

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy calls off search, identifies sailors

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
AND TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. Navy suspended search-and-rescue efforts on Thursday for nine sailors still missing after the destroyer USS John S. McCain collided with a Liberian oil tanker Monday east of Singapore, though divers will continue attempting to recover remains from the ship's flooded compartments.

Divers thus far have recovered the remains of Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Aaron Smith, 22, of New Jersey.

Multinational search teams had combed a vast area east of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore since the accident that left 10 sailors missing and injured five, the Navy said.

The missing sailors are:

- Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Daniel Drake, 21, of Ohio;
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Dustin Louis Doyon, 26, of Connecticut;
- Petty Officer 3rd Class John Henry Hoagland III, 20, of Texas;

■ Petty Officer 3rd Class Logan Stephen Palmer, 23, of Illinois;

■ Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Nathan Findley, 31, of Missouri;

■ Petty Officer 1st Class Abraham Lopez, 39, of Texas;

■ Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Sayer Bushell, 26, of Maryland;

■ Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Thomas Eckels Jr., 23, of Maryland;

■ Petty Officer 2nd Class Corey George Ingram, 28, of New York.

Navy and Marine Corps divers will continue searching flooded areas of the damaged Yokosuka-based ship, a 7th Fleet statement said Thursday.

Prior to calling off the sea search-and-rescue operation, navies from Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the U.S. had increased the search for the sailors to a 2,100-square-mile area, according to the Singapore Defense Ministry.

Meanwhile, Navy officials said earlier Thursday that a body recovered this week in waters near Singapore by the Malaysian navy was not one of the missing sailors. Those remains will be returned to Malay-

sian authorities.

Four of the injured sailors, who had been flown from the ship to a Singapore hospital to be treated for injuries that were not life-threatening, have returned to their unit, the Navy said. The fifth injured sailor did not require further medical assistance after the collision.

The McCain is the fourth Navy ship to be involved in a serious accident in the Pacific this year. In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid just outside Yokosuka Naval Base. In May, the USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing boat while operating off the east coast of the divided peninsula. In June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship left seven sailors dead and injured three.

The string of accidents prompted Pacific Command to relieve 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin earlier this week, citing a loss of confidence in his leadership. Aucoin had been slated to leave the post and to retire next month.

## Swift to sailors: Focus on basics during pause

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's Pacific commander warned sailors against complacency and urged a back-to-basics approach to their duties during an operational stand-down ordered after a U.S. warship collided with a commercial ship for the second time in two months.

"History has shown that continuous operations over time causes basic skills to atrophy and in some cases gives commands a false sense of their overall readiness," said Adm. Scott Swift, the Pacific Fleet commander, in a statement issued Wednesday.

The servicewide, one-day

safety stand-down, which is being observed at the discretion of individual commands, was ordered Monday after the USS John S. McCain collided early Monday with a Liberian-flagged oil tanker just east of Singapore, injuring five and leaving 10 missing. The pause is aimed at allowing Navy commanders to review safety fundamentals and to ensure proper procedures are being enforced.

Swift directed his units to dedicate "a full workday, with full command participation," to the stand-down no later than next Monday, the statement said.

"There can be no bystanders," he said. "Bystanders

become weak links and need extra attention and leadership. During this pause, focus on fundamentals — both individual and team."

Commands have been directed to "develop and work through challenging scenarios that address topics such as rules of the road, standing orders, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization, operating and casualty response procedures," the statement added.

Seventh Fleet observed the operational pause on Wednesday, a Navy statement said. Instructors from the Yokosuka-based Afloat Training Group Western Pacific discussed with command-level sailors

and watch stands such topics as bridge-resource management, communications, radar fundamentals, operational risk management and case studies of previous maritime incidents.

Swift on Wednesday also challenged 7th Fleet sailors to re-master Navy fundamentals.

"In the Pacific, every aspect of our training and operations support our preparedness for winning a challenging high end fight," he said, according to the 7th Fleet statement. "Our mission ultimately is to decisively prevail in all contingencies from war to peace. We cannot complete this mission without first mastering — and continually re-mastering — the basics of our profession."

# Could hack attack be behind Navy collisions?

USA Today

SAN FRANCISCO — Was a hack attack behind two separate instances in which Navy ships collided with commercial vessels in the past two months? Experts say it's highly unlikely, but not impossible — and the Navy is investigating.

Rumors on Twitter and in computer security circles have been swirling about the possibility that cyberattacks or jamming were involved in the collisions. Speculation has been fueled by four accidents involving a U.S. warship this year, two of which were fatal, the highly computerized nature of modern maritime navigation, and heightened concern over global cyberattacks — especially attacks against U.S. government entities.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said in a tweet on Monday there was no indication of the possibility of cyberintrusion or sabotage but the “review will consider all possibilities.” It had been retweeted over 830 times by Wednesday.

Experts in the technology say there are certainly scenarios they can imagine in which GPS hacks could have been used to foil ships' navigational systems, but emphasize there's no evidence such attacks took place in the case of the Navy collisions.

“The balance of the evidence still leads me to believe that it was crew negligence as the most likely explanation — and I hate to say that because I hate to think that the Navy fleet was negligent,” said University

of Texas at Austin aerospace professor Todd Humphreys, who studies GPS security issues.

