

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Mattis warns Congress on lack of budget

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis visited Capitol Hill on Tuesday to testify about two recently released Pentagon strategy documents and chastised House lawmakers over Congress' failure to provide a full budget to the military, warning of dire consequences from more stop-gap funding measures.

As lawmakers clambered to strike a deal to keep the government open past Thursday, when funding is set to expire, Mattis warned another year operating under continuing resolutions would have far-reaching consequences — potentially even hampering military pay.

"For too long we have asked our military to carry on stoically with a success at any cost attitude," Mattis told the House

Armed Services Committee. "Our troops work tirelessly to accomplish every mission with increasingly inadequate and misaligned resources simply because Congress has not maintained regular order."

The retired four-star Marine general warned troops might not be paid by the end of the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, if Congress continued to pass continuing resolutions without a proper Defense Department budget. That would also hinder Army efforts to recruit 15,000 new soldiers, the Air Force's goals of adding 4,000 airmen, and it would mean continued maintenance issues on ships and aircraft, he said.

Mattis' warning comes after an especially troubling 2017 that saw an uptick in high-profile deadly incidents outside of

combat zones. Aviation mishaps increased by 38 percent from 2016, with 22 reported crashes in noncombat situations. Included among those crashes were 37 troop deaths. Another 17 servicemembers — all Navy sailors — were killed in two rare, at-sea collisions between merchant ships and the USS John S. McCain and the USS Fitzgerald, two U.S. guided-missile destroyers.

Meanwhile, Russia and China have been investing heavily in their military forces, including nuclear weapons, putting a significant dent in the U.S. military's advantage in battlefield capabilities should it ever be drawn into conflict with those powers. That re-emergence in "great power competition" is at the center of the two documents — the National Defense Strategy and the Nuclear Posture

Review — that Mattis and Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were called to Capitol Hill to discuss Tuesday.

Those strategies each call for increased funding to boost the size of the U.S. military and expand its training and also to modernize infrastructure and conventional and nuclear weapons systems. Such investment, Mattis argued, is necessary to deter Russia, China, North Korea or Iran from miscalculating America's military strength and starting a fight.

House lawmakers were expected to pass a continuing resolution later Tuesday that would keep the government funded through March 23 while also providing \$659 billion to the Pentagon for the remainder of fiscal year 2018.

## Senate panel questions US strategy in Afghanistan

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel expressed frustration Tuesday over whether the latest strategy in Afghanistan will finally find an end to America's longest war.

In a series of sharp questions and comments, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee took top state and defense officials to task over past missteps and future plans to resolve the war in Afghanistan.

Among those concerns: Annual U.S. costs to run the war in Afghanistan now exceed \$45 billion; the Taliban have gained control of more territory, and a lack of transparency and mixed-messaging now cloud U.S. war efforts.

"After sixteen years, thou-

sands of lives, probably trillions of dollars spent, the Afghans don't seem to be able to defend themselves," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., railed during the hearing. "I see no hope for it and I feel sorry for putting the military in this position. ... I don't fault the military, I just don't think there is a military solution."

Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan and Randall Shriver, Department of Defense assistant secretary for Asian and Pacific security affairs, testified at the hearing and said they understood the lawmakers' frustration. However, they said they are confident in the new strategy in Afghanistan, which was unveiled by President Donald Trump in August.

"The scrutiny is understandable. I would share every frustration you share about the time

and investment," Shriver said. However, "I do think the approach that we've adopted ... I think gives us a better chance to achieve results on the battlefield, which will give us a better chance at the political settlement."

The lawmakers expressed concern that the new strategy was more of the same from previous administrations, and light on details. Trump said in August that the new strategy in South Asia had no specific timeline or troop levels attached, and focused rather on reaching certain conditions.

"It's been nearly six months since the administration announced its new strategy for South Asia, which as far as I can tell is quite similar to the old strategy," said Sen. Bob Menen-

dez, D-N.J. "I understand the administration is focused on conditions-based metrics for success for eventual withdrawal of U.S. forces but I hope we can get a little more clarity to what exactly are our desired outcomes are for our troops and our foreign policy goals in Afghanistan."

Amid growing reports that the Taliban and Islamic State might be gaining ground in Afghanistan, senators shared confusion how the United States will find a solution under the latest shift in direction.

"Things are not going well today in Afghanistan," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. "The U.S.-backed coalition controls less territory than ever before. Insurgents control more than ever before."

## Off-duty GIs in S. Korea OK'd to grow facial hair

BY MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Off-duty soldiers on the Korean Peninsula are now allowed to grow facial hair, wear earrings, put on hats indoors and even turn them backward or sideways under changes to Eighth Army rules.

Lt. Gen. Michael Bills, who took command of the Eighth Army last month, approved the changes last week to address troops' concerns, according to an Army statement issued Thursday.

"In the past, we've been more restrictive in four areas of appearance of our soldiers in order to keep a strong alliance here on the 'pen' in regards to the cultural norms of the Korean population, but [times and trends] have changed," Eighth Army's top enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Merritt, said in the statement.

Spc. Isiah Dawkins, 25, an African-American soldier serving with the 339th Quartermaster Company at Camp Humphreys, said the changes will give troops' faces a much-needed break.

