

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy SEAL killed during raid in Somalia

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Navy SEAL was killed Thursday in Somalia while accompanying Somali National Army soldiers on a raid targeting a remote al-Shabab compound just outside Mogadishu, U.S. defense officials said Friday.

The SEAL is the first American servicemember killed in action in Somalia in decades, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, likely since the notorious 1993 Battle of Mogadishu — known as the “Black Hawk Down” incident — during which 18 U.S. military members were killed.

Two other SEALs were injured Thursday in the firefight with the al-Qaida-linked militants during the operation near Bari, about 40 miles west of the Somali capital, a defense of-

icial said. The official was not authorized to identify the service branch to which the U.S. troops belonged and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The American and Somali troops were inserted by U.S. helicopters on the operation that targeted al-Shabab militants believed involved in recent, nearby attacks on American, Somali and African Union troops, Davis said. The Americans were only with the Somalis to “advise and assist” and were not part of the force tasked with entering the compound, he said.

But the Americans were attacked within moments of the helicopters’ landing outside the compound, Davis said.

The troops did not call in a defensive airstrike, he said, adding “the attackers were quickly neutralized on the ground.”

It was not clear whether the operation continued after

the firefight nor whether al-Shabab militants were killed or captured.

The U.S. has contributed small teams of American special operations forces to train and advise Somali National Army and African Union troops fighting al-Shabab in Somalia since 2013. Davis said there are typically about 50 U.S. special operators in Somalia at any time for that mission.

The Pentagon in late March received increased authorities from the White House to target the terrorist group with offensive airstrikes.

Marine Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, commander of Africa Command, told reporters recently the authorities had not been used as of late April.

The operation Thursday was not conducted under the new authorities, Davis said.

“This was not related to

those,” he said. “This was done under the same authorities that we’ve had since we began our operations there in 2013 to advise and assist on these types of missions.”

Somalia’s government and the U.S. have promised to step up operations against al-Shabab, which aims to overthrow the government and install a strict version of Sharia law in the nation.

Somalia’s President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who holds Somali and American citizenship, has vowed to destroy al-Shabab within the next two years. The terrorist group, which the Pentagon considers al-Qaida’s third-most-dangerous affiliate, has increased operations against government forces and civilian targets since Mohamed declared war on al-Shabab last month.

## Iraq PM: No US combat troops to stay post-ISIS

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — U.S. combat troops will not stay on in Iraq after the fight against Islamic State is over, Iraq’s prime minister said Friday — a statement that followed an Associated Press report on talks between Iraq and the U.S. on maintaining American forces in the country.

A U.S. official and an official from the Iraqi government told the AP this week that talks about keeping U.S. troops in Iraq were ongoing.

The U.S. official emphasized that discussions were in early stages and that “nothing has been finalized.” Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

In his statement, Haider al-Abadi emphasized that there are no foreign combat troops on Iraqi soil and that any American troops who stay on once ISIS militants are defeated will be advisers working to

train Iraq’s security forces to maintain “full readiness” for any “future security challenges.”

While some U.S. forces are carrying out combat operations with Iraqi forces on and beyond front lines in the fight against ISIS, al-Abadi has maintained that the forces are acting only as advisers, apparently to get around a required parliamentary approval for their presence.

Any forces that remained would continue to be designated as advisers for the same reason, the Iraqi government official had told the AP.

Regardless of how the troops are designated, talks about maintaining American forces in Iraq point to a consensus by both governments that a longer-term U.S. presence in Iraq is needed to ensure that an insurgency does not bubble up again once Islamic State militants are driven out — a contrast to the full U.S. withdrawal in 2011.

Currently, the Pentagon has close to 7,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, many not publicly acknowledged because they are on temporary duty or are under specific personnel rules. At the height of the surge of U.S. forces in 2007, there were about 170,000 American troops in the country. The numbers were wound down eventually to 40,000, before the complete withdrawal in 2011.

The U.S. intervention against ISIS, launched in 2014, originally was cast as an operation that would largely be fought from the skies with a minimal footprint on Iraqi soil. Nevertheless, that footprint has expanded since, given the Iraqi forces’ need for support.

Iraqi forces are struggling to retake the last remaining Mosul neighborhoods that ISIS holds in the city’s western half, but even after a territorial victory, Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition officials have warned of the potential for ISIS to carry out insurgent attacks in government-held territory.

# Russia: Syria safe-zone plan starts at midnight

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A Russian plan to set up “de-escalation zones” in Syria is to go into effect at midnight on Friday, but it will be at least another month before all the details are worked out and the safe areas are fully established, according to Russian officials.

Also, prospects for the success of the deal — agreed on by Russia, Turkey and Iran — are undermined by the failure of Syrian rebel groups who oppose President Bashar Assad to sign on to it.

Russian military officials said the plan, which was agreed to in Syria talks in Kazakhstan on Thursday, envisions establishing four safe zones that could bring relief for hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians and would encourage refugees to return.

Russia, Turkey and Iran are to enforce the zones, but Russian general staff official Col.-Gen. Sergei Rudskoi said Friday that other countries could participate. He did not elaborate on which countries those might be.