On Monday, the USS John S. McCain collided with an oil tanker off Singapore, which left 10 sailors missing and five injured. On June 17, seven sailors died when the USS Fitzgerald was hit by a cargo ship 60 miles off the coast of Japan.

The incidents clearly have rattled the Navy. On Wednesday, Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin was dismissed as commander of the 7th Fleet. And on Monday, the Navy ordered a global pause in operations to allow commanders to take immediate action to keep sailors and ships safe as well as a Navy-wide review to get at the root causes of the problems.

The technology to jam or misdirect navigational software is readily available, though the Navy uses a much more robustly encrypted version of GPS that would be very difficult to disrupt, said Humphreys.

He said the only way to spoof such a system would be to use what's known as a “record-and-replay attack,” in which a recording is made of the encrypted location data being sent down from satellites to the naval ship and then the recording is replayed at a slightly later time and is directed toward the ship.

“That way, you could fool a ship into thinking it is someplace it's not,” Humphreys said.

That would be a very sophisticated and difficult hack, requiring the recording of

the navigational data stream from multiple angles to mimic the multiple antennas on the Navy ship, and then the sending of the recorded signal from two or more locations. To ensure that nearby ships didn't get the false data as well, it would have to be transmitted from close to the Navy ship being targeted, perhaps using multiple drones.

None of this seems likely, but it's not impossible, said Humphreys. In 2013, he and a group of graduate students were able to successfully spoof an \$80 million yacht's GPS system, sending it hundreds of yards off course without the ship's navigational system showing the change to the crew.

The Navy's Richardson said the second “extremely serious incident” in little more than two months “gives great cause for concern that there is something out there that we're not getting at.” The Navy has blamed the Fitzgerald collision on a loss of situational awareness by sailors on the bridge.

Dana Goward, former head the Marine Transportation Systems for the U.S. Coast Guard, the navigation authority for all U.S. waters and vessels, also doesn't believe hacking was involved in the Navy collisions. As a former Coast Guard captain, he said that years of navigating at sea tell him that especially in high-traffic areas where the collisions occurred, it's easy for mistakes to happen.

“It's a difficult environment to be in and human error is always present,” he said.

## USS Fitzgerald to go to Miss. facility for repairs

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A Mississippi-based company has been awarded a contract to repair the USS Fitzgerald after it was damaged in a June 17 collision that killed seven sailors off Japan.

Huntington Ingalls Industries was chosen because it would be able to restore the guided-missile destroyer at its Ingalls Shipbuilding facility in Pascagoula, Miss., in the shortest amount of time, Naval Sea Systems Command said Wednesday in a statement.

“Given the complexity of the work and the significant unknowns of the restoration, the Navy determined that only an Arleigh Burke-class shipbuilder could perform the effort,” the statement said. “Only HII has the available capacity to restore USS Fitzgerald to full operational status in

the shortest period of time with minimal disruption to ongoing repair and new construction work.”

The project's start date, scope, cost and timeline are still to be determined, the statement added.

The Fitzgerald — now in dry dock at its homeport in Yokosuka — will be taken stateside between mid-September and the end of October and will remain under 7th Fleet jurisdiction while in the States, Navy officials said earlier in the month.

Wednesday's announcement said the Navy has not yet made any decisions regarding which company will receive the contract to take the destroyer stateside.

The Navy decided to transport the Fitzgerald back to the U.S. to free up space along Yokosuka's waterfront for other 7th Fleet ships needing maintenance, 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Clay Doss said in a previous statement.

“The main reason why the ship was

not repaired here is because it would've tied up those resources and tied up the dry docks,” he said. “We could do it here; it's just more cost effective and safer to go through the heavy lift route.” Seventh Fleet officials did not provide information requested Thursday about what will happen to the Fitzgerald's crewmembers and their families during the repair work.

Accidents involving the Fitzgerald and the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam have put a strain on Yokosuka's dry dock space. The naval base has six dry docks, two of which have been unexpectedly occupied by the Fitzgerald and the Antietam, which ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay in January.

The USS John S. McCain, currently docked at Singapore's Changi naval base after colliding with a civilian oil tanker early Monday, also further could tie up Yokosuka's dry dock resources.

## Nicholson vows to wipe out ISIS in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's security forces, with the help of U.S. and NATO ground and air support, will annihilate the Islamic State affiliate in the country and will crush remnants of al-Qaida, Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. general in Afghanistan, vowed Thursday.

Nicholson also had a message for the Taliban: "Stop fighting against your countrymen. Stop killing innocent civilians. Stop bringing hardship and misery to the Afghan people. Lay down your arms and join Afghan society. Help build a better future for this country and your own children."

Nicholson and Hugo Llorens, the U.S. Embassy's Special Charge d'Affaires, told reporters in the capital, Kabul, that President Donald Trump's new strategy for Afghanistan announced Monday was a promise to Afghans that together they would defeat terrorism and prevent terrorist groups from establishing safe havens.

"We will not fail in Afghanistan," Nicholson said. "Our national security depends on it, as well as Afghanistan's security, and (that of) our allies and partners."

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid was defiant in a telephone interview with The Associated Press: "We are not giving our guns to anyone and our Taliban are fighting until the last U.S. soldier is no longer here in Afghanistan."

