

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy banning e-cigs from ships, aircraft

*The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy is banning electronic cigarettes and vaporizers from its aircraft, ships and submarines after receiving multiple reports of the devices' batteries exploding, catching fire and injuring sailors, it announced Friday.

The malfunctioning devices have forced at least one aircraft to land, started fires on ships and left sailors with second-degree burns and disfigured faces. The injuries have occurred when the devices were being used, charged or replaced, or when they came into inadvertent contact with metal objects, according to the Navy.

The directive by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Pacific Fleet will take effect May 14 and comes as the e-cigarette industry faces increasing scrutiny over the safety of its products.

The U.S. Department of Transportation last year prohibited airline passengers and crewmembers from carrying battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices in checked baggage, and from using or charging the devices aboard aircraft.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will hold a workshop this week specifically to address battery-safety concerns with devices known broadly as electronic nicotine delivery systems.

The FDA's Center for Tobacco Products identified 137 reported incidents of e-cigarette overheating, fires and explosions from 2009 to 2015. The FDA received 20 reports of e-cigarette overheating, fires and explosions in 2016.

"Based on the experience of other FDA-regulated products, it is important to note that adverse experience reporting received is an underestimate of actual events," FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in an email.

The Navy's ban prohibits uniformed personnel and civilians from using, possessing, storing and charging the devices. It will remain in effect while the Navy conducts a more thorough analysis on the devices, although Fleet Forces spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Stephanie Turo said there is no timeline for any permanent decision.

The American Vaping Association, which touts the benefits of vapor products for public health, criticized the Navy's move.

"When used and charged properly, vapor products pose no more of a fire risk than any other product that is powered by lithium-ion batteries, like cellphones or laptops," Gregory Conley, president of the association, said in an email to *The Virginian-Pilot*.

"It is a shame that the Navy made this move without consulting active duty personnel or consumer advocates, as there are many ways this issue could have been addressed without resorting to a blanket prohibition that will only serve to discourage current tobacco users from quitting."

The Navy reported 15 incidents between October 2015 and June 2016 in which fires were started or personnel were injured because of the devices, according to the Naval Safety Center. It's unclear if the FDA figures include statistics from the Navy.

The FDA is encouraging those who experience problems with the devices to report

them through its online safety-reporting portal. The Naval Safety Center said it had no reports of problems before 2015, but it noted in a September message to the fleet that the devices were growing in popularity among civilians and in the Navy. From 2011 to 2015, e-cigarette use rose from 1.5 percent to 16 percent among high school students, according to the FDA.

In 2014, the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* became one of the first ships to embrace the use of e-cigarettes by its crew by designating a smoking area specifically for the devices, away from traditional smokers. Some people use e-cigarettes as part of an effort to wean themselves off cigarettes. Among adults who used e-cigarettes in 2015, 58.8 percent also were current cigarette smokers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Navy is encouraging sailors to use tobacco-cessation programs that it offers, although vaping advocates fear the Navy is taking away a useful tool.

"By banning ENDS products it forces sailors to maintain their harmful smoking habit, which causes greater harm, destruction, and death when compared to the rare battery incident," Will Cohen, executive director of the nonprofit Vape A Vet Project, said in a statement to *The Virginian-Pilot*.

Ships already deployed will be able to request extensions on removing the devices until their next port visits, according to Fleet Forces. Their sailors won't be required to throw away their devices, but they will have to remove their batteries and properly store them.

## Modifications set for training jets to fly again

*Associated Press*

NORFOLK, Va. — The U.S. Navy on Saturday said it will allow a fleet of its training jets to fly again under modified conditions while it determines what's causing a lack of oxygen in some cockpits.

Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker said in a statement that its nearly 200 T-45C aircraft will resume flights as early as Monday after being grounded for

more than a week.

Its pilots became increasingly concerned late last month after seeing a spike in incidents in which some personnel weren't getting enough oxygen. The concerned pilots had declined to fly on more than 90 flights.

Instructors and students now will wear modified masks in the two-seat trainers. They also will fly below 10,000 feet to avoid use of onboard oxygen-

generating systems.

The planes train future Navy and Marine fighter pilots. Shoemaker said students will be able to complete 75 percent of their training flights as teams of experts, including people from NASA, "identify the root cause of the problem."

Two T-45s are now at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., where the teams are taking them apart to figure out what's gone wrong.

"This will remain our top safety priority until we fully understand all causal factors and have identified a solution that will further reduce the risks to our aircrew," Shoemaker said.

The Navy operates the training planes at naval air stations in Meridian, Miss.; Kingsville, Texas; and Pensacola, Fla.

Since 2015, the number of "physiological episodes" has steadily increased among personnel who fly in the plane.

# N. Korea tries but fails to launch missile

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — A North Korean missile exploded seconds after launch Sunday — an embarrassing blow to the communist state — as Vice President Mike Pence arrived in the South to discuss the crisis over the North's nuclear weapons program.

In remarks to U.S. soldiers shortly after landing, Pence promised that Washington's resolve and commitment to defending South Korea has "never been stronger."

"This morning's provocation from the North is just the latest reminder of the risks each one of you face every day in the defense of the freedom of the people of South Korea and the defense of America in this part of the world," Pence told troops during a fellowship meal after Easter services in Seoul.