The “de-escalation zones” to be established in Syria will

be closed to military aircraft from the U.S.-led coalition, the Russian official who signed the agreement also said Friday. Under the Russian plan, Assad’s air force would halt flights over the designated areas across the war-torn country.

Alexander Lavrentyev spoke a day after he and officials from Turkey and Iran agreed to establish the zones, in the latest attempt to reduce violence in the Arab country.

But the Pentagon said the de-escalation agreement will not affect the U.S.-led air campaign against Islamic State.

“The coalition will continue to target ISIS wherever they operate to ensure they have no sanctuary,” said Pentagon spokesman Marine Maj. Adrian J.T. Rankine-Galloway.

Rudskoi also told reporters that Russia wanted to restore an agreement with the U.S. to coordinate air operations over Syria to reduce the risk of aircraft colliding. That arrangement was suspended last month after the U.S. Tomahawk missile barrage on a Syrian air base, fired in response to a deadly chemical gas attack in Syria that was blamed on Assad’s government.

# Navy officer admits lying and mishandling secrets

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The U.S. Navy abandoned efforts to convict a Taiwan-born Navy officer of spying for China or Taiwan, striking a plea deal on Thursday that instead portrays him as arrogant and willing to reveal military secrets to impress women.

The agreement was a marked retreat from last year’s accusations that Lt. Cmdr. Edward C. Lin gave or attempted to give classified information to representatives of a foreign government.

But it still appears to end the impressive military career of a man who came to America at 14. Lin joined the staff of an assistant secretary of the Navy in Washington, and later was assigned to a unit in Hawaii that flies spy planes.

Lin, 40, now faces dismissal from the Navy and up to 36 years in prison at his sentencing, scheduled for early June.

During the daylong court-martial in Norfolk, Lin admitted that he failed to disclose friendships with people in Taiwan’s military and connected to its government. He also conceded that he shared defense information with women he

said he was trying to impress.

One of them is Janice Chen, an American registered in the U.S. as a foreign agent of Taiwan’s government, specifically the country’s Democratic Progressive Party.

Lin said he and Chen often discussed news articles she emailed him about military affairs. He admitted that he shared classified information about the Navy’s Pacific Fleet.

He also divulged secrets to a woman named “Katherine Wu,” whom he believed worked as a contractor for Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She actually was an undercover FBI agent.

“I was trying to let her know that the military profession in the United States is an honorable and noble one,” Lin told Cmdr. Robert Monahan, the military judge. Lin said the military is less prestigious in Taiwan.

Lin also had friends with other connections, including a woman living in China whom he met online, and a Chinese massage therapist who moved to Hawaii.

Lin said he gave the massage therapist a “large sum of money” at one point, although he didn’t say why.

# Reports of ‘Darkhorse’ Marines’ deaths a hoax

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Although thousands upon thousands of well-meaning Americans on Facebook and Twitter are asking people to pray for the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, the grunts aren’t suffering any casualties in Afghanistan. They’re home at Camp Pendleton, preparing to deploy to sea.

The latest hoax seems to have broken out on Facebook in late February before dying down in mid-March. It has come roaring back in recent days, however, triggering a

flood of social-media support for the “Darkhorse” battalion that once suffered heavy losses in Afghanistan but isn’t actually in combat now.

“We are asking everyone to say a prayer for ‘Darkhorse’ 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and their families. They are fighting it out in Afghanistan and have lost nine Marines in four days. Please repost this,” reads the typical message being circulated on social media.

As the rumors circulated in March and April, the battalion was training for a future de-

ployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Between March 24 and April 4, for example, the 3/5 Marines underwent a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation at Camp Pendleton.

This week, elements of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit have been participating in a Composite Training Unit Exercise — “COMPTUEX” — off the coast of Southern California aboard the Navy’s amphibious assault ship America.

The urban legend about the Marine unit currently suffer-

ing major combat losses in Afghanistan has roots in truth.

Deployed to Afghanistan’s restive Helmand province in 2010-11, 3/5 Marines and the 1st Combat Engineers suffered 25 deaths and nearly 200 wounded. Some of the most brutal fighting was concentrated near the district of Sangin, triggering widespread support on social media from well-wishers at the time.

After the Darkhorse Marines rotated home, calls for prayers for their safety continued to flare up periodically.

## Bergdahl trial is set for October

Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — An Army judge set an October trial date for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl on charges that he endangered his comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan.

Col. Jeffery Nance said he intends to start jury selection Oct. 16 and to begin the trial in earnest on Oct. 23. Both prosecutors and defense lawyers indicated that the dates worked for them.

Bergdahl faces charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.

Bergdahl, of Hailey, Idaho, left his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held by the Taliban and its allies about five years. The military investigation of Bergdahl began after he was freed May 31, 2014, in exchange for five Taliban prisoners.

The judge already has scratched three previous trial dates amid delays over the exchange of classified information between prosecutors and defense lawyers.

The military recently set up computers that allow defense lawyers to review sensitive material.

