) to break up a 1-1 game. It was his 32nd home run.

The Indians started right-hander Danny Salazar, largely in an effort to see if he can be a viable postseason reliever. He went 2 2/3 innings, allowing the one run, two hits and three walks.

Five Cleveland relievers did not allow a run. The victory went to Zack McAllister (2-2) who threw 1 1/3 innings. Tyler Olson worked a scoreless ninth for his first career save.

The Angels took their only lead against the Indians this season in the first when Mike

Trout walked and scored on a double by Albert Pujols.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 37th home run to lead off the second and tie it.

The victory left the Indians 96-57, still one game behind the Dodgers for the best overall record and home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

**Twins 12, Tigers 1:** Joe Mauer and Jorge Polanco had three hits each, and visiting Minnesota extended its lead for the American League’s second wild card.

**Dodgers 5, Phillies 4:** Pinch-hitter Andre Ethier and Curtis Granderson homered as Los Angeles clinched a tie for the NL West title, ending a four-game losing streak by beating Philadelphia.

**White Sox 3, Astros 1:** Chris Volstad and visiting Chicago’s bullpen covered 8 2/3 innings after starter Carson Fulmer left with a blister.

**Padres 3, Rockies 0:** Visiting Colorado stumbled again as it tries to protect its tenuous hold on the NL’s second wild card, losing to a San Diego team

powered by veteran left-hander Clayton Richard and rookie slugger Christian Villanueva.

**Rangers 4, Mariners 2:** Cole Hamels dominated for eight innings, Adrian Beltre and Shin-Soo Choo went deep and Texas beat host Seattle to hang around the AL wild-card hunt.

**Royals 1, Blue Jays 0:** At Toronto, Jason Vargas and four relievers combined on a two-hitter, and Melky Cabrera had three hits and the only RBI.

**Orioles 3, Rays 1:** Gabriel Ynoa pitched eight innings of five-hit ball, Manny Machado homered and host Baltimore beat Tampa in a matchup between fading AL East teams.

**Cardinals 8, Reds 5:** Dexter Fowler delivered again, getting three hits and driving in two as visiting St. Louis overcame Scott Schebler’s two home runs to beat Cincinnati for a three-game sweep.

**Braves 3, Nationals 2:** R.A. Dickey frustrated Washington with his knuckleball for eight innings, Ozzie Albies had three hits and host Atlanta beat Washington.