

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy seeks delay of shock test on Ford

*Bloomberg*

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is weighing a Navy request to delay for at least six years the shock testing intended to determine how well its new \$12.9 billion aircraft carrier could withstand attack.

The decision pits the Navy's push to have an 11-carrier fleet ready to deploy as soon as possible against warnings from the Pentagon's testing office that the USS Gerald R. Ford shouldn't be deployed for initial combat duty until it's gone through the tests, which involve setting off underwater charges to check the resilience of a ship's key systems.

Mattis' decision will be an indication of how he balances the need for rigorous weapons testing against delivering on his national defense strategy, which

calls for deploying a more lethal force. In its proposed budget for fiscal 2019, the Navy removed funding for the test, which had been scheduled to start late next year.

The Ford is now scheduled to be ready for initial combat duty in 2022. The service wants to put off the shock testing and do it on the second carrier in the new class, the USS John F. Kennedy, which is scheduled for delivery in September 2024.

In a shock trial, a crew is on board, and the test isn't intended to damage equipment. The results are used to judge vulnerabilities and design changes that may be needed.

"There are four major new systems on this aircraft carrier" for launching and landing aircraft, detecting aircraft and missiles and moving ordnance in eleva-

tors from deep inside the vessel, Robert Behler, the Pentagon's new chief of testing said in an interview. "I think we have to know if those systems continue to work in a combat environment," he said, but the decision of whether the shock tests occur next year "is not mine to make."

President Donald Trump promised the "12-carrier Navy we need" as he stood on the Ford's vast deck during a visit in March 2017 to Newport News, Va., where Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc. built the ship.

Two more ships in the Ford class, the Kennedy and Enterprise, are part of the program that's now estimated to cost \$45.7 billion. That includes \$2.8 billion for the vessels' electromagnetic launch system. An older carrier, the USS Nimitz, is scheduled for retirement in the next decade.

Capt. Danny Hernandez, a Navy acquisitions spokesman, said in an email that "internal discussions on Full Ship Shock Trials" continue "as we look at the technical and programmatic aspects." He wouldn't discuss the Navy's fiscal 2019 budget plans.

Through late January, Hernandez said, the Ford "conducted over 700 catapult launches" and landings, including more than 100 launches and recoveries in one day on two separate occasions.

But Behler cited concerns about the survivability of key systems on the Ford carrier, which is designated CVN-78, in a memo to Mattis last month accompanying his annual report on major weapons systems. He echoed issues raised by his predecessor, Michael Gilmore.

## Trump tells military heads to plan parade

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's vision of soldiers marching and tanks rolling down the boulevards of Washington is moving closer to reality in the Pentagon and White House, where officials say they have begun to plan a grand military parade this year showcasing the might of America's armed forces.

Trump has long mused publicly and privately about wanting such a parade, but a Jan. 18 meeting between Trump and top generals in the Pentagon's tank — a room reserved for top secret discussions — marked a tipping point, according to two officials briefed on the planning.

Surrounded by the military's highest ranking officials, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen.

Joe Dunford, Trump's seemingly abstract desire for a parade was suddenly heard as a presidential directive, the officials said.

"The marching orders were: I want a parade like the one in France," said an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the planning discussions are supposed to remain confidential. "This is being worked at the highest levels of the military."

American shows of military strength don't come cheap. The cost of shipping Abrams tanks and high-tech hardware to Washington could run in the millions, and military officials said it was unclear how they would pay for it.

A White House official familiar with the planning described the discussions as "brainstorming" and said nothing is settled. "Right now there's really no

meat on the bones," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions.

Still, the official said Trump is determined to have a parade. "The president wants to do something that highlights the service and sacrifice of the military and have a unifying moment for the country," the official said.

The inspiration for Trump's push is last year's Bastille Day celebration in Paris, which the president attended as a guest of French President Emmanuel Macron. Trump was awestruck by the tableau of uniformed French troops marching down Avenue des Champs-Élysées with military tanks, armored vehicles, gun trucks and carriers — complete with F-16 fighter jets flying over the Arc de Triomphe and painting the sky with streaks of blue, white and red smoke for

the colors of the French flag.

A date has not been selected, although officials said Trump would like to tie the parade to a patriotic holiday. Trump officials had discussed Memorial Day on May 28, and July 4, but the Pentagon prefers Veterans Day on Nov. 11 — in part because it would coincide with 100th anniversary of the victorious end of World War I and therefore be less associated with the president and politics.

With a few exceptions — such as former president George H.W. Bush's 1991 parade down Constitution Avenue celebrating victory in the Persian Gulf War — presidents have avoided displays of military hardware that are more associated in the American mind with the Soviet Union's Red Square celebrations or, more recently, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's efforts to show off his Taepodong missiles.

# Russian hackers phish for security secrets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russian cyberspies pursuing the secrets of military drones and other sensitive U.S. defense technology tricked key contract workers into exposing their email to theft, an Associated Press investigation has found.

