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Trump's Bergdahl remarks disturb judge

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Disparaging remarks made by President Donald Trump on the campaign trail and levied against accused Army deserter Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl are “disturbing,” the military judge overseeing the soldier’s court-martial said Monday.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, was especially concerned about Trump’s 2015 pledge to review the case if elected president. Such a comment, Nance said, has the potential to put a “black eye” on the public’s confidence in the court-martial process.

Nance must determine whether some 60 derogatory

comments made by Trump between June 2014 and August 2016, such as calling Bergdahl “a dirty, rotten traitor” and opining he should be executed or dropped from an airplane to the Islamic State group, affected the soldier’s right to a fair trial. Attorneys for Bergdahl filed a motion seeking the case’s dismissal over those comments within hours of Trump’s taking office Jan. 20. Nance did not say how long he expected to consider the matter before issuing a ruling.

Bergdahl’s court-martial on charges of desertion and the more serious misbehavior before the enemy is scheduled to begin April 18. During the hearing Monday, Nance declined to push back the trial’s schedule

but he indicated it was likely to be delayed for the third time.

Bergdahl’s attorneys argued the soldier cannot possibly receive a fair trial with Trump as commander in chief, because the president has well established his negative opinion of him. Potential jurors could believe they must convict Bergdahl because their president wants him punished, the soldier’s lead attorney Eugene Fidell said.

“President Trump decided to use Sgt. Bergdahl as a tool in his quest for the White House,” he said. “... It is perfectly clear there has never been a case like this.”

Lead prosecutor Justin C. Oshana dismissed Trump’s comment as mere political rhetoric that was aimed primarily at

attacking President Barack Obama for his decision to trade five senior Taliban leaders held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for Bergdahl.

“Trump is certainly not the only one to criticize the deal,” Oshana said, adding there is “no evidence the president has attempted to interfere in any way, shape or form with the contents of this proceeding.”

Bergdahl, 30, faces charges of “misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place” and “desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty.” The misbehavior charge carries a potential life sentence. He has yet to enter a plea to those charges.

Former Marine fantasized about killing, raping for years

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A former U.S. base worker charged with raping and killing an Okinawan woman fantasized about raping women for years and thought about shooting fellow Marines as a way of attempting suicide, his lawyer said.

Former Marine Kenneth Franklin Gadson made the revelations, including gruesome details of the crime, during a jailhouse interview with his lawyers. The transcripts were released to Stars and Stripes under the condition that they not be released in their entirety.

Gadson, who worked at a Kadena Air Base cable and internet company and went by his Japanese wife’s surname of Shinzato, has been charged with murder, rape resulting in death and the illegal disposal of a body in the death of Rina Shimabukuro, 20, who disappeared April 28.

Gadson was interrogated two months later when police said he confessed to the crime. He then took police to her body in a heavily wooded area.

The crime shocked Japan and led to a

surge in anti-American sentiment on Okinawa, home to about 30,000 U.S. troops.

Since his incarceration, Gadson has admitted killing Shimabukuro while attempting to rape her, but said her death was not intentional.

Toshimitsu Takaesu, Gadson’s lead lawyer, maintained that his client was under the influence of sleeping pills when he confessed after a suicide attempt.

“[Gadson] is competent enough to feel that he has not been treated fairly in the way the incident has been reported, but he is incompetent to recognize the seriousness of his conduct,” Takaesu said. “He has no sense of guilt for the victim. To him, it was her fault for having been there at the time.”

Gadson’s first pretrial conference is scheduled for March 10, and his trial is likely to begin around June.

Legal scholars believe the stream of confessions — in court documents and in statements released to Stars and Stripes — is part of a defense strategy to seek a lighter sentence by showing remorse, which is considered important in the Japanese justice system.

Gadson could face the death penalty if convicted.

Takaesu also has said he plans to seek a psychological evaluation.

Japan’s penal code includes provisions for insanity and diminished capacity, which could cause Gadson to receive a reduction in punishment, or commitment to a mental hospital.

In four statements recently released to Stars and Stripes by the defense team, Gadson details his turbulent upbringing, obsession with violent images and history of disturbing thoughts and behavior.

Gadson’s statements were transcribed by Takaesu at the detention center where he is being held. They reflect Gadson’s words but are not always direct quotes, as it is apparent that a native Japanese speaker transcribed the statements.

Gadson signed the statements, the first of which was made in September, with the last one dated two weeks ago.

Gadson claims to have heard voices in his head since he was 8 and said he considered killing himself multiple times. He also said he thought about killing his foster mother and accused her of abuse, which she denied in a written statement to Gadson’s attorneys.

Flynn's fate in security post uncertain

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Embattled national security adviser Michael Flynn's fate as one of President Donald Trump's senior aides is uncertain following reports that he discussed U.S. sanctions with a Russian envoy before Trump's inauguration.

A top White House official sidestepped repeated chances Sunday to publicly defend him. The president, who spent the weekend at his private club in Florida, has yet to comment on Flynn's status. Nor has Vice President Mike Pence, who previously denied that Flynn had discussed sanctions with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Pence and Flynn spoke twice on Friday, according to an administration official.

