

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## General's promotion pulled over remark

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves' nomination for a third star has been pulled in the wake of an Army Inspector General's probe that found he disrespected a female congressional staffer when he called her "sweetheart."

A report of the investigation into the incident was provided Friday to Stars and Stripes and determined the "preponderance of the evidence" indicated Gonsalves referred to the staffer as "sweetheart" during an October 2016 meeting.

As a result, Gonsalves violated Army Command Policy, which requires treating others with "dignity and respect," the investigation concluded. The IG recommend the report be referred to the Judge Advocate General for "appropriate action."

So far, the Army declined to detail what the future holds for Gonsalves, who led the 4th Infantry Division until August but is now serving as a special assistant to the commanding general, III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas.

In July, Gonsalves was nominated for a third star, but his nomination was withdrawn formally Nov. 27.

An anonymous complaint against Gonsalves was made to the IG on July 20, days after Gonsalves' nomination and one week after Stars and Stripes reported he was in

contention to serve as the next commander of U.S. Army Europe.

According to the IG report, Gonsalves' pending nomination for a third star prompted an angry reaction from a staffer of Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I.

The Army IG report redacted the names of the female congressional staffer and about 10 other people who were present during the October 2016 meeting at Fort Carson, Colo. The report included testimony from members of Gonsalves' staff who took part in the session.

The complaint cited accusations that Gonsalves took issue with the female congressional staffer's youth, and that the general said she should take detailed notes on why the military needed funding "since she was a Democrat and did not believe in funding the military," the IG report stated.

Multiple members of the congressional delegation described Gonsalves' remarks during the meeting as "sarcastic and unprofessional," the report states. Another male staffer described the remarks as "sexist, inappropriate and unprofessional," according to the report.

At one point during the meeting, the female staffer passed a note to a colleague that read, "Did this guy really just call me sweetheart?" the report states.

Accounts of the meeting differed, however. Some people in attendance defended Gonsalves, saying he acted professionally,

though their names and positions were redacted from the report.

The IG report cites another allegation that Gonsalves asked the staffer her age. When she responded, Gonsalves spoke about his time as a young Army officer serving along the Fulda Gap during the Cold War. Gonsalves is then accused of telling the staffer to take notes so her "Democratic boss" would understand the military's needs, according to the report.

The meeting was focused on the Army's growing mission in Europe and the need for more consistent funding in light of concerns about a more aggressive Russia.

The IG report also cited statements that after the meeting with Gonsalves, the staffer informed her boss — Langevin — but she declined to file a complaint at the time.

After the Stars and Stripes report about Gonsalves' possible nomination to command USAREUR, the staffer posted statements on Facebook critical of the general and said the Army was making a "bad decision," the IG report states.

An anonymous IG complaint followed.

"Although MG Gonsalves testified that he did not refer to (the female staffer) as 'sweetheart' during the meeting, the evidence did not support his recollection," the IG report states.

## Commander in chief's coin gets a makeover

*The Washington Post*

For two decades, the commander in chief has doled out distinguished-looking coins as personal mementos. Now, the presidential "challenge coin" has undergone a Trumpian transformation.

The presidential seal has been replaced by an eagle bearing President Trump's signature. The eagle's head faces right, not left, as on the seal. The 13 arrows representing the original states have

disappeared. And the national motto, "E pluribus unum" — a Latin phrase that means "Out of many, one" — is gone.

Instead, both sides of the coin feature Trump's official campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

The changes don't stop there. In addition to his signature, Trump's name appears three times on the coin, which is thicker than those made for past presidents. And forget the traditional subdued silver and

copper: Trump's coin, a White House aide marveled, is "very gold."

The aide said the president, whose real estate properties are known for their gilded displays of wealth and status, was personally involved in redesigning the coin. Trump, who also had a hand in creating his famous red campaign hat, "wanted to weigh in on it," the aide said. "It's beautifully made."

Some ethics experts questioned the unprecedented de-

cision to include a campaign slogan on the coins, which are often distributed to members of the military.

"For the commander in chief to give a political token with a campaign slogan on it to military officers would violate the important principle of separating the military from politics, as well as diminishing the tradition of the coin," said Trevor Potter, a Republican former chairman of the Federal Election Commission.

## Random drawing set to break tie in Va. race

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — As Democrats and Republicans continued partisan sniping Friday over a House seat that could determine the balance of power in the Virginia House of Delegates, state elections officials moved to break the deadlock by scheduling a random drawing to pick the winner.

The Virginia Board of Elections said it will pick the winner's name in the Newport News-based 94th District next Thursday unless a recount court decides to intervene.

The race between Democrat Shelly Simonds and Republican Del. David Yancey has seen-sawed since the Nov. 7 election. Initially, it appeared that Yancey had won by 10 votes, but a recount put Simonds ahead by a single vote.

A three-judge recount court later declared the race a tie after agreeing with the Yancey campaign that a disputed ballot was a vote for him. On Wednesday, Simonds asked the court to reconsider, but the panel has not yet responded.

The fight over the seat has been intense as Republicans try to hold on to a majority in the House after a bruising election in which Democrats erased the 66-34 advantage held by Republicans.

If Simonds ultimately wins, the House will be evenly split, 50-50, between Democrats and Republicans. If Yancey wins, the Republicans will have a 51-49 edge.