# US fighters intercept Russian warplanes off coast of Alaska

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American stealthy F-22 Raptor fighter jets intercepted a formation of Russian bombers and fighters in international airspace off the coast of Alaska on Wednesday evening, a Pentagon spokesman said Thursday.

The U.S. planes were launched to identify the two Russian Tu-95 Bear bombers and two Su-35 Flanker fighters as they approached and entered the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone, an area about 200 miles off the Alaskan coast, said Army Maj. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. The Air Defense Identification Zone is almost entirely within international airspace, but the U.S. expects aircraft to identify themselves to air traffic controllers and defense authorities when flying inside them.

The Russian planes never entered American or Canadian sovereign air space, which extends 12 miles from the coast, Davis said. He declined to say precisely how close to the Alaskan coast the Russian warplanes flew, citing operational security concerns.

The interception occurred about 5 p.m. Alaska time. Davis said a Russian A-50 “Mainstay” Airborne Early Warning Aircraft later entered the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone but was not intercepted. It also did not enter U.S. airspace.

It was the first time the U.S. has observed the Su-35, an advanced fighter aircraft that entered the Russian arsenal in 2014, near Alaska, a de-

fense official said on the condition of anonymity. Russian bombers have flown near Alaska on at least four occasions within the past month.

They were the first known flights of Russian warplanes near the U.S. coast since July 2015 when American fighter jets intercepted a Russian warplane in international airspace off the coast of California.

The defense official described the Wednesday interaction as safe and professional and said it should not be cause for alarm.

The official said the Russian flights were “fairly routine” and said the U.S. conducts similar flights in international airspace near Russia and other sovereign nations.

Tensions between the U.S. and Russia have been strained in recent years and appeared to intensify in the weeks after the U.S. missile attack April 6 on a Syrian air base in response to Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces using chemical weapons against civilians. Russian planes and personnel were at Shayrat Air Base when the Tomahawk missiles were launched, but they were warned of the impending attack.

President Donald Trump said a week later that the U.S. was “not getting along with Russia at all.”

“We may be at an all-time low in terms of relationship with Russia,” Trump said April 12.

Trump spoke by phone to Russian President Vladimir Putin this week. In a readout, the White House described Tuesday’s conversation as “a very good one.”

## Tillerson ‘emphatic’ on halting South China Sea buildup

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson delivered an “emphatic” message to foreign ministers from Southeast Asian nations that militarization and construction in the South China Sea must stop while territorial disputes in the area are worked out, a senior U.S. official said.

Tillerson delivered the message — aimed at China, which has reclaimed thousands of acres of land in the South China Sea in recent years — during a lunch Thursday with ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Washington.

The top U.S. diplomat urged

“all parties involved to stop militarization, construction, reclamation of land in the South China Sea while talks are going on,” Patrick Murphy, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said on a call with reporters. “The secretary was quite emphatic about the need to stop these activities to give talks a good chance of succeeding.”

Tillerson’s remarks were more moderate toward China than President Donald Trump’s comments during the campaign, when he called out Beijing over island-building, currency manipulation and trade. But since then, Trump has made clear he’s counting

on cooperation with Beijing to rein in North Korea’s nuclear program, praising his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping, a move that could undercut the State Department’s tougher message.

In his confirmation hearing in January, Tillerson compared China’s actions in the South China Sea to those of Russia in Crimea, saying a failure to respond had let China “keep pushing the envelope.”

“We’re going to have to send China a clear signal that, first, the island-building stops and, second, your access to those islands is also not going to be allowed,” Tillerson said, in remarks that critics said invited

a military confrontation. He hasn’t repeated that formulation since then.

Murphy said the U.S. would continue the Navy’s “freedom-of-navigation” operations in the South China Sea, though he declined to say when that might occur. Such operations, which have typically produced protests from Beijing, haven’t been undertaken since Trump took office, according to a Pentagon official who asked not to be identified discussing military movements.

“Our objectives remain very firm in this regard, and the United States will continue to assert its rights in the South China Sea,” Murphy said.

# Trump celebrates health-care victory

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE  
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump already had planned a celebration as he returned to his hometown for the first time since his inauguration. House Republicans gave him another reason to enjoy the moment.

Trump flew to New York to join Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard the USS Intrepid to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Before he left the White House on Thursday, however, he hosted a Rose Garden event to applaud passage of the GOP-sponsored House health care bill.

The White House was eager for the appearance of a victory after an uneven first 100 days in office. Jubilant Republicans were bused in from Capitol Hill to the White House for an unusually early celebration for the passage of a bill through just one house of Congress. The legislation, which was met with sharp Democratic opposition, squeaked through the House by a vote of 217-213 and faces an uncertain fate in the Senate.

Trump said he was “so confident” that the measure would pass the Senate and vowed that premiums and deductibles would come down.

“People are suffering so badly with the ravages of Obamacare,” he said.

At one point, the president turned to the representatives lined up behind him and, suggesting the victory was especially impressive for a novice politician, exclaimed: “Hey, I’m president! I’m president! Can you believe it?”

House leaders came through with the votes to give Trump a major political win more than a month after Republicans’ first attempt to pass a health care bill went down in a humiliating defeat.