"Your willingness to step forward, to serve, to stand firm without fear, inspires the nation and inspires the world," he said after being introduced by Gen. Vincent Brooks, the top U.S. commander in South Korea.

The missile developments capped weeks of anticipation that Pyongyang would conduct a sixth nuclear test or try to launch an intercontinental missile Saturday to mark its biggest holiday — the 105th birthday of founding father Kim Il Sung.

Instead, what appeared to be ICBMs mounted on trucks rolled through a central square in Pyongyang as Kim Jong Un — the third leader in the Kim family dynasty — presided over a parade with tens of thousands of soldiers marching by his viewing platform and other citizens waving plastic flowers in unison.

The show of military might came as tensions have skyrocketed on the peninsula, which has been divided by the world's most fortified border since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

North Korea fired a medi-

um-range missile Sunday from near its east coast port city of Sinpo, but it exploded about four or five seconds after the launch, according to a White House foreign policy adviser.

The adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Trump administration did not expect to respond to the test because it doesn't want to reinforce the failure, according to The Associated Press.

However, the adviser added that "other actions would have been taken by the U.S." if the North had conducted a nuclear test, as satellite imagery had indicated was possible.

It was the fifth missile test since President Donald Trump took office Jan. 20.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff also reported the failed missile launch, less than two weeks after the North fired another missile which flew about 40 miles before landing in the sea.

Despite the failure, experts say the North Koreans are making clear progress toward their goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland. Most believe the North already has the capability to strike U.S. bases in South Korea and Japan; and it's likely a matter of years before the North has an operational ICBM and miniaturized warheads that could fit on the missile.

Analysts and military officials pointed to missiles that were on display during the parade, including what appeared to be a new type of longer ICBM and a solid-fuel missile that could be fired from a submarine.

There also is another anniversary coming up to mark the founding of North Korea's army on April 25, raising speculation that Pyongyang may carry out another provocation.

## Heightened uncertainty

North Korea has persisted in developing weapons despite

U.N. Security Council resolutions and sanctions banning it from using ballistic technology. Pyongyang says the program is needed for self-defense.

Washington and Pyongyang have long sparred over North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Former President George W. Bush branded the isolated state part of an "axis of evil" along with Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq during his 2002 State of the Union speech.

The countries were on the brink of war when then-President Bill Clinton reached a deal with Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, in 1994.

But Trump has introduced a new element of uncertainty by promising to overturn the long-standing policy of relying on punishing sanctions and diplomatic pressure, while giving few details of how things will change.

Trump also called on China to do more to rein in its communist ally, saying the United States is prepared to act unilaterally against North Korea and diverting the USS Carl Vinson strike group back to the waters surrounding South Korea in a show of force.

"North Korea is a problem. The problem will be taken care of," he told reporters last week, the latest in a series of similar tweets and comments.

The U.S. military also is holding annual war games with its South Korean allies through the end of this month, a constant source of contention with the North, which considers the drills a rehearsal for an invasion. Washington insists they're defensive in nature.

North Korea defiantly says it's also prepared for a preemptive attack if provoked.

Kim Jong Un applauded and saluted but didn't speak during Saturday's parade. A senior North Korean official, however, blamed the United States for "creating a war situation."

"We will respond to an all-out war with an all-out war and a nuclear war with our style of a nuclear attack," Choe Ryong

Hae said.

Choe, the vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, also referred to the U.S. strike against a Syrian government-controlled airbase earlier this month. That attack was widely seen as a warning to Pyongyang.

"Now the U.S. imperialists have struck a sovereign country," he said. "If the U.S. government pre-emptively strikes our country, we are ready to counter strongly."

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests and test-fired more than two dozen missiles since last year. In all, it has carried out five underground nuclear explosions since 2006.

## Pence arrives

Pence, accompanied by his wife, Karen, landed at Osan Air Base, then traveled to Seoul, the first stop on a 10-day tour of the region.

He placed a wreath at the National Cemetery in Seoul in a symbolic gesture to commemorate the 1950-53 Korean War, then he worshipped with U.S. military personnel at the Yong-san U.S. Army garrison.

The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in the South and 50,000 in neighboring Japan.

Pence will meet with acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn and other senior officials as well as U.S. soldiers before traveling to Japan on Tuesday.

The Trump administration has conducted a policy review but has not revealed details about its plans for dealing with the North, although U.S. officials say it will rely on "maximum pressure and engagement," according to the AP.

The immediate emphasis will be on increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of Beijing, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pence is expected to try to explain the policy and reassure allies of U.S. support.

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# Trump's security adviser holds talks in Afghanistan

By E.B. BOYD  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, President Donald Trump's national security adviser, held talks with American and Afghan leaders in Kabul on Sunday as a part of an assessment to determine future U.S. strategy in the country.

The president's national security team and the Pentagon are preparing recommendations about how to help Afghan forces fight the Taliban and other militants, as well as what adjustments should be made to U.S. counterterrorism operations against the 20 U.S.-designated terrorist organizations that have set up shop inside Afghanistan.

Washington has not publicized a date for when the recommendations will be made.

One issue to decide is whether the White House will send more troops to the conflict, now

in its 16th year. After a high of about 130,000 troops, NATO has drawn down to about 12,000 troops, among them 8,400 Americans. President Barack Obama wanted to have U.S. troops out of the country by the end of 2016, but that plan had to be pared back after the Taliban proved stronger than expected.