The state Board of Elections had been scheduled to pick the winner's name out of a glass bowl on Wednesday, but postponed the drawing after Simonds filed her legal challenge.

The result is one of two House races still in limbo.

A lawsuit is pending over ballots in a hotly contested race in the 28th District in the Fredericksburg area.

# Anger, dejection rise as half of Puerto Rico still without power

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The revelation that more than 660,000 power customers across Puerto Rico still lack electricity more than three months after Hurricane Maria has sparked outrage, surprise and resignation among some islanders who accuse officials of mismanaging their response to the Category 4 storm.

It's the first time the government of the U.S. territory has provided that statistic, which was released as authorities warned that a lot of work remains and that crews were still finding unexpected damage after Maria hit Sept. 20 with winds of up to 154 mph, knocking power out to the entire island. Officials said 55 percent of Puerto Rico's nearly 1.5 million customers have power.

"It's just extraordinary that it is still so far away from being 100 percent recovered," said Susan Tierney, a senior adviser for Denver-based consulting company Analysis Group who testified before a U.S. Senate committee on efforts to restore power in Puerto Rico. "I'm not aware of any time in recent decades since the U.S. has electrified the entire economy that there has been an outage of this magnitude."

One of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities remains entirely without power, and it's unclear when some electricity will be restored to the central mountain town of Ciales. Crews this week restored power for the first time to parts of the

southeastern coastal town of Yabucoa, which received the first hit from Maria.

Among those still in the dark is Christian Pagan, 58, who lives near the capital, San Juan, and said it was the government's fault that a large number of people still don't have power.

"Everybody saw that the devastation was great, but I don't understand why they're trying to sell people something that's not real," he said of the explanations the government has provided as to why power has not been restored fully. "The first month was lost to bureaucracy and an uncoordinated reaction."

He especially criticized the power company's former director, Ricardo Ramos, who resigned in late October after signing a \$300 million contract for a Montana-based company that had only two full-time employees when the storm hit. Ramos also had said that he did not activate mutual-aid agreements with power companies in the U.S. mainland in part because there was no way to communicate with them.

"That's the kind of help you ask for three days before the hurricane," Pagan said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said that power likely will be restored to all of Puerto Rico by May, noting that reconnection efforts have been slow-going at times in part because of the island's rough terrain, a lack of supplies and an aging infrastructure that was not maintained, given the island's 11-year recession.

## Freezing weather causing hardship

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Already winter-weary parts of the Midwest and East Coast are dealing with a mounting number of weather-related headaches, from highway pileups to frozen pipes and a rash of car thefts.

And there's more to come.

Bitter temperatures and snow squalls have been blamed for a handful of deaths and canceled a long list of New Year's celebrations. Icy roads in central Michigan caused more than 30 crashes Friday on highways near Flint, while a chain-reaction crash involving about 40 vehicles in the southwestern part of the state left three hurt.

Coastal South Carolina saw a rare bout of freezing rain and

drizzle on Friday that forced bridges from Charleston to Myrtle Beach to shut down for de-icing.

Police in the Cincinnati area said a half-dozen cars have been stolen in recent days after being left running unattended by owners trying to warm them up. Cincinnati police warned in a tweet that leaving your car running means "the only person who will be warm is the thief who stole your car."

More snow is on the way in Erie, Pa., where 65 inches have fallen since Christmas Eve. Now, parts of the surrounding county could get up to 16 inches of additional snow by Sunday.

A call center set up to help people dig out has been over-

whelmed. "The phones have been ringing off the hook," said Josh Jaeger, a coordinator for the center told the Erie Times-News.

Cleanup continued inside Michigan State University's basketball arena after a frozen water pipe burst.

Several deaths have been linked to the wintry weather during the past week.

In South Dakota, an 83-year-old woman died from exposure to the cold after she crashed her car and then got out to look for help. Search crews found her body in a ditch on Sunday.

Three people were found dead in a canal along Lake Erie last week after their car slid off an icy road.



# Few nations ready to pay for Iraq rebuilding

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — For more than 2 miles along the western bank of the Tigris River, hardly a building is intact. The warren of narrow streets of Mosul's Old City is a crumpled landscape of broken concrete and metal. Every acre is weighed down by more than 3,000 tons of rubble, much of it laced with explosives and unexploded ordnance.

It will take years to haul away the wreckage, and this is just one corner of the destruction. The Iraqi military and the U.S.-led coalition succeeded in uprooting Islamic State across the country, but the cost of victory is nearly incalculable.

Three years of war devastated much of northern and western Iraq. Baghdad estimates \$100 billion is needed nationwide to rebuild. Local leaders in Mosul, the biggest city held by ISIS, say that amount is needed to rehabilitate their city alone.

So far, no one is offering to foot the bill. The Trump administration has told the Iraqis it won't pay for a massive reconstruction drive. Iraq hopes Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries will step up, and Iran also could take a role. The U.N. is repairing some infrastructure in nearly two dozen towns and cities around Iraq, but funding for it is a fraction of what will be needed. As a result, much of the rebuilding that has happened has come from individuals using personal savings to salvage homes and shops.

