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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Flynn resigns from key security post

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump ousted his national security adviser because he lost trust in him, not for any legal concern, Trump's spokesman said Tuesday.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said that the "erosion of that trust" over the circumstances surrounding retired Gen. Michael Flynn's calls with the Russian ambassador to the U.S. created "a critical mass and an unsustainable situation."

Flynn's ouster appeared to be driven more by the idea that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials than by the content of his discussions with Russia's ambassador. Still, the matter deepened questions about Trump's friendly posture toward Russia.

"This was an act of trust — whether or not he misled the vice president was the issue and that was ultimately what led to the president asking for

and accepting the resignation of Gen. Flynn," Spicer said.

Flynn's resignation came after reports that the Justice Department had alerted the White House weeks ago that there were contradictions between Trump officials' public accounting of the Russia contacts and what intelligence officials knew to be true based on routine recordings of communications with foreign officials who are in the U.S.

Spicer said White House counsel's office reviewed the situation after it was flagged by the Department of Justice, and along with the president, the counsel determined that it did not pose a legal problem. He declined to comment on whether anyone at the White House had read transcripts of the calls between Flynn and the ambassador.

The revelations were another destabilizing blow to an administration that has already suffered a major legal defeat on immigration, botched the

implementation of a signature policy and stumbled through a string of embarrassing public relations missteps.

White House officials haven't said when Trump was told of the Justice Department warning or why Flynn had been allowed to stay on the job with access to a full range of intelligence materials.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a longtime Russia critic, said Congress needs to know what Flynn discussed with the ambassador and why.

Pence and others, apparently relying on information from Flynn, had said the national security adviser did not discuss U.S. economic sanctions against Russia with the Russian envoy during the presidential transition. Flynn later told officials the sanctions may have been discussed, the latest change in his account of his pre-inauguration discussions with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Such conversations would breach diplomatic protocol

and possibly violate the Logan Act, a law aimed at keeping private citizens from conducting U.S. diplomacy. The Justice Department had warned the White House late last month that Flynn could be at risk for blackmail because of contradictions between his public depictions of the calls and what intelligence officials.

Asked whether Trump had been aware that Flynn might have planned to discuss sanctions with the Russian envoy, Spicer said, "No, absolutely not."

Trump named retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg as the acting national security adviser. Kellogg had previously been appointed the National Security Council chief of staff and advised Trump during the campaign. Trump is also considering former CIA Director David Petraeus and Vice Adm. Robert Harward, a U.S. Navy SEAL, for the post, according to a senior administration official.

11 GOP senators urge Trump to retain, grow Gitmo

Miami Herald

MIAMI — A group of Republican senators has written President Donald Trump to not only keep the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but to suspend the parole-style review board and grow the prison population.

Four of the 11 senators who wrote Trump represent Colorado, Kansas and South Carolina — states the Obama administration had considered as possible sites for relocation of the last 41 Guantanamo detainees.

They called the prison a "vital mission" and "an invaluable asset" and criticized for-

mer President Barack Obama's releases and closure ambition as "blatant disregard for the safety of the American people." About 780 captives have been held there over the years; most were released by former President George W. Bush, who opened the detention center in 2002.

The senators wrote that Guantanamo "should continue to serve in detaining terrorists who engaged in, aided, or abetted, or conspired to commit, acts of international terrorism and other adverse acts against the United States."

They also appeared to support the president's campaign

pledge to "load it up with some bad dudes," saying they support "expanding the utilization of the detention facility during your administration by detaining current and future enemy combatants who pose a threat to our national security."

The senators urged the president to suspend any future releases — five of the last 41 captives are cleared to go to other countries with security arrangements that satisfy Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis — and to freeze the actions of the Periodic Review Board.

Obama set it up to let delegates of six national security divisions, from the Pentagon

to the Director of National Intelligence to the Department of Homeland Security, review each captive's case and decide whether he can be released with security arrangements. The senators argue that the board's standard for recommending release should be changed.

The 11 senators who signed the letter are John Boozman and Tom Cotton, of Arkansas; Cory Gardner, of Colorado; Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, of Kansas; Roy Blunt, of Missouri; Steve Daines, of Montana; Thom Tillis, of North Carolina; James Inhofe, of Oklahoma; Tim Scott, of South Carolina; and Orrin Hatch, of Utah.

NATO to review its command structure

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

BRUSSELS — NATO's top official said Tuesday that the alliance will review its command structure to ensure it can respond to new threats, a move that comes as President Donald Trump is pressuring allies to increase military spending and adapt to threats such as terrorism.

NATO defense ministers kick off two days of talks in Brussels on Wednesday, and the failure of the majority of the alliance's 28 members to meet defense spending goals will top the agenda, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

"In my two phone calls with President Trump, defense spending has been a main

topic," Stoltenberg told a news conference Tuesday. He added that the new American leader repeatedly emphasized that all members must shoulder a larger share of the security burden.

When Defense Secretary Jim Mattis arrives at NATO headquarters on Wednesday, efforts at reassuring allies nervous about Washington's commitment to the 28-nation alliance will be complicated by a Trump administration agenda that appears set on disrupting the status quo inside the bloc.

Mattis' meetings at NATO headquarters will be followed by high-level talks at the Munich Security Conference, where the Western foreign policy establishment will assemble to consider the implications of the Trump presidency.

