

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, April 28, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump: S. Korea should foot THAAD bill

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump said Seoul should pay the \$1 billion price tag for an advanced U.S. anti-missile battery, prompting widespread outrage in South Korea and complicating the presidential campaign less than two weeks before the election.

South Korea's military quickly rejected Trump's suggestion, which was made Thursday in an interview with Reuters.

The Ministry of National Defense said Seoul is responsible for providing the land and basic facilities for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System, while Washington should pay costs for the deployment and operational work.

"Our basic position remains unchanged," the ministry said Friday in a statement that cited the status of forces agreement between the two longtime allies.

Trump's comments took

THAAD's supporters and opponents by surprise. Many South Koreans took to Twitter to say they never wanted the system in the first place.

Both leading candidates in the May 9 snap election called for transparency about the negotiations leading up to the THAAD agreement between the U.S. and ousted President Park Geun-hye's government.

The United States and South Korea agreed last year after months of talks to deploy THAAD to counter the growing threat from North Korea. But the decision met fierce opposition from local residents and China, which fears it could be used against its own military.

Critics also have accused the U.S. and South Korean militaries of rushing to install the system before the election, which is expected to usher in a liberal government that might reconsider the deployment.

Washington and the current government in Seoul say the system is needed to protect al-

lied forces as well as the local population. Thursday's remarks, however, were the first time Trump has publicly suggested South Korea should foot the bill.

"I informed South Korea it would be appropriate if they paid. It's a billion-dollar system," Trump told Reuters. "It's phenomenal, shoots missiles right out of the sky."

Representatives of front-runner Moon Jae-in, of the liberal Democratic Party, reiterated his stance that the next government should be allowed to review the decision about deploying the THAAD and called for all work on the system to be suspended in the meantime.

Ahn Cheol-soo, of the smaller, left-leaning People's Party, the runner-up in recent polls, has lifted his earlier opposition to THAAD as he courts the conservative vote.

But his camp said Trump's words suggested there had been back-channel negotiations over the issue. "That would be lying

to the South Korean people," said Ahn's spokeswoman, Kim Nemo.

"He's not reversing his position on THAAD, but he doesn't believe South Korea should pay for this," she said. "The current South Korean government should make things clear to its people what happened during the negotiation process."

Tensions over the issue were already high as many connect the system's deployment with Park, who was ousted and jailed over a corruption and influence-peddling scandal.

Protests broke out Wednesday after U.S. trucks carried several components of the THAAD to its new home in the farming area of Seongju in an overnight operation despite the fact that a promised environmental assessment has yet to be completed.

Critics also say THAAD is being positioned to protect U.S. forces and ports in the south but will not be able to stop North Korea from attacking Seoul.

## US urges UN Security Council to pressure N. Korea

*Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — Turning to diplomacy after flexing military muscle, the United States planned to urge the U.N. Security Council on Friday to increase economic pressure on North Korea over its nuclear weapons program, leaning on China, in particular, to turn the screws on its wayward ally.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was to meet with his counterparts from allies Japan and South Korea before chairing a ministerial meeting of the U.N.'s top decision-making body. The U.S. wants to tighten the implementation of sanctions and build international resolve to isolate North Korea

so it eventually disarms.

That's a goal that has eluded U.S. administrations for two decades, and the threat is intensifying. North Korea already may be able to strike its U.S.-allied neighbors with a nuclear-tipped missile and could have the U.S. mainland within range by the end of President Donald Trump's first term.

Tensions on and around the divided Korean Peninsula have been running high. In an attempt to deter North Korea from more nuclear and missile testing, the U.S. has sent a group of American warships led by an aircraft carrier to the region. North Korea this week conducted large-scale, live-fire exercises on its eastern coast.

However, after weeks of unusually blunt military threats, the Trump administration announced this week its policy is to exert economic and diplomatic pressure with international partners to achieve denuclearization and that it is not aiming for a regime change in North Korea. Officials say, however, that a military strike is still an option.

While the U.S. is calling for global action, it says the onus is on China to ramp up pressure on North Korea, its main trading partner and source of food and fuel aid. China wants North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program but is wary of destabilizing its traditional ally on whose side it fought in

the 1950-53 Korean War.

Tillerson said in an interview Thursday that Beijing has threatened to impose unilateral sanctions on North Korea if it conducts further nuclear tests. It conducted two last year, and satellite imagery in recent weeks has suggested another could be imminent.

China "confirmed to us that they had requested the regime conduct no further nuclear test," Tillerson said on Fox News Channel.

China's foreign ministry on Friday refused to confirm or deny Tillerson's assertion "that if they did conduct further nuclear tests, China would be taking sanctions actions on their own."

# 7 sailors punished for affairs, cover-ups

By TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Seven senior enlisted sailors aboard the USS Hué City face disciplinary actions for conducting or helping cover up an inappropriate relationship while serving on the guided-missile cruiser, the Navy has announced.

Capt. Daniel Gillen, the commanding officer of the cruiser, “held non-judicial punishment proceedings April 21-23 for seven of the ship’s chief petty

officers” after an investigation confirmed “an inappropriate relationship between two chiefs and a petty officer,” according to a statement issued by Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

Two chief petty officers involved in separate affairs with the same petty officer received unspecified administrative actions for violating articles 92 and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which cover fraternization and adultery.