What ultimately might have been stolen is uncertain, but the hackers clearly exploited a national vulnerability in cybersecurity: poorly protected email and barely any direct notification to victims.

The hackers known as Fancy Bear, who also intruded in the U.S. election, went after at least 87 people working on militarized drones, missiles, rockets, stealth fighter jets, cloud-computing platforms or other sensitive activities, the AP found.

Employees at small companies and defense giants like Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Co., Boeing Co., Airbus Group and General Atomics were targeted by the hackers. A handful of people in Fancy Bear's sights also worked for trade groups, contractors in U.S.-allied countries or on corporate boards.

"The programs that they appear to target and the people who work on those programs are some of the most forward-leaning, advanced technologies," said Charles Sowell, a former senior adviser to the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who reviewed the list of names for the AP. "And if those programs are compromised in any way, then our competitive advantage and our defense is compromised."

"That's what's really scary," added Sowell, who was one of the targets.

The AP identified the defense and security targets from about 19,000 lines of email phishing data created by hackers and collected by the U.S.-based cybersecurity company Secureworks, which calls the hackers Iron Twilight. The data is partial and extends only from March 2015 to May 2016. Of 87 scientists, engineers, managers and others, 31 agreed to be interviewed by the AP.

Most of the targets' work was classified. Yet as many as 40 percent of them clicked on the hackers' phishing links, the AP analysis indicates. That was the first step in potentially opening their personal email accounts or computer files to data theft by the digital spies.

James Poss, who ran a partnership doing drone research for the Federal Aviation Administration, was about to catch a taxi to the 2015 Paris Air Show when what appeared to be a Google security alert materialized in his inbox. Distracted, he moved his cursor to the blue prompt on his laptop.

"I clicked on it and instantly knew that I had been had," the retired Air Force major gen-

eral said. Poss said he realized his mistake before entering his credentials, which would have exposed his email to the hackers.

Hackers predominantly targeted personal Gmail, with a few corporate accounts mixed in.

Personal accounts can convey snippets of classified information, whether through carelessness or expediency. They also can lead to other more valuable targets or carry embarrassing personal details that can be used for blackmail or to recruit spies.

Drone consultant Keven Gambold, a hacking target himself, said the espionage could help Russia catch up with the Americans. "This would allow them to leapfrog years of hard-won experience," he said.

He said his own company is so worried about hacking that "we've almost gone back in time to use stand-alone systems if we're processing client proprietary data — we're FedEx'ing hard drives around."

Countries such as Russia are racing to make better drones as the remote-control aircraft have moved to the forefront of modern warfare. They can fire missiles, hunt down adversaries, or secretly monitor targets for days — all while keeping human pilots safely behind computer controls.

The U.S. Air Force now needs more pilots for drones than for any other type of aircraft, a training official said last year. Drones will lead growth in the aerospace industry over the next decade, with military uses driving the boom, the Teal Group predicted in November.

So far, though, Russia has nothing that compares with the new-generation U.S. Reaper, which has been called "the most feared" U.S. drone. General Atomics' 5,000-pound mega-drone can fly more than 1,000 miles to deliver Hellfire missiles and smart bombs. It has seen action in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The hackers went after General Atomics, targeting a drone sensor specialist. He did not respond to requests for comment.

They also made a run at the Gmail account of Michael Buet, an electronics engineer who has worked on ultra-durable batteries and high-altitude drones for SunCondor, a small South Carolina company owned by Star Technology and Research. Such machines could be a useful surveillance tool for a country like Russia, with its global military engagements and vast domestic border frontier.

"This bird is quite unique," said Buet. "It can fly at 62,000 feet and doesn't land for five years."

The Russians also appeared eager to catch up in space, once an arena for Cold War competition in the race for the moon. They seemed to be carefully eyeing the X-37B, an

American unmanned space plane that looks like a miniature shuttle but is shrouded in secrecy.

In a reference to an X-37B flight in May 2015, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin invoked the vehicle as evidence that his country's space program was faltering. "The United States is pushing ahead," he warned Russian lawmakers.

Less than two weeks later, Fancy Bear tried to penetrate the Gmail account of a senior engineer on the X-37B project at Boeing.

Fancy Bear has also tried to hack into the emails of several members of the Arlington, Va.-based Aerospace Industries Association, including its president, former Army Secretary Eric Fanning. It went after Lt. Gen. Mark Shackelford, who has served in the military and aerospace industry as a corporate board member. He has been involved with major weapons and space programs such as SpaceX, the reusable orbital rocket company founded by billionaire tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Along another path, the hackers chased people who work on cloud-based services, the off-site computer networks that enable collaborators to easily access and juggle data.

In 2013, the CIA signed a \$600 million deal with web giant Amazon to build a system to share secure data across the U.S. intelligence community. Other spy services followed, and the government cleared them last year to move classified data to the cloud at the "secret" level — a step below the nation's most sensitive information.

Fancy Bear's target list suggests the Russians have noticed these developments.