The back-to-back meetings during Mattis' first European trip come as many allies fret that Trump could spell doom for a post-Cold War order that has relied on institutions like NATO and the European Union.

'Consequential' year

"[2017] could be the most consequential for Europe since the Berlin Wall fell, or maybe even since the end of World War II," Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, wrote in a recent editorial. "It is no exaggeration to say that the European Union's future lies in the balance."

Mattis' public statements on the value of NATO and the need for a firm stance against Russia have been a source of reassurance in parts of Europe rattled by Trump's overtures to Mos-

cow and his mixed signals about NATO's worth. The rhetorical gap between the two men hasn't gone unnoticed.

In Brussels and Munich, a top task for Mattis will be blunting a sense of panic in some European capitals since Trump's election, analysts say.

"His primary mission at this NATO ministerial is reassurance and to try to offer a clear view on the administration's approach on things like Russia," said Luke Coffey, an expert on NATO with the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington.

"What is the administration's policy now toward Russia?" asked John R. Deni, a professor at the U.S. Army War College. "That is the big question, and we don't know the answer."

PACOM chief says US needs Thailand to be 'strong' ally

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

The head of Pacific Command called on Thailand to return to democracy as one of the world's largest multinational military events kicked off Tuesday.

Now in its 36th year, Cobra Gold includes more than 8,000 participants and observers from 29 countries, including 3,600 servicemembers from the United States.

"We look forward to Thailand's re-emergence as a flourishing democracy because we need Thailand as a strong and stable ally," Adm. Harry Harris said Tuesday, according to The Associated Press. "We need Thailand to get back to being the regional and global leader that it always has been."

Harris is the highest-ranking American military official to visit Thailand since a 2014 coup put the country under military rule. Under the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, American forces are limited in the training they can conduct alongside nations

that have overthrown a democratically elected government.

The coup has strained but not severed relations with Thailand, one of the United States' security allies in the Western Pacific, along with the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

"Folks, our alliance is a big deal," Harris said, according to the AP. "Nations don't enter security treaty alliances lightly. It means we're in it for the long haul."

The U.S. values Thailand's location and well-equipped bases as strategically critical, while Thailand values access to U.S. tactics and procedures.

The U.S. contingent at this year's Cobra Gold is 7,000 fewer troops than the U.S. sent in the year prior to the coup, but an increase over the 3,300 who participated last year.

"Cobra Gold, like the 10-generation-long U.S.-Thai friendship from which it arose, has a long history and deep roots," U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Glyn Davies said.

Officials: US military used depleted uranium in Syria

Foreign Policy

Officials have confirmed that the U.S. military, despite vowing not to use depleted uranium weapons on the battlefield in Iraq and Syria, fired thousands of rounds of such munitions during two high-profile raids on oil trucks in Islamic State-controlled Syria in late 2015.

The air assaults mark the first confirmed use of this armament since the 2003 Iraq invasion, when it was used hundreds of thousands of times, setting off outrage among local communities which alleged that its toxic material caused cancer and birth defects.

U.S. Central Command spokesman Maj. Josh Jacques told Airwars and Foreign Policy that 5,265 armor-piercing 30 mm rounds containing depleted uranium, or DU, were shot from Air Force A-10 fixed-wing aircraft on Nov. 16 and Nov. 22, 2015, destroying about 250 vehicles in the country's eastern desert.

Earlier in the campaign,

both coalition and U.S. officials said the ammunition had not and would not be used in anti-Islamic State operations.

In March 2015, coalition spokesman John Moore said, "U.S. and coalition aircraft have not been and will not be using depleted uranium munitions in Iraq or Syria during Operation Inherent Resolve."

Later that month, a Pentagon representative told War is Boring that A-10s deployed in the region would not have access to armor-piercing ammunition containing DU because the Islamic State group didn't possess the tanks it is designed to penetrate.

It remains unclear if the November 2015 strikes occurred near populated areas. In 2003, hundreds of thousands of rounds were shot in densely settled areas during the American invasion, leading to deep resentment and fear among Iraqi civilians and anger at the highest levels of government in Baghdad.

Trump travel ban again loses in court; bias cited

Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — A federal judge Monday granted a preliminary injunction barring the Trump administration from implementing its travel ban in Virginia, adding another judicial ruling to those already in place challenging the ban's constitutionality.

The ruling is significant from a legal standpoint because U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema found that an unconstitutional religious bias is at the heart of the travel ban, and therefore violates First Amendment prohibitions on favoring one religion over another. She said the evidence introduced so far indicates that Virginia's challenge to the ban will succeed once it proceeds to trial.

A federal appeals court in California has already upheld a national temporary restraining order stopping the government from implementing the ban, which is directed at seven Muslim-majority countries. But the ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals was rooted more in due process grounds, said Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat who brought the lawsuit against Trump in Virginia.

In her 22-page ruling,

Brinkema writes that Trump's promises during the campaign to implement what came to be known as a "Muslim ban" provide evidence that the current executive order unconstitutionally targets Muslims.

"The president himself acknowledged the conceptual link between a Muslim ban and the EO (executive order)," Brinkema wrote. She also cited news accounts that Trump adviser Rudy Giuliani said the executive order is an effort to find a legal way for Trump to be able to impose his Muslim ban.