Trump has told associates he is troubled by the situation, but

he has not said whether he plans to ask Flynn to step down, according to a person who spoke with him recently. Flynn was a loyal Trump supporter during the campaign, but he is viewed skeptically by some in the administration's national security circles, in part because of his ties to Russia.

The administration official and both people with ties to Trump spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

On Friday, The Washington Post reported that Flynn addressed sanctions against Russia in a call with Kislyak. The report contradicted repeated denials from Trump officials, including Pence, who vouched for Flynn in a televised interview.

Flynn has since told administration officials that sanctions may have come up in the

calls, which coincided with the Obama administration slapping penalties on Russia for election-related hacking.

It's illegal for private citizens to conduct U.S. diplomacy. Flynn's conversations also raise questions about Trump's friendly posture toward Russia after U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Moscow hacked Democratic emails during the election.

Stephen Miller, Trump's top policy adviser, skirted the issue on several Sunday news shows, saying it was not his place to weigh in on the "sensitive matter" or to say whether the president retains confidence in Flynn.

Several other White House officials did not respond Sunday to questions about whether Trump had confidence in his national security adviser. Their silence appeared to re-

flect some uncertainty about the views of the president, who is known to quickly change his mind.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who led Trump's transition planning before the election, said Flynn would have to explain his conflicting statements about his conversations with Kislyak to Trump and Pence.

"Gen. Flynn has said up to this point that he had not said anything like that to the Russian ambassador. I think now he's saying that he doesn't remember whether he did or not," Christie said on CNN. "So, that's a conversation he is going to need to have with the president and the vice president to clear that up, so that the White House can make sure that they are completely accurate about what went on."

Abe sought common goals when visiting with Trump

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he stressed common goals, not differences, during his weekend meetings with President Donald Trump, whom he called a "good listener."

Abe returned Monday night from the meetings in Washington and a round of golf with Trump at one of his courses in Florida.

"Surprisingly, President Trump is a good listener. He is open to turning his ears to others, and he is friendly and open," Abe said on NHK public television. "I was able to discuss frankly where Japan is headed to."

Abe said his main goal was to show the world an unshakable Japan-U.S. alliance. He said the two leaders discussed Russia, China, North Korea and other key issues. Abe, who has been criticized by opposition lawmakers at home for

not speaking out against some of Trump's more divisive policies, especially his refugee and immigration measures, said he didn't discuss them because they were internal U.S. policies.

"Rather than deliberately stressing the differences, I wanted to start with acknowledging our common goals," Abe said. "When it comes to issues of global concern, my approach is to create an environment where one can listen to the other party."

Abe said he suggested to Trump that the problems of Syria, Ukraine and Iran could not be resolved unless the leaders of the U.S. and Russia meet face to face. Abe has held talks more than a dozen times with Vladimir Putin, and described the Russian leader as "a man who keeps promises."

Trump is seen as taking a softer approach toward Moscow than the administration of his predecessor, Barack Obama.

Trump moves spark Iraqi anger, calls against future US alliance

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Reverberations from President Donald Trump's travel ban and other stances are threatening to undermine future U.S.-Iraqi security cooperation, rattling a key alliance that over the past two years has slowly beaten back the Islamic State group.

Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, has sought to contain any backlash from public anger sparked by Trump's executive order banning Iraqis from traveling to the U.S. Also breeding resentment and suspicion are Trump's repeated statements that the Americans should have taken Iraq's oil and his hard line against Iran, a close ally of al-Abadi's government.

Al-Abadi and Trump spoke Thursday night for the first time since Trump's inauguration. The U.S. leader, who has pledged a stronger fight against Islamic State militants, promised increased help for Iraq against terrorism, and al-Abadi

asked him to remove Iraq from the travel ban, according to an Iraqi official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the telephone call.

Iraqi anger at Washington comes at a crucial juncture in a long and often contentious relationship. U.S.-backed Iraqi forces are about to launch an assault aimed at retaking the western half of Mosul that is still under Islamic State control. If Mosul is completely secured, it largely would break the extremist group's "caliphate" in the country.

However, Iraqi and U.S. officials have said maintaining security in a post-Islamic State Iraq will be just as difficult — preventing a resurgence of the militants and containing political divisions among Iraq's Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds. Both countries have talked of keeping some U.S. troops long term to back Iraq's security forces in that task, a recognition that complete American withdrawal at the end of 2011 was a mistake.

DOD: N. Korean missiles pose 'grave threat'

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — North Korea's latest missile launch showed the country has made progress in developing weapons that pose a danger to the United States, a Pentagon spokesman said Monday.

North Korea's ballistic missiles represent "a clear, grave threat to our national security," Navy Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters at the Pentagon. "North Korea openly states that its missiles are intended to deliver nuclear weapons to strike cities in the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan."

North Korea's use of a tracked, motorized system and solid-state fuel to launch an intermediate-range ballistic missile Saturday showed the country's continued development of its capabilities, he said.

The missile is believed to be a land variant of the KN-11 submarine-launched missile, Davis said, and it traveled about 300 miles before coming down in the Sea of Japan.

He said this was the first time that U.S. officials have seen the North Koreans use a Tracked Erector Launcher, which is a

system that allows the missile to be moved through harsh terrain, making it harder to detect.