The hackers tried to get into the Gmail accounts of a cloud compliance officer at Palantir and a manager of cloud platform operations at SAP National Security Services, two companies that do extensive government work. Another target was at Mellanox Federal Systems, which helps the government with high-speed storage networks, data analysis and cloud computing. Its clients include the FBI and other intelligence agencies.

Cybersecurity experts say it's no surprise that spies go after less secure personal email as an opening to more protected systems. "For a good operator, it's like hammering a wedge," said Richard Ford, chief scientist at the Forcepoint cybersecurity company. "Private email is the soft target."

Even successful hacks might not translate into new weapons for Russia, where the economy is weighed down by corruption and international sanctions.

However, experts say Russia, while still behind the U.S., has been making more advanced drones in recent years.

## Exercise targets piracy

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S.-led exercise aimed at helping East African and Indian Ocean nations thwart piracy, illegal fishing and other seaborne crimes is set to end Thursday.

The 16 participating countries worked together to spot, raid and search suspicious ships during simulations near Djibouti and Seychelles in the weeklong Cutlass Express. U.S. Africa Command and the Navy's 6th Fleet hosted the exercise.

"Today we see cooperation between countries with diverse foreign policies unified around the common theme of maritime security," J. Alexander Hamilton, U.S. deputy chief of mission in Djibouti, said in a statement.

Cutlass is one of three yearly exercises designed to strengthen cooperative policing in waters where criminal activity is a constant problem, especially near vital shipping routes. The other two exercises are Obangame Express in West Africa and Phoenix Express in the Mediterranean Sea.

Better policing protects U.S.

goods from going in and out of African waters but also curtails drug smuggling, human trafficking and other crimes that can spur corruption and fund extremists, said Christopher Jaspardo, national security affairs professor at the Naval War College.

Working together with East African nations also helps secure military and commercial access to regional ports and seaways, blocking China and other adversaries from courting these countries, he said.

"This has become more important recently as China and other nations expand their naval operation and presence into the Indian Ocean," Jaspardo said.

Besides the United States, participating countries in Cutlass Express were: Australia, Canada, Comoros, Denmark, Djibouti, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, the Netherlands, Tanzania and Turkey.

This year, countries with operation centers all used the SeaVision 2.0 computer program, which gave them the same electronic picture of activities occurring on the ocean.

## Sailors based at Misawa take part in snow festival

BY LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

Servicemembers sculpted a replica of the Navy's iconic "Lone Sailor" statue out of snow for this year's Sapporo Snow Festival on Japan's Hokkaido island.

An 11-person team from Naval Air Facility Misawa began the sculpture on Jan. 29 by chipping away at a massive block of compacted snow at Odori Park in the heart of Sapporo. Snow-sculpture teams from around the world take part in the popular annual festival, which began Monday and runs through Feb. 12.

"We chose this statue because it represents something that every sailor goes through at some point in their career,"

Chief Petty Officer Frank Ring said in a Navy statement. "At some point when a sailor is far from home, or they rotate to a new command, they have a moment where they must rise to meet the challenges of being a United States sailor."

An unseasonably warm second day of construction caused the Navy's sculpture to collapse. The sailors responded by arriving to work hours before other teams and sculpting well into the evenings to meet the Feb. 4 deadline.

This is the 35th year that Misawa sailors have participated in the festival. Past sculptures have included an aircraft carrier, a surface warfare pin, the fighting bee of the Seabees and a Navy diver.

## Military misconduct faces new scrutiny

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — In a wide-ranging congressional hearing covering a slew of senior military misconduct problems, California Rep. Jackie Speier held up the latest headline story in a newspaper that detailed claims from female victims of inappropriate sexual behavior from a superior.

This time, the claims were against a Marine Corps officer, Maj. David Cheeks, who has denied the accusations, according to the USA Today report.

Speier, the ranking Democrat for a House Armed Services subpanel that held the hearing, took direct aim at the Marine Corps assistant commandant who testified Wednesday that the service has launched a new inquiry into the matter.

"If you've heard anything from the members of Congress over the last few months, we believe the women," Speier said. "I think we have a huge problem. We have a huge problem in our academies and we have a huge problem in our services. That isn't even getting to the issue of sexual assault. That's the issue of sexual harassment. I think we've got to do something dramatic to shift the culture."

The comments came near the close of testimony from military leaders before the House Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel and zeroed in on the current trends, prevention and accountability efforts for senior misconduct complaints ranging from ethics violations to theft to sexual assault. Senior military officers include O-7s and above.

Several lawmakers on the panel and military leaders said while misconduct complaints continue, they still comprise a small minority of the military.

"While one incident of senior leader misconduct is too many, it is important to acknowledge that the vast majority of senior leaders serve with distinc-

tion," said Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., chairman of the subpanel. However, "military leadership must continue to ensure that all senior leaders uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, and when senior leaders fall short, they must be held appropriately accountable."