The preliminary injunction issued Monday night by Brinkema in Alexandria, Va., is a more permanent type of injunction than the temporary restraining order issued in the Washington state case. Herring said he expects the injunction to remain in place until the case goes to trial. Brinkema's injunction, though, applies only to Virginia residents.

In her ruling, Brinkema said the administration offered no justification for the travel ban, and wrote that the president's executive power "does not mean absolute power."

A Justice Department spokeswoman did not immediately return an email seeking comment Monday night.

Senate confirms Shulkin to lead VA

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In a unanimous vote Monday night, the Senate confirmed David Shulkin as the next secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, making him the most easily confirmed of all President Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees.

Shulkin — the first person without military service to run the VA — was expected to be sworn in Tuesday. In contrast to many of Trump's Cabinet appointments who faced contested nominations from Democrats, the Senate voted 100-0 to confirm Shulkin after only five minutes of debate.

In a brief speech before the vote, Sen. Jon Tester, of Montana, the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, urged other Democrats to support Shulkin. He cited Shulkin's opposition to privatizing the department — an idea that garnered strong objections from Democrats and some veterans organizations.

"The solutions to the VA should be based on common

sense rather than partisanship or an extreme agenda, and I think Dr. Shulkin recognizes that," Tester said. "He has assured me he would oppose efforts to privatize the VA. The administration has talked about this extensively, and it's a path that is reckless for our veterans."

Shulkin, 57, also experienced an amiable confirmation hearing Feb. 1 and a quick, unanimous approval from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Feb. 7.

Shulkin, a physician, previously worked as VA undersecretary for health and oversaw the country's largest health care system, which comprises 1,700 facilities. President Barack Obama appointed him to that position in 2015. Now he'll take over its approximately 370,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$180 billion.

As of Tuesday, Shulkin had yet to name a deputy secretary — a position that includes directing department policy and operations. Sloan Gibson served as deputy secretary under former VA Secretary Bob McDonald.

Dam that brings revenue to Calif. towns now brings fear

Associated Press

OROVILLE, Calif. — A huge Northern California reservoir, held in place by a massive dam, has always been central to the life of the towns around it.

Now the lake that has brought them holiday fireworks and salmon festivals could bring disaster.

Nearly 200,000 people, who evacuated Sunday over fears that a damaged spillway at Lake Oroville could fail and unleash a wall of water, have to stay away indefinitely while officials race to repair it before more rains arrive Thursday.

Evacuees felt strange on Monday to see their beloved

lake associated with urgent voices on the national news.

"Never in our lives did we think anything like this would have happened," said Brannan Ramirez, who has lived in Oroville, a town of about 16,000 people, for about five years.

The gold-rush town in the Sierra Nevada foothills some 70 miles northeast of Sacramento is nestled near the foot of the dam, which at 770 feet is the nation's largest. Houses and churches are perched on tree-lined streets near the Feather River. Old, ornate Victorian homes sit alongside smaller bungalows.

"Everybody knows to go there for the Fourth of July,"

evacuee Crystal Roberts-Lynch said of the lake. "Then there's festivals wrapped around the salmon run." The mother of three, who has lived in Oroville for 10 years, was staying at a Red Cross evacuation center in Chico.

"The lake brings in an enormous part of the economy for the town. It definitely is a people-catcher," Ramirez said. "We get people from all over the country."

Cities and towns farther down the Feather River also are in danger. The region is largely rural and its politics dominated by rice growers and other agricultural interests. For now, it's all at the mercy of the

reservoir that usually sustains it and provides water for much of the state.

Over the weekend, the swollen lake spilled down the unpaved, emergency spillway, which had never been used before, for nearly 40 hours, leaving it badly eroded and with a huge hole caused by a chunk of concrete.

On Monday, helicopters and trucks were trying to fill in the damaged area with giant bags full of rocks. The water level was slowly dropping and the amounts being discharged at the main spillway are the same as are normally released this time of year.

Malaysian official: Kim's half-brother slain

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The older half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was attacked Monday at a Kuala Lumpur airport and died en route to a hospital, a senior Malaysian official told *The Associated Press*.

South Korean media, quoting unidentified government sources in Seoul, said the half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, was attacked by two women with poison needles. The Malaysian official, who refused to be identified, told the AP that Kim was attacked with a spray in the shopping area.

He was rushed to a hospital but died en route, the official said. South Korean media reports said the assailants,

believed to be North Korean agents, fled and remained at large Tuesday. District police chief Abdul Aziz Ali said Kim Jong Nam was waiting to board a flight to Macau, where he had been living in recent years.

The reported death came ahead of planned birthday celebrations Thursday for the country's late ruler Kim Jong Il, father of both Kims. Kim Jong Nam was born in 1971, son of Kim Jong Il and an actress who was not his wife.

Nevertheless, Kim Jong Nam was long considered the heir apparent but was believed to have fallen out of favor with his father after he was caught in 2001 trying to enter Japan on a false passport, telling Japanese police he wanted to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

That set the stage for Kim Jong Un to take power after his father died of a heart attack in 2011.

Reports involving the secretive North Korean leadership often prove untrue or exaggerated. If true, the death would mark a stunning development as the country is embroiled in a showdown with the United States and its allies over its nuclear and missile programs and purported diplomatic strains with China.