Nearly every city or town in former ISIS territory needs repair to one degree or another. The longer it takes, the longer many of those who fled ISIS or the fighting remain uprooted. While 2.7 million Iraqis have returned to lands seized back from the militants, more than 3 million others languish in camps. Worst hit is Mosul; the U.N. estimates 40,000 homes there need to be rebuilt or restored, and some 600,000 residents have been unable to return.

Corruption and bitter sectarian divisions make things even harder. The areas with the worst destruction are largely Sunni, while the Baghdad government is Shiite-dominated. The fear is that if Sunni popu-

lations feel they've been left to fend for themselves in shattered cities, the resentment will feed the next generation of militants.

"The responsibility to pay for reconstruction falls with the international community," said Abdulsattar al-Habu, the director of Mosul municipality and reconstruction adviser to Nineveh province.

If Mosul is not rebuilt, he said, "it will result in the rebirth of terrorism."

## From Hue to Mosul

Mosul's Old City paid the price for ISIS's last stand.

Streets are now knee-deep in rubble from destroyed homes. The few buildings of six or seven stories have been blasted hollow, reduced to concrete frames. Shopping centers and office buildings are pancaked slabs. Almost all that is left of the 850-year-old al-Nuri mosque, blown up by ISIS fighters, is the stump of its famed minaret.

At the southern end of the district, the arcades of stone-arched storefronts in the historic bazaars that once sold spices, cloth and household goods are charred and gutted. Eaves that once shaded shoppers look like they were hurled into the air to land as mangled metal scattered across the cityscape. At the northern end just outside the Old City, some buildings have been blown to splinters and piles of dirt in a large medical compound that housed the College of Medicine and the Jomhuriya Hospital.

All five bridges crossing the Tigris have been disabled by airstrikes, forcing all traffic onto a single-lane temporary span linking east and west.

There were effectively two battles for Mosul. The first, from October to February, freed the city's east, which survived largely intact. The second pulverized the west side. There, ISIS dug in and the Iraqis and the U.S.-led coalition upped their firepower, culminating in house-to-house fighting in the Old City. The city, which ISIS overran in the summer of 2014, was declared liberated in July. An Associated Press investigation found at least 9,000 civilians died in the

assault to retake Mosul, most in the west.

It's been more than a generation since the last comparable fight to seize a city. Military experts compare the assaults on Mosul and ISIS-held Raqqa in Syria to the 1968 battle for the Vietnamese city of Hue.

Some look even further back. "All I can think of is Dresden, or pictures I've seen of World War II," said Stephen Wood, a senior analyst at the satellite imagery firm DigitalGlobe.

## Wrenching returns

The enormity of the task ahead in Mosul can be grasped by what has — and hasn't — happened in Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's western Anbar province. Two years after it was retaken from ISIS, more than 70 percent of the city remains damaged or destroyed, according to the provincial council.

Nearly 8,300 homes — almost a third of the houses in the city — were destroyed or suffered major damage, according to UN Habitat. All five of Ramadi's bridges over the Euphrates River were damaged; only three are currently under repair. Three-quarters of the schools remain out of commission.

"We haven't received a single dollar in reconstruction money from Baghdad," said Ahmed Shaker, a council member. "When we ask the government for money to rebuild, they said, 'Help yourself, go ask your friends in the Gulf' — a reference to fellow Sunnis.

## 'Not going to happen'

The main engine for rebuilding has been the stabilization program run by the U.N. development agency, known as UNDP, which focuses on rehabilitating infrastructure, including roads, water and electricity systems and schools, as well as some homes.

Its daily project notices are ambitious. To clear debris from Mosul's riverbank neighborhood of al-Madain, a single contractor must have three heavy-duty shovels, six mini-dump trucks, six tractor-trailers, two excavators and 2 tons of black trash

bags. The time frame: 45 days. Workers must be locals and must earn no less than \$20 per day.

But funding is far lower than what Iraq says it needs. So far, stabilization has received some \$392 million in contributions. The U.S. has given the lion's share, some \$115 million. Germany is the second-biggest donor at \$64 million. The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait also are contributing, but no other Gulf nations are among the list of donors.

Overall, Washington has contributed \$265 million to reconstruction since 2014, on top of \$1.7 billion in humanitarian assistance in Iraq. That is a fraction of the \$14.3 billion that the U.S. spent in fighting ISIS militants in Iraq and Syria.

And it's far less than what Iraqis hoped for. Baghdad at first expected American money would flow in after the defeat of ISIS, said a senior U.S. official in Washington who regularly meets with Iraqi leadership. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said the U.S. is no longer in the business of "nation-building."

"We just tell them, 'No, it's not going to happen,'" the U.S. official said. "We have to be up front with them."

The official said many in Washington believe past efforts in Iraq didn't yield adequate returns and there is little appetite for large international reconstruction projects. After the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein, the U.S. pumped \$60 billion over nine years into Iraqi reconstruction. Critics say the money did little to prevent political disarray and the rise of militants in Iraq. About \$8 billion dollars of it was wasted through corruption and mismanagement, according to the U.S. special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction.

Douglas Silliman, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, blamed the destruction of Iraqi cities squarely on ISIS fighters.

"Had they not been here, had they not conducted a completely brutal and inhumane campaign against the Iraqi people, this destruction would not have happened," he said.