Video from the launch, which showed a white plume behind the rocket, also revealed the North Koreans had launched the missile using solid-state fuel, another dangerous development, Davis said.

"This is the longest flight they've done with solid-state fuel," he said.

Unlike liquid fuel, solid-state fuel gives North Korea the "ability to launch without notice," Davis said, because the solid propellants stay in the rockets, unlike liquid fuel, which is less stable and is only injected prior to a launch.

"Solid-state propellants gives them the ability to hide more and a greater element of surprise," he said.

President Donald Trump was dining Saturday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida at the time of the missile launch. Several guests at the dinner posted photos on Facebook of the president discussing the situation with staff and Abe. Trump and Abe made a brief statement to the media

Kim Jong Un calls missile test a success

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — While the United States and its allies mulled a response to North Korea's latest missile test, leader Kim Jong Un called it a success that shows his country is making steady progress in its nuclear weapons program.

The North launched an intermediate-range, road-mobile missile Sunday in what was widely seen as the first test of President Donald Trump's policy toward the defiant communist state.

North Korea's state-run news agency said Monday

that Kim was on-site to guide the launch of what it called a new strategic intermediate-ballistic missile that could be fitted with a nuclear warhead.

The leader "expressed great satisfaction over the possession of another powerful nuclear attack means which adds to the tremendous might of the country," said the Korean Central News Agency.

The missile was fired at a high arc to avoid hitting Japan and traveled about 310 miles before splashing into the sea off the peninsula's east coast, U.S. and South Korean officials said.

after the launch.

"The United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent," Trump said.

After previous North Kore-

an launches, the United States has responded with a show of force with flyovers of South Korea by its strategic and conventional bombers or fighter aircraft.

DOD hires hackers to probe key systems

Bloomberg

The Pentagon is paying hackers to test its key internal systems for vulnerabilities — and they are finding weaknesses faster than expected.

In a pilot project last month, the Pentagon's Defense Digital Service let about 80 security researchers into a simulated "file transfer mechanism" the department depends on to send sensitive emails, documents and images between networks, including classified ones. The effort was important enough that staff for new Defense Secretary Jim Mattis were briefed on the ongoing program his first day on the job.

Lisa Wiswell, whose title at DDS is "bureaucracy hacker," said she told Pentagon cyberspace analysts to be on standby after the program started Jan. 11 but added that nothing likely would turn up for a week. Within hours, though, the first report ar-

rived from a hacker highlighting a risk.

With concerns about cyberdefense vulnerabilities rising across the U.S. government, the cyberspace firm Synack Inc. received a three-year, \$4 million contract in September to carry out "bug bounties" across the Pentagon. The Redwood City, Calif.-based company vetted and recruited security researchers from the U.S., Canada, Australia and the U.K., according to Mark Kuhr, Synack's chief technology officer and a former National Security Agency analyst. The exercise ran through Feb. 7, with more expected.

Because of security concerns, hackers didn't get direct access to operational networks. Instead, the digital service replicated the file-transfer systems in a "cyber range," a kind of digital laboratory resembling the original environment.

The company also added extra security layers to make sure adversaries didn't

compromise the hackers' computers or enter into the range.

Convincing senior leaders at the Pentagon that it was a safe endeavor took time and effort, the digital service said. Chris Lynch, director of the DDS, said he briefed Mattis' staff on their first day in office about the program. The file transfer tool is important because it securely moves some of the most important information for Defense Department missions both within the Pentagon and in the field.

The digital service urged hackers to try bypassing the file-transfer protections, to pull data out of a network that they weren't supposed to have accessed and to "own the box" — take control of the system.

The program grew out of earlier projects by the digital service, which is part of the White House's U.S. Digital Service, started by the Obama administration and so far retained under President Donald Trump.

Bomb kills 13 at Lahore rally

Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — A suicide bomber struck police escorting a protest rally in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on Monday, killing at least 13 people and wounding nearly 60 in an attack claimed by a break-away Taliban faction.

The blast ripped through the crowd of hundreds of pharmacists, who were protesting new amendments to a law governing drug sales.

Six police officers, including a former provincial counterterrorism chief, were among those killed, police said.

Police initially said the attacker was on a motorcycle, but provincial Law Minister Rana

Sanallah later said closed-circuit footage revealed the bomber was on foot.

Sameer Ahmad, the Lahore deputy commissioner, said at least 13 people were killed and 58 wounded, including nine who were in critical condition.

Live TV registered a loud bang and showed smoke and fire billowing up as people ran away, some of them carrying the wounded.

“We just couldn’t understand what happened,” Tufail Nabi told local Geo News TV. “It was as if some big building collapsed,” he said.

A group called Jamaat-ul-Ahrar claimed the attack in a text message, saying it was

revenge for Pakistani military operations against Islamic militants in tribal regions along the Afghan border.

The group, which claimed a number of large attacks last year, is one of several splinter factions from the Pakistani Taliban, which has repeatedly targeted security forces and religious minorities. In recent years, Pakistan has launched several offensives against the Taliban and other Islamic militants in the tribal regions.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed to continue fighting terrorism “until we liberate our people of this cancer and avenge those who have laid down their lives for us.”