Senior U.S. officials have said that Trump could send up to 3,900 more troops, with some deployments beginning almost immediately. Nicholson did not offer a time frame for deployment, however, saying only that "in the coming months, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and NATO will increase its train-advise-and-assist efforts in Afghanistan. And we will increase our air support to Afghan security forces."

# Reports: Trump order expected soon on transgender troop ban

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The White House soon will provide the Pentagon official guidance implementing a new ban on transgender servicemembers in an order expected to grant Defense Secretary Jim Mattis authority to discharge nondeployable transgender troops, according to news reports.

A White House memorandum expected to be sent to the Defense Department within days directs the Pentagon to deny transgender men and women entry into the military and to cease paying for medical treatments for current transgender servicemembers, The Wall Street Journal reported late Wednesday, citing unnamed U.S. officials familiar with the 2½-page memo.

Mattis would be given six months to fully implement the new policy, according to The New York Times, which wrote that the memo has not been finalized.

Pentagon and White House officials declined Thursday to confirm the order's existence. A Pentagon spokesman said the Defense Department had yet to receive official guidance about the new ban on transgender servicemembers that President Donald Trump abruptly announced last month via Twitter.

"At this time, [the Defense Department] has not received formal guidance from the White House as a follow-up to the commander in chief's announcement on military service by transgender personnel," said Army Lt. Col. Paul Haverstick, a Pentagon spokesman.

Trump's July 27 three-tweet announcement that transgender people would no longer be allowed to serve "in any capacity" caught Pentagon officials off guard. Top military leaders, including Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, quickly announced no changes would be implemented immediately.

The president cited "tremendous medical costs and disruption" to military units in defending his decision to ban transgender servicemembers, who were granted the right to serve openly by former President Barack Obama's administration in June 2016.

The order appears to give Mattis leeway in determining whether transgender servicemembers should be dismissed. The defense secretary only would be required to remove troops who were deemed unable to deploy into combat, training or other assignments for medical reasons related to gender dysphoria, a medical condition attributed to transgender people and recognized by the American Psychiatric Association.

Trump's social media announcement in July was met with immediate condemnation from Democratic and Republican lawmakers, including Republican Sen. John McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee,

who said all capable people should be allowed to serve.

The new order was admonished quickly by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy groups following the Wall Street Journal report.

"Despite the overwhelming bipartisan condemnation of his reckless tweets, President Trump is still pushing forward with his vicious assault on transgender servicemembers," said Ashley Broadway-Mack, president of the American Military Partner association, which advocates for LGBT troops. "His foolhardy assertion that transgender servicemembers are not able to deploy is simply not rooted in fact. Transgender servicemembers are just as deployable as any other servicemember."

Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center, a research organization that helped the Pentagon shape policy on allowing transgender people to serve openly, called Trump's ban "unconscionable" and accused the president of implementing it for "political reasons."

"Transgender troops have been serving openly in the U.S. military for more than a year, and have been widely praised by commanders," Belkin said. "Imposing one set of standards for transgender troops and another set of standards for everyone else is a recipe for disruption, distraction and waste."

It remains unclear how many transgender people are serving openly in the military. Pentagon officials have declined to provide a specific number, saying there are "hundreds" of servicemembers who have identified themselves as transgender individuals. The Defense Department has declined to release specific information about how many troops are now receiving medical treatment — such as hormone therapy or gender-reassignment surgery — for gender dysphoria.

A Rand Corp. study commissioned last year by the Pentagon to help it determine its transgender policy estimated there were between 1,320 and 6,630 transgender people among about 1.3 million active-duty troops.

Five transgender servicemembers filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against Trump and top Pentagon officials earlier this month challenging the new ban. The servicemembers, who were only identified as "Jane Doe" Nos. 1-5, argued the ban would violate the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution and their right to due process.

"Execution of the president's directive will result in an end to service by openly transgender servicemembers and has already resulted in immediate, concrete injury to plaintiffs by unsettling and destabilizing plaintiffs' reasonable expectation of continued service," the lawsuit stated.

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# Trump lauds vets as example of unity

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

RENO, Nev. — Eleven days after violence erupted during a rally organized by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., President Donald Trump held up veterans Wednesday as an example of inspiration to unify a divided nation.

Trump addressed more than 5,000 veterans at the 99th annual American Legion National Convention in Reno, Nev., where he praised his administration's work on veterans issues and spread the message that veterans can inspire the rest of the country "to overcome the many challenges that we face."

"We are here to draw inspiration from you as we seek to renew the bonds of loyalty that bond us together as one people and one nation," Trump said. "Those who wear the nation's uniform come from all different backgrounds and every single walk of life, but they are all united by shared values and a shared sense of duty. They are all part of one team, with one mission in mind. Now our nation must follow that same devotion to a greater cause to achieve our nation's full potential."

Trump spoke for just over 20 minutes Wednesday about progress on veterans issues and the recommitment to the war in Afghanistan. He briefly talked about crime, needed infrastructure improvements and

"failing" schools but repeatedly returned to the message that "we have no division too deep for us to heal."