The younger Kim has conducted several purges as he has moved to consolidate his power. Kim's brother was believed close to his once-powerful uncle, Jang Song Thaek, who was branded a "traitor" and executed in December 2013.

His cousin, Lee Han-young,

defected to South Korea in 1982 but was shot and killed by North Korean agents in Seoul 15 years later, according to South Korea.

The Kim family dynasty has ruled the country since it was established in 1948. A day before Kim Jong Un was officially proclaimed as their father's successor, Kim Jong Nam told Japan's Asahi TV that he opposed dynastic succession although he did not oppose his brother's rise to power because of unspecified "internal factors."

North Korea has faced a groundswell of international condemnation this week after it test-fired an intermediate-range missile despite U.N. Security Council resolutions aimed at stopping its nuclear weapons program.

Trump puts pot industry on edge

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Marijuana mogul Seibo Shen, 40, is accustomed to fighting — but it is usually on the jiu-jitsu mat, where the undefeated champion prefers to engage completely baked.

"You know that movie 'Drunken Master?'" he asked, referring to the cult film about a martial-arts master whose secret weapon is inebriation. "It's like that. I like to consume so much before a competition that they are literally walking me onto the mat."

Shen, founder of a thriving startup that hawks luxury vaporizers at \$450 a pop, might want to stock up for an impending match that could prove epic. His opponent? President Donald Trump's Justice Department.

Shen is among the swiftly growing ranks of marijuana entrepreneurs who could be headed for a showdown with the federal government.

The election of Trump has shocked the marijuana industry into a state of high alert at a time it had planned to be gliding into unbridled growth. Trump's newly confirmed attorney general, former Alabama Sen. Jeff

Sessions, is a longtime field lieutenant in the war on drugs, with unabashed hostility toward pot. It was only 10 months ago that Sessions was scolding from the dais of a Senate hearing room that the drug is dangerous, not funny and that "good people don't smoke marijuana."

Now, he is poised to set the direction on national drug enforcement policy at the same time that eight states have legalized recreational use of the drug. Some 60 million Americans are living in states where voters have opted to allow any adult to be able to purchase marijuana.

Those who have been in the business since the early days of medical marijuana caution the legions of newcomers that federal busts and seizures could quickly make a comeback. Sessions very deliberately left that option open during his confirmation hearing.

"There are people in this administration who will crush this industry if they see the opportunity," said Steve DeAngelo, who is considered a guru among pot entrepreneurs.

Passengers flee when pilot starts ranting

The Washington Post

Passengers reportedly fled a flight before it could take off on Saturday after a United Airlines pilot went on a bizarre rant over the intercom.

In a ball cap and casual shirt, the pilot remarked on her appearance after she boarded the flight at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in the late afternoon, passenger Randy Reiss wrote on Twitter.

"Then she says 'sorry, I'm going through (a) divorce,'" Reiss wrote. "Ummmm uh oh."

Reiss told BuzzFeed that other passengers even sympathized with "oh's and aw's" — at first.

As her speech veered from her personal life into a string of non sequiturs, the mood aboard the San Francisco-bound jet turned from cozy to uncomfortable, to worse.

"She's like 'I don't care if you voted for Trump or Clinton. They're both (expletive),' " Reiss wrote.

"So I'll stop and we'll fly the airplane," she says in another passenger's video. "Don't worry. I'm going to let my copilot fly it. He's a man."

Reiss got out of his seat, collected his bag and made for the exit. "Half the flight followed my lede," he wrote.

"OK, if you don't feel safe get off the airplane, but otherwise we can go," the pilot says in the video, still cheerful, as her passengers begin to revolt.

Reiss posted a photo of a police officer standing by after the pilot followed her passengers back to the terminal.

United Airlines did not immediately reply to *The Washington Post's* questions about the incident: who the pilot was, whether she would have been allowed to fly had her passengers not fled and whether she had been disciplined.

"We removed her from the flight," a spokesperson for the airline told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "We're going to discuss this matter with her."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Memo: Officers told to harass 'cockroaches'

WV ELKINS — A prosecutor is reviewing a former West Virginia police chief's instruction for officers to harass and put fear into "any suspected cockroach" in the community.

Media outlets report that in an inter-office memorandum, Elkins' then-Police Chief Craig Cross said he wanted officers to harass people carrying knives or backpacks or wearing hoodies. Cross said he wanted officers to make such people fear and respect the law.

It wasn't clear when the memo was issued. Cross resigned as police chief last month.

The city of Elkins issued a statement last week that Randolph County Prosecutor Michael Parker has subpoenaed the memo.

Woman shot in store after man drops gun

FL COCONUT CREEK — A South Florida man is facing a negligence charge after his gun dropped from his clothing and discharged and a bullet hit another customer in a donut shop.

NBC 6 in South Florida reported that Randy Barroso, 38, turned himself in Saturday after leaving the scene of the shooting in a Dunkin' Donuts shop in Coconut Creek.

The 55-year-old woman was taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Man charged in Capitol burglary, vandalism

PA HARRISBURG — A 27-year-old man faced burglary, vandalism and resisting arrest charges after he allegedly broke into the ornate

Pennsylvania Capitol building following a night of drinking, damaged signs and sprayed fire suppressant around Senate corridors.