"A lot of people have problems with shaving; everyone's skin is different, everyone's hair is different," said Dawkins, of Columbus, Ohio, who uses medications to shave to Army standards.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Gay, 34, a pilot with the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade at Camp Humphreys, said he respects the move away from micromanaging soldiers' personal lives.

"I think it's a huge morale boost for the lower enlisted guys, especially," said Gay, of Marquette, Mich. "I think they respect the decision that they are treated as an adult."

Maj. Benjamin Perry, a lawyer at Camp Humphreys, applauded the change on Tuesday, calling it a "move in the right direction."

"This is a prime example of common sense prevailing," said Perry, 41, of Washington state. "When I first got here last summer, I thought it was asinine (to be clean-shaven), regardless of whether we were on pass, on leave or at the house."

The next item on troops' wish list is a change to curfew policy, Perry said. All troops in South Korea are required to be on base or in their homes between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

"Curfew policy, I think, makes criminals out of a lot of honest people," Perry said. "It ruins some careers that shouldn't have otherwise been ruined."

## With prototype, Navy closer to incorporating sea drone

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy could begin deploying a self-piloting sea drone by the end of the year to hunt for submarines at a time when China and Russia are expanding their underwater fleets, according to the research agency that designed it.

The Navy received the \$20 million prototype last week from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

Navy researchers will now work to further develop the robotic vessel — which requires no remote piloting — with the aim of integrating it into fleets.

The Sea Hunter has undergone rigorous testing in the past two years to ensure it can pilot itself safely and follow international rules for avoiding collisions at sea, according to DARPA.

Navy officials haven't said when the drone will go into service, but DARPA said its first missions could happen later this year.

Sending relatively low-priced, unmanned drones to stalk submarines in waters filled with mines or combatants is far less risky than deploying a multibillion-dollar warship

with a large crew, agency officials said.

"The U.S. military has talked about the strategic importance of replacing 'king' and 'queen' pieces on the maritime chessboard with lots of 'pawns,'" Fred Kennedy, head of DARPA's tactical technology, said in a statement.

DARPA and Navy researchers began collaborating on the project in 2014. The Sea Hunter has no weapons. It is strictly a surveillance vessel that uses cameras and radar to spot submarines.

The 132-foot vessel is highly maneuverable and travels up to 27 knots per hour, researchers say. It will be able to track submarines for a longer period of time than can warships and planes, researchers say.

Land-based technicians will monitor the drone but won't steer it unless a problem arises.

At the Sea Hunter's christening in 2016, former Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work told the Reuters news agency that robotic vessels will be a countermeasure to Russia and China expanding their submarine fleets.

"I would like to see unmanned flotillas operating in the western Pacific and the Persian Gulf within five years," Work said.

## Pence in Japan to talk with GIs, Abe

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Vice President Mike Pence has arrived in the Japanese capital where he'll engage in talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that are expected to focus on the threat from North Korea.

Pence's plane landed at Yokota, home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force, on Tuesday evening. He and his wife, Karen, walked through an Air Force honor guard and were greeted by U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty, USFJ commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez, and other military leaders.

The couple was then quickly ushered to an Army Black Hawk helicopter that, for the duration of an approximately 15-minute flight to central Tokyo, would bear the call sign Marine Two.

Pence will be back at the base Thursday to talk to troops and their families before heading to South Korea to meet President

Moon Jae-in and lead the U.S. delegation during Friday's opening ceremonies of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

The vice president's trip, which included a stop in Alaska on Monday to tour missile-defense facilities, comes amid concerns that Pyongyang will use the games for propaganda purposes. In a Tuesday tweet, Pence said he wants to "ensure N Korea doesn't use the Olympics to paper over the truth about their regime which oppresses its own people & threatens other nations."

Pence plans to hold his own symbolic events to highlight Pyongyang's human-rights abuses and provocative ballistic-missile and nuclear-weapons tests.

He tweeted Friday: "I'll travel to Japan & S Korea to attend the Olympics & cheer on our athletes. But I'll also be there to deliver a message: the era of strategic patience is OVER. As N. Korea continues to test ballistic missiles & threaten the U.S, we'll make it clear all options are on the table."



# Dems' memo under White House review

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A memo written by Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee as part of its investigation of Russian election interference was under review Tuesday at the White House, where President Donald Trump will decide whether to allow the public to read it.

Trump last week declassified a document written by the committee's Republican majority that criticized methods the FBI used to obtain a surveillance warrant on a onetime Trump campaign associate. Trump said the GOP memo showed the FBI and Justice Department conspired against him in the Russia probe.

The Democratic memo, in-

tended as a counter to the GOP document, has deepened a partisan divide on the committee, which is supposed to be jointly investigating Russian meddling and possible connections between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign.

Separate investigations are underway by special counsel Robert Mueller and the Senate Intelligence Committee.

On Monday the House panel voted unanimously to release the Democratic memo, sending it to the White House for a legal and national security review.

"The White House has received a memorandum from the minority members of the House Select Permanent Committee on Intelligence," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said

after the House panel's vote.