# Prank leads to police fatally shooting unarmed man in Kan.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Police and the FBI are investigating whether an argument over an online game prompted a hoax call that led to a house where an officer shot and killed a Kansas man who apparently wasn't involved in the dispute.

Wichita Deputy Police Chief Troy Livingston on Friday blamed a "prankster" who called 911 and made up a story about a shooting and kidnapping. He did not mention reports that an argument over online gaming was at the heart of the prank, although he said investigators had made good progress tracking online leads.

Police have not disclosed the name of the man who was killed Thursday evening, but relatives identified him as Andrew Finch,

28. Livingston, speaking at a news conference, said the hoax call was a case of "swatting," in which a person makes up a false report to get a SWAT team to descend on an address.

"Due to the actions of a prankster, we have an innocent victim," Livingston said. He said no one has been arrested in connection with the hoax.

Police played audio of the call to 911. A man said his father had been shot in the head. He said he was holding his mother and a sibling at gunpoint. The caller, speaking with relative calm, said he poured gasoline inside the home "and I might just set it on fire."

Several officers arrived and surrounded the home, braced for a hostage situation. When Finch went to the door, police

told him to put his hands up and move slowly.

But Livingston said the man moved a hand toward the area of his waistband — a common place where guns are concealed. An officer, fearing the man was reaching for a gun, fired a single shot. Finch died a few minutes later at a hospital. Livingston said Finch was unarmed.

The officer, a seven-year veteran of the department, is on paid leave pending the investigation.

Dexerto, an online news service focused on gaming, reported that the series of events began with an online argument over a \$1 or \$2 wager in a "Call of Duty" game on UMG Gaming, which operates online tournaments including one involving "Call of Duty."

## Police: No celebratory gunfire on New Year's

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Police around the country have urged residents against the dangerous practice of shooting off guns to celebrate the New Year and warned of criminal charges against those who do.

In Columbus, Ohio, Deputy Police Chief Richard Bash said Friday that police will charge anyone caught firing a gun on New Year's Eve. Bash said the shooting is dangerous and ties up officers who must investigate numerous gunfire reports. If people can safely record evidence of a shooting on their phones, they should submit it to police, he said.

"We need a culture change," Bash said. "We need the community to step up and say, 'This is not the behavior that we're willing to put up with.' When that happens, it will help."

The city has recorded a record-high 142 homicides this year, which is three above the total set in 1991 during the crack cocaine epidemic.

Police in Kansas City, Mo., have also warned residents against firing guns in celebration and told them to call 911 if they see someone shooting and try to talk friends and family out of the idea, according to Sgt. Jake Becchina.

Police in Florida also want an end to celebratory gunfire, which Freddy Ramirez, Miami-Dade Police Department assistant director, calls "irresponsible."

Columbus resident Lisa Boggs made ending celebratory gunfire a personal cause six years ago. She was on the phone with her son on New Year's Eve, when she hit the floor because of the sound of gunshots.

"A moment of celebration, a moment of revelry, could mean a lifetime of hurt and heartache should one of those bullets come down," Boggs said.

# Iranian hard-liners rally as new protests challenge government

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian hard-liners rallied Saturday to support the country's supreme leader and clerically overseen government as spontaneous protests sparked by anger over the country's ailing economy roiled major cities in the Islamic Republic.

The demonstrations, commemorating a mass 2009 pro-government rally challenging those who rejected the re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad amid fraud allegations, had been scheduled weeks earlier.

However, they took on new importance after the economic protests began Thursday, sparked by social media posts and a surge in prices of basic food supplies, such as eggs and poultry.

The demonstrations appear to be the largest to strike the Islamic Republic since its 2009

Green Movement arose after Ahmadinejad's re-election.

However, information about them remains scarce as both state-run and semi-official media in Iran have not widely reported on the protests. An online report Saturday by Iranian state television said national media in the country hadn't reported on the protests on orders from security officials.

In Tehran, some 4,000 people gathered at the Musalla prayer ground in central Tehran. They called for criminal trials for Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, leaders in the Green Movement who have been under house arrest since 2011. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, campaigned on freeing the men, though they remain held.

But by Saturday afternoon, hundreds of students and others

joined a new economic protest at Tehran University. Witnesses said they saw a mass of riot police at the gates of the university while some roads had been blocked off.

Iran's economy has improved since the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the end of some of the international sanctions that crippled its economy. Tehran now sells its oil on the global market and has signed deals for tens of billions of dollars of Western aircraft.

That improvement has not reached the average Iranian, however. Unemployment remains high. Official inflation has crept up to 10 percent again. A recent increase in egg and poultry price by as much as 40 percent, which a government spokesman has blamed on a cull over avian flu fears, appears to have been the spark for the protests.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Wasp nest contributed to plane crash

**NC** BLADENBORO — A wasp nest likely contributed to a single-engine plane crashing in a wooded area in North Carolina last month.

That's according to a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board.

Robert Hester was flying his 1969 Piper Cherokee 140 near the Bladenboro Airport on Nov. 18 when his plane's engine partially lost power. After noticing the plane was unable to reach the runway, he and his son safely landed in a small field. Neither were hurt.

Local media reported that, according to the NTSB, a Federal Aviation Administration inspector found a mud dauber nest in the carburetor heat control box, which prevented the carburetor heat valve from fully opening.