Known as the American Healthcare Act, the bill has yet to receive a price tag from the nonpartisan Congressional

## House bill’s key elements

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — House Republicans have passed legislation to roll back much of former President Barack Obama’s health care law. The legislation would rework subsidies for private insurance, would limit federal spending on Medicaid for low-income people and would cut taxes on upper-income individuals used to finance Obama’s overhaul.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Republican bill would result in 24 million fewer people having health insurance by 2026, compared with Obama’s 2010 statute.

Here are key elements of the bill:

- Halts extra payments Washington sends states to expand Medicaid to additional poorer Americans, and forbids states that haven’t already expanded Medicaid to do so. Changes Medicaid from an open-ended program that covers beneficiaries’ costs to one that gives states fixed amounts of money annually.

- Erases Obama’s subsidies for people buying individual policies based mostly

on consumers’ incomes and premium costs. Replaces them with tax credits that grow with age that must be used to defray premiums. The credits are refundable, which means they can go to people with little or no tax liability. Credits may not be used to buy policies that provide abortion coverage.

- Repeals Obama’s taxes on people with higher incomes and on insurance companies, prescription drug makers, some medical devices, expensive employer-provided insurance plans and tanning salons. Obama’s law has used the revenue to help pay for expanded coverage.

- Requires insurers to apply 30 percent surcharges to customers who’ve let coverage lapse for more than 63 days in the past year. This would include people with pre-existing medical conditions.

- Lets states get federal waivers allowing insurers to charge older customers higher premiums than younger ones by as much as they’d like. Obama’s law limits the difference to a 3-to-1 ratio.

- States can get waivers exempting insurers from providing consumers with

required coverage of specified health services, including hospital and outpatient care, pregnancy and mental health treatment.

- States can get waivers from Obama’s prohibition against insurers charging higher premiums to people with pre-existing health problems, but only if the person has had a gap in insurance coverage. States could get those waivers if they have mechanisms like high-risk pools that are supposed to help cover people with serious, expensive-to-treat diseases. Critics say these pools are often underfunded and ineffective.

- Provides \$8 billion over five years to help states finance their high-risk pools. This late addition, aimed at winning over votes, is on top of \$130 billion over a decade in the bill for states to help people afford coverage.

- Retains Obama’s requirement that family policies cover grown children to age 26, and its prohibition against varying premiums because of a customer’s gender.

Budget Office and is opposed by a number of physician and health care groups, including the American Medical Association, amid concerns it could strip millions of Americans of their coverage, including those with pre-existing medical conditions.

In New York, Trump and Turnbull spoke aboard the Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier, to commemorate the World War II battle that reinforced the ties between the U.S. and Australia. Both countries’ warships and fighter planes engaged the Japanese from May 4-8, 1942, forcing the

Japanese navy to retreat for the first time in the war.

“In those Pacific waters we forged iron bonds between our two countries,” Trump said. “Few peoples in the world share ties in history, affection and culture like the Americans and the Australians. Those ties are sealed with the blood of our grandfathers and fathers and those same ties are now the priceless heritage we celebrate so beautifully tonight.”

Ahead of his meeting with Turnbull, Trump downplayed the contentious call he had with Turnbull in January, dismissing the reports of tension

as “fake news.” The issue was Turnbull’s deal with President Barack Obama for the U.S. to resettle up to 1,250 mostly Muslim refugees from Africa, the Mideast and Asia who are housed in immigration camps on the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

Their conversation made headlines, and Trump later tweeted about the “dumb deal.” But Vice President Mike Pence assured Turnbull during a visit to Australia last month that the Trump administration will honor the deal, but “that doesn’t mean we admire the agreement.”

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Suspect says name is Hillary Clinton

**PA** CHALKHILL — Authorities said a drunken driving suspect who was chased by police from Maryland into Pennsylvania identified herself as Hillary Clinton.

Pennsylvania State Trooper Robert Politowski said the woman he arrested Tuesday is Holly Lynn Donahoo, 36, of Louisville, Ky.

She was being chased by sheriff's deputies from Garrett County, Md., and Maryland State Police when she drove into Wharton Township in Pennsylvania.

Politowski joined the chase and used spike strips to flatten Donahoo's tires. She was taken to a hospital, where, according to police, she refused drug and alcohol testing. She has been jailed on charges including driving under the influence and fleeing or eluding police.

## Abandoned guitar causes security scare

**OH** CLEVELAND — Police said an unattended bag that led security officials to close part of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport was a guitar left behind by a man who couldn't afford the luggage fee for it.

A police spokeswoman told Cleveland.com that prosecutors will decide whether to pursue charges against the man from Taberg, N.Y., over the bag abandoned Tuesday in a check-in area.

Some passengers were guided into safety zones away from that area while flights continued taking off and landing. The man was questioned and allowed to board his flight home after investigators determined there was no threat.

He told WEWS-TV he didn't

realize his role in what happened until he was questioned.

## Stormtrooper causes alarm at high school

**WI** ASHWAUBENON — A student dressed as a stormtrooper for "Star Wars Day" prompted the evacuation of a Wisconsin high school when a frightened parent saw the costumed figure entering the facility and called 911.