The investigation also deter-

mined four other senior chiefs knew about the relationships and kept them secret. They also were found in violation of Article 92 for failure to report a fraternization offense and received unspecified administrative actions.

The petty officer who was involved with the two senior chiefs is now assigned off-ship, and the disciplinary actions against that sailor are pending, said Lt. Cmdr. Myers Vasquez, a spokesman for Naval Surface

Force Atlantic.

The USS Hué City is still at sea, assigned to the USS George H.W. Bush carrier strike group, which is in the Persian Gulf.

The other sailors are still assigned to the ship, Vasquez said. The ship’s commander will determine whether they are reassigned, he said.

There are approximately 300 enlisted sailors on a guided-missile cruiser, and about 25 to 28 of them are senior chiefs.

## DOD ID’s fallen Rangers; friendly fire a possibility

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Army Rangers Sgt. Joshua P. Rodgers and Sgt. Cameron H. Thomas were the two soldiers killed Wednesday in a raid targeting top Islamic State militants in eastern Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon, which is investigating the possibility their deaths were the result of friendly fire.

The two Rangers were mortally wounded within moments of getting off a helicopter near an ISIS headquarters com-

pound in Nangarhar province. The compound is within a mile of the location where the U.S. dropped its most powerful non-nuclear bomb earlier this month for the first time in combat.

The raid force of about 50 Rangers alongside 40 Afghan commandos came under “intense fire” from every direction as it landed, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. Thomas and Rodgers might have been unintentionally shot by another American soldier or an Afghan commando, Davis told reporters Friday at the Pentagon.

## Coast Guard suspends live-tissue goat training

NORFOLK, Va. — U.S. Coast Guard medics have stopped using military contractors who intentionally injure sedated animals so that medics can practice treating combat wounds.

Spokeswoman Lisa Novak said in a phone interview Thursday that the practice was suspended in January. A working group will decide if the training will continue.

The so-called “live tissue training” involved anesthetized goats.

Novak said she didn’t know

what led to the suspension.

In 2012, activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, released a video of a goat’s legs being removed with tree trimmers during what it said was Coast Guard training.

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., wrote in *The Hill* newspaper on Thursday that she had raised concerns with the Coast Guard. She said most Americans are against the practice.

From The Associated Press

## USS Bush crew fight ISIS – also flab, stress in gym

By SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH — The gym in this ship’s hangar bay is dark, cramped and crowded, with sailors clanging weights, punching heavy bags and bantering with each other.

It’s one of the most popular spots on the USS George H.W. Bush, which was deployed about three months ago to launch airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Life on a deployed aircraft carrier can be stressful: 5,000 sailors are crammed into confined spaces with almost no privacy, working 12-hour days and often waiting in long lines for laundry and chow.

Exercise is a way to relieve stress, but even that has its challenges because of limited space and equipment.

Earlier this month, Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Gardner, an aviation machinist’s mate, said he wished the Bush had more weights and other equipment. This is his third carrier, and he has seen better weight rooms on other ships, but they make the best of what they have.

“Working out is the only release from day-to-day stress,”

Gardner said.

Sailors often must wait to use the weight and aerobic machines. And they can use aerobic equipment for only a half-hour if there are others waiting to jump on.

“The biggest thing is space — 11,000 sailors a month go through that space,” said civilian trainer Justin Vigil, motioning to the gym. Vigil is known as a “fit boss.”

The U.S. Navy’s Morale, Wellness and Recreation departments try to hire fit bosses for most big ships to keep sailors from going to seed at sea.

Sailors who are on long deployments like the Bush’s must still pass the twice-yearly fitness and body-fat tests.

Vigil teaches exercise classes that offer alternatives to gym workouts, such as yoga, jujitsu, boxing and CrossFit.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Skyle Closearzon, who was pumping weights one afternoon, said he finds a way to work around time and space constraints to maintain physical readiness.

“Obesity is a big problem in America,” Closearzon said. “As sailors, we are ambassadors for America, so we need to be fit and look the part.”



# Congress averts government shutdown

By DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Over many of their own protestations, lawmakers voted Friday to avert a government shutdown by extending a temporary spending bill for one more week.

The stopgap measure, known as a continuing resolution, is aimed at giving bipartisan negotiators from both congressional chambers time to complete a consensus omnibus spending bill — including spending on defense — for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

Friday marked the expiration of the current continuing resolution, which was passed in December giving lawmakers an extra four months to work out

a compromise. With hours remaining, the stopgap measure was introduced in the House by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Both chambers then passed the bill.

The measure goes to President Donald Trump for his signature.

Ahead of the vote, House Majority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said from the floor that this would be the last 2017 short-term measure he would encourage House Democrats to support, so negotiators needed to put forth a full omnibus measure next week.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, said from the floor that Democratic

negotiators were continuing “to work in good faith” to reach a consensus bill, but there were still many “divisive poison-pill riders.”

The omnibus negotiations teetered this week after Trump inserted a demand that any bill for 2017 include funding for the start of construction of a border wall with Mexico, something Democrats outright rejected.