Joining Trump on stage at one point was Vietnam War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Donald Ballard, who told the crowd, "We've elected the right leader to drain the swamp."

Trump praised Ballard, saying, "Today we are reminded that the greatness of our nation is found in our people like Donald. As long as we have faith in each other and confidence in our values, then there is no challenge too great for us to conquer."

The remarks were a shift from what Trump said just yesterday during a divisive, campaign-style event in Phoenix, where he spoke for 75 minutes and accused the media of dividing the nation. He also blamed the media for the widespread disapproval of his response to the Charlottesville rally.

In Phoenix, thousands of people protested outside the convention center Tuesday evening, and law enforcement used tear gas, flash-bang grenades and pepper spray to disperse the crowd after some protesters reportedly threw rocks and bottles at police.

Local news outlets reported a difference scene in Reno, with a smaller group protesting peacefully outside the convention center.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve had issued a statement asking Trump to use his speech Wednesday to "deliver a strong message rejecting racism, hate and violence."

"The city of Reno is an inclusive city that prides itself on our kindness and compassion," Schieve said in the statement. "We condemn the hateful acts that have taken place in our country recently. Now more than ever, it is time to unite our country."

Schieve issued the statement in response to concerns from Reno residents who reacted when they heard Trump was to appear at the convention, she said.

American Legion officials said Tuesday they had received calls from some veterans who were angry about the group's decision to host Trump. Legion spokesman Joe Plenzler said the decision was not a political one, and every president since Jimmy Carter has been invited to their conventions.

The Legion chose to reaffirm its commitment Tuesday to a resolution the group first passed in 1923 — to decry any individual or group that creates discord over race, religion or socioeconomic class. The resolution states that those people are "un-American, a menace to our liberties and destructive to our fundamental law."

Trump praised recent prog-

ress for veterans during his Wednesday speech, addressing several VA reform efforts.

Earlier this summer, Trump signed legislation created with the purpose of holding VA employees accountable and rooting out a culture of corruption, which was one of his campaign promises.

"If someone at the VA is bad to the people of the VA ... we look at them and say, 'You're fired,'" Trump said Wednesday, prompting applause.

Trump also praised the VA for establishing a White House hotline for veterans, which was part of his 10-point plan to reform the VA. However, the hotline isn't fully operational and is being run by VA employees, not the White House. The hotline was supposed to start 24-hour service this month, but the VA announced it would be delayed until Oct. 15. Trump mentioned a large expansion of veterans education benefits — known as the "Forever GI Bill" — signed last week. The bill was created and championed by a handful of veterans organizations working with Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate.

A bipartisan deal between lawmakers also resulted in the signing of a bill to pay for new VA clinics and hiring programs and to fund the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to receive health care in the private sector.

## Mass. hospital worker wins record \$758.7M lottery jackpot

*Associated Press*

BRAINTREE, Mass. — The largest single-ticket Powerball prize in U.S. history was claimed Thursday by a Massachusetts hospital worker who promptly quit her job only hours after learning she had won the \$758.7 million prize.

"The first thing I want to do is just sit back and relax," Mavis Wanczyk told reporters at a news conference. "I called and told them I will not be coming back."

Wanczyk, 53, chose to take a

lump sum payment of \$480 million, or \$336 million after taxes, lottery officials said.

The previous evening, she recalled, she was leaving work with a firefighter and remarked, "It's never going to be me. It's just a pipe dream that I've always had."

Then she read the number on her ticket and realized she had won.

Wanczyk has two adult children, a daughter and a son.

The announcement that a winner had come forward came

after a turbulent morning in which lottery officials initially misidentified not only the store that sold the winning ticket, but the town.

The lottery corrected the site where the single winning ticket was sold to Chicopee. Overnight, it mistakenly had announced the winning ticket was sold at a shop in Watertown, just outside Boston.

But shortly before 8 a.m., the lottery said it had made a mistake, and that the winning ticket was sold at the Pride Sta-

tion & Store in Chicopee, about halfway across the state. Reporters had descended on the Watertown store hours before it opened about 6:30 a.m.

Massachusetts Lottery Executive Director Michael Sweeney said officials were manually recording the names of the retailers that sold the winning ticket and transcribed it incorrectly.

Powerball is played in 44 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, all of which collectively oversee the game.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Grandma beaten over Steelers game volume

**PA** YOUNGWOOD — A 40-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter are jailed on charges they beat the woman's mother and shaved her head because she dared to listen to Sunday's Pittsburgh Steelers preseason game too loudly on the radio.

State police told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that Delores Amorino and her daughter, Sarah, turned down the TV volume when the older woman was watching the game in the home all three share. The older woman went into her locked bedroom and turned on the radio. Police say the Amorinos broke through the door before assaulting the woman. Police say the victim had a fat lip, bruises and had her foot stomped, before Sarah Amorino choked her and cut her hair.

### Pumpkin-flinging contest canceled

**DE** DOVER — Organizers of a popular pumpkin-flinging competition in Delaware have canceled this year's event following the filing of a federal lawsuit by a woman who was critically injured at last year's event.

The World Championship Punkin Chunkin Association said in online posts Wednesday that landowners who donate the use of their property for the event are reluctant to host it this year in light of the lawsuit.