Police in Ashwaubenon said the parent saw the student going through a back door Thursday wearing body armor and a mask, and carrying a bag.

Police Capt. Jody Crocker said the parent did the right thing given the suspicious situation, and any perceived threat — real or otherwise — can't be taken lightly.

School officials said they will re-emphasize the district's no-costume policy.

Fans have adopted May 4 as "Star Wars Day" because "May the fourth" is a play on the oft-repeated Star Wars phrase, "May the force be with you."

## Class assignment sparks lockdown

**MO** ST. LOUIS — An engineering student at Saint Louis University did too well on a class assignment to build a toy gun, creating a model so realistic that it prompted a campuswide lockdown and hunt for a possible shooting suspect.

The university warned all students to shelter in place for hours Wednesday afternoon and evacuated a residence hall after reports of a man with a gun on campus and shots fired.

Police and university officials eventually tracked the source of the scare to a toy gun. Students in the Aerospace and

Mechanical Engineering Manufacturing Procedures class had been assigned to build a toy rubber band gun.

"At least one student created a very realistic toy gun and openly carried it into his residence hall," the university said.

It asked the students to bring the toy guns in closed containers to a university office Thursday to be destroyed.

## Deputies aid man who ends up being inmate

**NM** SANTA FE — Sheriff's deputies spotted a man walking barefoot down a New Mexico road with his feet full of cactus, so they offered him a ride.

It turns out the man had escaped from the state penitentiary by walking out the front door. So the deputies put him back behind bars.

The deputies found Raymond Lopez, 30, to be the runaway inmate pictured in manhunt flyers.

Lopez has been booked at the county jail on charges of escape and concealing identity.

Lopez told deputies after he had been caught that he found civilian clothes in a "shake-down cell." He put them on and walked out the unlocked front door.

## Donkey offers Finals Week stress relief

**MT** BOZEMAN — A donkey named Oliver joined therapy dogs offering stress relief during Finals Week at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The 8-year-old brown and white donkey was standing inside the front entrance of the university library on Tuesday. Owner Stephanie Bar told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle that

since it was Oliver's first time at MSU, she wanted to make sure he got a lot of attention.

Students petted Oliver, hugged him and took selfies.

## Police seek driver who hit carousel horse

**MS** MERIDIAN — Police in Mississippi are searching for the driver of a black BMW who they say smashed into a decorative carousel horse outside a bank, leaving only shiny hooves behind.

The Meridian Star reported that the vehicle demolished the horse on the sidewalk outside First State Bank and uprooted several trees late Monday night. The Star's photo of the aftermath shows the hooves of the colorful horse left on the sidewalk.

Police Sgt. Dareall Thompson says said witnesses were able to provide a description of the driver and car.

## State makes dairy obsession official

**WI** MADISON — The plan was too "gouda" to fail. The Wisconsin Legislature agreed Tuesday to make cheese the official dairy product of the state, which produces over 3 billion pounds of cheese per year. That's more than any other state.

The state's official animal is the badger, but its official domestic animal is the dairy cow, and milk is the state beverage.

The idea to give cheese its right place in state designations came from a fourth-grade class in Mineral Point, a city in southwest Wisconsin that's home to one of the state's nearly 150 cheese plants.

From wire reports

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# Renovations make Derby a posh affair

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Toni Goodman was close enough to see the horses kicking up dirt as they raced past, having spent a mere \$5 for her trackside seat to an event just days before the Kentucky Derby.

But the 56-year-old Kentucky native won't be anywhere near Churchill Downs on Saturday to watch the Run for the Roses.

"I think the Derby's great," Goodman said before the start of a claiming race featuring also-rans. "It lets people come in to see how beautiful our state is. It's just not doable for me."

One of the great sporting events has long been a world of contrasting styles, with a massive gulf separating the wealthy and famous preening on Millionaires Row from the T-shirt-and-jeans crowd in the infield. Major renovations completed in recent years, most of them geared toward well-heeled fans, seem to have put more distance between those worlds.

This year's average ticket price to attend the Derby — a 2-minute horse race highlighting a full day of racing, partying and people watching — is \$432, according to VividSeats.com. The Derby typically generates a brisk secondary ticket market as well.

The trend to offer high-end packages at sports venues reaches far beyond the Kentucky Derby. Any venue hosting a Super Bowl, World Series or even an All-

Star Game creates an experience to cater to high rollers. New stadium construction often involves luxury suites, technology upgrades and other perks that cater to a high-income spectator. But such projects often face criticism that they squeeze out middle and lower-income fans.

Churchill Downs seems to burst at the seams on Derby Day, when more than 160,000 people pack into the venerable track and infield. Churchill's parent company has pumped about \$250 million into renovations since the early 2000s. The investment is meant to maximize revenue from the Derby and Kentucky Oaks, a race for 3-year-old fillies the day before the Derby.

This year's \$16 million upgrade modernized the second-floor clubhouse. The update includes a fresh Twin Spires Club Elite Gold Room exclusive to VIP bettors. It's adjacent to an enlarged Champions Bar that includes covered balconies with table seating offering prime views of the paddock.