Trump rolled that back and also retreated from efforts to link 2017 spending to attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act by threatening not to fund a health insurance subsidy for the poorest Americans.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. said a bill needs to be ready by Monday evening so lawmakers can

vote on it Thursday.

“Next week, we must not consider a fourth CR but instead have a bipartisan bill,” Lowey said.

Included in the omnibus deliberations is a proposal for \$30 billion in supplemental defense spending to answer what service chiefs have termed immediate operational and maintenance needs in the wake of nearly a decade of short-term measures and funding cuts.

Earlier this month, the chiefs testified before the House Armed Services Committee that continuing the stopgap funding could devastate readiness — halting critical training, grounding ships and aircraft and disrupting pay raises and bonuses for servicemembers.

## Trump gives keynote at NRA convention

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump became the first sitting president to address a National Rifle Association convention in more than 30 years when he spoke Friday at the group’s annual meeting.

The president’s trip to Atlanta also marked his first foray into a congressional race since taking office. Trump was expected to attend a private fundraiser for Republican congressional candidate Karen Handel, a local election that has become a referendum on his presidency.

Trump has been a champion of gun rights and supportive of NRA efforts to loosen restrictions on gun ownership. During the campaign, he promised to do away with President Barack Obama’s efforts to strengthen background checks and to eliminate gun-free zones at schools and military bases.

The last president to address an NRA convention was Ronald Reagan, who spoke to the 1983 gathering, according to the powerful gun rights lobby. Trump’s appearance in Atlanta

also sparked protests near the convention’s venue.

After addressing NRA members, Trump was scheduled to attend the fundraiser for Handel. The president’s appearance is confirmation that the GOP sees Georgia’s 6th Congressional District runoff as a barometer of the 2018 midterm elections.

The affluent, well-educated district has been in Republican hands since 1979 — when the future House Speaker Newt Gingrich took office — and it still covers the usually conservative northern suburbs of Atlanta. But an upstart Democrat, Jon Ossoff, 30, used an anti-Trump wave to raise more than \$8 million ahead of an April 18 multiparty primary and nearly won the seat outright, finishing almost 30 points ahead of Handel, the top Republican vote-getter.

Handel has openly embraced the president in the opening days of the runoff campaign. Trump called to congratulate her on qualifying for the runoff and praised her via his personal Twitter account.

## Ark. inmate convulses during deadline-beating execution

*Associated Press*

VARNER, Ark. — Arkansas wrapped up an accelerated execution schedule with a lethal injection that left the condemned inmate lurching and convulsing before he died, prompting calls for investigations and renewed scrutiny of the state’s efforts to put multiple inmates to death on a compressed timeline.

Kenneth Williams on Thursday became the fourth convicted killer executed in Arkansas in eight days as the state sought to carry out as many lethal injections as possible before one of its drugs expires Sunday.

An Associated Press reporter who witnessed the execution said about three minutes in, Williams’ body jerked 15 times in quick succession — lurching violently against the leather restraint across his chest — then the rate slowed for a final five movements.

J.R. Davis, a spokesman for Gov. Asa Hutchinson who did not witness the execution, called the movements “an involuntary muscular reaction” that he said was a widely known effect of the surgical sedative

midazolam, the first of three drugs administered.

Williams’ attorneys released a statement calling witness accounts “horrifying” and demanding an investigation.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas backed up that call for a review, saying the state may have violated the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. In a statement Friday, the organization’s Executive Director Rita Sklar said the governor had “ignored the dangers ... all to beat the expiration date on a failed drug.”

Davis said he was sure Hutchinson would follow up, “as he does with every execution,” but that the governor was confident the Department of Correction “did what it was supposed to do.”

Williams read a prepared final statement before the execution, apologizing to the families he “senselessly wronged and deprived of their loved ones.” He also spoke in tongues, the unintelligible but language-like speech used in some religions. But his prayer faded off as the midazolam took effect.

## Pope begins Egypt trip

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is brushing off security concerns to forge ahead on Friday with a two-day trip to Egypt aimed at presenting a united Christian-Muslim front that repudiates violence committed in God's name.

Three weeks after Islamic militants staged twin Palm Sunday church attacks, Francis landed in Cairo for a series of deeply symbolic encounters with Egypt's religious and political leadership.

He planned to meet with Egypt's president, patriarch and the "other" pope, Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and pray for victims of the attacks.

Most importantly, he also planned to visit Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of learning in Sunni Islam. There, he planned to meet privately with grand imam Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb and participate in an international peace conference Friday afternoon.

Looking relaxed and cheerful, and carrying his own satchel as usual, the pope climbed the steps of the Alitalia jet and chatted with the flight crew.

The goal of the trip is to bring a message of peace to a country that has been ravaged by Islamic extremist attacks, and encourage a culture of respect and tolerance for religious minorities, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state.

After visiting Al-Azhar, Francis planned to meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, and then head to the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Church, which accounts for about 10 percent of Egypt's 92 million people. Francis and Tawadros planned to preside over a prayer service in St. Peter's church, the Coptic cathedral targeted by a December suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State. It killed 30 people.

Francis has frequently spoken out about today's Christian martyrs and the "ecumenism of blood" that has united Catholic, Orthodox and other Christians targeted for their faith by Islamic militants.