Capitol Police identified the man Monday as Ryan William Stump, of Gettysburg. He was also charged with public drunkenness, mischief, disorderly conduct and trespassing.

Stump allegedly broke into the Capitol building through a first-floor window just before 2 a.m. Sunday. A Senate security officer heard noises and called Capitol Police, who arrested Stump after a short chase.

Stump posted \$25,000 bail and was released.

Suspect uses hammer in jewelry store robbery

CA SOUTH EL MONTE — Los Angeles County authorities are searching for a suspect who dressed as a construction worker and pulled off a smash-and-grab robbery at a South El Monte jewelry store.

KABC-TV on Monday aired security camera footage of the thief — wearing a mask, a hard hat and a fluorescent vest — as he used a hammer to bash in a glass case on Feb. 8. He ran off with a handful of gold jewelry as the store's owner lunges after him and stunned customers look on. Nobody was hurt.

Man who hid, touched women's feet sentenced

NE LINCOLN — A 20-year-old Lincoln man has been given probation for hiding under parked vehicles and touching women's feet.

Online court records say Jesse Johnson was sentenced Friday to two years of probation on each of five convictions for disturbing the peace. He'd pleaded no contest after prosecutors dropped other charges. The sentences are to run at the

same time.

Lincoln police said five women last year reported that as they stepped into their vehicles in public lots, someone under their vehicles grabbed their feet or ankles.

Surgery museum plans exhibit on sex changes

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago museum that chronicles the history of surgery is planning an exhibit on sex-reassignment procedures.

Collin Pressler, the International Museum of Surgical Science's director of exhibitions, told the Chicago Sun-Times he hopes the museum can help "demystify" the "relatively obscure" topic.

Pressler said museum officials have seen the issue become a flash point in social, culture and political conversations and the museum hopes to be able to contribute to the discussion in medical and surgical terms.

Sentencing of drunken defendant draws fire

NE OMAHA — A public defender said someone should have stopped an Omaha hearing before a judge sentenced an apparently intoxicated woman who, minutes later, tested out 5½ times the legal limit to drive.

The Omaha World-Herald reported the judge gave Sarah Carr 90 days after she acknowledged violating probation by being arrested Oct. 25 on suspicion of drunken driving.

Her aunt told the judge that Carr was not at the Feb. 2 hearing because she was passed out drunk outside. A wheelchair soon was used to take Carr into the Omaha courtroom.

The judge told the World-Herald he couldn't be certain Carr was drunk at the hearing,

but county Public Defender Tom Riley said the judge, the prosecutor or Carr's court-appointed attorney should have sought a delay.

Man admits to stealing while carrying mail

KS WICHITA — A Kansas man pleaded guilty to stealing mail while working as a mail carrier.

The U.S. attorney's office said Gary Yenser, 34, of Derby, pleaded guilty Friday to one count of theft of U.S. mail.

Investigators learned Yenser looked for birthday and anniversary cards while delivering mail last year in rural Sedgwick County. Prosecutors said he kept the cash he removed and sold some of the gift cards for cash, but he did not use the gift cards for fear they would be traced to him.

The government has agreed to recommend a sentence of a year and a day in prison.

Man is accused of having sex with dog

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — An Atlanta-area man turned himself in after he was accused of engaging in a sex act with a dog while working as a landscaper.

Citing jail records, news outlets reported that Craig Barreralugo, 61, turned himself in to authorities Monday.

A Lawrenceville man called police Saturday to report that he was playing in his yard with his nephew when they saw Barreralugo participating in "a lewd sexual act" with their dog. The man said Barreralugo fled when he realized he'd been seen. Police said surveillance video captured the incident.

Barreralugo has been charged with bestiality and cruelty to children.

From wire reports

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UConn women earn 100th straight win

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Add 100 consecutive wins to the UConn Huskies' long list of milestones.

Given the team's glitzier numbers linked to national championships, 11 titles and counting, it may seem ho-hum with no added significance. Geno Auriemma's squad already owns the longest winning streak in Division I college basketball history. UConn beat its own record of 90 consecutive wins earlier this season with little fanfare.

"I hope we can focus on the season and what's coming up next and whatever's in store for this team," Auriemma said. "Let's get it over with and move onto the next thing which is more important in the big scheme of things for these players anyway. This 100-win streak isn't theirs but if they win a national championship that's all theirs."

"That means a lot more if we're able to do that down the road."

Getting No. 100 was a little tougher than many of the pre-

vious 99, which UConn won by an average 38.7 points. Gabby Williams scored a career-high 26 points and Napheesa Collier added 18 to help the top-ranked Huskies beat No. 6 South Carolina 66-55 on Monday night in front of a sellout crowd of 10,167 that included past greats Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Tina Charles and Breanna Stewart, who helped the Huskies to the first 75 wins of this streak.

"They carried the torch across the finish line to 100, Auriemma said. "If it's a relay, they took the last baton to 100. If we win a national championship it's all theirs. I want to focus on trying to do that instead of worrying about the other stuff."

The current group of Huskies (25-0) had to work for this win. South Carolina (21-3) used its stellar interior game of A'ja Wilson and Alaina Coates to take a 29-28 advantage late in the first half. The Huskies responded, scoring the final seven points before the break. Collier and Williams had all of them, including a steal and layup by Collier with 3 seconds left.