She said the Trump administration "will follow the same process and procedure" it did with the Republican document, meaning Trump has five days to decide whether to allow publication.

Trump declared over the weekend that the GOP memo "totally vindicates" him. Both Republicans and Democrats disputed that, and Democrats also bemoaned the release of formerly classified information and the possibility the precedent could compromise future investigations.

After the House committee vote Monday, Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, the panel's top Democrat, said he believed the Democratic document would

"help inform the public of the many distortions and inaccuracies in the majority memo." But he also expressed concern about "political redactions" the White House might make before the document is released.

Schiff said he would compare any deletions the FBI and Justice Department might request with any White House edits to try to identify any attempts to withhold information for political purposes.

Texas Republican Rep. Mike Conaway, a leader of the panel's Russia probe, said after the vote that parts of the document should not be released.

"There are things in the memo that I would be uncomfortable with if the White House did not redact," he said.

## Turkey calls for US troop withdrawal from Manbij

Associated Press

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the United States should withdraw its troops from the Syrian town of Manbij, which he says is a predominantly Arab town that Turkey would return to its "real owners."

Erdogan also renewed a threat to expand Turkey's military operation in Syria to the region that is held by U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters, during an address to legislators from his ruling party on Tuesday.

"Why are you staying there (in Manbij)? Leave," Erdogan said. "We will come to return the lands to their real owners."

Turkey launched a cross-border offensive into the northwestern enclave of Afrin to drive out Syrian Kurdish militia and has also vowed to clear Manbij of the Kurdish fighters, which make up the backbone of a force that fought Islamic State in Syria. The United States has a military presence in Manbij.

Erdogan's threat to move Turkey's operation east raises the possibility of a confrontation between the allies, who are al-

ready at odds over U.S. backing the Syrian Kurdish fighters.

Amid the rising tensions, a Turkish official said U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is expected to visit Turkey next week. The official would not provide further details. He spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday, in line with government rules. Turkish media reports said that U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster would also visit.

While Erdogan was making those statements, there were reports of shelling Tuesday on parts of Syria's old city of Damascus. Syria's state news agency said at least three people have been killed and eight civilians injured. The SANA news agency blamed the attack targeting Bab Touma in the old city on armed groups in a region adjacent to the capital.

The Syrian government has kept up a relentless airstrike and shelling campaign against the rebel-held region, eastern Ghouta, for weeks. It has escalated its attacks in recent days, and activists reported that nearly 40 people were killed in the region Tuesday.

## US expands airstrike campaign against Taliban in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United States has launched a series of airstrikes in northern Afghanistan to destroy Taliban training facilities, support networks and revenue sources, the military said Tuesday.

"Over the past 96 hours, U.S. forces conducted air operations to strike Taliban training facilities in Badakhshan province, preventing the planning and rehearsal of terrorist acts near the border with China and Tajikistan," U.S. Forces Afghanistan said in a statement.

The strikes also destroyed Afghan army vehicles that the insurgents had stolen and had intended to convert to vehicle-borne bombs, it added.

The operations are an expansion of a campaign that began in southern Helmand province, where American bombs continue to target Taliban drug labs, which generate significant revenue for the insurgents.

The campaign has reduced the group's funding by more than \$30 million since No-

vember, according to the U.S. military, although the figure has been questioned by some observers. Officials estimate the Taliban rake in about \$200 million annually from the drug trade for their war chest.

"The Taliban have nowhere to hide," Gen. John Nicholson, the U.S.' top commander in Afghanistan, said in Tuesday's statement. "There will be no safe haven for any terrorist group bent on bringing harm and destruction to this country."

American airstrikes targeting Taliban training facilities and revenue sources are part of the Trump administration's new approach to dealing with the insurgents, who are said to control more territory now than at any other time since 2001, when a U.S.-led invasion removed them from power.

The group has claimed responsibility for several high-profile attacks in the capital, Kabul, in recent weeks that have left scores dead. Four Americans were killed in one attack, on the city's Intercontinental Hotel.



# Baltimore officer testifies he stole money with slain detective

*The Baltimore Sun*

BALTIMORE — A convicted Baltimore police detective testified Monday in the Gun Trace Task Force trial that he used to steal money with Detective Sean Suiter, the city homicide detective whose fatal shooting in November — one day before he was to have testified before a federal grand jury in the case — remains unsolved.

The claim came on cross-examination of Detective Momodu Gondo, who admitted stealing from people dating back to 2008. Defense attorney Christopher Nieto asked Gondo if he had told the FBI that he stole money when he worked with Suiter and a squad of several other people.

“You’d take money, split it among yourselves?” Nieto asked.

Gondo agreed.

Gondo is one of six gun task force officers to plead guilty in the case, and the last of four to testify for the government in the federal racketeering trial of Detectives Daniel Hersl and Marcus Taylor. His testimony, based on “proffer sessions” with the FBI last year in which he outlined allegations across the department in hopes of getting a lower sentence, implicated a

number of other officers and supervisors as well.