# Passenger dragged off plane this month settles with United

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The passenger who was dragged off a flight after refusing to give up his seat settled with United Thursday for an undisclosed sum in an apparent attempt by the airline to put the fiasco behind it as quickly as possible.

David Dao's legal team said the agreement includes a provision that the amount will remain confidential. One of his lawyers praised United CEO Oscar Munoz.

Munoz "said he was going to do the right thing, and he has," attorney Thomas Demetrio said in a brief statement. "In addition, United has taken full responsibility for what happened ... without attempting to blame others, including the city of Chicago."

The deal came less than three weeks after the episode and before Dao had even sued. The deal means United will not face a lawsuit, which could have been costly, both in legal bills and in further damage to the airline's

reputation.

Keeping settlement amounts secret is standard practice, including because companies often don't want others contemplating lawsuits or negotiating deals over separate grievances to know how much they've been willing to pay previously.

Several legal observers unconnected to Dao's case said a payout to him of a few million dollars was possible.

Chicago-based attorney Terry Sullivan said United executives may have been willing to pay as much as \$5 million to make this particular case go away. "United just couldn't afford any more bad publicity on this," he said.

United issued a brief statement Thursday, saying it was pleased to report "an amicable resolution of the unfortunate incident that occurred aboard Flight 3411."

The dragging was one of several recent embarrassments for United.

The airline was criticized in March after a gate agent

stopped two teenage girls from boarding a flight because they were wearing leggings — an apparent violation of a dress code for passengers traveling in a program for employees and their dependents. Then a giant showcase rabbit died this week after it was shipped across the Atlantic on a United flight from London's Heathrow Airport to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Cellphone video of the April 9 confrontation aboard a jetliner at O'Hare sparked widespread public outrage over the way Dao, 69, was treated. The footage showed airport police officers pulling the Kentucky physician from his seat and dragging him down the aisle. His lawyer said he lost teeth and suffered a broken nose and a concussion.

In a phone interview with The Associated Press, Demetrio said the settlement also averts any lawsuit against Chicago officials. The airport police officers who pulled Dao off the jet work for the city.

## Protesters storm Macedonia's parliament

Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Macedonia's opposition chief rejected the president's call for emergency party leaders' talks Friday, hours after demonstrators — mostly supporters of the country's dominant conservative party — invaded parliament and assaulted opposition lawmakers.

An official in the Social Democrat party told the AP that Zoran Zaev would not be attending the talks.

Police said 102 people were injured in the riot. Zaev was among the victims, as was the head of a small ethnic Albanian opposition party, and 22 police officers.

The country is in a deep political crisis that started with a wiretapping scandal more than

two years ago, and inconclusive elections last year further complicated matters. Macedonia is also increasingly divided along ethnic lines, with demonstrators protesting against opposition plans to give greater powers to ethnic Albanians, who make up a quarter of the country's population.

Conservative VMRO-DPMNE leader Nikola Gruevski also condemned the violence but said his political opponents provoked it.

Speaking at his party headquarters Friday, Gruevski said the Social Democrats consciously broke the country's law and constitution by electing a new parliament speaker — an ethnic Albanian politician — despite the deadlock in efforts to form a new government.

The violence started when

dozens of protesters broke through a police cordon after the speaker's election, shouting, throwing chairs and wielding camera tripods abandoned by startled journalists. Police said arrests have been made but gave no further details.

Clashes lasted for hours Thursday night, with police initially doing little to stop the invasion, and the crowd inside parliament swelled to several hundred. Eventually, police used stun grenades to evacuate the building.

Macedonia's political crisis started in early 2015, when Zaev accused then-prime minister Gruevski of masterminding a massive illegal wiretapping operation against the judiciary, police, politicians, journalists, foreign diplomats and religious leaders.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Mayor sees 'eerie,' ghostly face in lamp

**MA** SALEM — A Massachusetts city known for celebrating the occult is drawing attention after its mayor snapped a photo that appears to show a scowling face in a streetlamp.

Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll shared the photo on Twitter on Wednesday. The Democrat asked if other people can see the face, which she calls "eerie."

Many on social media said it looks like a man's face, with a furrowed brow and parted lips. Some said they're spooked. Others said it should be no surprise in Salem. The city of 43,000 residents was home to the 1692 Salem Witch Trials, which led to the executions of 20 people.

The photo was taken outside a courthouse.

### Officer shares child's gift of stuffed moose

**OH** CINCINNATI — Police in Ohio received a stuffed toy given by a child to a Pennsylvania police officer to help keep him safe.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported a stuffed moose called Mr. Moosey has become a traveling protection talisman sent to police and other first responder agencies around the country.

The toy was first given to Towamencin, Pa., police officer James Gibbs by Mackenzie Brown, 5, last year during a traffic stop. The child said she wanted the officer to have it to help keep him safe. Gibbs kept it for a while but decided to share it with other law enforcement agencies and fire departments around the country.

The toy has made its way to states including Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

### Man charged with sending PCP to charity

**CT** BRIDGEPORT — A Connecticut man charged with having 3 pounds of a powerful hallucinogenic drug sent to the offices of an international charity pleaded not guilty.

The Connecticut Post reported that Giraud Dickson, 33, was freed on \$50,000 bail after entering his plea to charges including the illegal distribution of narcotics.