## State park is looking for new mermaids

**FL** SPRINGHILL — A Florida state park is looking for new mermaids. Or at least humans who can pretend to be mermaids.

The Tampa Bay Times reported Weeki Wachee Springs State Park will hold auditions Jan. 13 for its mermaid squad. There are currently 17 performing mermaids and three princes.

The Weeki Wachee mermaids perform underwater year-round in 72-degree spring water from the head of the Weeki Wachee river. The show debuted in 1947 in a limestone theater built below the spring's surface.

The park expects at least 50 women to come for the first round of auditions, which includes a 300-yard endurance

swim and up to 15 minutes of treading water. Passing candidates will be invited back for an underwater audition, where they'll have to show they can move like mermaids.

## Bitter cold cited in shark deaths

**MA** WELLFLEET — A shark conservation group said two thresher sharks that washed up on the Cape Cod shore likely fell victim to the bitter cold.

A statement from the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy said the sharks were discovered Wednesday in Orleans and Wellfleet. Officials believe they succumbed to cold shock.

The conservancy's program director, Michelle Weisel, told The Boston Globe that both sharks were about 14 feet long.

State and federal officials also responded to help collect organ and tissue samples.

## Man held for alleged freeway rock-throwing

**CA** SACRAMENTO — A Sacramento man was arrested after he, according to police, he threw rocks as large as footballs onto cars from a freeway overpass, injuring several people.

The California Highway Patrol said Pedro Ruiz Espinoza, 47, was arrested Monday on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

Authorities said they think he's the man who tossed rocks from several Interstate 5 overpasses onto passing cars in Sacramento, beginning in October.

## Brewer may offer less weak beer for grocers

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — One of the world's biggest brewing companies

warned this month that it may stop creating weak beer that can be sold at Utah grocery and convenience stores where stronger beer, wine and liquor sales are forbidden.

Anheuser-Busch, which makes Budweiser and a number of other brands, said in a letter to Utah beer wholesalers that it may reduce the low-alcohol beer it offers, going from 20 brands down to 12.

Utah and Minnesota will soon be the only two states limiting beer sold in grocery stores to 3.2 percent alcohol-by-weight.

Anheuser-Busch noted in its letter that only 0.5 percent of beers sales in the U.S. are 3.2 percent alcohol-by-weight or less.

## Rope and rescue team recovers dog stranded

**OR** ASTORIA — A dog stranded overnight on a cliff north of Indian Beach is safe after it was rescued by a Seaside rope and rescue team.

Sarah Stremming's 2-year-old border collie Felix went missing Monday afternoon during a Christmas hike, The Daily Astorian reported.

Hamlet Fire Chief Matt Verley located Felix on Tuesday morning using his private drone and determined the only way to reach him was by scaling the cliff face with ropes.

Seaside Fire Lieutenant Genesee Dennis retrieved the dog from a precipice 60 feet from the crest of the Clatsop Loop trail at Ecola State Park.

The most difficult part about the rescue was the fact that Felix was a dog, Dennis said.

"You can't reason with a dog, and they can't really help," he said. "At one point he slipped out of his harness, and I was basically bear hugging him, with no available hand holds."

## Man allegedly snuck in home to steal undies

**MO** WASHINGTON — Police said an eastern Missouri man told officers he has an "underwear fetish" and admitted to sneaking into a home to try to steal a pair.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Cody Hassler, 34, of Washington, Mo., was charged with first-degree burglary, first-degree stalking and stealing.

Police said Hassler admitted to sneaking into the house through an unlocked basement door in October while a mother and her teenage daughter were sleeping, and taking a pair of underwear from the laundry room.

The teenager awoke when she heard footsteps, and police were called. Officers found a pair of underwear that apparently had been dropped when the suspect fled.

## Man fleeing from police drives off pier

**OR** ASTORIA — A suspected boat prowler fleeing from police drove his pickup off an Oregon pier and into the Columbia River.

The Daily Astorian reported Timofey Erofeeff, 27, of Scotts Mill, swam a couple of hundred feet into the frigid river before deciding to swim back Wednesday.

He was treated for hypothermia and later booked into the Clatsop County Jail on felony charges of burglary and attempting to elude police, as well as several misdemeanors.

In a court filing, the arresting officer from the Astoria Police Department estimated Erofeeff was driving 45 mph when the pickup launched off the pier. A gasoline slick could be seen on the surface of the water.

From wire reports

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# Playoff-snubbed Ohio State whips USC

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Playoff-snubbed Ohio State got to raise another trophy in the building where the Buckeyes won a national championship.

While the streaming confetti this time was for a Cotton Bowl victory instead of a title celebration like three seasons ago, coach Urban Meyer still got a special feeling from the fifth-ranked Buckeyes' defensively dominant 24-7 win over No. 8 Southern California.

"The mindset was obvious. We wanted to go down as one of the great teams at Ohio State, Big Ten champions, obviously a top-five finish," said Meyer, 73-8 in six seasons at Columbus. "This will go down as one of the best teams I've ever coached and one of the best groups of young people I've ever been around."

With Buckeyes All-America junior cornerback Denzel Ward sitting out after deciding

to go into the NFL Draft, fellow defensive back Damon Webb returned an interception for a touchdown after recovering a fumble to set up an early score.