The Police Department said Monday that the “allegations and actions (are) disturbing, unacceptable and criminal,” and said Acting Commissioner Darryl De Sousa has formed a corruption investigation unit that will be led by a lieutenant colonel and specifically focus on the actions of the Gun Trace Task Force. The department has said previously that it had internal affairs investigations underway related to the case.

“We are working diligently to investigate and hold those who tarnished the badge and violated public trust accountable for their actions,” police said in a statement. “The citizens deserve better and the hardworking honorable men and women of this agency deserve better.”

Internal affairs investigations are kept under wraps in Maryland, which critics say helped at least some of the officers in the gun unit to avoid being held accountable for years as complaints stacked up.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Dean Palmere, who for years worked in and supervised plainclothes work, denied accusations that arose in court that he had coached officers on what

to say after a fatal shooting in 2009. Palmere also disclosed that he is retiring, which he said he informed De Sousa of about two weeks ago.

Monday’s allegations revived the questions about the dormant investigation into Suiter’s death. The detective was investigating a triple homicide in November when he was shot in the head with his own gun in a vacant lot in West Baltimore, police have said. His death was ruled a homicide by the medical examiner’s office, and remains unsolved despite a \$215,000 reward. Colleagues have said Suiter was an honest and beloved cop.

Suiter was shot one day before he was to have testified before a federal grand jury that was continuing to investigate claims involving the Gun Trace Task Force. Police have said that they do not believe there is a connection between Suiter’s killing and his scheduled testimony, and the FBI declined a request by the former police commissioner to take over the investigation.

The Baltimore Sun has reported that there was internal tension with some investigators believing Suiter’s death could be a suicide or an accident.

# Powerball winner asks to remain anonymous

*The Washington Post*

The winning numbers triple-checked and the lottery ticket signed, the New Hampshire woman knew her life was about to change in a very positive way — except for one petrifying thing.

As the winner of last month’s \$560 million Powerball, she would soon be the world’s newest owner of a nine-digit bank account.

But because of lottery rules, everyone in the world would know about it — neighbors, old high school friends, con artists, criminals. Now the woman is asking a judge to let her keep the cash — and remain anonymous. In court documents obtained by New-Hampshire.com, she is fittingly identified only as Jane Doe.

“She is a longtime resident of New Hampshire and is an engaged community member,” the woman’s attorney, Steven Gordon, wrote in the court documents. “She wishes to continue this work and the freedom to walk into a grocery store or attend public events without being known or targeted as the winner of a half-billion dollars.”

On one side of the case are lottery officials who say the integrity of the games depends on the public identification of its winners as a protection against fraud and malfeasance. A local woman holding up a giant check while cameras flash and reporters scrawl also happens to be a powerful marketing tool.

On the other side is a woman suddenly faced with a life-changing stroke of luck who, court documents say, wishes to live “far from the glare and misfortune that has often fallen upon other lottery winners.”

The law doesn’t appear to be on her side.

New Hampshire lottery rules require the winner’s name, town and amount won be available for public information, in accordance with open-records laws.

# Pa. allowed to redraw GOP-favored district map

*Associated Press*

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday let a court-ordered redrawing of congressional districts in Pennsylvania proceed, raising Democratic hopes that a revamped map might yield them several more seats this fall.

Justice Samuel Alito, who handles emergency appeals from Pennsylvania, rejected the request from GOP legislative leaders and voters to put on hold an order from the state Supreme Court intended to produce new congressional districts in the coming two weeks.

The Pennsylvania high court ruled last month that the current map of 18 districts violates the state constitution because it unfairly benefits Republicans.

The decision comes just four days before the Republican-controlled Legislature’s deadline for submitting a replacement map for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf to consider. So far, there has been a notable lack of bipartisan movement on getting such a deal.

Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation has been 13-5 in favor of Republicans during the three election cycles since the GOP-drawn 2011 map took effect, and

experts have said those 13 seats are several more than would have been produced by a non-partisan map. Democrats have about 800,000 more registered voters than Republicans and hold all three elected statewide row offices, but Republicans enjoy solid majorities in both chambers of the Legislature.

Under the process laid out two weeks ago by four of the seven Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices, all Democrats, the Legislature has until Friday to approve a new map, after which Wolf will have until Feb. 15 to decide whether to endorse it and submit it to the justices.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Scared carriage horse takes off, crashes

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a New York City carriage horse took off running after being scared by a screaming pedestrian with an umbrella, leaving three passengers injured and damaging some vehicles.

Officials said the horse was near Central Park on Sunday afternoon when it was scared by the pedestrian, who was rapidly opening and closing an umbrella while screaming. The horse ran down Sixth Avenue, hitting two cars before the carriage driver was able to calm the animal down.

Police said three women who were passengers on the carriage were taken to Weill Cornell Medical Center with minor injuries.

## Officer charged with stealing pain pills

**MD** HAGERSTOWN — A police sergeant in Maryland has been charged with stealing prescription opioids from a paralyzed woman after she and a friend caught him on video.

The Herald-Mail reported that the paralyzed woman noticed her pain pills missing after Sgt. Christopher Barnett questioned her about an unrelated case.

Documents say Barnett returned to her bedside minutes later after she called Hagerstown police and asked for the name of the officer who stole her medicine. She told him she couldn't afford more pills. He asked what he could do "to make this right" and said he'd be back in 15 minutes.