Police responded to Save the Children's Fairfield headquarters in February after workers opened a package containing white powder, which tested positive for PCP or angel dust.

Employees told officers that Dickson, who worked for a courier that served Save the Children, had been stopping by the mailroom frequently, but when questioned would quickly leave. Police planted an identical package in the mailroom and arrested Dickson when he grabbed it.

### Man claims he found mouse in Coke can

**SD** MITCHELL — A South Dakota man is suing Coca-Cola after allegedly finding a mouse in a can of soda.

The Daily Republic reported Duane Putzier said he became ill, missed 60 hours of work and accumulated \$1,000 in medical bills after finding the mouse on June 7. Coca-Cola Co. attorneys argue the mouse would have been more decomposed if it really had been in the can for six weeks, the amount of time between bottling and consumption. Attorney Brian Johnson called the claim an attack on the company's brand.

Putzier is seeking \$2,026, plus any general damages proven at trial, with interest.

### Caller asks for police dog to find his heroin

**OH** AKRON — Police said an Ohio man called 911 to request a police dog to help track down heroin allegedly stolen from him.

WEWS-TV reported a 20-year-old man in Bath Township made the call in January. The recording was released this week.

When the call operator asks why the caller needs a police dog, he replies that a woman stole heroin from him.

Bath Police Chief Mike McNeely said it's among the most bizarre things he's heard in four decades of policing.

McNeely said the man is expected to face a drug charge after he pulled a brown, waxy substance from his pants while being interviewed by police.

The substance was seized and sent to a lab for testing.

### Man grew pot thinking it would be legal soon

**VT** ST. ALBANS — Vermont police arrested a man who acknowledged growing marijuana to prepare for possible statewide legalization of the drug.

St. Albans police said they came across Michael Marshall while investigating a hunting violation. Marshall fled into a house after a confrontation with police, and then consented to a search of the residence. Police said they then found and seized 13 full-grown marijuana plants and 27 smaller ones.

According to police, Marshall told them he thought marijuana would be legalized soon, so he wanted to get an early start on growing it for future sale.

The possession of small amounts of marijuana has been decriminalized in Vermont, but it is still illegal for recreational use.

### Gay legislator calls online troll's grandma

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — An openly gay Pennsylvania politician hit back at an internet troll who posted a slur on his Facebook page — by calling the man's grandmother.

WCAU-TV reported Pennsylvania Rep. Brian Sims, who represents a downtown Philadelphia district, saw the slur referencing blacks and gays Wednesday morning as he scrolled through his Facebook feed.

Sims replied on the man's page that he can't tell if the man is a "dumb little boy or an angry bigot," but he does know the man shouldn't have posted his grandmother's telephone number on the page. He adds: "She and I had a very disappointing chat about you. We'll talk soon ..."

Sims said the grandmother also passed along her grandson's phone number.

### Jeans caked in fake dirt sell for hundreds

**DC** WASHINGTON — Nordstrom is selling "mud-stained" jeans to the tune of \$425.

They're called the "Barra-cuda Straight Leg Jeans" and come with some sort of fake mud substance caked all over them. The knees, pockets and crotch of the jeans appear to bear most of the muck.

The jeans were designed by PRSP. Nordstrom's website describes them as "rugged, Americana workwear that's seen some hard-working action with a crackled, caked-on muddy coating that shows you're not afraid to get down and dirty."

One person commented on Twitter, "Welp, it's official. Working class is en vogue."

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# Browns select DE Garrett with top overall draft pick

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—Defense was supposed to dominate the first round of the NFL Draft.

It did, eventually. It just took a while.

After the Browns took Texas A&M defensive end Myles Garrett with the No. 1 overall pick Thursday night, eight of the next 11 picks were offensive players in a surprising opening day. Overall, 19 of the 32 players were from the defense, which was closer to projections.

The first stunner was the Bears trading with the 49ers to select North Carolina quarterback Mitch Trubisky at No. 2.

"It was just pretty much silence," Trubisky said. "That's why I'm surprised to hear my name called because we didn't have a lot of contact."

Considering the wild nature of the opening round, Friday's second and third rounds could feature more of the same.

Among the players still available are Florida State running back Dalvin Cook, Notre Dame quarterback DeShone Kizer, Alabama offensive lineman Cam Robinson, Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon and UConn defensive back Obi Melifonwu. Cook was an All-American last season.

After taking Garrett, the Browns added Michigan's Jabrill Peppers and tight end David Njoku as they look to improve off a horrendous 1-15 season. The Browns were the first team since Minnesota in 2013 to have three first-round picks.

The Chiefs and the Texans also got in on the bartering to get quarterbacks. Kansas City moved from 27 to 10 for Patrick Mahomes of Texas Tech. And Houston made a trade with the Browns and selected Deshaun Watson, who led Clemson to the national title last season.

The first run of defensive players started with Arizona taking Temple's Haason Reddick at No. 13, which drew a big cheer from the estimated 100,000-strong crowd at Philadelphia's Museum of Art.

The Eagles went next and picked defensive end Derek Barnett. "We had a lot of scenarios, but we did not have any scenarios like what's happened here," Eagles' executive vice president of football operations Howie Roseman said.