Such upgrades are geared toward fans willing to shell out big money for panoramic views, sumptuous buffets and access to betting windows and restrooms without lines. Options for premium seating seem almost as numerous as the field of Derby horses. Demand outpaces available seating, which has Churchill preparing for another expansion.

Work has started on the Starting Gate Suites, scheduled to open in time for the

2018 Derby.

The suites — being built above the third-floor grandstand — will feature private dining tables and a balcony overlooking the starting gate at the top of the homestretch.

Track officials said pricing is expected soon for the suites, the key part of the \$37 million project that will boost Derby Day capacity by more than 1,800 seats.

"They'll have a bird's eye view," said track General Manager Ryan Jordan.

Other upscale spots to watch the Derby include the Finish Line Suites, Turf Club, Jockey Club Suites and the most exclusive of all — The Mansion, a tony enclave perched on the sixth floor of the clubhouse.

Paul Amburgey and his wife, Linda, spend Derby Day like many other Louisvillians — at an off-track party. They come to Churchill a few times each race meet, but don't even try to get Derby tickets. The reason: "The crowds, the cost," Linda Amburgey said.

"They cater more to the big money," her husband said. "Everything they're building is for people who have the money to pay for all this new stuff."

Churchill officials point out that renovations have improved the Derby experience at all price points. People thronging to the infield pay less than \$100 apiece for access to the daylong Derby party. People ordering 2017 infield tickets late last year paid \$60 each. The price escalates to \$80 at the gate.

## Rangers even series with Senators at 2-2

Associated Press

NEW YORK — While New York stars Rick Nash and Chris Kreider receive playoff-level attention from Ottawa, Oscar Lindberg and Tanner Glass are providing an unexpected lift for the Rangers.

Lindberg scored two goals, Glass had two assists and the Rangers beat the Senators 4-1 on Thursday night to tie their Eastern Conference semifinal series at two games apiece.

"I think our line has been doing a really good job, getting pucks back from the fore-check," Lindberg said. "We had two good chances today and we were able to bear down."

Kreider and Nick Holden also scored for the Rangers, and Henrik Lundqvist had 22 saves.

Kyle Turris scored for Ottawa, and Craig Anderson made 17 saves before being replaced by Mike Condon for the third pe-

riod. Condon finished with nine stops.

"They are a good hockey team. They came out and played their game to a T," Anderson said. "Had their fans and the momentum. We weren't able to get anything going."

Senators star defenseman Erik Karlsson also left the game after the second period with an injury. Karlsson played during the first round with two microfractures in one of his feet from blocking a shot late in the regular season.

Coach Guy Boucher said he expects both Anderson and Karlsson to play in Game 5 on Saturday at Ottawa.

"We felt it was better for him to keep him off the ice in the (third) period," Boucher said of Karlsson. "He could've come back, but we just wanted to make sure. He has a lower-body injury."

Lindberg also scored the Rangers' final goal in their Game 3 win, with Glass picking up an assist. Glass, a forward who was

scratched in the first two games of the series, has brought an edge to the team.

"Look at these assists," Glass said. "They are not exactly playmaking assists. They are just kind of the gritty, grinding game I bring. Sometimes it ends up in the back of the net."

Rangers coach Alain Vigneault has appreciated the balanced scoring.

"Definitely tonight Oscar's line came up big for us with a couple of big plays," Vigneault said. "Tanner is just playing disciplined, smart hockey and that's what he needs to do."

The game got physical in the third period as the teams combined for 78 penalty minutes, with the majority of that coming in the final minute.

Lundqvist has stopped 48 of his past 50 shots after allowing six goals in the Senators' double-overtime win in Game 2. The Rangers have won four consecutive home games this postseason.

# Emotions high as Wizards rout Celtics

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eight technical fouls, three ejections and a whole lot of bad blood later, the Washington Wizards and Boston Celtics have themselves a series.

Tensions boiled over in a contentious, technical foul-filled Game 3 Thursday night as the Wizards rode another hot start to a 116-89 victory that cut their series deficit to 2-1.

Washington built a big lead for the third consecutive game, holding and extending it this time as the score and the physical play got out of hand.

Washington's Kelly Oubre Jr. was tossed for charging and knocking over Kelly Olynyk after a hard offensive foul, each coach got a technical foul and the hatred that built up during the regular season captured the spotlight more than John Wall continuing to torment the Celtics or the Wizards finding a solution for Isaiah Thomas.

"I guess that's playoff basketball," said Thomas, who was

held to 13 points after scoring 53 in Game 2. "We don't like them and they don't like us."

Wall led the Wizards with 24 points as he, Otto Porter and Bojan Bogdanovic keyed a 22-0 first-quarter run that made it 34-12. Unlike in Games 1 and 2, when Washington let 16-0 and 16-8 leads slip away, the defense was there on Thomas and the rest of his teammates to limit the Celtics to 35.1 percent shooting.