That's when Barnett's friend set up a camera to secretly record the sergeant's third visit. The video allegedly shows him putting four replacement

oxycodone pills of a different strength into her hand. The woman also said he gave her \$35.

## Arena turning an old plane into restaurant

**OH** CLEVELAND — A convention center in Cleveland says it's turning a Cold War-era aircraft into a stationary restaurant in a bid to attract more visitors with a distinctive dining experience.

The Plain Dealer reported the Boeing KC-97G Stratofreighter used for midflight refueling had been mothballed in Arizona for several decades before the International Exposition Center bought it last year and relocated it near the exhibition hall. The I-X Center hopes to renovate the interior of the air tanker into a 50-seat restaurant by 2020.

The industrial artist leading that task, Mike Ensminger of Elyria, said he would like to leave the aircraft as historically accurate as possible.

## Body found in murder suspect's pickup truck

**CA** PALMDALE — Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said a body has been found inside a pickup truck that belonged to a man suspected of killing a family of three in their Palmdale-area home.

Investigators could not immediately confirm the identity of the deceased person discovered Sunday. They have been searching for the pickup's owner, James "Todd" Brown, 54, for weeks.

Detectives said Brown did odd jobs for the slain family and had lived in a trailer on their property for two years.

Authorities said he got into an argument that escalated until he beat, stabbed and suffocat-

ed Richard Gardner, 78, Pepper Gardner, 56, and Richard Gardner's son, Richard, 52.

Deputies who were asked to check on the family's welfare found the bodies Jan. 13. The family dogs also were beaten to death.

## Hunters and wardens rescue moose in mud

**ME** COLUMBIA — Two Maine game wardens and two hunters came to the aid of a moose trapped up to its neck in a muddy spring.

WGME-TV reported the hunters were searching for deer antlers in a cedar swamp in Columbia last week when they discovered the moose. The female moose was buried in mud in the spring hole and couldn't move its legs.

Wardens Bayley Grant and Scott Osgood helped the hunters rescue the moose. The wardens got its front legs out of the mud and then fixed a rope around its body. They said its hind legs were stuck on some tree roots.

The men created a winch using a tree and pulled the moose out.

## T. rex Sue moving to new exhibition space

**IL** CHICAGO — Sue, the largest Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever found, is on the move.

Chicago's Field Museum on Monday began dismantling Sue and moving her from Stanley Field Hall, where it's been located since 2000, and placing it in a new exhibition space.

Sue's handler, Bill Simpson, said despite being the largest T. rex ever found, she looks puny beneath the 70-foot-high ceiling of the museum's main hall. He says when Sue is in her own exhibit hall she'll look better.

Beginning in the spring 2019,

Sue will reappear in a second-floor gallery.

Sue is making way for a cast of a titanosaur, a plant-eating dinosaur that's three times the length of the T. rex, and with a neck that will stretch up to the second-floor balcony level.

## Missing home might have been repossessed

**TX** MADISONVILLE — Investigators say a vacation home reported stolen by a Houston couple might have been repossessed and they're likely victims of alleged financial issues of the prior owner.

KTRK-TV reported Jo and Lonnie Harrison said their one-bedroom cabin is missing from Madisonville, 90 miles northwest of Houston.

The prefabricated home was on property they purchased last year but hadn't checked since November. Lonnie Harrison returned Friday and discovered the house was gone, with blocks and pipes remaining.

## Machete-armed man gets aggressive, jailed

**KS** TOPEKA — Authorities said a homeless man was jailed after charging at officers with a machete at police headquarters in downtown Topeka.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that the incident began at about 2 a.m. Saturday when a man armed with a machete entered the Law Enforcement Center and said he had a bomb. Police were able to get the man to exit the building.

Police Lt. Steve Roth said officers used a stun gun to subdue the man when he became aggressive. Roth said the man sustained only "superficial" injuries.

From wire reports

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# Teen Kim aims for halfpipe gold

Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — Ask snowboarder Chloe Kim what she thinks the “Chloe Kim Story” really is this year and she hesitates just a moment, before deciding on “The California girl that went to the Olympics.”

It’s perfect, easy, and oh-so-fitting for the 17-year-old from Torrance, Calif., who loves music and the mall almost as much as she loves stomping her runs — and the competition — in the halfpipe.

But Kim, whether it’s fair or not, has come to represent more than that for these Olympics.

Her parents are from South Korea, where the Games will be held starting Feb. 9. Among the handful of relatives who live there is Chloe’s grandma, who has been known to brag about her high-flying granddaughter if, say, she’s out to tea with her friends and a picture of Chloe happens to appear in the newspaper, which happens fairly often.

“They’ve never seen me compete before,” Chloe says. “I’m excited to have them there.”

Though it’s tempting to turn Kim’s story into a bigger narrative about a lifelong wish to win a gold medal in her family’s country, that narrative is not the right one.

She admits to not having all that much more familiarity with South Korea than the average 17-year-old American kid, and the fact is, more than any grand plan, it was the quirks of the calendar, the International Olympic Committee and a hundred other things that will place her in Pyeongchang for her Olympic debut.