Lebanese leader defends Hezbollah

Associated Press

CAIRO — Lebanon’s newly elected president arrived in Egypt on Monday, a day after defending Hezbollah in remarks to a private Egyptian TV station — comments that underlined his unabated support for the Iran-backed Shiite militant group.

Michel Aoun’s last visit to Egypt was as a military officer 55 years ago. He was elected in October after a 29-month vacuum in the country’s top post.

After talks with his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, also a former career military officer, Aoun called upon Egypt to lead an “Arab salvation plan” to combat terrorism.

Aoun also invited el-Sissi to visit Lebanon and said that Egypt has offered to support the Lebanese army and the country’s security forces.

Lebanon’s political factions are deeply divided with some, like Aoun’s party and Hezbollah, aligning with Iran, while their opponents side with Saudi Arabia. Hezbollah’s militia is a force that rivals Lebanon’s army and police. Aoun, whose Christian party is allied with Hezbollah, said earlier that Iran’s support for the group “could continue indefinitely.”

“As long as the Lebanese army is not strong enough to battle Israel ... we feel the need for its existence,” Aoun told the Egyptian TV network CBC on Sunday night.

His remarks could spark tension with Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia, Iran’s regional rival. The two countries have been engaged in proxy wars across the region for years.

Aoun visited Saudi Arabia last month in an attempt to restore relations, which deteriorated after Riyadh accused Beirut of failing to condemn the 2016 attacks by demonstrators on Saudi missions in Iran after the kingdom’s execution of a prominent Shiite cleric.

Hamas names top militant as Gaza leader

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hamas has named a top militant commander as its new leader in the Gaza Strip, an official media outlet confirmed on Monday, placing one of the Islamic militant group’s most hard-line figures in charge of operations in its core power base.

The appointment of Yehiya Sinwar, who was freed by Israel in a 2011 prisoner swap, solidifies the takeover of Gaza operations by the armed wing of the group. The military wing, which controls thousands of fighters and a vast arsenal of rockets, has battled Israel in three wars since Hamas seized Gaza a decade ago.

Sinwar’s selection was reported by Hamas’ al-Resala news site. A Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing the group’s secretive election process, also confirmed the appointment.

Sinwar replaces Ismail Haniyeh, who served as the prime minister of Hamas’ government following the 2007 takeover of Gaza. Haniyeh is now expected to take over as Hamas’ supreme leader, replacing Khaled Mashaal, who lives in exile.

Khalil al-Haya, another political hard-liner, was elected as Sinwar’s deputy.

Hamas started its elections late last year, and the entire process is expected to be completed within the next two months, when a new political bureau is to be announced.

Sinwar, who is in his mid-50s, comes from the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis and is a founder of Hamas’ military wing. Hamas is sworn to Israel’s destruction and has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, shootings and other attacks.

Sinwar was sentenced to four life terms by

Israel in 1988 for a series of offenses, including his role as mastermind of the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers. During his final years in prison, he was the leader of the hundreds of Hamas prisoners held by Israel.

In 2011, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to release Sinwar, along with about 1,000 other prisoners, in exchange for Gilad Schalit, an Israeli soldier who had been captured by Hamas five years earlier in a cross-border raid.

At the time, Netanyahu was harshly criticized for releasing dozens of prisoners held for involvement in deadly attacks as part of the deal. Israel says Sinwar’s brother, Mohammed, was among the masterminds of the soldier’s capture and negotiated the prisoner swap.

Sinwar, who rejects any reconciliation with Israel, has quickly restored his power in the movement since his return to Gaza. He is widely believed to be behind last year’s unprecedented killing of another top Hamas commander in an internal power struggle.

Israel captured the Gaza Strip, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Middle East war.

In 2005, Israel decided that its occupation of Gaza, an impoverished, densely populated territory that also borders Egypt, was unsustainable, and it withdrew all of its troops and settlers.

Two years later, Hamas seized control of the territory after a series of battles with the rival Fatah movement, leaving the Palestinians divided between two governments. Israel and Egypt have maintained a blockade on Gaza since then, and Israel has waged three wars against Hamas, campaigns it says were meant to halt incessant rocket fire on its southern towns.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets prison for psychic fraud scheme

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — A man who pleaded guilty to helping his wife swindle clients at a fortune-telling business was sentenced to almost three years in prison.

Local news media outlets reported that Donnie Stephen Marks was sentenced Friday to 33 months in prison on charges of mail fraud and money laundering. Marks and his wife have to pay more than \$5.4 million in restitution to their victims.

Prosecutors said Sandra Marks told her clients she was a psychic and that they needed to send her large amounts of money and other valuables so she could cleanse them of a curse. Prosecutors said Donnie Marks managed the money.

Sandra Marks was sentenced to 30 months in prison in November.

Man crawling across road hit by traffic, dies

IN FRANKFORT — Authorities said a pedestrian who was crawling across Interstate 65 near Frankfort was hit by vehicles and killed.

The (Lafayette) Journal & Courier reported police are investigating the Friday afternoon incident as a crime.

Authorities said the man jumped from a moving van and injured himself when he fell onto the road. Police don't know why he jumped.

The man was identified as Lukas Holm-Hansen, 23, of Demotte. Police said they are interviewing people in the van.