In February, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, told Congress he needed several thousand more troops, mostly to advise Afghan security forces who have been in charge of the fight for the past four years.

Since the majority of NATO troops left the country two years ago, Afghan forces have lost control of 40 percent of the country. NATO trainers had been pulled back to the ministerial and corps (division) levels after 2014, but Nicholson would like to return advisers to the brigade, and possibly battalion,

levels, where day-to-day operational decisions are made.

McMaster did not comment on his meetings in Kabul, but a statement from the office of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani emphasized the need to fight corruption within the country's security forces.

"The Afghan government is committed to fighting corruption in Afghanistan," the statement said. "We've taken practical steps, and we've made progress."

Anti-corruption reforms were a central part of NATO's work with Afghan security forces over the winter, when battlefield fighting usually subsides. Some Afghan commanders' practice of inflating the numbers of their forces, enabling them to siphon off the salaries of "ghost soldiers," hobbled military operations last year when local units turned out to have fewer numbers than planners expected.

## US Navy firefighters help save 16 in S. Korea

By MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Navy firefighters last week helped rescue 16 people after a fire broke out in an apartment parking garage in southeastern South Korea.

The Chinhae Naval Base fire department responded to an appeal for help from local authorities on April 5 as the blaze spread between multiple vehicles parked in the garage.

The department dispatched emergency vehicles and five firefighters to the site, fulfilling a mutual-aid agreement between the base and the community. The combined response equaled 19 fire engines and nearly 80 firefighters and emergency personnel.

A Chinhae team designed to rescue other firefighters was also sent to the scene.

While fighting the fire and clearing the building, firefighters discovered and rescued 16 people trapped inside.

"It was raining so traffic was not as heavy as normal," Chinhae fire chief Raymond Griffith said in a statement. "This allowed all of the responding units to get to the scene very quickly and there was also a fire hydrant on the street corner by the building, so I think that was also a major factor."

Chinhae's commander praised his firefighters.

"I could not be more proud of our firefighters and their commitment to the local community," Cmdr. Terry P. McNamara said in the statement. "When the call for help comes in, they, without fail, suit up and stand by their [South Korean] fire-fighting partners to keep the community safe."

Approximately 75 percent of emergency calls received by the fire department are for assistance in the local community, the statement said.

## Marchers want to see Trump's taxes

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Thousands of sign-waving, chanting protesters marched in cities across America on Saturday demanding President Donald Trump release his tax returns so the public can examine his business ties and determine whether he has links to foreign powers.

The tax day protests in more than a dozen cities were largely peaceful, though occasionally demonstrators and some pro-Trump groups taunted each other in face-to-face exchanges.

In Berkeley, Calif., police arrested at least 20 people after fist fighting erupted at separate rallies at a park where about 200 people for or against Trump gathered. Officers confiscated knives and makeshift weapons.

On Sunday, Trump responded on Twitter, saying "someone should look into who paid" for the rallies.

The demonstrations came just days before Tuesday's deadline for taxpayers to file their returns. Trump was the first major-party nominee in more than 40 years not to release his tax returns, saying it was because he was under audit.

He later said voters don't care.

But Ilene Singh, 71, said he's wrong. She rode a bus from New Jersey to New York City with her friend Geraldine Markowitz, 83, to take part in protests. "We're here to say we care," said Singh.

Protesters in Raleigh, N.C., said they suspect Trump's returns might show he has paid little or nothing, or that he was indebted to Russian, Chinese or other foreign interests.

One of Trump's sharpest critics in the House spoke to protesters at the U.S. Capitol just before they set off on a march to the National Mall. Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, of California, said there's nothing to prevent Trump from releasing his income taxes and that "the simple truth is he's got a lot to hide."

For 40 years, presidents and major party nominees have released some of their tax returns, with the exception of Gerald Ford. Trump's break with precedent has raised questions about possible conflicts of interest.

Many demonstrators said they hoped Saturday's marches would persuade Trump to voluntarily release them.

# On Easter, pope reflects on horrors of war

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — On Christianity's most joyful day, Pope Francis lamented the horrors generated by war and hatred, delivering an Easter Sunday message that also decried the "latest vile" attack on civilians in Syria.

Both in his impromptu homily during Mass in St. Peter's Square and later in his formal "Urbi et Orbi" Easter message delivered from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Francis reflected on a litany of suffering in the world, including wars, oppressive regimes, human trafficking, corruption, famine and domestic violence.

He encouraged people to hold fast in their "fearful hearts" to faith, acknowledging that many people wonder where God is amid so much evil and suffering in the world.

Some 60,000 people, including multinational throngs of

pilgrims and tourists, endured tight security checks — and, later, a brief downpour — to hear Francis and receive his blessing.

The crowd size, cited by the Vatican security forces, was smaller in comparison with some other Easters, when about 100,000 turned out for the occasion.

In his balcony address, Francis prayed that God would sustain those working to comfort and help the civilian population in Syria that is "prey to a war that continues to sow horror and death."

He cited the explosion Saturday that ripped through a bus depot in the Aleppo area where evacuees were awaiting transfer, killing at least 100 people.

"Yesterday saw the latest vile attack on fleeing refugees," the pope said, also praying for peace in the Holy Land, Iraq and Yemen.