Kim was so good at age 13, she might have won the Sochi Olympics had she been old enough. But with the Olympics not allowing anyone in under 15, she did not make the cut. And though her father sacrificed much time, effort and sleep to further Chloe’s career, the thought of doing it so his daughter could make her first Olympic splash in his native country was never part of the equation.

“When we started, Korea was not declared as hosting the

Olympics,” Jong Jin Kim said. “I thought I had a chance to bring her to the Olympics, so it was amazing and very lucky that they matched together.”

Jong Jin Kim moved to the United States in 1982 to pursue his engineering degree. He met his wife, Boran, in Switzerland. Chloe, the youngest of three sisters, was born in 2000, and when she turned 4, Jong Jin bought her a snowboard on eBay and dragged her onto the mountain, in part because he wanted his wife to come along, too. Chloe took lessons, and by the time she was 7, she was winning contests. By the time she was 8, she was living in Switzerland with her aunt, and was regularly waking up at 4 a.m. for long train rides to the mountain.

“Crazy. Quite a mission,” Chloe recalls.

At age 10, Chloe was back in California, and her folks were rearranging both her and their lives with the thought she might become a professional snowboarder. Home-schooling and 2 a.m. wake-up calls became routine. In 2014, a month before the Olympics she could not attend, she took her first Winter X Games medal — a silver. She won her first Winter X Games the next year, and after her victory last month’s halfpipe contest, she now has three under her belt.

What separates her from the pack on the halfpipe is her ability to do back-to-back 1080-degree jumps. She first pulled that off at a contest in 2016. Though there are other riders who can challenge her — Americans Arielle Gold and Maddie Mastrotto pushed Kim hard at the X Games and 34-year-old Kelly Clark remains on top of her game — Kim has the tricks and the style to win the Olympics if she executes.

Since they met in a lift line 10 years ago, Clark has been impressed with Kim, in part because she has been a firsthand witness to the teenager’s work ethic.

“She rides longer than anyone, takes more runs than anyone. For me, that’s been a core value to my snowboarding,” Clark says. “Talent can get you

only so far. It’s about putting in that hard work and extra effort that makes a difference.”

If Kim wins the gold in Pyeongchang, she would cash in on all the hopes that sponsors, her fans and NBC (she’s a prominent figure in its pre-Games hype machine) have placed in her.

For all that hope and hype, though, she is hardly dominating the coverage in South Korea, which boasts a former figure skating champion in Yuna Kim who, though retired, was key in bringing the Games to Pyeongchang and may still be the country’s most recognizable Olympic star.

The women’s hockey team, especially now that it has combined with players from North Korea, along with short track speedskaters, also are part of the pre-Games story line in the host country.

“Snowboarding just doesn’t have the same exposure there, and she doesn’t have the same accomplishments yet as someone like Yuna Kim,” says Jean Lee, a global fellow at the Wilson Center, who previously served as Associated Press bureau chief in Pyongyang, North Korea. “But she has the potential. If she goes home with a medal, and I think she probably will, she’ll become a huge star in South Korea.”

For now, though, Kim is content being a star on whatever halfpipe she’s dropping into at the moment.

While she’s well aware that the Olympics are more than just another contest, she may not fully grasp how big they could become for her. And maybe that’s the takeaway message in all this. Chloe Kim is 17, having fun, trying to live a normal, California kid’s life.

“I’m very thankful my parents make sure I have a normal life of some sort,” she says. “It’s still so crazy to think about the fact that I’ll be 15 feet in the air one minute, and the next minute, I’m in my pajamas, watching a movie.”

# Surgery for WCAP sledder

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A National Guardsman who won a spot as a bobsled pilot in the Pyeongchang Olympics underwent an emergency appendectomy, but the U.S. Olympic Committee said it’s hopeful he will still be able to compete in the Winter Games.

Sgt. Justin Olsen, 30, of San Antonio, is in South Korea for what would be his third Olympic appearance. He was a gold medalist as a brakeman in Vancouver in 2010 and came in 12th in Sochi in 2014.

Olsen, who is making his first Olympic appearance as a pilot on the U.S. men’s bobsled team, was admitted to the hospital in Gangneung on Monday evening with acute appendicitis. The laparoscopic surgery was successful, the committee said in a news release.

“We are hoping Justin will recover quickly enough to compete in the two-man race,” USA Bobsled and Skeleton chief executive Darrin Steele was quoted as saying.

“The timing is unfortunate and we are heartbroken for Justin, but he’s shown us over the years that he’s capable of overcoming adversity and coming out on top. We know he’s going to do what he can within his power to be at the starting line on race day,” he said. “There’s no question he’s mentally ready, but we are looking at our options in case he physically can’t compete.”

The two-man competition will take place Feb. 18-19, and four-man races are Feb. 24-25.

Olsen joined the New York National Guard in 2011 and is participating in the Olympics as part of the Army’s World Class Athlete Program, which helps troops participate in international competitions.

## NBA roundup

# Drummond leads Pistons past Blazers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Stan Van Gundy worried over the weekend that the Detroit Pistons were becoming too reliant on Blake Griffin.