Ex-mayor no longer fighting drug-sex case

VA FAIRFAX — The former mayor of the city

of Fairfax, a suburban Virginia community near Washington, is no longer fighting a charge that he tried to trade drugs for sex last year.

R. Scott Silverthorne waived his right to a preliminary hearing on a drug distribution charge Wednesday in Fairfax County General District Court. His lawyer said Silverthorne plans to enter a guilty plea or a no-contest plea in Circuit Court next month.

Silverthorne was arrested in August by Fairfax County police after a sting at a northern Virginia hotel. Police said they set up the sting after receiving a tip that Silverthorne was using a dating website to set up sexual encounters with men in exchange for drugs. Police said Silverthorne gave an undercover detective two grams of methamphetamine outside the hotel before his arrest.

Silverthorne resigned after his arrest.

2 injured in attack by dog on team bus

NJ CAMDEN — Two high school basketball players were bitten and injured by a dog that got on their team's bus moments before the squad was due to leave for a game.

Woodrow Wilson High School girls' team coach Bernie Hynson told The Philadelphia Inquirer that the dog — which he said resembled a pit bull — got on the bus shortly after he did on Saturday morning. The unexpected attack occurred moments later.

Hynson said his players ran off the bus to avoid the dog, which was soon trapped inside the vehicle.

One player was bitten on the lip, leg and foot while the other was bitten on the leg. Both were treated at a hospital and released.

5-Hour Energy ordered to pay \$4.3M over ads

WA OLYMPIA — A judge in Washington state has ordered the makers of the 5-Hour Energy drink to pay nearly \$4.3 million in penalties and legal fees over deceptive advertising.

Living Essentials LLC and Innovation Ventures LLC claimed the energy shots were superior to coffee and said doctors recommend them. They also said their decaffeinated formula provides energy, alertness and focus that would last hours.

A judge ruled Jan. 7 that the companies violated the state Consumer Protection Act and ordered them to pay nearly \$2.2 million in civil penalties and \$2.1 million in attorneys' fees.

College student plays taps at vets' funerals

IA CEDAR FALLS — A University of Northern Iowa student is using her trumpet to give back to veterans, playing taps at many local military funerals.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported university marching band member JD Waybill, of Central City, has been performing at most military funerals with the Cedar Falls AMVETS Post 49 since 2015. Waybill reached out to the Cedar Falls AMVETS because she had performed at military funerals in Central City since eighth grade and wanted to continue doing so in college.

Waybill estimates she has performed at more than 100 funerals.

Town cancels dance over old ordinance

OK HENRYETTA — A small Oklahoma

town is echoing the story line of the 1980s movie "Footloose" by canceling a Valentine's Day dance because of an arcane city ordinance enforcing a strict moral code.

KTUL-TV reported that the organizer canceled the dance in Henryetta because it would have taken place 300 feet from a church, in violation of an ordinance that forbids dancing within 500 feet of a place of worship.

Mayor Jennifer Clason, who was born in Henryetta, said she always knew about the old city ordinance but it has never been enforced. Police Chief Steve Norman said his department has no interest in doing so.

Clason said city councilors will consider abolishing the ordinance during their Feb. 22 meeting.

Police: County worker stole \$13K in gear

MD DERWOOD — Police said a Montgomery County employee was arrested in connection with the theft of more than \$13,000 worth of county equipment and selling it on the black market.

WJLA-TV reported that Jason "Colt" White, 31, was charged with theft and released on bond.

Police said White was a program specialist at the country's Fleet Management Services facility. A tipster notified police that White was allegedly selling equipment such as salt spreaders and car batteries on the black market. Police said they recorded video of him loading about \$13,000 worth of salt spreaders into a trailer.

From wire reports

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Horned Frogs early CWS favorite

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — TCU has made it to the College World Series three straight years, and the Horned Frogs have brought back eight everyday players, their top two starting pitchers and the closer.

No surprise, they'll open the season No. 1 in every major national poll.

"When you return the majority of a team out of a club that finished in the final four of the country, you're probably going to end up ranked highly," coach Jim Schlossnagle said. "You can not talk about it and run away from it. Or, as the Cubs did this past year, you can kind of embrace it."

The Horned Frogs have done everything but reach the CWS finals since making their first appearance in Omaha in 2010. Last year, they beat Texas Tech and Coastal Carolina in the CWS and needed one more win to go the best-of-three championship round. They then lost two straight to Coastal Carolina, which went on to win the national title.

TCU, 49-18 overall and third in the Big 12 last season, opens at home with a three-game series against Penn State and will play 21 of its first 25 games in Texas.

Luken Baker is back after leading an offense that batted .302 and averaged seven runs a game. Like Schlossnagle, Baker shrugs at the Frogs' No. 1 ranking.

"It doesn't really mean anything," he said. "It's just a bigger target that we have to embrace and take on. We're excited to come out and get after it. As long as we stick to the process and stick to the plan, we can have an even better season than we

did last year."

As a freshman, the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Baker hit .379, drove in 62 runs and slugged 11 homers to share the team lead with Josh Watson. Baker pitched until he injured his arm in April, and he doesn't plan to be on the mound at all this season. He'll play first base or be the designated hitter.

The Frogs' only loss from the everyday lineup was outfielder Dane Steinhagen, but they get back Nolan Brown, a .302 hitter in 2015 who took a medical redshirt because of a hand injury. Brown will play center field, and Austen Wade will move to right.