The Big Ten and Pac-12 champions would usually play New Year's Day in Pasadena instead of deep in the heart of Texas, but the Rose Bowl is a College Football Playoff semifinal game this season.

Ohio State (12-2) instead quickly settled in at the NFL stadium where it won the first national championship in the four-team CFP format. The Buckeyes — with that bad loss at Iowa after an early setback to playoff team Oklahoma — were the first team left out this season.

USC (11-3), the Rose Bowl champion last season, lost for only the third time in its last 23 games. The Trojans had four turnovers that led to 21 Ohio State points in what could have been third-year sophomore quarterback Sam Darnold's final game.

"We kind of shot ourselves in the football in this game," USC coach Clay Helton said. "You're putting a hurt on your defense, and it led to points early in the game, and separation early in the game."

Ward was on the sideline in his No. 12 jersey over street clothes while Webb had a fumble recovery on the third play of the game. That led to J.T. Barrett's 1-yard keeper for a score that put the Buckeyes ahead to stay.

Webb's 23-yard interception return for a TD put Ohio State up 17-0 less than a minute into the second quarter. It was the first pick-six this season for the Buckeyes, and the team-leading fifth interception for Webb.

Ohio State was up 24-0 when Barrett ran 28 yards for another touchdown after the first of Darnold's two fumbles when stripped while being sacked. Darnold was sacked eight times overall.

"The strip fumbles, when I'm in the pocket, those are

though," Darnold said.

"That defensive line took a quarterback that we have a tremendous amount of respect for and he didn't set his feet all night," Meyer said. "That's the way we won that game."

## Takeaway

**Ohio State:** Barrett, playing his final college game only about a two-hour drive from his hometown of Wichita Falls, Texas, broke Drew Brees' Big Ten career record for total offense with 12,697 yards. Barrett played 50 games and was 38-6 as a starter. His 147 touchdowns (104 passing, 43 rushing) are also a Big Ten record, 41 more than Brees at Purdue.

**USC:** Darnold, who became the first Trojans quarterback ever with more than 4,000 yards passing in a season, has until Jan. 15 to decide if he will head to the NFL or return to USC for another season.

Darnold was 26-for-45 for 356 yards passing, but his turnovers were costly.

## Bowls roundup

# Northwestern holds off Kentucky to win Music City Bowl

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Justin Jackson ran for 157 yards and two touchdowns, and No. 20 Northwestern held off Kentucky 24-23 on Friday in a Music City Bowl that might be remembered more for injuries, ejections and a wild finish.

Both starting quarterbacks left in the first half with injuries, though Kentucky's Stephen Johnson returned early in the third quarter. Kentucky lost running back Benny Snell Jr. to an ejection for contact with an official early in the second quarter, and Northwestern lost leading tackler and linebacker Paddy Fisher before halftime when he was ejected for targeting.

Northwestern (10-4) still finished off back-to-back bowl

wins in consecutive years for the first time in program history, and the Wildcats notched their second 10-win season in three years under coach Pat Fitzgerald. The senior class also won its 27th game for the best stretch in more than a decade.

Kentucky (7-6) had a chance to win after Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald tried to convert his fifth fourth down of the game only to turn it over for the fourth time on downs — this time at his own 39 with 2:31 left. Johnson ran for his second touchdown of the second half with 37 seconds left. Kentucky coach Mark Stoops went for the two-point conversion rather than play for overtime, but Johnson couldn't connect with Tavin Richardson on the pass.

## Sun Bowl

**North Carolina State 52, Arizona State 31:** At El Paso, Texas, Nyheim Hines had three 5-yard touchdown runs to help the Wolfpack beat the Sun Devils.

Hines finished with 72 yards on 16 carries for North Carolina State (9-4). The Wolfpack played in their fourth consecutive bowl game and sixth in seven years under coach David Doeren.

## Arizona Bowl

**New Mexico State 26, Utah State 20 (OT):** At Tucson, Ariz., Larry Rose III scored on a 21-yard run in overtime and the New Mexico State won its first bowl game in 57 years, beating Utah State.

Utah State (6-7) had the ball

first in overtime and Dominik Eberle hit the right upright on a 29-yard field goal, sending a groan through the Utah State crowd. Eberle made 16 of 18 field goals during the regular season, but missed three in the Arizona Bowl.

## Belk Bowl

**Wake Forest 55, Texas A&M 52:** At Charlotte, N.C., John Wolford threw for 400 yards and four touchdowns, and Matt Colburn ran for 150 yards and the go-ahead score in the Demon Deacons' victory over the Aggies.

The teams combined for 1,260 yards in one of the highest-scoring games in bowl history.

Wolford threw all four TD passes in the first half for Wake Forest (8-5).



## College basketball roundup

# No. 22 Texas Tech upends No. 18 Baylor

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech is starting to look like the Red Raiders of a decade ago, when they were winning NCAA Tournament games under Bob Knight with Chris Beard as one of his top assistants.

Beard's bunch took another big step in the Big 12 opener.

Keenan Evans scored 18 points, freshman Zhaire Smith added 15 in his conference debut and the No. 22 Red Raiders rolled past 18th-ranked Baylor 77-53 on Friday night.