The lawsuit by Suzanne Dakessian claims she was left with severe and permanent injuries because of negligence and wrongful conduct by organizers and participants, state officials and Discovery Communications. Dakessian was

injured when a trapdoor blew off an air cannon.

### Beach closed after shark bites paddleboard

**MA** WELLFLEET — A beach on Cape Cod was closed after a shark bit a paddleboard when a man was standing on it.

Kathy Tevyaw, acting superintendent at the Cape Cod National Seashore, told the Cape Cod Times that the 69-year-old man was not bitten in Wednesday morning's incident at Marconi Beach. She said he was in about 3 feet of water when it happened.

Several other Cape Cod beaches were closed Monday due to shark sightings. At a beach in Orleans, a shark attacked a seal close to shore, sending nearby surfers frantically swimming to land.

### Stranger pushes woman onto subway tracks

**NY** NEW YORK — The New York Police Department is searching for a man who pushed a woman onto subway tracks.

The woman was attacked on an "F" train platform in the East Village on Tuesday. According to police, the stranger said he was going to push her — and then did it. Good Samaritans pulled her to safety.

No train was approaching. Kamala Shrestha's husband said she required about 10 stitches in her head.

### Mark Twain's daughter's farm on the market

**CT** REDDING — A farm once owned by Mark Twain is up for sale in Connecticut for \$1.8 million.

The Connecticut Post re-

ported the 18.7-acre property in Redding is next to Twain's country home, known as "Stormfield." He bought it for his daughter, Jean Clemens, in 1909 and named it "Jean's Farm." But Jean died soon after. Twain died five months later, in April 1910.

The real estate agency, William Raveis, said the house includes five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a movie theater, a saltwater swimming pool, a fish pond and a barn built in the 1860s that includes an extra apartment. It calls it a perfect Connecticut gentleman's farm.

### Ex-post office janitor admits stealing mail

**LA** LAFAYETTE — A former post office janitor admitted stealing mail in Louisiana.

The acting U.S. attorney in Lafayette said Jerome Guidry, 39, of Bayou Vista pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of theft of mail by a post office employee.

Alexander Van Hook said in a news release that Guidry admitted taking a \$50 store gift card and a \$500 Postal Service money order. He said Morgan city police investigated a complaint that the gift card never reached its recipient.

Investigators found more gift cards in Guidry's vehicle, and the money order in his home.

### Woman files claim to get larger lottery prize

**OH** CLEVELAND — An Ohio woman claims to have won \$500,000 on an Ohio Lottery scratch-off ticket, while the lottery says she won only the \$500 she received.

Penelope Demetriades filed a claim against the lottery in Ohio's Court of Claims. The Northfield woman said she

bought a ticket in September at a convenience store in Macedonia. She said a store employee said she won \$500 and gave her that prize.

Demetriades said she later determined she won \$500,000, but employees wouldn't honor her ticket, saying it was destroyed or thrown away.

The lottery said investigators reconstructed the ticket, and it was a \$500 winner.

### T. rex teeth found in digs break records

**ND** BISMARCK — Participants in a public fossil dig south of Bismarck last week found two large Tyrannosaurus rex teeth, each of them setting records for the North Dakota Geological Survey.

Officials said the first tooth measured about 2.5 inches long. The second tooth, found less than an hour later and a few feet from where the first tooth was found, measured 4.5 inches long. They were the ninth and 10th teeth discovered at the site in the past three years.

### Site of sunken Civil War ship could be museum

**AR** MARION — A sunken ship could turn into a tourist site in eastern Arkansas.

A paddle wheel steamboat called the Sultana caught fire in 1865, just days after the end of the Civil War. Over 1,200 Union soldiers died, making it the biggest maritime disaster in U.S. history. The ship's wreckage currently rests underneath a soybean field in Marion where the Mississippi River once ran.

Project Director Louis Intres told KATV-TV that plans are in progress to build a 10,000-square-foot, \$3 million Sultana Disaster Museum.

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# Punching power could determine result

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. says it was the first punch of the fight. His promoter thinks it came during the second round.

One shot to the head, and suddenly Manny Pacquiao decided his night might better be spent fighting on the outside.

“I let him know it’s not what you think it is,” Mayweather said. “You’re not just going to run in there. He felt a strength he didn’t expect.”

The knock on Mayweather — and the reason some people give Conor McGregor a chance Saturday night — is that he doesn’t knock people out. Pacquiao never went down, either, but Mayweather showed there are other ways to change a fight than putting a fighter on the canvas.

McGregor may find that out early if he goes after Mayweather at the opening bell as expected. The prevailing theory is that McGregor wins the power battle, but there’s more than one fighter with power in this, the most unusual of fights.

“When he gets hit he’s going to find out it’s totally different,” Mayweather said. “The brittle hands, they keep saying that, but when I come across his head he’ll find out that it’s totally different.”

McGregor doesn’t believe that, of course and predicted again Wednesday that the fight would end early with Mayweather on his back.

“I believe one or two rounds, with 8-

ounce gloves, I don’t see him surviving,” McGregor said. “I’m starting to think I’ll toy with him once he goes down.”

The two fighters got together for the final pre-fight press conference to further hype a fight built on hype. In contrast to the bombastic tone of earlier appearances it was a relatively subdued affair at the MGM Grand.