Jared Janczak (7-4, 2.61 ERA) and Brian Howard (10-2, 3.19) are the top returning starting pitchers. Much is expected from freshman left-hander Nick Lodolo. He was the top unsigned draft pick after being taken No. 41 overall by Pittsburgh. Closer Durbin Feltman (3-0, 1.56) is coming off a strong freshman season. He went 9-for-9 in save situations and struck out 49 in 34²/₃ innings.

Ten other teams to watch:

■ **East Carolina:** Pirates came within one win of advancing to the CWS for the first time and are American Athletic Conference preseason favorites. OF Dwanya Williams-Sutton's .360 batting average led conference. P Evan Kruczynski (8-1, 2.01) had 95 Ks in 116²/₃ innings.

■ **Cal State Fullerton:** Titans have back three all-conference pitchers and are favored to win seventh Big West title in eight years.

■ **Florida:** Gators were overwhelming pick to win first national title last year but

went 0-2 in Omaha with a pair of one-run losses. They lost eight players to the draft, but there's plenty of returning players and incoming talent to make another run at a championship.

■ **Florida State:** All three weekend starters and most of the everyday lineup are back, and infielder Drew Mendoza is one of the top freshmen in the country.

■ **LSU:** Eight everyday players return along with top starting pitchers Alex Lange and Jared Poche' and bullpen ace Hunter Newman. Tigers looking to atone for getting swept by Coastal Carolina in home super regional.

■ **Maryland:** Terrapins are favored to win the Big Ten after slipping to seventh place last year. SS Kevin Smith is pegged to have a big year after being named D1Baseball.com's Breakout Summer Prospect.

■ **Oregon State:** Beavers have almost everybody back, and they're extremely motivated after last year's 35-win team was left out of the NCAA Tournament.

■ **South Carolina:** Defending SEC East champ Gamecocks return seven position players, and P Wil Crowe is back from Tommy John surgery.

■ **UC Santa Barbara:** Gauchos knocked off No. 2 and No. 3 national seeds on their way to CWS last year, and they bring in one of nation's top recruiting classes.

■ **Vanderbilt:** OF Jeren Kendall and P Kyle Wright are among best in nation. Commodores had to cope with death of freshman pitcher Donny Everett on eve of regional and failed to reach Super Regionals for first time since 2012.

Chanticleers looking to repeat as champs

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Eight months later, Coastal Carolina's surprise run to the national championship in its first College World Series appearance still resonates in eastern South Carolina.

"It not only has changed our program, it's changed our university," coach Gary Gilmore said. "I've been here 21 years, and at no time have I seen groups of people so proud to wear our gear, put our sticker on their car. You go to Wal-Mart and there are 10 or 12 people walking around with our gear on where in the past it's been all Clemson and South

Carolina stuff."

All those new fans, along with the old ones, want to know what the Chanticleers will do for an encore. Coastal Carolina led the nation with 96 home runs last season, and players accounting for 79 of them are gone. Only three everyday players are back, but the weekend rotation returns, including CWS Most Outstanding Player Andrew Beckwith. So does star reliever Bobby Holmes (7-2, 4.20).

"The expectations are every bit equal to last year," Gilmore said. "The way we have to go about it may be a little bit different as far as how we put our team together and what the

team's skill sets allow us to do. The goal is the same. It's to get back to Omaha."

Seth Lancaster, who missed the CWS after getting hurt in super regionals, moves from second base to third. He hit seven home runs, most of any returning player.

"We're not going to hit 108 home runs," Gilmore said, "but I think we'll hit more than people give us credit for."

The Chanticleers plan to be more aggressive on the bases. Billy Cooke is back after stealing a team-leading 27 bases. The Chanticleers finished with 112, and Gilmore said this team should be capable of 150.

Beckwith (15-1, 1.85 ERA) led the nation in wins, threw two complete games in the CWS and was the winner in the title-clinching victory against Arizona. Alex Cunningham (10-4, 3.62) and Jason Bilous (3-1, 4.43) are the other weekend starters.

Newcomers Wood Myers at second base, Jordan Gore at shortstop and Cory Wood in left field will join the lineup. Myers played at a junior college last season after spending two years at North Carolina, Gore transferred from South Carolina and Wood was one of the top high school players in North Carolina last year.

Northwestern scores marquee win

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The Northwestern Wildcats were dancing on the sideline before the second half started. They were downright giddy by the end of the game, stomping off the Kohl Center court.

In beating No. 7 Wisconsin 66-59 on Sunday, Northwestern secured an important win for the school's bid to make its first-ever NCAA tournament.

Bryant McIntosh scored 25 points and Dererk Pardon added 11 for the defensive-minded Wildcats (19-6, 8-4), who confounded the Big Ten-leading Badgers in part by doubling dominant big man Ethan Happ.

"I've talked about it since I've been here," fourth-year coach Chris Collins said. "We're trying to build a program to emulate what Wisconsin has done."

Nigel Hayes scored nine of his 13 points in the second half for the Badgers (21-4, 10-2), who had their eight-game winning streak snapped.

"For us, getting everybody's best shots, knowing that we're marked is good for us," coach Greg Gard said. "Nothing that happened this game is surprising, areas we need to improve upon."