After not having any players selected in the top 15, Alabama ended up having the most taken in the first round: Baltimore took cornerback Marlon Humphrey at 16, Washington got defensive tackle Jonathan Allen at 17, Tampa Bay selected tight end O.J. Howard at 19, and San Francisco took linebacker Reuben Foster at 31.

One controversial pick was Ohio State cornerback Gareon Conley, who was drafted by Oakland at No. 24. Days before the draft, allegations emerged that Conley raped a woman in Cleveland. He called the accusations "completely false" and no charges have been filed.

Earlier in the draft, the 49ers took Stanford tight end Solomon Thomas at No. 3, and LSU running back Leonard Fournette went to Jacksonville at No. 4. The Titans rounded out the top five with Western Michigan wide receiver Corey Davis.

The New York Jets took LSU safety Jamal Adams at No. 6 for the third defensive pick in the top 10. He was followed by wide receiver Mike Williams as the first pick of the Los Angeles Chargers, then running back-kick returner Christian McCaffrey went to Carolina. Cincinnati surprised some by taking speedy wide receiver John Ross from Washington.

# Spurs rally past Grizz

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Gregg Popovich feels like his San Antonio Spurs survived the Memphis Grizzlies and is grateful their first-round series finally is over after six games.

His Spurs desperately need a couple of days off before hosting Houston on Monday night in their Western Conference semifinal.

The Spurs finished the game on a 22-8 run Thursday night after trailing by seven in beating Memphis 103-96 to take the series 4-2. Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points, and Tony Parker added 27.

"I'm seriously thrilled that we were able to get through that first round," Popovich said. "That's the good news. The bad news is that we now have to go play Houston."

The Spurs advanced by winning on the road, something neither San Antonio nor Mem-

phis had managed against each other all season long. LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 12 rebounds as San Antonio outrebounded Memphis 46-28. They got 16 of those on the offensive boards, leading to 17 second-chance points.

Parker said the Spurs treated this like a Game 7 to make sure they avoided heading home to play a deciding seventh game that had been scheduled for Saturday. That would've meant only one day to rest and prepare for the No. 3-seeded Rockets with this semifinal starting Monday night in San Antonio.

"We wanted those days off before playing Houston because it's going to be a fast-paced game against them," Parker said. "They have a great offense, and the key is going to be defense. So we're going to have to have our legs. I think this win is huge obviously, because we won the series, but even to prepare against Houston."

# Raptors hold off Bucks

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE—The Toronto Raptors keep getting themselves into tough situations in the playoffs.

They hope their resilience helps make them stronger as they get ready to face the Cleveland Cavaliers again.

At the least, the Raptors will need to get better at holding onto big leads after blowing a 25-point advantage against the Milwaukee Bucks before winning 92-89 on Thursday night. Toronto took a physical, tiring first-round series in six games.

"We're just a team up north. We don't get a lot of respect and I like that," coach Dwane Casey said. "As a matter of fact I think we're better with our backs against the wall."

The Eastern Conference semifinals start Monday in Cleveland.

"Ready for the next one. Ready for the next one," guard DeMar DeRozan said. The Raptors' leading scorer had 32 points on 12-for-24 shooting,

along with five steals.

But once again, the Raptors didn't make it easy on themselves. They looked as if they were on cruise control after DeMarre Carroll's three gave them the 71-46 advantage with 5:16 left in the third quarter.

Then they started resembling the team that got embarrassed in a 27-point blowout in Game 3.

Giannis Antetokounmpo played 47 minutes, mustering enough energy to help spearhead a second-half rally. He repeatedly tore through the Toronto defense to get to the lane, finishing with 34 points. Chris Middleton fought through an illness that bothered him all week to score 19 points.

Toronto answered the Game 3 blowout by winning a defensive slugfest in Game 4, the start of three straight victories to close out the series.

Now it's on to Cleveland, a year after losing to the Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference finals in six games.



# Crosby, Pens outduel Caps in Game 1

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sidney Crosby outdueled Alex Ovechkin in a vintage goal-for-goal showdown between the NHL's top teams, and Nick Bonino and Marc-Andre Fleury put the finishing touches on a playoff classic.

Crosby scored two goals in 52 seconds, Bonino had the winner in the third period and Fleury made dazzling saves with and without his stick, helping the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Washington Capitals 3-2 Thursday night in Game 1 of their highly anticipated second-round series.

Almost eight years after their "dueling hat tricks" game, Ovechkin answered Crosby with his fourth goal of the playoffs, but his team couldn't compensate for the Penguins captain's greatness.

"They're special athletes, both those guys, and they look for those big moments and they capitalize on those big moments," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said. "They're special players."

Crosby scored twice in the first 64 seconds of the second

period to give him as many goals as he had points in the Penguins' series against the Capitals a year ago.

"That's how it goes sometimes," Crosby said. "You don't get some for a while and then they come in bunches."

With linemates Jake Guentzel and Patric Hornqvist playing a game of "Get Crosby the puck and watch him do his thing," the 2016 playoff MVP capitalized on a couple of Washington mistakes and looked as if he had a third goal in him a few more times.

"He was a threat all night," Penguins center Matt Cullen said. "He was dangerous. He was attacking."