Separately, in a letter he sent to the bishop of Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, whose name he chose for his papacy, the pope decried the "scandalous reality of a world still marked by the divide between the endless number of indigent" and the "tiny portion of those who possess the majority of riches and presume to decide the fates of humanity."

Francis has repeatedly championed the dignity of migrants fleeing war, persecution or poverty. On Sunday he recalled "all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes."

The church's first pontiff from Latin America voiced concern over the "political and social tensions" in the world as well as the "scourge of corruption" on his home continent. Francis also mentioned hostilities and famine plaguing parts

of Africa.

Traditionally, the pope gives no homily during the late-morning Easter Mass, saving his reflections for the "Urbi et Orbi" message at noon.

But Francis broke with that tradition, giving an off-the-cuff homily during Mass about what he described as a nagging question for many faithful: Why are there so many tragedies and wars if Jesus has risen from the dead, a belief that Christians celebrate each Easter?

"The Church never ceases to say, faced with our defeats, our closed and fearful hearts, 'stop, the Lord is risen.' But if the Lord is risen, how come these things happen?" Francis asked.

He said having faith on Easter gives sense in the middle of "so many calamities: the sense of looking beyond, the sense of saying, look, there isn't a wall, there's a horizon, there's life, there's joy."

## VA Tech marks 10 years after campus shooting

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Ten years after a mentally ill student fatally shot 32 people at Virginia Tech, survivors and families of the slain were returning to campus to honor the lives that were lost that day.

Virginia Tech was to hold a series of events Sunday to mark the anniversary of the deadly campus shooting on April 16, 2007. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine were scheduled to be among the 10,000 to 20,000 people expected at the Blacksburg campus for the solemn occasion.

Kaine, who was governor at the time of the shooting, said he still vividly remembers the horrors of that day, but has also grown close to many of the survivors and the victims' families.

"We're going with a lot of different emotions, but we

wouldn't be anywhere else," said Kaine, who is attending the service with his wife, Anne Holton.

The shooting at Virginia Tech was, at the time, the deadliest mass shooting in recent U.S. history. A massacre that claimed 49 lives at an Orlando, Fla., nightclub surpassed it last year. It forced schools across the country to rethink campus security and reignited the debate over gun control that rages to this day.

Sunday's events were to include a wreath-laying ceremony around 9:43 a.m. — the time when Seung-Hui Cho's rampage in Norris Hall began. It was to be followed by a commemoration event featuring remarks from Kaine and a reading of the names and biographies of the 32 slain students and faculty members.

Later, students, faculty and visitors were to gather for a candlelight vigil.

## Syrian evacuation to go on after deadly bombing

Associated Press

BEIRUT — More than 3,000 Syrians were expected to be evacuated Sunday from four areas as part of a population transfer that was stalled briefly the day before by a deadly blast that killed scores of people, most of them government supporters.

The United Nations is not overseeing the transfer deal, which involves residents of the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfarya and the opposition-held towns of Madaya and Zabadani. All four have been under siege for years, their fate linked through a series of reciprocal agreements that the U.N. says have hindered aid deliveries.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said 3,000 people will be evacuated from Foua and Kfarya, while 200, the vast majority of

them fighters, will be evacuated from Zabadani and Madaya.

Abdurrahman said Saturday's blast — which hit an area where thousands of pro-government evacuees had been waiting for hours — killed 126. He said the dead included 109 people from Foua and Kfarya, among them 68 children and 13 women.

No one has claimed the attack, but both Islamic State and the al-Qaida-affiliated Fatah al-Sham Front have targeted civilians in pro-government areas in the past.

After the blast, some 60 buses carrying 2,200 people, including 400 opposition fighters, entered areas held by rebels in the northern province of Aleppo, Abdurrahman said. More than 50 buses and 20 ambulances carrying some 5,000 Foua and Kfarya residents entered the government-held city of Aleppo, Syrian state TV said, with some of them later reaching a shelter in the village of Jibreen to the south.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Remains, old gravesite found after logging

**NH** KINGSTON — Police said they found remains and a metal plate from a gravestone dated 1895 in Kingston after recent logging.

WMUR-TV reported hikers found what they believed to be a skull earlier this month. The earth had been moved in the area to create logging roads.

Police said that in addition to the skull, some hair with a hair clip was found, as well as a lower jaw bone, ceramic denture plates and part of a spine. They also found a metal plate used on gravestones along with metal handles and hardware associated with old wooden caskets.

State Archaeologist Richard Boisvert is investigating the extent of the gravesite.

## Photog, nude model arrested at strip mall

**PA** MONROEVILLE — Police said a man was taking photos of a woman who was wearing only thigh-high black stockings and high heel shoes at a suburban shopping center near Pittsburgh.

Monroeville police said Chelsea Guerra, 21, was posing in front of businesses at Miracle Mile Shopping Center for Michael Warnock, 64, on April 8.

Guerra was charged with indecent exposure. Warnock was charged with criminal solicitation, criminal conspiracy, disorderly conduct and possession of controlled substances.

## Jailed man leads police to Wal-Mart drug stash

**OH** CAMBRIDGE — Authorities said an inmate at an Ohio county jail led them to a packet of heroin he stashed in a pair of pants at a Wal-Mart store.

The Cambridge Daily Jeffersonian reported a store manager called police Thursday asking for a drug dog to search for narcotics in the men's clothing section.