That wasn't a problem Monday night.

Andre Drummond had 17 points and 17 rebounds, and the Pistons beat the Portland Trail Blazers 111-91 for their fourth straight victory. Detroit had 36 assists on 44 field goals and had six players with at least 12 points.

"I didn't really think we moved the ball that much at the start of the game, but then we really got it going," said Van Gundy, Detroit's coach. "The best part is that you look how many guys got involved — it wasn't just one or two guys with a bunch. Once you start moving the ball, it gets contagious."

Detroit has won three in a row with Griffin in the lineup after acquiring him in a trade last week. Following a win over Miami on Saturday, Van Gundy said the Pistons might be playing through Griffin too much.

He still led Detroit in scoring Monday, but the Pistons had plenty of threats.

"They had one action — dribble handoff out of the corner — and they kept getting down to the center of our defense," Portland's Damian Lillard said. "Once guys get confident and get to making shots, it's hard to stop."

The victory pulled the Pistons back to .500 and even with Philadelphia for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Griffin had 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and did a good bit of his offensive damage from the perimeter, making three three-pointers. Anthony Tolliver added 15 points for Detroit, and Reggie Bullock and Langston Galloway contributed 13 apiece.

**Wizards 111, Pacers 102:** All-Star guard Bradley Beal scored 21 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 15 to help Washington hold on to beat host Indiana.

The Wizards have won five straight overall, all without John Wall, and four in a row

over the Pacers.

**Jazz 133, Pelicans 109:** Rodney Hood scored 30 points in his second game back from a lower leg bruise and surging Utah extended its winning streak to six with a victory over host New Orleans.

Ricky Rubio had 20 points and 11 assists, and Rudy Gobert added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who made 14 of 21 three-point attempts and shot 58.4 percent (52-for-89) overall their highest-scoring game this season.

**Magic 111, Heat 109:** Mario Hezonja scored 20 points, Jonathan Simmons made the tiebreaking dunk with 1:31 remaining, and Orlando beat host Miami.

The Heat appeared to tie the game after Tyler Johnson was credited with a basket when Orlando's Bismack Biyombo was called for goaltending with 2.8 seconds remaining. A video review overturned the call.

**Nuggets 121, Hornets 104:** Gary Harris scored 27 points, Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 16 rebounds, and host Denver beat Charlotte.

Will Barton and Jamal Murray scored 18 apiece for Denver, which had seven players in double figures. Murray played 34 minutes and attempted a game-high 15 shots while playing with a bruised right thigh sustained Saturday against Golden State.

**Clippers 104, Mavericks 101:** Danilo Gallinari had 28 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 24 seconds left, and host Los Angeles scored the last 13 points of the game to rally past Dallas.

On a night when his last name was misspelled on the back of his jersey, Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki became the sixth player in NBA history to reach 50,000 career minutes. Nowitzki finished with 12 points, but the Mavericks failed to score in the final 4:42.

**Kings 104, Bulls 98:** Bogdan Bogdanovic made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 52 seconds remaining and host Sacramento overcame a dismal start with a strong finish to beat Chicago.

The Kings scored just nine points in the first quarter.

## No. 19 West Virginia holds off Young, No. 17 Oklahoma

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Finally, West Virginia looked like a Bob Huggins-coached team.

Lamont West scored 17 points, and the 19th-ranked Mountaineers survived a 32-point night from Oklahoma's Trae Young to escape with a 75-73 win over the 17th-ranked Sooners on Monday night.

The Mountaineers had lost five of seven, but they found their groove by playing the solid defense they have become known for against an Oklahoma team that had averaged 97.5 points per game at home.

"That's how we have played all year until we got into that stretch where, for whatever

reason, we quit taking chances, we quit trying to make things happen with our defense," Huggins said. "We have got to make things happen with our defense to be successful."

Esa Ahmad and Sagaba Konate each scored 14 and Jevon Carter added 10 points, eight assists and six steals for the Mountaineers (18-6, 7-4 Big 12), who swept the regular-season series and moved within a half-game of conference co-leaders Kansas and Texas Tech.

Young, the freshman who leads the nation in scoring and assists, had just one assist as the Mountaineers chose to focus on slowing his teammates.

Huggins said Carter had

something to do with it, too.

"The guy that guarded him is pretty good," Huggins said. "He's not going to play against anybody better than the guy who guarded him today."

Young said he was ill, but he still played 36 minutes.

"You've got to play through it," he said. "I wasn't feeling very good, but I mean, I'm not going to make any excuses. It's the nature of basketball. I have to go out there and compete and give it my all."

Brady Manek scored 12 points and Khadeem Lattin had 13 rebounds and four blocks for the Sooners (16-7, 6-5).

Rashard Odomes made a layup to cut West Virginia's lead to 74-73 with 24.3 seconds

to play. After Ahmad made one of two free throws with 13 seconds remaining, Young rushed up the court but lost control of the ball briefly, making it more difficult for the Sooners to get a good shot off. Odomes missed under duress in close in the final seconds.

The Sooners had a timeout before the final sequence but chose not to use it.