In a postseason full of blown multi-goal leads, the Capitals rallied on goals by Ovechkin late in the second and Evgeny Kuznetsov early in the third. Then another Capitals mistake allowed Scott Wilson to find Bonino in some open ice, and the third-line center beat Braden Holtby with 7:24 left for the Game 1 winner.

"Bones is a guy that's a high-stakes player," coach Mike Sullivan said. "He brings his best game when the games are most

important, and we've got a lot of guys on our roster that we can say that about."

Fleury qualifies, especially after he flailed around and almost actually stood on his head to preserve the victory. He made 15 of his 32 saves in the third period, including a flurry of four with 3 minutes left long after he had lost his stick.

"I couldn't see the puck for a little while there, I had no stick, so I was trying to make some stops," Fleury said. "It was fun. ... Try to rise up to the challenge and try to keep the team in the game. Saving that lead, when you can do it, it's a good feeling."

The Capitals weren't feeling so good about a game in which they didn't have a single power play. Pittsburgh went 0-for-2 with the man advantage, but Trotz thought there were opportunities for his team to get at least one chance.

"No penalties against their side," Ovechkin said. "You just have to fight through it."

The Capitals outshot the Penguins 35-21 — Holtby made 18 saves and Fleury was the difference. With Game 2 in Washing-

ton on Saturday night, Bonino knows it will be difficult to take a 2-0 series lead with the same showing.

"I think we can play better," Bonino said. "There's no perfect games. I think we weathered their storm there. I think we're happy to get the win, but they played a great game and we know they're going to get better too, so we've got to match that."

**Notes:** LW Chris Kunitz returned to the Penguins' lineup after missing the first round and final five games of the regular season with a lower-body injury. Kunitz appeared in his 107th playoff game, tying Hall of Famer/co-owner Mario Lemieux for fifth on the Penguins' career list. ... Pittsburgh LW Carl Hagelin remained out with a lower-body injury that has sidelined him since mid-March. ... Capitals D Karl Alzner missed his fifth consecutive game with an upper-body injury. ... Washington did not have a power play in a playoff game for the first time since Game 7 of the first round against the New York Islanders in 2015.

## Karlsson, Senators overtake Rangers in series opener

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Erik Karlsson was hoping for a good bounce. He got a great one.

Karlsson's shot from an almost impossible angle beat Henrik Lundqvist with 4:11 left in the third period, sending the Ottawa Senators to a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers in the opener of their second-round playoff series on Thursday night.

Karlsson's first attempt was blocked by Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh, but the second — the shot leaving his tape from below the goal line — somehow found its way past the Swedish goaltender, who had been nearly unbeatable to that point.

"Those are always nice to get," Karlsson said. "And I think that the amount of pucks that we put at the net we deserved one of those."

It was the last of 43 shots at Lundqvist and the first goal of the playoffs for the Ottawa captain.

"There's three guys in line with that puck and I pick it up, but it just hit me in the head and it's in," Lundqvist said.

It was Karlsson's first goal and seventh point of the playoffs. The 26-year-old defenseman, who has been playing with a foot injury, also logged more than 28 minutes in the win.

Senators coach Guy Boucher was almost at a loss for words to describe a player who he believes is deserving of Hart

Trophy consideration as league MVP this season.

"It's been so consistent that I guess I got used to it," Boucher said. "I don't know if that's good or bad, but I don't think you should ever get used to that. I think our fans have to appreciate what we have here. It's more than a star right now. That's what I think is unbelievable. He's a skilled player that became a star and now he's a winner."

Ryan McDonagh scored for New York, and Lundqvist finished with 41 saves.

Craig Anderson stopped 34 shots and Ryan Dzingel scored for Ottawa, which eliminated Boston in six games in the first round.

Game 2 is Saturday.

The Senators, playing in front of several empty seats, had a chance for a fast start, but went 0-for-3 on the power play during a scoreless first period.

The 35-year-old Lundqvist was terrific, especially early on. He made 21 saves in the first, including a pair of stops on Mark Stone during a flurry around the net on Ottawa's first power play.

Lundqvist had a 1.70 goals-against average and a .947 save percentage in the first round against Montreal.

Anderson wasn't tested nearly as much at the other end, but was forced to hang tough when McDonagh walked past a row of Senators during a New York power play and made an attempt on goal that went wide.

# Yanks' Tanaka shuts out rival Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — New York Yankees starters failed to record a complete game in all of 2016 — the first time in franchise history that's happened.

Masahiro Tanaka ended that slump this season before April was up.

Tanaka pitched a three-hitter to outduel Chris Sale and earn his first shutout since 2014, and the Yankees beat Boston 3-0 on Thursday night.

Tanaka (3-1) struck out three and threw only 97 pitches for his fifth career complete game — his first since Aug. 15, 2015, which was also the last for New York.

"I knew that we were facing a good pitcher in Chris Sale. Knew how important one run could be, so I tried to go out there and put up zeroes," said Tanaka, who earned his 10th win in his last 11 decisions dating to last season. "A lot of people thought Chris Sale had the upper hand, the way he was pitching."

Tanaka retired the last 14 batters he faced and only allowed one runner to reach second base as the Yankees earned their

fifth straight victory over the rival Red Sox. Aaron Hicks had two hits and scored twice, and Matt Holliday had two hits and two RBIs.