The Badgers didn't let up despite falling behind by 10 points with 1 minute left, clos-

ing to 60-55 in less than 15 seconds after Zak Showalter hit two foul shots.

But McIntosh followed with two free throws with 42 seconds left, and Wisconsin ran out of time. McIntosh finished 10-for-23 from the field.

"I thought I was a gunner, but I never put 23 up in a game. ... I've got nothing to say to him anymore," Collins, a former Duke guard, joked as he looked in the direction of a smiling McIntosh.

Wisconsin opened the second half with a 10-0 run, looking as if it had solved its offensive woes. Northwestern pulled away for good answering with an 8-0 run capped by Pardon's dunk with 13:24 left to take a 39-32 lead.

Minus leading scorer Scottie Lindsey because of illness for a third straight game, Northwestern relied on defense to end a two-game skid.

Big picture

Northwestern: The Wildcats (40.3 percent) and Badgers (40.5 percent) led the Big Ten in field goal defense coming into the game. Wisconsin got off to a decent start from the field before the Wildcats knocked the offense out of rhythm with double-teams on Happ. Northwestern held Wisconsin to just two field goals over the

final 10 minutes of the first half to take a 31-22 lead at halftime.

Wisconsin: Happ isn't known for his jumper. But he made an open 17-footer early in the first half that had Badgers fans going nuts. One of the top big men in the Big Ten, Happ could be even more difficult to guard if the 6-foot-10 forward poses even the slightest threat of being able to hit from outside the post. But double-teams were the bigger problem on Sunday, especially when Happ got the ball deep in the post.

"I just need to continue to get the ball out sooner than later and not let them collapse on me," Happ said. "We got some good looks off of it. I guess we just need to keep shooting those."

Doubling down

Just as important for the Wildcats were the double-teams on Happ that forced turnovers and threw the Badgers out of rhythm. Wisconsin did get some decent looks at times, especially early in the second half. Overall, they didn't hit enough open shots.

Wisconsin similarly had some trouble against double-teams in a 70-69 win in overtime on Thursday at Nebraska.

"We just made a conscious decision. ... We've got to take away the paint," Collins said.

SMU stops Cincinnati's streak at 15

Associated Press

DALLAS — Ben Emelogu acknowledged that SMU players would have been lying if they said Cincinnati wasn't on their minds.

The 25th-ranked Mustangs got a bit of a revenge, and in the process took a slight lead in the American Athletic Conference standings.

Emelogu hit two three-pointers and made the tiebreaking free throw in the game-deciding 15-0 run for the Mustangs in a 60-51 win Sunday to snap a 15-game winning streak by No. 11 Cincinnati, which had also been responsible for the only loss by SMU in its previous 18 games.

"We've been chasing for a long time, Cincinnati's put a lot of pressure on us," SMU coach Tim Jankovich said. "Finally

to get the opportunity to get them back here. ... It does feel good to finally, finally be in this position."

No. 10 UCLA 78, Oregon St. 60: Lonzo Ball had 22 points and nine assists for the host Bruins.

Ball made nine of 12 shots as UCLA (23-3, 10-3 Pac-12) shot 52 percent while winning its fourth straight after consecutive losses at the end of January.

"I'm just taking what the game gives me," said Ball, who found himself on the finishing end of several alley-oop passes. "At the beginning of the season people were playing me to drive and pass. Today, I was just open a lot."

Virginia Tech 80, No. 12 Virginia 78 (20T): Seth Allen hit a short jumper in the lane with 3.2 seconds left in the second

overtime and the host Hokies beat the Cavaliers for the second consecutive year at Cassell Coliseum.

It was the third crushing loss Virginia has suffered in recent weeks, including a tip-in at the buzzer that gave Villanova a 61-59 victory in a game the Cavaliers dominated on Jan. 29, and a 66-62 loss at Syracuse on Feb. 4, again after Virginia had largely dominated.

Wichita State 81, Loyola of Chicago 64: Landry Shamet and Conner Frankamp each scored 16 points and the visiting Shockers pulled away from Loyola-Chicago for their eighth straight win.

Wichita State has won 14 of 15, and avenged its only loss in that stretch with a 41-point rout of conference co-leader Illinois State last weekend.

Vermont 77, UMBC 74: Dre Wills had 22 points and 13 rebounds, freshman Anthony Lamb scored 16, including three late free throws, and the visiting Catamounts held on for their 15th straight victory.

Vermont (23-5, 13-0 America East) tied a program record for most consecutive wins. UVM is only the eighth team in conference history to start 13-0.

Michigan 75, Indiana 63: Derrick Walton Jr. scored 25 points and Moritz Wagner had 11 points and 10 rebounds to lead the visiting Wolverines past Indiana.

Michigan (16-9, 6-6 Big Ten) won its second straight and just its 14th all-time in Bloomington.

De'Ron Davis finished with 13 points to lead the Hoosiers (15-11, 5-7), who have lost three in a row.

Knicks top Spurs to end homestand

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points as the New York Knicks salvaged the finale of a tumultuous five-game homestand by beating the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 on Sunday.