Two hearing panels of service inspector generals and vice chairs told the committee that they've seen significant progress addressing a slew of senior misconduct complaints that peaked in recent years, but plenty of work remains to finally get a handle on the problem.

For example, a Department of Defense Inspector General report presented at the hearing said the number of documented complaints of senior misconduct dramatically increased from 2008 to 2012, but has stabilized since then. And since 2013, the services have seen 1,000 such complaints, with the Army claiming the largest share of those at nearly 500.

"We do acknowledge problems exist," said Lt. Gen. David E. Quantock, the Army's Inspector General. But "while recent headlines on Army senior leader misconduct give the appearance of widespread misbehavior, the truth is most transgressions are technical violations committed by a very small minority."

Quantock said the most common confirmed complaints involving general officers are misuse of resources, failure to follow regulations and failure to take action. Claims involving inappropriate relations or sexual misconduct during the last decade involve less than 1 percent of the Army officers.

The top allegation, however, remains whistleblower reprisal, he said, which sees a low rate of being proven true.

To prevent future misconduct, several measures are in place, from specialized training for new senior officials to boosting investigative efforts and data collection, the military leaders said.

## USAF drops re-enlistment bonuses in 17 career fields

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Air Force cryptologic language analysts who specialize in Korean or Hebrew who are eligible to re-enlist may want to submit their paperwork now.

The same goes for airmen in more than a dozen Air Force career fields about to lose retention bonuses that can be as much as \$90,000.

The Air Force on Tuesday announced it was eliminating selective re-enlistment bonuses for 17 career fields — including Hebrew and Korean cryptologic language analysts — and reducing retention bonuses for 19 more in fiscal 2018.

For the first time since 2012, airmen assigned to specialty codes subject to reduced or eliminated bonuses now have 30 days to re-enlist and still get their higher bonuses.

For the past five fiscal years, the change to career fields eligible for bonuses was effective immediately.

The Air Force Personnel Center posted the list of changes to selective re-enlistment bonuses on Tuesday. It shows a total of 89 jobs eligible for re-enlistment bonuses, up from 80 last year. Twenty-six jobs were added, while 20 career fields that were already on the list will see higher bonuses this year.

AFPC said that reinstating the grace period “means airmen in Air Force specialty codes being reduced or terminated will have an opportunity to qualify for the selective retention bonus at the previous rate.”

All bonus increases and additions were effective as of Tuesday, while decreases or deletions won't go into effect until March 7, according to the AFPC guidance released on Tuesday.

For a full list of selective retention bonuses for 2018, go to: <http://bit.ly/2BJYSMk>

# Senate's 2-year budget pact boosts spending for defense

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Senate's top leaders announced Wednesday they have sealed agreement on a two-year budget pact that would shower both the Pentagon and domestic programs with almost \$300 billion above existing limits, giving wins to both GOP defense hawks and Democrats seeking billions for infrastructure projects and combatting opioid abuse.

The agreement is likely to be added to a stopgap spending bill that passed the House on Tuesday and is aimed at averting a government shutdown Thursday at midnight.

The plan also contains almost \$90 billion in overdue disaster aid for hurricane-slammed Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

And it would increase the government's borrowing cap to prevent a first-ever default on U.S. obligations that looms in just a few weeks.

The House's top Democrat, however, swung out against the plan.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California announced she would oppose the budget measure unless her chamber's GOP leaders promised a vote on legislation to protect “Dreamer” immigrants who face deportation after being brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

The House on Tuesday passed legislation to keep the government running through March 23, marrying the stopgap spending measure with a \$659 billion Pentagon spending plan, but the Senate plan would rewrite that measure.

Senate Democratic leaders have dropped their strategy of using the funding fight to extract concessions on immigration, specifically on seeking extended protections for the “Dreamer” immigrants. Instead, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., went with a deal that would reap tens of billions of dollars for other priorities — including combating opioids — while hoping to solve the immigration impasse later.

The budget agreement would give both the Pentagon and domestic agencies relief from a budget freeze that lawmakers say threatens military readiness and training as well as domestic priorities such as combating opioid abuse and repairing the troubled health care system for veterans.

## FBI agents' texts praise Comey testimony

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The day in July 2016 that FBI Director James Comey defended to Congress the bureau's decision in the Hillary Clinton email probe, two FBI officials traded admiring texts about his verbal dexterity — and mocking jibes at the lawmakers questioning him.

Congress, wrote FBI lawyer Lisa Page in one text, is “utterly worthless.” “Less than worthless,” replied Peter Strzok, a seasoned FBI counterintelligence agent assigned to that investigation. “Utterly contemptible.” The officials' assessment of Comey, facing hours of questions about his decision not to seek charges against Clinton for her use of a private email server, was unmistakably flattering.

“God he is SO good,” Strzok said. “I know,” Page responded. “Brilliant public speaker. And brilliant distillation of fact.”