"They are opportunistic,"

South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "They wait for you to make the mistakes and don't foul a whole lot. ... You have to execute it for 40 minutes, if you don't they'll make you pay."

South Carolina cut its deficit to 40-37 midway through the third quarter, but Williams had consecutive layups to start an 11-2 run to close the period and basically seal the win.

"We just tried to stay poised and keep our composure, and just be more confident than the other team," Williams said.

After the game ended, fake hundred dollar bills dropped from the roof of the arena with Auriemma's face on them. The student section spelled out 100.

Auriemma never thought his team would come close to reaching the century mark, let alone break the previous record set by the Huskies from 2008-10. The Hall of Fame coach set up the most difficult non-conference schedule in the country, playing five of the top eight teams in the AP before Monday, including road games at No. 2 Maryland, No. 4 Florida State and No. 7 Notre Dame.

UConn came away victorious in each one.

"There were a lot of wins up in the stands tonight and a lot of championships," Auriemma said. "If this would have been done by last year's team, I think it would have been less heroic. ... For this team to do it, given where we started and where people projected us to be, given who we had coming back and given who everybody else had coming back, for them to do it I think is very appropriate."

Chasing 131: UConn is still short of the overall college basketball record for consecutive wins. The Wayland Baptist women's basketball team in Plainview, Texas, won 131 straight from 1953-58.

Struggling Samuelson: Leading scorer Katie Lou Samuelson had a game to forget. She missed her first eight shots before scoring her first points with 6:54 left in the third quarter. She came into the game averaging 21.4 points and finished with just six points on 2-for-12 shooting.

Spurs clinch 20th straight winning season

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kawhi Leonard kept the faith Monday night.

Eventually, LaMarcus Aldridge came through, too.

Together, the new faces of the Spurs produced a familiar result — a 110-106 victory at Indiana for another milestone moment. With their 42nd victory, the Spurs extended their streak of consecutive winning seasons to a league-record 20.

"It was a heck of a competitive game," coach Gregg Popovich said. "It was real physical and aggressive. I thought both teams played real well. I'm obviously thrilled with a win on the road. It could have gone either way."

The Spurs have had a winning record every season since

Tim Duncan was a rookie in 1997-98, this one coming after his retirement. Utah had set the record with 19 straight winning seasons from 1985-2004.

So, of course the Spurs did it their way.

They struggled early, gave away the lead in the fourth quarter after it looked like they might pull away and then had to grind it out with a 13-4 closing run after the Pacers retook a 97-94 lead with 4:08 left.

Celtics 111, Mavericks 98: Isaiah Thomas had 29 points and eight assists while his backcourt mate Marcus Smart added 19 points against his hometown team as visiting Boston beat Dallas.

Wizards 120, Thunder 98: Russell Westbrook sat down for good midway through the third

quarter while Oklahoma City was in the midst of missing 24 consecutive shots as Bradley Beal and John Wall carried host Washington to a stunningly lopsided victory.

Clippers 88, Jazz 72: Blake Griffin had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as Los Angeles rolled over host Utah.

Magic 116, Heat 107: Evan Fournier scored 24 points and Elfrid Payton added 20 off the bench as visiting Orlando beat Miami to snap a four-game losing streak.

76ers 105, Hornets 99: Dario Saric had 18 points and 11 rebounds off the bench as visiting Philadelphia beat slumping Charlotte for its third straight win.

Grizzlies 112, Nets 103: Mike Conley scored 32 points

while Marc Gasol had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as visiting Memphis beat hapless Brooklyn.

Pelicans 110, Suns 108: Anthony Davis scored six consecutive points, the last two the go-ahead rebound basket with 40.3 seconds to play, as visiting New Orleans escaped with a victory over Phoenix.

Bucks 102, Pistons 89: Greg Monroe had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Michael Beasley added 23 points as Milwaukee beat Detroit, winning its first home game since star forward Jabari Parker got hurt.

Hawks 109, Trail Blazers 104 (OT): Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 points and Dennis Schroder added 22 as visiting Atlanta scored the final 12 points of overtime.

Collins hopes to keep Mets' rotation healthy

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Terry Collins has his projected top five starting pitchers together in spring training for the first time in two years. Now the New York Mets manager hopes they stay healthy.

"You see them feeding off one another. They're sitting there, five lockers next to one another. You keep those guys healthy and run them out there as much as we can and they're going to get people out and we're going to win baseball games," Collins said Monday as pitchers and catchers reported. "If you can get 30 starts (each) out of those five guys, I'll take my chances."

Likely opening day starter Noah Syndergaard, the only one of the quintet who has avoided surgery, spoke Sunday after arriving, and Matt Harvey, Ste-

ven Matz, Jacob deGrom and Zack Wheeler gave medical updates Monday.

Collins and pitching coach Dan Warthen have cut back on their workload early in camp.

"When you're talking about the injuries that occur to pitchers, a lot of has to do with the fact that perhaps we throw too much too early. We're not going to do that this year," Collins said. "You'll see tomorrow. There will be no throwing in drills. Dan and I sat down and figured out we can save a hundred throws a day by not having them throw in drills."