According to the report, the prisoner's mother had contacted the store and said her son had left drugs there. The dog couldn't find the heroin, so police asked the inmate for help. He led officers to the drugs.

He was then returned to Guernsey County Jail where he was being held on drug and obstruction charges.

## Rappelling window washer rescued

**HI** HONOLULU — Honolulu firefighters rescued a window washer who suffered a medical emergency while rappelling down a high-rise building.

Capt. David Jenkins said a woman on the ground noticed commotion from four window washers dangling at the eighth or ninth floor Friday. She alerted building security guards, who called 911.

Jenkins said responding firefighters broke through the glass of an eighth-floor window and pulled the man inside.

Honolulu Emergency Medical Services spokeswoman Shayne Enright said the 25-year-old man was taken to a hospital in serious condition.

## Professors name dino after digging up bones

**UT** MOAB — University officials said they've named a dinosaur they found in Utah.

Brigham Young University professors have created a full picture of the sauropod from thousands of fossilized bones and published a paper in the University of Michigan's Contributions from the Museum of

Paleontology.

The creature has been named Moabosaurus because it was found near Moab. Researchers said that like other sauropods it was an herbivore with a long neck and tail, and a small brain but, at 32 feet, it was much smaller than other sauropods.

The skeleton is on display at BYU's Museum of Paleontology.

## Reprieve for 'jailbird' nesting on sheriff's car

**OH** HAMILTON — An Ohio sheriff has issued an order protecting a trespassing jailbird.

Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones told deputies not to use a sheriff's car that a dove chose as the perfect location for its nest.

Deputies noticed the nest last week and then saw the bird had laid two eggs.

The nest is in the space between the front windshield and hood that holds lowered windshield wipers.

## More than 51,000 WWI pledge cards found

**IA** WATERLOO — Volunteers have been sorting through file card drawers that contain tens of thousands of donation pledge cards from Waterloo families who donated multiple times to war bond drives to support the nation during World War I.

The pledge cards were discovered in an attic of Veterans Memorial Hall by Air Force veteran Dick Hastings, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported. Hastings and a couple of dozen members of the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society have been cleaning, organizing, documenting and compiling information from the pledge cards on computer for several

years.

The volunteers have so far gone through nearly 52,000 pledge cards. Hastings said he wouldn't be surprised if the final tally is 60,000 to 70,000.

## Donation prevents science fair elimination

**OK** ARDMORE — The generosity of a retired dentist from Ardmore has prevented elimination of a 47-year-old tradition for Oklahoma students — at least for a year.

Retired dentist James Young wrote a check last week for \$50,000 after learning funding for the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair would vanish in 2018.

The science and engineering fairs were among the casualties of the elimination of \$38.2 million in public support for public school activities.

Young is a former science teacher and said he understands how much the fairs mean to kids.

## AmeriCorps workers clean up Indian mounds

**MS** WINTERVILLE — A group of AmeriCorps workers is cleaning up Indian mounds at a site in the Mississippi Delta.

The National Civilian Community Corps arrived at the Winterville Mounds on April 1 and will work there through Wednesday.

Team leader Colleen Roach told the Delta Democrat-Times that the eight workers are removing vegetation, trying to control erosion, and enhancing storage at the site's museum. Workers are trying to restore the mounds to how they looked before European contact.

From wire reports

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# Johnson saves Jazz on buzzer-beater

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Joe Johnson has seen a lot in his 16 years in the NBA. So the veteran didn't flinch with the clock ticking down and the game tied.

All that experience is why the Utah Jazz brought him in this season.

It paid off when Johnson drove the lane and hit a floater at the buzzer, giving the Jazz a 97-95 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers after Utah lost Rudy Gobert 17 seconds into their playoff opener on Saturday night.

"I just wanted to get as close as I could to the basket, and it was a good thing it went down," Johnson said.

Johnson, who scored 21 points, was left isolated against Jamal Crawford on the final play. He powered his way inside and lofted a shot over Crawford and DeAndre Jordan that bounced around the rim before falling in. A video review confirmed it was good.

"I just try to be patient, get

to a sweet spot, and make the right play," Johnson said.

He's made an NBA-best eight game-winning buzzer-beaters in the past 10 years.

"That's what he's been doing all his career," Utah's Boris Diaw said. "So when he gets the ball at the end of the game, we are pretty confident."

The Jazz were dealt a blow before either team had settled into the game.

Gobert sprained his left knee on the game's first play when he banged knees with Clippers forward Luc Mbah a Moute, leaving the Jazz without their 7-foot-1 center who averaged 14.0 points and 12.8 rebounds during the regular season.

"We felt and knew that a lot of people probably were counting us out when he went down, but man, we stuck together," Johnson said.

Utah steadied itself behind Johnson and fellow veteran George Hill, both of whom were brought in to balance the inexperienced Jazz. John-

son finished with 21 points off the bench and Hill added 16 points.

Gordon Hayward had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Utah.

Blake Griffin scored 26 points and Chris Paul added 25 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, whose seven-game winning streak ended with their first loss since March 26 against Sacramento.

A driving Paul banked in a floater with 13 seconds to go, tying the game at 95.

The Jazz didn't call a timeout.

"We just wanted to have it where they couldn't set up on us," Hayward said, glancing at Johnson. "We just wanted to get it and go and let this man go to work."