With Latrell Sprewell and a number of other former Knicks in attendance two days after Charles Oakley was banned, the current team pulled out a defensive performance from its past, limiting the Spurs to 36 percent shooting.

“That’s great to watch. That’s the right way to play basketball,” Knicks coach Jeff Hornacek said.

That came just two nights after the Knicks yielded 131 points in a dismal defensive performance against Denver, which came after losses to Cleveland and both Los Angeles

teams to start the homestand.

“They want us to compete. I understand that,” Anthony said of New York fans. “Win, lose or draw they want us to go out there and compete on a nightly basis and if we’d have lost this game today, this would have been a game where I can say we competed and the effort was there and everything was there.”

Kawhi Leonard had 36 points for the Spurs (41-13), who had their two-game win streak snapped and failed in their first attempt to secure what would have been an NBA-record 20th consecutive winning season.

The Knicks didn’t let the Spurs reach 70 points until fewer than 8 minutes remained. Then Anthony provided offense when they needed it clinging to a two-point lead, making consecutive baskets to make it 92-86 with 33 seconds remaining.

Anthony’s relationship with Phil Jackson and resulting trade rumors were a constant throughout the homestand, though the fallout from Oakley’s arrest after an altercation with security guards last Wednesday became the bigger story.

Timberwolves 117, Bulls 89: Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points and Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 to help host Minnesota beat visiting Chicago.

Ricky Rubio had 17 points, 11 assists and six rebounds and Minnesota shot 54 percent to help coach Tom Thibodeau sweep the season series against his former team. Gorgui Dieng added 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Kings 105, Pelicans 99: DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for host Sacramento,

which beat New Orleans for its third straight win.

The Kings assumed the lead late in the third quarter and never relinquished it in winning for the fourth time in five games.

The Kings have won three straight games only one other time this season.

Pistons 102, Raptors 101: Tobias Harris had 24 points off the bench and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 21, including a go-ahead three-pointer with 13.2 seconds left, as visiting Detroit overcame a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Toronto.

DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points for the Raptors and Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and nine rebounds, but it wasn’t enough to keep Toronto from losing for the 10th time in its last 14 games.

Rask lifts Cassidy to 3-0 start with Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins certainly look sparked by the coaching change.

Tuukka Rask posted his first career regular-season home win over Montreal by making 25 saves for his sixth shutout, 39-year-old Zdeno Chara had an impressive move on his short-handed goal and the Bruins improved to 3-0 under interim coach Bruce Cassidy with an impressive 4-0 victory over the Canadiens on Sunday night.

The Bruins have recorded 14 total goals in the games under Cassidy, more than any other three-game stretch this season under fired coach Claude Julien.

“We definitely have played like that,” Rask said. “Obviously when you score a lot of goals, it’s easy to be energized, but I think everybody is skating hard and we’re playing as a five-man unit and being creative in the offensive zone.”

Adam McQuaid, David Krejci and Frank Vatrano also scored for Boston, which won for the sixth time in eight games. Rask entered 0-9-3 at TD Garden during the regular season against Montreal.

“I hope they’re confident. They should be,” Cassidy said. “They’ve played well and rebounded when stretches haven’t

gone well or got a goal scored against us.”

Cassidy replaced Julien earlier in the week. Julien was in his 10th season with the team and led them to the 2011 Stanley Cup.

Carey Price had 32 saves for the Canadiens, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

“We seem to have lost our identity,” Price said. “We’re a little loose. We just have to take a step back and get refocused.”

The 51-year-old Cassidy was with the team’s AHL club in Providence for nine seasons before becoming an assistant with Boston this season. He also coached the Washington Capitals from 2002-04.

Wild 6, Red Wings 3: Zach Parise scored twice and Devan Dubnyk made 30 saves to help Western Conference-leading Minnesota beat visiting Detroit.

Charlie Coyle added a goal and an assist, and the Wild scored three power-play goals in four chances. Minnesota leads Chicago by five points and has played two fewer games than the Blackhawks.

Predators 5, Stars 3: Filip Forsberg scored a short-handed goal 6:02 into the third period as host Nashville overcame a three-goal deficit to beat Dallas.

Roman Josi scored twice, Calle Jarnkrok had the tying goal 4:40 into the third,

and Mike Fisher added an empty-netter with 1:38 left. James Neal and P.K. Subban each had two assists.

Sharks 4, Devils 1: Brent Burns scored two goals as San Jose beat host New Jersey to snap a four-game losing streak.

Joe Thornton had a goal and an assist for the Sharks, Kevin Labanc added two assists, and Tomas Hertl had an empty-net tally late in the third period. Martin Jones made 21 saves.

PA Parenteau scored for the Devils.

Islanders 5, Avalanche 1: Anders Lee scored two of New York’s three third-period goals to lead the host Islanders past NHL-worst Colorado.

Nick Leddy had a goal and two assists, Ryan Strome and Jason Chimera also scored, and Jean-Francois Berube stopped 25 shots. New York improved to 7-0-2 in its last nine at home.

The Islanders pulled one point behind Toronto and Philadelphia for the second wild-card spot in Eastern Conference.

Canucks 4, Sabres 2: Alexandre Burrows scored for Vancouver and got under host Buffalo’s skin with his pesky play.

Burrows scored the go-ahead goal five minutes into the second period and also had an assist.