That exchange is included among 384 pages of text messages between Page and Strzok provided by the Justice Department to Congress and reviewed by The Associated Press. The texts, part of an inspector general investigation into the handling of the Clinton email probe, are most notable for derogatory messages about President Donald Trump — the discovery of which led to Strzok's reassignment from special counsel Robert Mueller's team. But they also include unguarded discussion about a variety of current events and public figures, as well as candid assessments of their colleagues and their FBI careers and futures.

Among the thousands of texts, the dialogue about Comey is especially striking because it further calls into question White House characterizations of an FBI in “tatters,” where “countless” agents complained about their director before his removal. Surveys released

last year show FBI employees consistently gave Comey high marks. And emails published this week by the Lawfare blog show FBI field office leaders using words like “profound sadness” and “hard to understand” in spreading the news about Comey's May 9 termination, one of the events now under investigation by Mueller for possible obstruction of justice.

The texts proved an explosive development when revealed in December, giving rise to Republican allegations of bias in the FBI and the Justice Department and leading Trump to make an extraordinary allegation of “treason” against Strzok that the agent's lawyer dismissed as “beyond reckless.” Strzok was removed from Mueller's group in July after Mueller learned of the texts. Page, who'd also been detailed to that team, left that assignment before the messages were discovered.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ships owned by fishing magnate 'Codfather' sink

**MA** NEW BEDFORD — Massachusetts authorities said two ships owned by the imprisoned fishing magnate known as the Codfather have sunk.

The New Bedford Fire Department said the fishing vessels Dinah Jane and Nemesis sank early Monday morning. Officials said the vessels were part of Carlos Rafael's fleet.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the ships were tied to each other in the New Bedford Harbor. No one was on board at the time of the sinking.

## DNA leads to arrest of man in 1988 case

**AZ** PHOENIX — A man who reported finding a woman's dead body in the desert near Phoenix decades ago is now charged with killing her.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said Friday's arrest of Donald Lee Scott, 55, of Glendale in the killing of Ann Marie Levee in December 1988 stems from a DNA match.

A probable-cause statement said Scott and an unidentified companion were released after they took deputies to where they reported finding Levee's body, which had gunshot wounds and other injuries.

The statement said another case resulted in Scott providing a DNA sample that matched semen found in Levee's vagina.

## Woman finds neighbor's dog riding 1-eyed pony

**MO** BOLIVAR — A dog riding a one-eyed pony into the night is surely a spectacle that needs video proof. A Missouri woman made sure to get exactly that.

The Springfield News-Lead-

er reported that Callie Schenker pulled into her driveway Thursday to the sight of her neighbor's Corgi sitting on her horse, Cricket. She recorded a 15-second video of the pony trotting away into the darkness as the canine sits atop, looking at the camera.

The 22-year-old posted the video on Facebook with the message, "I can't make this stuff up!!! So we pull back in our driveway tonight and this is what we see. This is not our dog! But apparently him and Cricket the one-eyed wonder pony are best friends." The video has received 5.3 million views as of Tuesday morning.

## Off-duty trooper helps save choking infant

**NJ** PISCATAWAY — Officials said an off-duty New Jersey State Trooper helped save the life of a choking 2-week-old infant.

Trooper Robert Meyer was asleep at his Piscataway home last weekend after working an overnight shift when the grandmother of the baby girl rushed over, seeking help for the baby who had turned blue and was struggling to breathe. State police said Meyer did not stop to put on shoes before rushing over to his neighbor's house.

He used a bulb syringe to clear mucus and vomit blocking the infant girl's nose and mouth. The newborn was later treated and released from the hospital the same day, and she is expected to fully recover.

## Great white shark stalks Everglade waters

**FL** EVERGLADES CITY — A great white shark named George was spotted lingering off the Florida coast near the Everglades and Gulf of Mexico.

News outlets cite shark-tracking organization OCEARCH as reporting George was spotted Sunday near the edge of Everglades National Park.

George was tagged in October 2016 off the coast of Massachusetts. Since then, he's been spotted near the Atlantic coast from Nova Scotia to south Florida and had traveled more than 4,500 miles by Sunday.

He was last recorded as 702 pounds and around 10 feet long. OCEARCH chief science adviser Bob Hueter told The Miami Herald that George probably weighs closer to 1,000 pounds now.

## Hiker rescued by 34 rangers, 12 volunteers

**NY** RAY BROOK — A hiker is recovering from a leg injury after 34 state forest rangers and 12 volunteers braved high winds and snow in a 37-hour rescue operation in the Adirondack High Peaks.

The Department of Environmental Conservation said a hiker called 911 in Essex County on Saturday to report his companion had fallen 10 feet from an icy cliff on Saddleback Mountain. The injured hiker couldn't bear weight on one leg.

High winds, snow and cloud cover made it impossible to use a rescue helicopter, so rangers hiked in and set up a base camp. They located the hikers around 4:45 a.m. Sunday.

The injured hiker was carried out of the woods at 1 a.m. on Monday and taken to a hospital.

## False hostage report prompts 5-hour standoff

**FL** MIAMI — Authorities say a woman prompted a five-hour standoff with po-

lice at a Miami restaurant by falsely claiming that about a dozen people were being held hostage.