Harvey missed 2014 following Tommy John surgery, was a dominant presence as the Mets won the NL pennant in 2015, then struggled to a 4-10 record last season before surgery in July to repair a thoracic outlet syndrome injury.

"I was able to (get into) my

normal offseason program. That made a difference rather than when I had the Tommy John surgery and had the whole offseason off," Harvey said.

He threw early Monday.

"I saw the fire I've seen in the past," Collins said. "He wants to be back on top. He likes to be the No. 1."

The lone lefty, Matz is on a normal schedule after he had bone spurs removed from his pitching elbow and a platelet-rich plasma injection in his left shoulder.

"Not pushing it too soon is kind of the idea, but I don't think anything's different," Matz said. "I'm coming into the spring, in my mind, like it's a normal spring training."

DeGrom was hurt in camp last spring training and struggled to get his velocity back. Wheeler had Tommy John surgery in March 2015 and his

minor league injury rehabilitation assignment last summer was cut short after one inning.

"I'm not getting my hopes up for one second. I hope I'm good; I hope I'm ready. I've done everything I could," Wheeler said. "It hasn't been fun, I tell you that, down here watching these guys play on TV every day."

Robert Gsellman and Seth Lugo are also candidates for the No. 5 rotation spot. Collins knows he will have Wheeler for a limited number of innings; the manager said he would rather have Wheeler, who may appear in the bullpen, at the season's end rather than the beginning.

"We're going to get him ready to start," Collins said. "We certainly think we're going to make a good run, and we'd like to have those innings late in the season when they're going to mean so much."

Evans, Texas Tech knock off fourth-ranked Baylor

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Keenan Evans and Texas Tech didn't have to wait long for another chance against a top-five team at home.

This time, the Red Raiders came out on top with a late rally after blowing a big early lead.

Evans scored 23 points, Niem Stevenson had 21 and Texas Tech toppled fourth-ranked Baylor 84-78 on Monday night, two days after a one-point loss at home to Big 12-leading and third-ranked Kansas.

"We've known the whole time that we can beat these teams," Evans said. "Especially Kansas, we let that one slip away. But, we knew coming in it was going to be a battle. We knew that we could come out with a win."

Texas Tech (17-9, 5-8 Big 12) rallied in the second half after squandering an early 12-point lead. The Red Raiders opened the game with an 11-0 run and used an identical spurt late in the game to go ahead to stay.

"People look at a number and they see [No. 4] and they see non-ranked and they think there's a big difference," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "Coaches know there's not a big difference. These are one-possession games. A one-possession league."

Justin Gray added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Zach Smith scored 11 for the Red Raiders, who before their 80-79 home loss to Kansas on Saturday had a one-point loss at TCU last Wednesday.

Terry Maston led Baylor (22-4, 9-4) with a career-high 22 points. Manu Lecomte, who fouled out after a technical in the second half, finished with 16.

Jo Lual-Acuil Jr. and Johnathan Motley had 11 points apiece for the Bears. Motley, who entered the game leading Baylor and ranked fourth in the Big 12 with an average of 16.9 points per game, didn't score until after halftime.

"They doubled him really hard, so it opened up lanes for

me and spacing was pretty good," Maston said.

No. 3 Kansas 84, No. 9 West Virginia 80 (OT): Frank Mason III had 24 points, including two free throws to cap a frantic comeback from 14 down in the final three minutes of regulation, and the host Jayhawks stunned the Mountaineers in overtime to assume control of the Big 12 race.

Devonte Graham added 18 points, hitting two of his five three-pointers in the extra period, and Josh Jackson added 14 points and 11 rebounds as the Jayhawks (23-3, 11-2) avenged a loss in Morgantown while extending their lead over Baylor to two games in the league standings.

No. 2 Villanova 75, DePaul 62: Jalen Brunson scored 18 points, Josh Hart had 16 and the Wildcats beat the host Blue Demons.

Brunson, a former Illinois prep star, went 4-for-8 from the field and 8-for-9 at the free-throw line in the Wildcats' sixth straight victory. Mikal Bridges

added 15 points, and Kris Jenkins finished with 13.

No. 8 Louisville 76, Syracuse 72 (OT): The Cardinals scored 10 consecutive points in overtime, including five straight by Anas Mahmoud, to outlast the host Orange.

John Gillon sent the game to overtime for Syracuse by hitting a three-pointer with 40 seconds to go in regulation that tied the score at 58. The Orange took a 63-61 lead on two free throws by Andrew White, but Louisville scored the next 10 points to take control and hold on.

Monmouth 102, Siena 82: Justin Robinson made eight three-pointers and scored 40 points, both career highs, and the visiting Hawks earned a program record 12th straight win.

It was the first meeting of the season between the top two teams in the MAAC preseason poll. The Hawks have won 6 of 7 in the series since joining the conference.

Harvard wins Beanpot after 2 decades

Associated Press

BOSTON — Nathan Krusko didn't grow up with dreams of skating around the Boston Garden with the Beanpot trophy.

As a kid in Alpharetta, Ga., he didn't know much about the tournament at all.

When he arrived at Harvard as a freshman last fall, though, he could tell what it would mean to current and former Crimson players — and perhaps most of all, his coach — to claim the college hockey bragging rights of Boston after a two-decade drought.