Texas Tech (12-1, 1-0 Big 12) beat a ranked team while in the poll themselves for the first time since 2005. Knight was the coach and Beard was on the staff when 24th-ranked Texas Tech beat No. 11 Gonzaga 71-69 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We're pleased to win tonight because we know how hard it is to win games in this league," said Beard, in his second year leading the Red Raiders. "We're pleased to protect our home court. But now we've got to validate this. No cham-

pionship is ever won the first game."

Mark Vital scored 12 points for the Bears (10-3, 0-1), who were missing Big 12 rebounding leader Jo Lual-Acuil because of a left foot sprain. Baylor was outrebounded 39-21, including 22-8 in the first half while falling behind 40-19.

**No. 2 Michigan State 111, Cleveland State 61:** Nick Ward had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and No. 2 Michigan State rolled to a 111-61 victory over Cleveland State on Friday night, the third straight game the Spartans scored more than 100 points.

The Spartans led 63-25 at halftime after shooting 74 percent from the field in the opening 20 minutes — including 9-for-13 from three-point range.

**No. 7 West Virginia 85, Oklahoma State 79:** Teddy Allen scored 15 points to lead six Mountaineers players in double figures in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

West Virginia (12-1, 1-0 Big 12), trailed by seven early in the

second half, but rode Allen, who scored 13 of his team-high points over the final 20 minutes.

**No. 11 Kansas 92, Texas 86:** Devonte' Graham had 23 points and eight assists, converting six three-point baskets, for the visiting Jayhawks in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

Kansas (11-2, 1-0 Big 12), which converted 17 of 35 three-point attempts, including 11 in the second half, won a conference opener for the 27th consecutive season.

**No. 16 Kentucky 90, Louisville 61:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander came off the bench to score a career-high 24 points and PJ Washington added 16 for the visiting Wildcats in the annual showdown for Bluegrass supremacy.

Kentucky (10-2) used a 20-6 run to close the first half. Its 24-11 surge over 8:41 built a 67-38 lead that eventually reached 32, a gap helped by 57 percent second-half shooting.

### Service academies

**Boston U 90, Army 82:** Cedric Hankerson hit five

three-pointers on his way to a season-high 33 points and the host Terriers turned back the Black Knights in a Patriot League opener.

Hankerson connected on 10 of 14 shots from the field for the Terriers (5-7), who shot 51 percent (30-for-59) from the field, including 12-for-26 (46 percent) from three-point range.

Jordan Fox scored 18, with 16 coming in the first half, and added eight assists for the Black Knights (7-5), while Thomas Funk chipped in with 14 points and eight assists.

**Loyola (Md.) 72, Navy 63:** Andre Walker scored nine of his 18 points in the last four minutes as the host Greyhounds broke a late tie to sink the Midshipmen in a Patriot League opener punctuated by a Cam Gregory two-handed slam.

Hasan Abdullah led the Midshipmen (9-5) with 16 points, Shawn Anderson added 14 and Bryce Dulin 10. Navy had entered league play winning eight of its last 10.

## NBA roundup

# Porter, Wizards hand Rockets fifth straight loss

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Otto Porter Jr. scored 26 points, Bradley Beal and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 21 each, and the Washington Wizards beat Houston 121-103 on Friday night for the Rockets' fifth straight loss.

The skid is Houston's longest since dropping seven straight from Jan. 9-19, 2013.

NBA scoring leader James Harden matched his season low with 20 points for Houston. Chris Paul returned after missing three games with a strained groin. He had eight points and six assists in 26 minutes.

**Bucks 97, Thunder 95:** Gi-

annis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points, including the questionable winning basket with 1.3 seconds left, and Milwaukee ended host Oklahoma City's six-game winning streak.

Replays clearly showed Antetokounmpo stepped out of bounds on his drive, but officials Derek Stafford, Ben Taylor and Leon Wood refused to review the play after the buzzer sounded, despite the pleas of Thunder coach Billy Donovan and several of his players.

**Hornets 111, Warriors 100:** Dwight Howard scored a season-high 29 points and Charlotte won just its third road

game of the season, derailing red-hot Golden State.

**Mavericks 128, Pelicans 120:** Dennis Smith Jr. had his first career triple-double and Dallas made a franchise-record 22 three-pointers in its victory over host New Orleans.

**Bulls 119, Pacers 107:** Rookie Lauri Markkanen scored a career-high 32 points, Nikola Mirotic added 28 and surging Chicago beat visiting Indiana for its third consecutive win.

**Nets 111, Heat 87:** Joe Harris scored a career-high 21 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 18 and Brooklyn embarrassed host Miami.

**Suns 111, Kings 101:** Devin Booker shook off a rough night shooting and scored 12 of his 26 points over the final five minutes to lift visiting Phoenix past Sacramento.

**Raptors 111, Hawks 98:** DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Toronto beat Atlanta for its 11th straight home victory.

**Clippers 121, Lakers 106:** Playing in his first game in a month, Blake Griffin scored 24 points and Lou Williams added 23 off the bench to lead the Clippers to a victory over the Lakers.

# Ledecky named top AP female athlete

Associated Press

Katie Ledecky got her start in swimming because she just wanted to make friends. Her brother was eager to join a team at a pool near their house and as a 6-year-old, she tagged along.

By summer's end, the Ledecky siblings had made 100 friends ranging in age from 6 to 18. Some of them remain good friends with Katie, who went on to become the world's best swimmer in the post-Michael Phelps era.