Making their first playoff appearance in five years, the Jazz outshot the Clippers and narrowly controlled the paint, owning a 42-40 edge.

The teams tied with identical 51-31 records in the regular

season. The Clippers earned the No. 4 seed and home court by virtue of winning the season series 3-1.

"We fought until the end of the year to get it, and now we've given it right back," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

Utah withstood Paul's offensive outburst in the fourth after the Jazz led by eight on Hill's three-pointer. Paul rattled off 10 straight Los Angeles points, drawing the Clippers to 90-89 on a three-pointer.

Hayward and Johnson scored, keeping the Jazz ahead 94-91. But Johnson lost the ball and Hill fouled Griffin, who made both free throws to get the Clippers to 94-93 with 23 seconds left.

After a timeout by the Jazz, Griffin fouled Derrick Favors, who missed the first and made the second after it hit the rim and went in for a 95-93 lead with 18 seconds left.

"We've got to be better," Paul said. "They played harder, they were more physical."

## Cavaliers escape Pacers with Game 1 win

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Their regular-season issues followed the Cavaliers into the playoffs. They didn't win their postseason opener as much as survive it.

The champions remain puzzling.

LeBron James scored 32 points and Cleveland, looking to flip a switch after a shaky-and-streaky regular season, began the postseason by escaping with a 109-108 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday.

C.J. Miles could have won it for Indiana, but a player whom Cleveland's players and coaches call a "Cavs killer," missed a 14-foot jumper just before the horn.

Following the game, Miles sat silently at his locker in full uniform for 30 minutes before Larry Bird, the team's president of basketball operations, came in and patted him on the shoulder.

James refused to acknowledge how different things would be if Miles' shot had dropped.

"He missed," James said. "We won."

Playing in his 200th playoff game, James added 13 assists and six rebounds while winning his 18th consecutive first-round

game.

However, it was anything but easy as the Cavs, who had a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, had to withstand a strong comeback by the Pacers.

After a foul, Indiana inbounded with 10 seconds left and tried to run a play for star Paul George. But James came over to help J.R. Smith and double-teamed George, who was forced to pass to Miles. His jumper was on line, but short and the Cavs avoided a disastrous loss.

George was adamant that he should have gotten the ball back.

"I talked to C.J. about it," George said. "In situations like that, I gotta get the last shot. C.J. took it upon himself. I'm confident with all of my guys taking shots. That's not the issue. In that situation, I need the ball."

Miles didn't make any excuses.

"Obviously, we wanted to get the ball to Paul to be able to get the shot to win the game," he said. "I got the ball at four (seconds), so I had to take it myself. I got a good shot. I just didn't make it."

James said the Cavs' plan on the final play was not to let George beat them.

"We wanted to get the ball out of his hands, make somebody else try to beat us and live with the results," he said.

Kyrie Irving added 23 points and Kevin Love had 17 for Cleveland, which has won 12 straight playoff games at home.

**Bucks 97, Raptors 83:** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 28 points, rookie Malcolm Brogdon had 16 and the Milwaukee Bucks beat host Toronto.

Playing in his second career playoff series, Antetokounmpo made 13 of 18 shots, and added eight rebounds and three assists. Greg Monroe added 14 points.

DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 27 points, and Serge Ibaka had 19 points and 14 rebounds. The Raptors have lost the opening game in eight consecutive playoff series.

**Spurs 111, Grizzlies 82:** Kawhi Leonard matched his postseason high with 32 points and host San Antonio routed Memphis in Game 1.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points, and Tony Parker added 18 to help San Antonio win its ninth straight over Memphis in the postseason.

# Leafs even series with Capitals in 2OT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Frederik Andersen narrowly stopped Alex Ovechkin on the best chance the Washington Capitals got in the first overtime, Game 2 against the Toronto Maple Leafs dragged long into the night and into a second extra period.

After more than 90 minutes of hockey, Kasper Kapanen scored the double OT winner as the Maple Leafs beat the Capitals 4-3 Saturday in the longest game of the playoffs so far. The Maple Leafs evened the series heading into Game 3 on Monday night in Toronto and have proven they can hang with Presidents' Trophy-winning Washington.

Kapanen beat Braden Holtby 11:53 into the second overtime on a feed from Brian Boyle after scoring in similar fashion in the second period on a pass from Matt Martin. The son of longtime NHL forward Sami Kapanen didn't get called up until late March but scored in the Maple Leafs' playoff clincher and is developing quite the reputation for making big plays.

"I've got a lot of energy for sure," Kapanen said. "Two big goals and I think our team played really well today. We deserved to win and I'm just really happy about the outcome."

Ovechkin was chased down by Mitch Marner on his breakaway late in the first OT, and Andersen was able to deflect the puck just wide of the post.

"Nobody said it's gonna be easy series," Ovechkin said. "It's OK. Nobody say we're

gonna win 4-0 and move forward. It's a battle. They're a good team."

Though the series is tied, Capitals defenseman Brooks Orpik said they probably didn't deserve to win Game 1, either, surviving a scare when Tom Wilson scored in overtime. They've certainly tested Andersen plenty, but the Maple Leafs goaltender stopped 47 of the 50 shots he saw Saturday.

"He was by far our best player tonight," said Toronto defenseman Jake Gardiner, who played a game-high 40:42. "When a goalie gets hot like that, it makes it easier for us."