They posed together and didn’t come close to exchanging blows. They did both manage to get in a few final words, though.

“It’s not going to be easy, Conor,” Mayweather told his opponent. “I’ve got a great chin but remember this: The same way you give it you gotta be able to take it.”

Though ticket sales have been tepid — largely because of astronomical prices — the pay-per-view is expected to be watched by some 50 million people in the United States alone and millions more worldwide.

It’s half-fight, half-spectacle, a bout that matches a UFC star who has never boxed against a masterful ring technician with a record of 49-0. Born of internet hype, it has captured the curiosity of even those outside both sports and could end up being the richest fight ever.

And it’s a bout Mayweather says he is taking very seriously, despite training at odd hours and holding meet-and-greets every night before the fight with fans who come to his strip club.

“I’m taking a gamble,” said Mayweather, who is coming off a two-year layoff. “But it’s worth it.”

Mayweather’s fight with Pacquiao ended up going 12 long rounds, and turning a lot of people off from boxing. But while Mayweather hasn’t really knocked out anyone in a decade, he says the streak will come to an end in what he insists is his final fight.

Odds makers in this gambling town hope it’s not McGregor stopping Mayweather early as he claims. McGregor fans have placed thousands of small bets at long-shot odds of their man knocking Mayweather out in the early rounds, and sports books could suffer their worst loss ever in what is expected to be the most heavily bet fight ever.

McGregor also believes that’s exactly what is going to happen. He said his years in the octagon and his varied skillset will translate well into the boxing ring, especially after a three-month camp where he used a former referee to help him adjust to boxing rules.

What he didn’t bring in was any boxing trainer to teach him more about the sport, insisting that the team he has always been with knows him so well that it wouldn’t have made a difference.

“We added what is useful and discarded what is not,” he said. “As the final sparring session approached all the unnecessary was gone. It was a cleaner product, just the perfect product.”

## McGregor has boxing skill, but does he have enough?

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Before Conor McGregor had even heard of mixed martial arts, he wanted to be a boxer. He first stepped into Crumlin Boxing Club nearly 20 years ago in muddy football boots and started punching a heavy bag.

McGregor returned constantly for the next seven years, determined to become tough enough to dissuade bullies in his Dublin neighborhood. He competed in amateur boxing matches against opponents of all sizes and shapes over the years, developing tenacity and power.

“There were no weight rules, no limitations on who you could fight,” McGregor recalled Wednesday. “We would

just have an opponent assigned to us. That was always the joke: Everybody at the Crumlin Boxing Club had to fight heavyweights, no matter what size you are. But it was a good lesson. You must be prepared for any eventuality. You must be ready to fight. That’s how I was brought into this game.”

McGregor is on top of the fight game this week before his Saturday showdown with Floyd Mayweather (49-0), the most accomplished boxer of his generation. And though McGregor moved into MMA training in his teens and eventually rose to win two UFC belts, he is no boxing neophyte. While he has other strengths, McGregor’s MMA career has been built in large part on his boxing-

bred punching power, which is considered exceptional by his sport’s standards.

Oh, and he also doesn’t lack confidence, which is no small thing when facing odds as daunting as McGregor’s chances against Mayweather.

“No fighter can train for what I bring into the ring or into the octagon,” McGregor said. “I am too skilled. I am too diverse. My movement is too much for them. All of these men will fall.”

But for McGregor to make Mayweather fall, he’ll either need to land an astonishing home-run punch, or he’ll have to show more creativity and sustained boxing skill than MMA usually demands.

While McGregor’s versatil-

ity and smarts have made him the UFC’s biggest star, he can use only one discipline against Mayweather — and no serious people outside McGregor’s camp doubt Mayweather has more boxing skill. Still, McGregor has devoted himself to boxing in recent weeks, bringing in former champ Paulie Malignaggi among his many sparring partners and recruiting Joe Cortez, the veteran boxing referee, to instruct him on the finer points of etiquette.

“Fighting in Vegas, I just don’t see how Conor outpoints him (for a decision),” UFC President Dana White said. “Conor is going to get in there to rough him up and try to knock him out.”

# Secondary key for Cardinal in opener

*Palo Alto (Calif.) Daily News*

STANFORD — USC's Sam Darnold. Washington's Jake Browning. UCLA's Josh Rosen. Washington State's Luke Falk.

Each of these Pac-12 quarterbacks could be considered among the top 10 in the nation, and Stanford must find a way to neutralize all of them this upcoming season.

The solution for the No. 14 Cardinal is a revolving door in the secondary, anchored by cornerback Quenton Meeks and strong safety Justin Reid, both of them juniors on the Jim Thorpe Award watch list.

"I've been around the NFL my whole life," said Meeks, who is one of the top-rated cornerbacks in the 2018 NFL Draft, should he opt to turn pro. "I mean, my dad was a NFL coach for a long time, so I went to a Super Bowl before my first birthday. Football is kind of my blood and I've watched football since I can remember. So I've definitely seen the game change. When I was born, it was mostly I-formation, running the ball, play-action mostly. Now it's spread out. It puts a lot of

pressure on the secondary, and I love it like that. I love being in the hot seat most of the time, I love going against the best athletes on the field. ...