Sale (1-2) nearly matched Tanaka most of the way, allowing only one unearned run over the first eight innings before giving up three straight singles to start the ninth, when the Yankees added two more runs.

"We had a chance going into the ninth," he said. "I just completely took the wind out of the sails."

Yankees pitching coach Larry Rothschild said Tanaka spoke before the game of the challenge of facing Sale.

"He went toe-to-toe with Chris Sale," manager Joe Girardi agreed. "He knew he couldn't afford to give up a whole lot of runs. (There was) more pressure on him, in a sense, and he really rose to the occasion."

**Adding on:** Sale stumbled in the fourth, when Hicks singled, took second on a groundout, third on a passed ball and scored on Holliday's sacrifice fly. The Yankees chased Sale when Hicks, Chase Headley and Holliday all singled to start the ninth and score another run.

Heath Hembree gave up a single to Starlin Castro to make it 3-0 before Aaron Judge popped out to the catcher and Chris Carter grounded into a double play.

In all, Sale was charged with two earned runs and eight hits in eight-plus innings, striking out 10 and walking none. He joined Pedro Martinez, Roger Clemens and Jon Lester as Red Sox pitchers with 10 or more strikeouts in four straight starts.

**Non-support:** The Red Sox have scored four runs total in Sale's five starts this season. Boston, which scored the most runs in baseball last season, has scored 13 total over its last seven games, losing five and getting shut out three times.

"I don't think our guys, on a day Chris is pitching, they feel like they've got to do more," manager John Farrell said. "We've had great ballgames pitched against us by quality starters. I don't think it's because Chris is on the mound."

**Bunts:** Sale is 4-2 with a 1.31 ERA in eight career starts against Yankees. ... Jacoby Ellsbury of the Yankees did not reach base for the first time in 26 games stretching to the end of the 2016 season.

# Lindor's two-run homer lifts Tribe over Astros

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Francisco Lindor has added game-changing power to his long list of skills.

Lindor's two-run homer in the seventh inning lifted the Cleveland Indians over the Houston Astros 4-3 Thursday night. The 456-foot blast off Chris Devenski (1-1) landed in the visitors bullpen about 50 feet beyond the center-field wall.

"I'm not supposed to be hitting the ball that far," Lindor said with a laugh.

Corey Kluber (3-1) struck out 10 and allowed three runs in seven innings as the defending AL champs took two of three from the AL West leaders.

"That was a great game and a great series," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "Their guy beat our guy. That's really it."

Edwin Encarnacion and Abraham Almonte also homered for Cleveland, which has won seven of nine.

**Mets 7, Braves 5:** Yoenis

Cespedes limped off with a pulled hamstring, Matt Harvey was chased in the fifth inning as he made an emergency start in place of ailing Noah Syndergaard, and host New York's losing streak reached six with a defeat to Atlanta.

Kurt Suzuki hit a three-run homer that finished Harvey (2-1), who allowed six runs in 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings and tied a career high with five walks.

Syndergaard was scratched because of right biceps discomfort. While the right-hander hopes to pitch Sunday at Washington, Cespedes looks likely to be sidelined for an extended period.

**Nationals 16, Rockies 5:** Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer as part of an 11-run seventh inning, Trea Turner enjoyed another big game at Coors Field and Washington routed Colorado.

Turner proved to be a pitcher's nightmare throughout the four-game series. He hit for the cycle on Tuesday, finished

a triple shy of another cycle Wednesday and added a double and two singles in the finale — in all, he had seven extra-base hits, scored 10 runs and had 11 RBIs.

**Dodgers 5, Giants 1 (10):** Run-scoring singles by Andrew Toles and Justin Turner in the 10th inning led visiting Los Angeles after pitcher Julio Urias made a solid start in his 2017 debut.

Kenley Jansen (1-0) got the win, striking out the side in the ninth inning, as the Dodgers managed a split of the four-game series. The loser was Cory Gearrin (0-1), who walked the only batter he faced leading off the 10th inning.

**Phillies 3, Marlins 2:** Jeremy Hellickson allowed one run over six innings to lead host Philadelphia to its sixth straight win.

Hellickson (4-0), the 2011 AL Rookie of the Year with Tampa Bay, pitched like the ace the Phillies needed — not just to keep them respectable, but

possibly to dangle as attractive trade bait at the July 31 deadline to secure a prospect or two toward their rebuild.

**Cardinals 8-6, Blue Jays 4-4:** Dexter Fowler, Greg Garcia and Matt Adams each had three hits as host St. Louis beat Toronto to sweep a day-night doubleheader. The Cardinals won the opener on Matt Carpenter's grand slam in the 11th inning.

**Diamondbacks 6, Padres 2:** Taijuan Walker matched a career high with 11 strikeouts in eight effective innings, Chris Owings hit a pair of solo homers and Arizona beat visiting San Diego.

**Mariners 2, Tigers 1:** Ben Gamel had an RBI single in the ninth inning to help Seattle beat host Detroit.

**Angels 2, Athletics 1:** Ricky Nolasco had extra days between starts to work on mechanical issues and it paid off as he led Los Angeles over visiting Oakland to earn the series sweep.