Ovechkin, John Carlson and Nicklas Backstrom scored in regulation for the Capitals, and Holtby finished with 47 saves. Washington fell behind in each of the first two games and will try to reverse that trend moving forward.

Toronto won't have rugged defenseman Roman Polak for Game 3 or the rest of the playoffs after his gruesome right leg injury in the second period. Polak's leg bent the wrong way on landing after a hit from Orpik, and he couldn't put any weight on it. Coach Mike Babcock confirmed the veteran was done for the season.

Polak's absence further depleted a blue line that was already without top-pairing defenseman Nikita Zaitsev, forcing Gardiner, Morgan Rielly (40:12), Matt Hunwick (35:19) and Martin Marincin (30:41) to play heavy minutes.

"As far as the minutes go, we'll be fine," Rielly said. "We've got young legs."

**Senators 4, Bruins 3 (OT):** Dion Phaneuf scored at 1:59 of overtime and host Ottawa rallied for a victory over Boston.

The Senators rallied from a 3-1 deficit with a two-goal third period to force overtime. The Eastern Conference series is tied 1-1 and Game 3 is Monday night in Boston.

Clarke MacArthur, Chris Wideman and Derick Brassard also scored for the Senators and Craig Anderson made 26 saves.

Drew Stafford, Tim Schaller and Patrice Bergeron scored for the Bruins. Tuukka Rask stopped 25 shots.

**Predators 5, Blackhawks 0:** Pekka Rinne made 30 saves in his second straight shutout and picked up two assists, helping Nashville pound host Chicago for a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Ryan Johansen had a goal and two assists as Nashville had a dominant performance.

Chicago coach Joel Quenneville shuffled his lineup, inserting rookie Vinnie Hinostroza and Dennis Rasmussen and benching veteran Jordin Tootoo and John Hayden. But it was more of the same for the Blackhawks, who once again looked out of sync against the Predators' active defense.

**Ducks 3, Flames 2:** Ryan Getzlaf scored the tiebreaking power-play goal with 4:46 to play on a bizarre deflection off Lance Bouma's skate, and host Anaheim took a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Getzlaf's attempted pass across the high slot banked off Bouma's foot and somehow arced through the air and past Calgary's Brian Elliott for the Anaheim captain's second goal of the series.

## Johnson matches UFC record with 10th title defense

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Demetrious Johnson joked earlier this week that the UFC owes him nine more title belts, one for each time "Mighty Mouse" has successfully defended his flyweight championship.

Well, now Dana White and Co. owe him 10.

Johnson picked apart Brazilian challenger Wilson Reis before taking him down, catching him in an armbar and forcing him to submit Saturday night. The quick-as-blink, third-round victory moved Johnson into a tie with longtime middleweight king Anderson Silva for most consecutive title defenses.

"I went back and did a lot of

things different in this camp and this is the best I've felt," Johnson said. "I think the crowd recognizes: I'm the best champ to ever step in this Octagon."

Johnson (26-2-1) toyed with the third-ranked Reis (22-7) much of the first two rounds, peppering him with jabs and kicks before deftly slipping away from trouble. But after taking Reis down in the third, he quickly clamped down on an armbar and forced Reis to tap out at the 4:49 mark.

It was a stunning ending to the UFC's debut in Kansas City given Reis's jiu-jitsu pedigree.

"He looked incredible on his feet," said White, the UFC's president. "Then he goes to the ground and is absolutely domi-

nating, and then he goes for the most dangerous move you could pull off."

Johnson extended his winning streak to 12 straight to tie Georges St-Pierre for the third-longest run in UFC history. Silva won 16 in a row at his peak, while suspended two-time light heavyweight champ Jon Jones will be riding a 13-fight streak whenever he makes his return.

Once the celebrations ended, Johnson toted his latest belt toward the locker room — where he might just hide it in a suitcase. Johnson lamented during a final workout Thursday he only has one belt at home, playfully miffed the UFC keeps taking the rest away after each successful defense.

In other words, Johnson is owed a whole lot of hardware.

"He's already the pound-for-pound best fighter in the world, and he gets better every time," White said. "It's hard not to call this guy the greatest of all time right now."

In the co-main event, Rose Namajunas delivered a crushing kick to Michelle Waterson before leaping onto her back and cinching a tight rear-naked choke that forced a second-round tap-out.

On the FOX-televised undercard, Robert Whittaker sent a jolt through the middleweight division by stopping third-ranked Ronaldo Souza with a barrage of punches in the second round.

# Puig, Dodgers pay tribute to No. 42

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Yasiel Puig has said he's matured, and that's why he's hit so well early this season. Whatever it is, the Los Angeles Dodgers will welcome more of it.

Puig homered and drove in four runs to help the Dodgers overcome a sloppy defensive game to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 8-4 on Saturday night to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day.

He also hit a sacrifice fly in the first inning, singled twice and walked for a team-high 10th time. This performance came with all the players wearing No. 42 in honor of Robinson, and Puig thinks he might have found a lucky charm in the number.

"I think I'm going to have to wear under my jersey every day," Puig said.

The win came after the Dodgers unveiled a bronze statue of Robinson stealing home. It's the first statue at Dodger Stadium, and its unveiling came on the 70th anniversary of Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier. Baseball celebrates an annual Jackie Robinson Day on April 15, when all players and coaches wear his No. 42.