"And the Pac-12 is the best passing conference in the nation."

NFL scouts also have their sights set on Reid (6-1, 204), with his older brother Eric taken 18th overall in the 2013 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers.

The focus is on the plethora of gunslingers in the Pac-12.

To help patrol the secondary, reinforcements are required. That's where Stanford holds an edge over most of its competition.

At cornerback, the cavalry includes Alijah Holder, Alameen Murphy and Terrance Alexander.

At free safety, the Cardinal is loaded with Frank Buncom IV, Ben Edwards and Brandon Simmons.

It's an embarrassment of riches, for which Stanford head coach David Shaw won't apologize.

"I feel no guilt about anything," Shaw said. "These guys,

I'm so excited because it's the athleticism, yes. The experience helps a lot, because a lot of guys have played. I'm excited about how unselfish they are and how well they play together and how versatile they are. We have a bunch of different guys that can play safety, can play nickel, can play corner. So it's been fun to mix and match knowing that week by week, game plan by game plan, we can move different guys to different positions and know that they're able to go there and play at a high level."

"We're real deep," Reid said. "And it's so nice, too, to be able to get so many guys out on the field. It keeps everybody fresh, and everyone has a different playing style, which will be really trippy for quarterbacks. ... It just gives them a bunch of different looks that a quarterback wouldn't be expecting, so that way somebody is coming down with the pick."

"That's our mentality. Somebody is getting the turnover every single game."

The man in charge of the defensive backs is Duane Akina, who joined the staff in 2014

after a 13-year stint in Texas. Previously, he spent 14 seasons in Arizona, which back then featured the "Desert Swarm" defense.

It's no surprise that his secondary is filled with interchangeable replicas, or carbon copies.

"Every place I've been, we're looking for length, we're looking for good athletes and looking for guys who can also see the game," Akina said. "The intellectual side of the game is something that's very important, no matter where I'm at."

That's where the loss of fifth-year senior Dallas Lloyd could be felt the most.

After converting from quarterback to safety in 2014, Lloyd rose up the ranks in the secondary, eventually leading the Cardinal with five interceptions last year.

But his biggest impact came from an innate ability to communicate on and off the field, to help his teammates understand their multiple assignments.

The low point to last season came during back-to-back blowout defeats to Washington and Washington State.

## Kaepernick supporters protest outside league's HQ

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Supporters of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who refused to stand for the national anthem to protest police brutality against blacks, showed their solidarity with him and his cause at a rally outside National Football League headquarters on Wednesday, demanding that he be hired by the start of the regular season next month.

More than 1,000 people, many wearing jerseys bearing Kaepernick's name, crowded the steps outside the NFL's midtown Manhattan offices.

Kaepernick, who once took the 49ers to the Super Bowl, opted out of his contract with the team in March and remains

unsigned. Supporters say he is being blackballed for his advocacy, but some critics say he should not have sat or knelt during the anthem or contend his lack of a job is more about his on-field talent.

Chants at the demonstration included "Boycott! Boycott!"

Women's March organizer Tamika Mallory, addressing football fans, said, "I don't care how long you've been watching football, if they don't stand up for your children, turn the damn TV off."

Some speakers said the league's treatment of Kaepernick is of a piece with a cavalier attitude toward players' health.

"How in the world can we call ourselves the land of the free, the home of the brave,

and you get vilified and criminalized just for speaking your mind?" the Rev. Jamal Bryant said. "The NFL has proven with their treatment of Colin Kaepernick that they do not mind if black players get a concussion, they just got a problem if black players get a conscience."

Earlier Wednesday, the NAACP called for a meeting with the NFL to discuss the fate of Kaepernick, who was born to a white woman and a black man but was adopted by a white couple. The civil rights organization's interim president, Derrick Johnson, said in a letter to the NFL's commissioner, Roger Goodell, that it's apparently "no sheer coincidence" that Kaepernick isn't on a roster.

"No player should be victimized and discriminated against

because of his exercise of free speech — to do so is in violation of his rights under the Constitution and the NFL's own regulations," Johnson said.

The NAACP's state president in New York, Hazel Dukes, said: "Right now, the action of the league seems to imply to young black men that this league, which is comprised of 70 percent African-Americans, only values black lives if they are wearing a football uniform."

Goodell has said the league isn't blackbaling Kaepernick.

Some other players followed Kaepernick's actions last season, and some are doing so in this year's preseason. On Monday, a group of Cleveland Browns players prayed in silent protest during the national anthem.

# LA's Hill loses perfect game, no-no bid

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Rich Hill's first 98 pitches left the Pittsburgh Pirates confounded, occasionally fuming and absolutely hitless.

His 99th turned a potentially historic night by the Los Angeles Dodgers lefty into something else entirely: A loss.

After Hill's bid for a perfect game was spoiled by a leadoff error in the ninth inning, Josh Harrison started the 10th by connecting on an 88 mph fastball over the middle of the plate and sending a drive into the first row of seats in left field. It wrecked Hill's improbable — and improbably lengthy — try at a no-hitter and lifted the Pirates to a stunning 1-0 win on Wednesday.

"It falls on me, this one — one bad pitch," Hill said.