"We had the open court for Trae," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "I liked what we had. We had the timeout ready to call if we needed it but we talked about before the free throws that if Trae had the open court we wouldn't call it, and he had a good look, good open court."



## Sports briefs

## Colts hire McDaniels as new head coach

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts have hired Josh McDaniels as their coach.

The hiring of the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator was announced Tuesday on the Colts' Twitter account. It comes a little more than three weeks after word leaked the sides were close to a deal.

Contract terms were not immediately available. A news conference has been scheduled for Wednesday.

McDaniels was New England's offensive coordinator the past five years. NFL rules prohibited the Colts from making the hiring official until the Patriots' season ended. New England lost 41-33 to Philadelphia in Sunday's Super Bowl. McDaniels won five Super Bowl rings with New England and went 11-17 as Denver's head coach in 2009 and 2010.

## Gronk's house robbed during Super Bowl

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Police say the home of New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski was robbed while he was away at the Super Bowl.

Foxborough Police Chief William Baker confirmed Tuesday morning that his department is investigating a burglary at Gronkowski's home.

He said officers responded to the home just after 6 p.m. Monday.

Baker said "out of respect for Mr. Gronkowski's privacy and because this is an active and dynamic criminal investigation we're not going to be releasing any information right now about what was stolen and whether any suspects exist."

But according to a Broadcastify.com recording of a call between responding officers

and dispatch, a dispatcher says "multiple safes and possible guns" were taken.

Gronkowski had nine catches for 116 yards and two touchdowns in the Patriots' 41-33 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

## S. Korean military augmenting security

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — South Korean authorities deployed 900 military personnel at the Pyeongchang Olympics on Tuesday after the security force was depleted by an outbreak of norovirus.

Games organizers said 32 workers are being treated for norovirus in quarantine, including 21 from the Civil Security Staff.

About 1,200 people working security were being kept in their rooms while being tested

for norovirus.

## Source: Mets sign Frazier for 2 years

NEW YORK — Free agent third baseman Todd Frazier is switching sides close to home, set to join the New York Mets and take over a spot that's been in flux since David Wright got injured.

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Monday night that Frazier and the Mets had agreed on a two-year contract for \$17 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was still pending a successful physical.

The Yankees got him last July in a trade with the Chicago White Sox, and Frazier hit a combined .213 with 27 home runs, 76 RBIs and a .344 on-base percentage.

## NHL roundup

## McDavid scores four goals in Oilers' rout of Lightning

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid scored four goals and added an assist, and the Edmonton Oilers knocked off the top team in the NHL, defeating the Tampa Bay Lightning 6-2 on Monday night.

Leon Draisaitl and Iiro Paikarinen also scored for the Oilers, who have gone 5-1-1 in their last seven.

Alex Killorn and Yannick Gourde scored for the Lightning, who fell to 5-3 on their eight-game road trip.

McDavid opened the scoring 1:48 into the first with a rare power-play goal. He tipped a Ryan Strome point shot past Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy. Edmonton was 0-for-17 in their previous eight games with the man advantage.

**Predators 5, Islanders 4 (OT):** Ryan Johansen scored

the tying goal in the final minute of regulation, and Roman Josi scored the winner 3:42 into overtime to rally visiting Nashville.

Kevin Fiala had two goals, and Calle Jarnkrok and Ryan Johansen also scored for Nashville, which improved to 9-1-2 in its last 12 games. Pekka Rinne stopped 24 shots.

On the winner, Nick Bonino sent a saucer pass across the front to Josi, who tapped it into the open net with Islanders goalie Jaroslav Halak out of position.

John Tavares, Ryan Pulock, Casey Cizikas and Nick Leddy scored for New York, which lost for the third time in four games after the All-Star break. Halak finished with 42 saves and Andrew Ladd and Brock Nelson added two assists each.

**Stars 2, Rangers 1:** Martin Hanzal returned from injured

reserve and scored the game-winning goal in host Dallas' victory over slumping New York.

On the power play, Hanzal skated across the goalmouth and tipped in Julius Honka's shot from the right point to break a 1-all tie 4:05 into the third period. Hanzal missed the previous five games because of a strained muscle in his lower body.

The Stars' third straight win moved them within one point of St. Louis for third place in the Central Division. The Rangers, who have lost six of seven, are last in the rugged Metropolitan Division and three points out of a postseason spot in a crowded Eastern Conference playoff race.

New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist lost his fifth game in a row despite making 39 saves.

Ben Bishop had 31 saves for

Dallas.

**Maple Leafs 7, Ducks 4:** William Nylander scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal early in the third period, and host Toronto beat Anaheim.

Auston Matthews also had two goals for the Maple Leafs. Mitch Marner, Leo Komarov and Zach Hyman scored one apiece, but the win might have come at a cost.

Toronto starting goaltender Frederik Andersen left at 6:15 of the second period after he was struck in the head by Corey Perry's left skate.

Andersen stopped 25 of 28 shots before being replaced by backup Curtis McElhinney, who improved to 6-4 this season with 16 saves on 17 shots.

Rickard Rakell scored twice for the Ducks, and Perry assisted on all four of their goals. Ryan Getzlaf and Ondrej Kase also scored.