"Every advancement in society has come from people standing on the shoulders of giants," Dodgers President Stan Kasten said. "And in the history of baseball, in the history of our country, few people have stood taller than Jackie Robinson."

Puig's three-run home run

in the eighth was his fourth of the season and came while the Dodgers were trying to hang on to a one-run lead.

Alex Wood (1-0) pitched 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings of relief to earn the win and Kenley Jansen got the last four outs for his third save of the season.

Los Angeles went ahead 5-4 in the fifth on catcher Chris Herrmann's throwing error — one of five errors in the game — before Puig padded the lead with his three-run shot in the eighth off closer Fernando Rodney.

Austin Barnes also went deep for the Dodgers, getting his first career homer.

Nick Ahmed homered and drove in all four runs for Arizona, which had only five hits on

the night.

"That's baseball," Arizona third baseman Jake Lamb said. "You're going to score runs sometimes, you're going to put up one run and win the game sometimes. That's how the game works, so you can't sit here and get frustrated by the offense."

Diamondbacks left-hander Patrick Corbin (1-2) started but struggled in his six innings, giving up five runs — three earned — and nine hits with three walks.

Kenta Maeda lasted only four innings for the Dodgers, allowing four runs and four hits with a walk. He went only five innings in each of his first two starts.

# Mariners ace Paxton extends scoreless streak

Associated Press

SEATTLE — James Paxton is off to a record-setting start for the Seattle Mariners.

The left-hander extended his season-opening scoreless streak to 21 innings, shutting down the Texas Rangers with eight innings of two-hit ball in Seattle's 5-0 win Saturday night.

Paxton (2-0) struck out nine and his only walk was to the first batter he faced. He hasn't allowed a run yet in three starts this year, and his scoreless stretch is a team record to open a season. He's the 10th pitcher in the majors to open a season with three scoreless starts of at least six innings.

"Can't say enough about Paxton tonight and the start he's off to this year," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "The confidence — he's fearless. That's the mentality you have to have."

Paxton finished last season strong after pitching inconsistently early in his career. He attributed his success then and now to a change in mindset he made around last year's All-Star break.

The game was scoreless until the sixth inning, when Seattle got a two-run single from Kyle Seager and Taylor Motter's three-run homer. That was more than enough to give the Mariners their first back-to-back wins of the season.

**Indians 13, Tigers 6:** Jose Ramirez was 4-for-4 with a pair of three-run homers for host Cleveland, and Detroit ace Justin Verlander matched a career high by allowing nine runs.

**Twins 6, White Sox 0:** Ervin Santana (3-0) pitched a one-hitter for the first complete-game victory by a pitcher in MLB this season, stopping visiting Chicago's three-game winning streak.

Santana's (3-0) struck out eight, walked one and retired his final 18 batters. Chicago had just two runners: Omar Narvaez singled with one out in the third and Avisail Garcia walked leading off the fourth.

**Rockies 5, Giants 0:** Tyler Chatwood (1-2) pitched 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> perfect innings before Chris Marrero's single and finished with a two-hitter for his first MLB shutout in visiting Colorado's win.

**Yankees 3, Cardinals 2:** St. Louis ace Carlos Martinez (0-2) put on a historically uneven performance, walking a career-high eight while striking out 11 in 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in the visiting Cardinals' loss to New York.

Martinez was the first pitcher since Randy Johnson in 1993 with at least eight walks and 11 strikeouts in a game.

**Blue Jays 2, Orioles 1:** Kendrys Morales homered off Tyler Wilson (1-1) leading off the bottom of the ninth, and host Toronto (2-9) stopped a seven-game losing streak.

**Reds 7, Brewers 5:** Jesse Winker doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth off Carlos Torres (0-1) with his first MLB hit, and host Cincinnati overcame two more homers by Eric Thames and stopped Milwaukee's four-game winning streak.

Reds left-hander Brandon Finnegan came out of the game after the first inning because of a strained muscle in the back of his left side. The Reds already have three

starters on the disabled list.

**Pirates 8, Cubs 7:** Andrew McCutchen hit a go-ahead, three-run homer of Pedro Strop (0-1) in a five-run seventh as visiting Pittsburgh topped Chicago.

**Red Sox 2, Rays 1:** Chris Sale (1-1) struck out 12 over seven innings for his first victory with host Boston, allowing one run and three hits.

**Astros 10, Athletics 6:** George Springer hit a two-run homer in the eighth as visiting Houston rallied from a 5-0 deficit.

Sean Manaea and Ryan Dull combined to pitch six hitless innings for Oakland.

**Phillies 4, Nationals 2:** Cesar Hernandez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Joe Blanton (0-2) in the eighth to lead Philadelphia past host Washington.

Jeremy Hellickson (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings.

**Marlins 5, Mets 4:** Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton hit back-to-back homers against Fernando Salas (0-1) to cap a three-run eighth as host Miami rallied from a 4-2 deficit.

**Braves 4, Padres 2:** R.A. Dickey got a victory in his first appearance in Atlanta's SunTrust Park, giving up seven hits and striking out six.

Atlanta has won three straight following a five-game losing streak, including the first two games at its new ballpark.

**Royals 3, Angels 2:** Mike Moustakas' fifth home run this season, a drive off Jose Alvarez (0-1), broke an eighth-inning tie for host Kansas City.