Dodgers left fielder Curtis Granderson made a fearless attempt to preserve the no-hitter, banging into the wall going for a catch. When the ball sailed inches past his outstretched glove, Harrison sprinted around the bases after his 16th home run

while Hill (9-5) slowly walked off the field after being handed his first loss in nearly two months.

"I hit it and I knew I didn't get it all," Harrison said. "I knew I got enough."

Just enough on a night Hill flirted with the 24th perfect game in major league history. His shot at joining one of baseball's most exclusive clubs ended when third baseman Logan Forsythe couldn't handle Jordy Mercer's grounder opening the ninth. Hill retired the next three batters and manager Dave Roberts sent the 37-year-old Hill out for the 10th, a makeup call of sorts after Hill was pulled after seven innings and 89 pitches of perfection against Miami last September.

It turned out to be one batter too many, though both Hill and Roberts tried to downplay their disappointment. Hill remains in the middle of a late-career renaissance in Los Angeles and his flirtation with perfection is the latest sign his stuff — built on precision rather than power — can still get batters out with remarkable efficiency.

"He competed, every pitch was with a

purpose," Roberts said. "Unfortunately, we just couldn't get that one hit. We've done it all year long."

Just not this time.

Seattle ace Felix Hernandez threw the last perfect game in the big leagues, in 2012 against Tampa Bay. Since then, three pitchers have lost perfect game tries with two outs in the ninth — Yu Darvish for Texas and Yusmeiro Petit for San Francisco in 2013 and Max Scherzer for Washington in 2015. Miami's Edinson Volquez has pitched the only no-hitter in the majors this year, in June against Arizona.

Hill became the first pitcher since Pedro Martinez in 1995 to take a no-hit try into extra innings. Martinez, then with Montreal, lost his perfect game in the 10th at San Diego. Hill finished nine innings with a "0" in the hit column but it doesn't count as an official no-no.

Under Major League Baseball rules, a pitcher must complete the game — going nine innings isn't enough if it goes into extras.

## Roundup

# Astros finally end losing skid vs. Nationals

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros used a big eighth inning to put a close game out of reach and get their first win against the Washington Nationals since 2012 in a matchup of division leaders.

Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and Jake Marisnick and Max Stassi added solo shots to help the American League West-leading Astros to a 6-1 win on Wednesday night.

The victory snaps a nine-game losing streak to the Nationals, who lead the National League East, and is just Houston's second win in the last 15 games against Washington.

"We've got guys that have been putting up pretty good at-bats," manager A.J. Hinch said. "It was nice to break out and get a couple of runs."

Houston starter Mike Fiers (8-8) yielded four hits and one run in seven strong innings to get his first win since July 21.

Fiers was in command from the start, looking much better than he had in his last four starts when he allowed a combined 24 hits and 20 runs.

**Orioles 8, Athletics 7 (12):** Zach Britton's AL-record run of converting 60 straight save attempts ended amid the evening shadows of Camden Yards, when the Baltimore closer blew a two-run lead and failed to get out of the ninth inning in a game his team ultimately won in the 12th.

**Red Sox 6, Indians 1:** Mitch Moreland hit a fifth-inning home run, and Drew Pomeranz (13-4) and three relievers bested Corey Kluber (12-4) as visiting Boston beat Cleveland.

**Royals 6, Rockies 4:** Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning off former teammate Greg Holland (2-5), lifting host Kansas City over Colorado.

**Yankees 10, Tigers 2:** Gary Sanchez homered and drove in three runs, and Luis Severino

(11-5) pitched impressively into the seventh inning to lead visiting New York to another lopsided win over Detroit.

**Cubs 9, Reds 3:** Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run homer in the ballpark near his home, Tommy La Stella added a two-run shot while subbing for Kris Bryant, and visiting Chicago kept its second-half surge going with a victory over Cincinnati.

**Mariners 9, Braves 6:** Taylor Motter replaced an injured Robinson Cano and gave visiting Seattle the lead with a two-run single in the eighth inning against Atlanta.

**Cardinals 6, Padres 2:** Rookie Luke Weaver (2-1) struck out 10 in seven scoreless innings, and Kolten Wong had three hits and three runs to help host St. Louis beat San Diego.

**Blue Jays 7, Rays 6:** Kevin Pillar hit his team's sixth home run of the game in the eighth inning, lifting visiting Toronto over Tampa Bay.

**Mets 4, Diamondbacks 2:** Chris Flexen (3-2) pitched six effective innings, rookie Dominic Smith homered and host New York ended a three-game skid by beating Arizona.

**White Sox 4, Twins 3:** Tim Anderson singled with one out in the ninth inning to score Avisail Garcia from second base and give host Chicago a comeback victory over Minnesota.

**Phillies 8, Marlins 0:** Mark Leiter Jr. (2-3) allowed one hit over seven innings, Rhys Hoskins homered and drove in five runs and host Philadelphia rode that rookie tandem to a victory over Miami.

**Giants 4, Brewers 2:** Jarrett Parker hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh, Buster Posey hit a sacrifice fly and host San Francisco beat contending Milwaukee.

**Rangers 7, Angels 5 (10):** Adrian Beltre hit two early homers and visiting Texas pushed three runs across in the 10th inning.