Boston coach Brad Stevens took a page from Rasheed Wallace's "Both teams played hard" playbook, repeating that the Wizards "played well" over and over. That was also his response to the physical nature of the game that included technicals for him and Wizards coach Scott Brooks, and the fourth-quarter ejections of Terry Rozier and Brandon Jennings.

Oubre created the most fireworks with his outburst, leaping up from the ground to bowl over Olynyk in the second quarter, leading to a flagrant 2

foul and ejection. Though Wall hopes it's a learning experience for a young player, Oubre could be facing a suspension for his actions with a crucial Game 4 looming Sunday.

"We can't respond that way," Brooks said. "When you keep getting hit in the head, you might respond that way and I think that's what he did. I'm not saying that that was the right thing to do. We have to focus on playing basketball."

The Wizards were by far the better basketball team on Thursday, shooting 46.7 percent thanks to 19 points each from Porter and Bogdanovic. They locked down defensively on Thomas, who never got into a rhythm and was on the wrong end of some post-ups against bigger opponents.

Hard fouls were part of the first two games of the series, but nothing like Game 3, as Celtics center Al Horford described the Wizards play as "the way that they junk the game up a little bit." Players and coaches on each side criti-

cized officials for not having control of the game and letting it get out of hand, and the result was more than a few post-whistle extracurriculars.

"I guess just two teams that really don't like each other," Wall said.

## Tip-ins

**Celtics:** Horford led the team with 16 points. ... Guard Avery Bradley scored seven points after reporting soreness Wednesday from a hip pointer in Game 2. ... Jae Crowder has scored 10-plus points in a playoff career-high four consecutive games. He finished with 14. ... Gerald Green started in place of Amir Johnson after not playing in Game 2 and had eight points.

**Wizards:** Bogdanovic made four of the seven three-pointers he attempted. ... Center Marcin Gortat had 13 points and 16 rebounds, saying he has to dominate in the paint if the Celtics go small. ... Outscored Boston 56-28 in the paint.

# Green's five 3-pointers help Warriors down Jazz

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — Now, the Golden State Warriors want Draymond Green to pack his 3-point shot for the altitude of Salt Lake City.

Green showed Quin Snyder his hot hand and range up close, knocking down five 3-pointers and scoring 21 points before a brief knee scare late in the Golden State Warriors' 115-104 victory over the Utah Jazz on Thursday night for a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

"We love that shot. It gives us a huge lift," Stephen Curry said of Green's perimeter touch. "Hopefully that jumper travels when we go to Utah because those shots will be open."

Kevin Durant added 25 points with 13 free throws, 11 rebounds and seven assists, while Curry had 23 points, seven assists and played smoth-

ering defense as Golden State stayed unblemished through six playoff games.

Gordon Hayward overcame a poor Game 1 and slow start in this one to score 33 points, and Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 16 rebounds before fouling out for a Jazz team missing injured point guard George Hill. He was ruled out earlier in the day because of a sore left big toe.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Salt Lake City.

Green received chants of "Draymond!" when he headed for the locker room with 7:24 to play, then cheers when he returned at the 5:16 mark. He came up awkwardly after hitting the floor on a drive, then grabbed at his left knee—which the team said he "tweaked."

"I knew my knee was just locking up a little bit. I had it before," he said.

Snyder made it clear when the series began he won't be alienating Green again by daring him to let it fly from long range — or saying anything that could be perceived as a slight.

Five months after the Jazz coach commented about allowing the emotional Golden State star to shoot from way out, Snyder said before the game he had learned his lesson about fueling the All-Star forward.

Green has been fueling himself just fine, and his teammates, too — delivering on the offensive side this game after establishing the Warriors' defensive intensity during the first five playoff games.

All his threes were in the first half as the Warriors led wire to wire again. Golden State's six straight victories to begin a postseason are a franchise record.

Green also had seven rebounds, six assists, four steals and another block to bring his six-game playoff total to 20. The Jazz will have to hope more of their shots start falling once back home.

Hayward began 1 for 5 but bounced back to shoot 11 of 21 after going 4 for 15 in Game 1.

"We play with attitude when we get down. We have to do it from the beginning," Gobert said. "I think we need to play angry from the first minute."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr missed his fourth straight game as he deals with symptoms stemming from complications after two back surgeries following the 2015 championship run. Kerr won't travel with the team to Utah as he seeks answers in his healing and goes to medical appointments. Mike Brown and a veteran coaching staff are leading the way.

# Aguilar's HR lifts Brewers over Cardinals

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jesus Aguilar doesn't need to worry about a Mother's Day present. It was sitting in a paper cup in his locker.

Aguilar's first major league home run broke a seventh-inning tie, leading the Milwaukee Brewers over the banged-up St. Louis Cardinals 5-4 on Thursday night. He's giving the ball to his mother.

"Right away, knew it was out of here, and haven't stopped smiling since," Aguilar said through an interpreter.

Cardinals right fielder Stephen Piscotty left after the second inning with a strained right hamstring and center fielder Dexter Fowler came out following the third with a strained right shoulder.

Fowler was being evaluated postgame, and Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said Piscotty would remain in St. Louis while the team travels to Atlanta for a se-

ries starting Friday night.