The Miami Herald reported that Miami police responded to Joseph's Club Restaurant in Little Havana on Monday afternoon.

Police initially responded to reports of a stolen cellphone. When the woman, who hasn't been named, came outside, she told officers that she had been held against her will, and there were other hostages inside.

Police blocked off the street, placed snipers on nearby roofs and ordered the lockdown of two nearby elementary schools. When police finally entered the building hours later, no hostages or weapons were found.

## Ice fishing tourney winners investigated

**MN** BRAINERD — Officials of a Minnesota ice fishing tournament are investigating some of this year's winners.

Officials with Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extraganza said they're investigating whether three men from Ohio legitimately caught the fish when they say they did, the Star Tribune reported.

Stephan Lyogky and his father, Ivan Lyogky, caught two of three northern pike that won prizes. A relative, Rostik Lyogky, caught the sole perch. The men finished in first, third and 98th place, respectively. Their prizes have been placed on hold.

Volunteers patrol the area on Gull Lake where anglers can fish, but with an estimated 12,000 participants this year, monitoring can be difficult.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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# Vonn, Shiffrin personify skiing standard

Associated Press

Separated in age by about a decade, Lindsey Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin head to the Pyeongchang Olympics as the past, present and future of ski racing in the United States and around the world.

In the World Cup, their sport's annual measuring stick, Vonn, 33, owns four overall titles; Shiffrin, who turns 23 in March, is on pace for her second. Vonn has won 81 World Cup races, a record for a woman and second most for anyone in history; Shiffrin is halfway there.

Each claimed an Olympic gold medal in her specialty: Vonn in the downhill in 2010; Shiffrin in the slalom in 2014, when Vonn was out after right knee surgery. Now, with the opening ceremony in South Korea on Friday, arrives the first — and, presumably, last — chance for them to share the spotlight at a Winter Games.

"The regard they have for each other is extraordinary. Lindsey is such an incredible, achieved athlete, and Mikaela looks at her that way, in awe of her. And at the same time,

Lindsey is clearly in awe of Mikaela's accomplishments, as is the entire world, of course," U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association CEO Tiger Shaw said. "You have two of the most powerful women in the athletic world, and they're both battling for their own goals, and they both want to achieve as many medals as possible in these Olympics."

Vonn will be an overwhelming favorite in the downhill in South Korea, having won the last three World Cup races in that event. She also could contend in the other speed event, the super-G, and the combined, which adds the time from one downhill run and one slalom.

Shiffrin, meanwhile, can — indeed, will be expected to — become the first with consecutive slalom golds; she won five of the past six World Cup slaloms she entered. She also could win a medal in the other technical event, the giant slalom, along with the combined, and is likely to be in the starting hut for speed events, too.

There is, though, a mutual admiration.

"Lindsey was one of my really biggest idols growing up. And I still have an enormous respect for her. The career she's had, the focus and energy that she puts into this sport," said the younger Shiffrin, who studies video of Vonn's downhill runs. "So to hear anybody with the kind of success that she's had say anything remotely positive about me is very flattering."

Vonn does have plenty of nice things to say about Shiffrin.

During one recent interview, for example, she called Shiffrin an "amazingly talented skier" and praised her as someone who "works incredibly hard" and who "definitely has a lot of possibilities in front of her."

While their careers have overlapped, they have not faced off much for a variety of factors. Among them: time Vonn lost to injuries, her focus on the downhill and super-G — she's entered zero slaloms since 2013 — and Shiffrin's relatively recent venturing into those events.

So while the two collected a combined 194 top-three finishes in World Cup races, they did so on the same day only once.

That was on Jan. 19, when Vonn was second and Shiffrin third in a downhill at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

"It's weird that we haven't been on the podium together before. Because we've both been successful, just not at the same time," Vonn said. "It was really fun. We're going to be on the podium a lot more together in the future, which is great."

Perhaps as soon as this month in South Korea.

But who knows for how much longer that will even be a possibility? Vonn plans to compete for another World Cup season with two aims in mind: She wants to get permission for a barrier-breaking race against men and plans to eclipse Ingemar Stenmark's mark of 86 career victories.

If — when? — she does the latter, it could be just a matter of time until Shiffrin better Vonn's record. After all, Shiffrin's 41 World Cup wins are the most for someone before her 23rd birthday and a remarkable 34 more than Vonn accumulated by that age. Yes, you read that correctly: 34 more.

## Rest of world chasing Germans when it comes to luge

Associated Press

There has never been a woman's luge athlete who has won more World Cup medals than Natalie Geisenberger. Same goes for world championship medals, same goes for Olympic medals.

Her résumé is beyond compare.

So she's the best ever to slide, right?

"No," she says, adamantly. "I'm not the best."

She may not think so, but plenty of people in the luge world think otherwise. There may be no other athlete at the Pyeongchang Olympics — not Lindsey Vonn, not Mikaela Shiffrin, not Nathan Chen — more expected to win than Geisenberger, the star attrac-

tion of a juggernaut German luge program that has been miles ahead of the rest of the world for generations.