She earned five golds and a silver at this year's world championships in Budapest, maintaining the upward trajectory she first established as a surprise gold medalist at the 2012 London Olympics.

Her dominant performance in Hungary earned Ledecky Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year honors.

In balloting by U.S. editors and news directors announced Tuesday, Ledecky received 351 points, edging out Serena Wil-

liams with 343. Williams won the Australian Open for her Open era-record 23rd Grand Slam tennis title. Olympic track star Allyson Felix finished third in voting, with 248 points.

Last year, Ledecky was second to gymnast Simone Biles in the balloting.

Ledecky is the eighth female swimmer to win and the first since Amy Van Dyken in 1996. Among the others is 1969 winner Debbie Meyer. At last year's Rio de Janeiro Games, Ledecky equaled Meyer's feat of sweeping the 200, 400 and 800 freestyles in a single Olympics.

"It's a really great history of women swimmers and freestylers," Ledecky said of the AP honor roll. "I really look up to a lot of those women."

She is the first active college athlete to win since UConn basketball player Rebecca Lobo in 1995.

Ledecky is a sophomore at Stanford, still debating whether to major in psychology or political science, and enjoying life in the dorms, where she lives with

five other swimmers.

"Just being in the college environment has kind of added another layer of fun," she said. "Being with teammates and working toward NCAA championships and having that team goal, that's another thing that is fun."

Ledecky heads to Colorado Springs, Colo., for high-altitude training with her Stanford team this week. Her focus is on the collegiate season through the NCAAs in March.

In moving cross-country from her home in Bethesda, Md., to attend college in California, Ledecky left behind longtime coach Bruce Gemmell. But like some of those old summer league teammates, Ledecky has stayed in touch. She trains with Gemmell when she returns to visit her family.

She was a star to them in 2012 but a little-known 15-year-old to the rest of the world when she won the 800-meter freestyle in American-record time in London.

In 2013, Ledecky won four

golds at the worlds in Barcelona, setting a pair of world records. Two years later in Kazan, she swept every freestyle from 200 to 1,500 meters, setting two more world records. Another two world records fell last year in Rio.

In her typically understated way, Ledecky said: "I really pride myself on the consistency I've had over the past couple years. Just being able to compete at the international level and come away with some gold medals each year."

Ledecky didn't set any personal bests or world records in Budapest, something she's done with such frequency that people expect to witness something spectacular anytime she dives in the pool.

Her loss in the 200 free in Hungary was considered an upset.

"If they're disappointed with me not breaking a world record, it's an honor because it's representative of what I've done in the past and a benchmark for myself," she said.

## NHL roundup

# Kane's OT goal lifts Chicago, gives goalie first win

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta—Patrick Kane scored 50 seconds into overtime to give 32-year-old goaltender Jeff Glass a win in his NHL debut and lift the Chicago Blackhawks over the Edmonton Oilers 4-3 on Friday night.

Kane deked around a defender then shoved in the rebound of his own shot past Cam Talbot.

After scoring, Kane pointed toward the other end of the ice at Glass, and teammates quickly enveloped the journeyman. The Calgary native made 42 saves in his debut, which came 12 seasons after his first minor league game.

Ryan Hartman, Alex DeBrincat and Jordan Oesterle

also scored for the Blackhawks, who snapped a three-game losing skid.

**Red Wings 3, Rangers 2 (SO):** Frans Nielsen scored the only goal in the shootout to lift Detroit over visiting New York.

Nielsen beat Henrik Lundqvist through the pads for his 47th career shootout goal and 21st winner, both NHL records.

**Hurricanes 2, Penguins 1:** Sebastian Aho scored the go-ahead goal with 1:55 left in the second period and host Carolina earned its season-best fourth straight win by beating Pittsburgh.

Derek Ryan had a goal earlier in the second for Carolina, which improved to 7-0-1 in its last eight games.

**Ducks 2, Flames 1:** Rickard Rakell scored in his fourth straight game to lift host Anaheim over Calgary.

The Ducks have won three of four following a three-game skid and 26 of 27 at home against Calgary.

**Stars 4, Blues 2:** Alexander Radulov had a power-play goal and an empty-netter in the final 2:21 to lift Dallas over visiting St. Louis.

**Wild 4, Predators 2:** Mikael Granlund had the second three-goal game of his career and Devan Dubnyk made 41 saves in his first start since Dec. 12 to help host Minnesota beat Nashville.

**Flyers 5, Lightning 3:** Claude Giroux had three assists, Sean Couturier scored the go-ahead

goal late in the second period and Philadelphia beat host Tampa Bay.

**Jets 4, Islanders 2:** Blake Wheeler and Kyle Connor each had a goal and an assist on Winnipeg's patchwork top line to beat visiting New York.

**Senators 5, Blue Jackets 4:** Mark Stone and Bobby Ryan scored in the third period and Ottawa held off visiting Columbus.

**Sabres 4, Devils 3 (OT):** Rasmus Ristolainen scored 2:37 into overtime to help Buffalo snap host New Jersey's winning streak at five games.

**Avalanche 4, Maple Leafs 3 (OT):** J.T. Compher scored a power-play goal 3:25 into overtime to give host Colorado a victory over Toronto.