"I know how much it means to my teammates. To me that's even more important," Krusko said after scoring twice to help Harvard beat Boston Univer-

sity 6-4 in the championship game on Monday night and earn its first Beanpot title since 1993.

"Even me, from Georgia ... it doesn't mean that it wasn't important," he said. "It's almost easier to get the wheels going when you're working for the guys next to you."

Krusko scored his second goal of the game to break a second-period tie, Merrick Madson made 14 saves and Harvard won the first Beanpot title for coach Ted Donato and the first for the school since the tournament was played at the original Boston Garden.

"It's been a long time coming," said Donato, who played for Harvard's 1989 Beanpot and NCAA championship team

and had moved on to the NHL's Boston Bruins when the Crimson last skated around the ice — in the old building, next door — with the Beanpot trophy.

Earlier Monday, Northeastern beat defending champion Boston College 4-2 to finish third in the tournament, which pits the region's four college hockey powers against each other on the first two Mondays in February.

It was the Eagles' first fourth-place finish since '93. BC and Boston University, which last won in 2015, had combined to win every Beanpot since 1993.

While BU has won the most — 30 times in 65 years, finishing second another 22 times — Harvard had not even reached the title game since 2008.

"This is a group that has really tackled making sure that our culture was right, had great leadership," Donato said. "I think this was something they really wanted. They wanted to leave that legacy, that they were going to break the curse, so to speak. I'm happy for them."

Luke Esposito, Ryan Donato and Alexander Kerfoot also scored for Harvard, and Adam Fox clinched it with a length-of-the-ice empty-netter to make it 6-3 with 1:50 to play.

"I grew up in Boston. I've played a million street hockey games being one of these teams," said Donato, who took over as Harvard's coach in 2004. "I didn't think it was going to take 13 years, I'll tell you that much."

Raanta steps in, leads Rangers past Blue Jackets

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Antti Raanta hadn't made a start in more than six weeks, due an injury and the reliable play of starter Henrik Lundqvist. Raanta had to be on his game Monday night as the Columbus Blue Jackets outshot the New York Rangers.

Raanta stopped 30 shots — including some key saves in the final minute after the Blue Jackets pulled their goalie for a sixth skater and were swarming — to lead the Rangers to a 3-2 win.

"When (Lundqvist) is playing at that level, it's tough to get games, but it was really fun to get (in) there and just play," said Raanta, who was making just his third appearance since Dec. 29. "It's been a long time when I played, and I just wanted to get that good feeling going again."

Jimmy Vesey scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and Dan Girardi and Kevin Hayes also scored for the Rangers, who won their sixth straight game and moved into a three-way tie for second place with Columbus and Pittsburgh

in the tough Metropolitan Division.

New York was 0-for-5 on the power play, and Columbus was 0-for-4.

"We did what we have to do here," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "We found a way to win, and we had a few of their guys maybe not having their top game. And usually that's the sign of a good team when you can win a game when you're not really at your best as far as execution. It's not a bad sign."

Brandon Dubinsky and Nick Foligno scored for Columbus, and Sergei Bobrovsky finished with 20 saves.

Hayes put the Rangers up 2-1 after stripping the puck from David Savard and scoring on a breakaway 4:49 into the third period. Foligno knotted the score again with 8:07 left in regulation. Vesey then got the game-winner less than two minutes later with a wrist shot from the bottom of the right circle.

Columbus coach John Tortorella said the Blue Jackets played well, but gave away what he called "free stuff" —

including a short-handed goal by Girardi 12 seconds into the second period, and the breakaway by Hayes in the third.

"It's a tough one to eat," Tortorella said. "This is a tough loss because I thought we played really well."

Coyotes 5, Flames 0: Mike Smith stopped 36 shots for his 32nd career shutout, Christian Dvorak had two goals and an assist, and surging Arizona routed Calgary.

Martin Hanzal, Ryan White and Justin Martinook also scored for the Coyotes, who have points in four straight (3-0-1) and are 6-2-1 in their last nine.

Chad Johnson had 19 saves through two periods and was replaced by Brian Elliott to start the third with the Flames trailing 4-0. Elliott stopped eight of the nine shots he faced.

Dvorak got his third multi-point game in the last five to give the rookie five goals and seven points over that span. He had just 13 points in the first 45 games.

Calgary was playing for the first time since a 3-2 win at Pittsburgh last Tuesday night.

The Flames had won four of five going into their break.

Starting his ninth consecutive game, Smith was busiest in the first period when the Coyotes were outshot 19-9 yet emerged with a 1-0 lead on Hanzal's goal. Three more scores in the second blew the game open.

Outplayed most of the first period, the Coyotes were much better to start the second, quickly increasing their lead to 3-0 on goals 86 seconds apart.

Dvorak's eighth at 2:39 came when he took a pass from Brendan Perlini and whipped a shot over Johnson's glove.

That was followed by a great effort from Martinook, who corralled a dump-in off the corner boards and after muscling his way past defenseman Dennis Wideman, zipped a shot under the cross bar.

Dvorak then showcased his passing ability on an odd-man rush. Carrying the puck down the wing, he found Luke Schenn in the high slot coming late and as the defenseman cut to the net, he had it glance in off White's skate with 8:52 left in the middle period.