"I'm not one who looks to the number of races or being on the podium," Geisenberger said.

Maybe she should. Here's a baffling comparison: The United States, in its entire World Cup luge history, has 45 gold medals. Geisenberger has 43 golds in singles races alone, 64 when adding in relay events.

In Germany, she is considered an absolute sporting superstar — whether she wants the spotlight or not.

"The motivation is that I like what I do, I love what I do," Geisenberger said. "I like the sport. I love to race against other people, to fight against myself and I like to be success-

ful. I know the feeling to stand on the podium, on the top. I know the feeling when the national anthem is playing. I'm addicted to that feeling."

Germans don't win every race. It just seems that way. Geisenberger is the defending Olympic champion who won 13 medals in 13 races in World Cup singles competition this season. Two-time defending men's Olympic champion Felix Loch led all men with eight singles medals.

"I don't know what the magic ingredient is," said U.S. women's luge veteran Erin Hamlin, a two-time world champion and the 2014 Olympic women's bronze medalist. "They're competitors. They come out on race day and you can pretty much bet they're going to go

faster than they did all week in training. Happens all the time. They're breaking track records almost every week."

Loch is trying to be only the second man to win three consecutive Olympic luge gold medals. The other, of course, was a German — Georg Hackl did it in 1992, 1994 and 1998. Geisenberger could be the first woman to win three Olympic luge golds, after winning in singles and as part of the team relay at Sochi in 2014.

"I like the sport very much and that's the important thing," said Loch, who's only 28 and plans on going through at least one more Olympic cycle. "I like sliding, the feeling, the speed. That's what's so cool about the sport."

# McDaniels backs out of deal with Colts

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Josh McDaniels has backed out of a deal to become the Indianapolis Colts' new coach, a decision that shocked the franchise hours after it announced his hiring.

The Colts confirmed McDaniels' decision in a statement Tuesday night after reports emerged that the Patriots' offensive coordinator had opted to stay in New England with coach Bill Belichick.

McDaniels had agreed to contract terms with the Colts to replace the fired Chuck Pagano, and a news conference had been scheduled for Wednesday at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Just a few hours later, the Colts said McDaniels informed them he would not sign the deal.

"Although we are surprised and disappointed, we will resume our head coaching search immediately and find the right fit to lead our team and organization on and off the field," the Colts said in the statement.

The Patriots and McDaniels' agent, Bob LaMonte, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"I'm speechless," former Colts receiver Reggie Wayne told NFL Network. "I've talked with people in the Colts organization and they feel like they've been hoodwinked."

It's also not clear how the Colts will proceed from here.

By spurning Indy after it waited 22 days for the playoffs to end, McDaniels leaves the reeling franchise as the only one without a coach — in early February. New England's defensive coordinator, Matt Patricia, left Belichick's staff a day after the Patriots' Super Bowl loss to become coach of the Detroit Lions.

Indy had interviewed several candidates for the job, including two that were hired by other teams — Matt Nagy went to Chicago and Mike Vrabel to Tennessee. Another potential candidate, Baylor coach Matt Rhule, had already announced he was returning to the college ranks before the Colts had settled on McDaniels, who at age 41 is considered one of the game's best young minds.

He's been considered a top-tier head coaching candidate for several years even though his only other coaching stint with Denver ended badly. He went 8-8 with the Broncos in 2009 and 3-9 in 2010 before he was fired with three games left in the season. He worked with the St. Louis Rams in 2011 before returning to New England in 2012, where he has been the offensive coordinator ever since.

And turning down his second chance, after agreeing to a deal with Indy, could make other teams outside of New England more hesitant to hire McDaniels. His decision will also have ramifications for the coaches who were set to join his staff.

It's unusual but not unprecedented in

league history for a deal with a new coach to fall through at the last minute. McDaniels' move was eerily reminiscent of his mentor, Belichick, who resigned as coach of the Jets with a handwritten note less than a day after he was hired in 2000.

Although McDaniels never signed his contract with Indianapolis, his stint was even shorter. The team announced his hiring on its Twitter account late Tuesday morning. Hours later, the Colts had deleted the tweet and replaced it with the statement about his withdrawal.

Pagano was fired Dec. 31 after the team finished 4-12 in a season without injured quarterback Andrew Luck.

Within days of Pagano's ouster, Colts general manager Chris Ballard interviewed McDaniels during the Patriots' postseason bye week. Two weeks later, reports indicated the deal was all but finished and potential suitors, like the New York Giants, started hiring other coaches.

Now the Colts find themselves in perhaps the toughest position of all — finding a new coach in February.

In Indianapolis, where the fan base already loathed the Patriots, McDaniels' sudden change of heart didn't go over well.

The City of Noblesville, a northern suburb of Indy, put this on Twitter: "Unlike Josh McDaniels, we stay true to our commitments. Noblesville street crews will be out tonight once winter weather hits you can 'do your job' tomorrow."