Piscotty pulled up after crossing first base on his grounder to third. Fowler was hurt in an unsuccessful attempt for a diving catch on Hernan Perez's third-inning drive.

Randal Grichuk moved from left to center and Aledmys Diaz shifted from shortstop to left in the first outfield appearance of his professional career.

"The first inning was weird, but after that I felt pretty normal," Diaz said.

Matheny said outfielder Tommy Pham will meet the team in Atlanta from Triple-A Memphis.

Milwaukee won its first series at St. Louis since April 28-30, 2014, ending a streak of 15 series losses and two splits.

"It's awesome for the team morale and I think it's awesome for our confidence," said Keon Broxton, who had four hits for the Brewers. "I think it's making a state-

ment around the league that we're not as bad as people think we are."

With the score 4-4, Aguilar pinch hit for pitcher Oliver Drake (2-0) and homered against Matt Bowman (1-1) in his 100th career big league at-bat over four seasons.

"It was a beautiful spot for it," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "Everybody in there is so happy for him. It was the most excited I've seen our team this year."

Broxton was a triple shy of the cycle for the Brewers, including an RBI double in the third and a home run in the fifth against Adam Wainwright that tied the score 4-4.

"His swings tonight were just a step forward," Counsell said. "He was in the right place tonight, no question. They were opposite field, well-struck baseballs and then when he got the count in his favor he did some damage."

## O's cap tense series against Red Sox with victory

Associated Press

BOSTON — Manny Machado hit a long, three-run shot for his third homer of the series and the Baltimore Orioles capped four tense days at Fenway Park with an 8-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Thursday night.

Machado hit a 466-foot drive over the Green Monster during a five-run fourth inning. Seth Smith had four of Baltimore's 17 hits.

In a four-game set marred by beanballs, brushbacks and racial rancor, the finale was a sedate affair decided in the fourth when the Orioles turned a two-run deficit into a 6-3 lead. Tyler Wilson (2-1) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings while making a spot start because scheduled pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez was forced to come out of the bullpen Wednesday.

Boston right-hander Kyle Kendrick (0-1) made his season debut and allowed six runs and eight hits in four innings. Dustin Pedroia homered for the Red Sox — the first of the year for the 2008 AL MVP.

**Nationals 4, Diamondbacks 2:** Max Scherzer struck out a season-high 11 to bounce back from his worst outing this season, helping host Washington to the victory.

Scherzer (4-2) allowed one run and two hits in seven innings. He also was 2-for-3 at the plate, driving in Washington's first run with a second-inning infield single that pitcher Braden Shipley could not pick up with his bare hand.

The NL Cy Young Award winner struck out the side in the fourth and the seventh, the only two innings he allowed a hit. He gave up Jake Lamb's homer in the seventh.

**Rangers 10, Astros 4:** Joey Gallo homered and drove in three runs, Rougned Odor and Elvis Andrus also connected, and visiting Texas stopped a four-game slide.

After twice giving up leads earlier in the series, the Rangers went ahead 4-0 in the first inning and used the bullpen to help avoid a four-game sweep.

**Rays 5, Marlins 1:** Tim Beckham homered twice for the second time in eight days, driving in four runs to lead host Tampa Bay to the win.

The Rays won three of four games to take the Citrus Series between the intrastate rivals, winning twice before small crowds in Miami before returning home to mostly empty Tropicana Field on Wednesday and Thursday.

**White Sox 8, Royals 3:** Derek Holland struck out seven in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, helping visiting Chicago earn a split of its four-game series against Kansas City.

Holland (3-2) was charged with two runs, one earned, and three hits. The left-hander has allowed two earned runs or fewer in his first six outings this season.

**Cubs 5, Phillies 4 (13):** Albert Almora Jr. doubled leading off the 13th inning and scored on a throwing error by shortstop Freddy Galvis, giving host Chicago the win.

Kris Bryant had four hits, Miguel Montero homered and drove in two runs, and Matt Szczur and Addison Russell hit run-scoring doubles as the Cubs extended their winning streak to three.

**Reds 4, Pirates 2:** Joey Votto doubled twice, drove in two runs and scored twice,

leading host Cincinnati to its fourth win in five games.

Adam Duvall drove in Votto both times as the Reds improved to 6-1 against the Pirates this year.

**Athletics 8, Twins 5:** Jharel Cotton struck out nine in six innings and Ryon Healy hit his fourth home run, leading visiting Oakland to the win.

**Rockies 3, Padres 2 (11):** at San Diego, Ryan Hanigan's RBI infield single in the 11th inning lifted Colorado to the victory.

Hanigan, who also homered in his Rockies debut, hit a grounder up the middle that Erick Aybar fielded, but he was unable to flip the ball to Cory Spangenberg at second for a force. That allowed Ian Desmond to score.

**Mariners 11, Angels 3:** Danny Valencia homered and had four hits, Ariel Miranda pitched seven strong innings and host Seattle beat Los Angeles.

Miranda (3-2) settled in after a rocky second inning, giving up two runs, seven hits and a walk while striking out five for the game.