## NHL roundup

# Penguins spoil Fleury's return to Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — It was an emotional night for the Pittsburgh Penguins and their beloved former goaltender, Marc-Andre Fleury.

Fleury was back in the city where he started his NHL career and spent more than a decade, helping to backstop the Penguins to multiple championships. The Penguins wanted to honor their old friend — and they did — but they also wanted to win.

Third-period goals by Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel ruined Fleury's homecoming as the Penguins defeated the Vegas Golden Knights 5-4 on

Tuesday.

"I think it was an important game, and obviously with [Fleury] coming in it added a lot of emotion," Penguins captain Sidney Crosby said. "Once you get out there, you're trying to win a game and he's trying to do the same thing."

Fleury, who won three Stanley Cups with the Penguins — including the last two seasons — returned to Pittsburgh for the first time since Vegas selected him in the expansion draft last summer.

**Bruins 3, Red Wings 2:** Sean Kuraly and David Krejci scored in the second period, and surging Boston rallied for a victory over host Detroit.

**Ducks 4, Sabres 3 (OT):** Adam Henrique scored 1:36 into overtime and Anaheim snapped a three-game skid with a win over host Buffalo.

**Capitals 3, Blue Jackets 2:** Nicklas Backstrom scored the winning goal with 43 seconds left, Braden Holtby made 37 saves and Washington beat host Columbus.

**Flyers 2, Hurricanes 1 (OT):** Jordan Weal scored with 3.1 seconds left in overtime and Philadelphia topped host Carolina.

**Panthers 3, Canucks 1:** Aleksander Barkov scored twice, including the go-ahead goal late in the second period, to lead host Florida.

**Senators 5, Devils 3:** Matt Duchene had a goal and two assists as undermanned Ottawa beat visiting New Jersey.

**Wild 6, Blues 2:** Jason Zucker tied a career high with his 22nd goal and Devan Dubnyk made 35 saves in Minnesota's win over host St. Louis.

**Flames 3, Blackhawks 2:** — Michael Stone scored with 3:30 left and Calgary edged host Chicago.

**Jets 4, Coyotes 3:** Dustin Byfuglien had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg.

**Avalanche 3, Sharks 1:** Gabriel Bourque and Tyson Jost scored 2:14 apart in the second period, Jonathan Bernier stopped 38 shots for the hosts.

## NBA roundup

# Reeling Cavs blow 21-point lead

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — After another embarrassing defeat and two days before the trade deadline, LeBron James let it be known he's not going anywhere, at least for now.

"I'm here for this season right now to try and figure out a way we can still compete," James said after his Cleveland Cavaliers blew a 21-point lead in a 116-98 loss to the Orlando Magic. "I owe it to my teammates to finish this season out no matter how it ends up. I would never waive my no-trade clause."

The Cavaliers fell apart in the second half and lost for the 14th time in 21 games. They have given up an average of 122.4 points in their last five losses.

"I couldn't give up on my teammates like that. I just couldn't do it," James said after scoring 25 points. "We put too much into the game every single day."

"This is no time to be ashamed about our season," he added. "We've got quite a few games left. If we're still serious about the season, then we've

got to play some good ball at some point."

Jonathon Simmons scored 22 of his career-high 34 points in the third quarter for the Magic, who broke a nine-game home-court losing streak against Cleveland.

The Cavaliers scored 43 points in the first quarter, but then went almost 6½ minutes without scoring in the fourth. They played the second half without coach Tyrone Lue, who went to the locker room in the second quarter with what the team said was an illness.

The Magic made their first 10 shots of the second half and won consecutive games for the first time since Nov. 8-10.

James did not have a rebound or an assist in a foul-plagued second half.

"I gave my teammates some opportunities to knock 'em down, but they just didn't go. You can't get assists when they don't go down, but that doesn't stop me from finding my guys on the floor," he said. "At this point it's not what you say, it's what you do. We've got to go out and play well as a collective group, everyone hitting at the right time on all cylinders, and

right now we're not doing that."

**Bucks 103, Knicks 89:** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points, jumping over Tim Hardaway Jr. for one high-flying slam, and visiting Milwaukee beat New York.

Eric Bledsoe also had 23 points and Khris Middleton added 20 for the Bucks, who are a season-high seven games over .500.

**Raptors 111, Celtics 91:** Kyle Lowry scored 23 points, C.J. Miles had 20 and host Toronto snapped Boston's four-game winning streak.

**Rockets 123, Nets 113:** James Harden scored 36 points, surpassing 15,000 for his career, and Houston beat host Brooklyn for its fifth straight victory.

**76ers 115, Wizards 102:** Joel Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds, and the 76ers helped the city of Philadelphia continue to celebrate by leading from start to finish in a victory over Washington.

**Hawks 108, Grizzlies 82:** Dennis Schroder scored 22 points and Atlanta beat turnover-plagued Memphis, giving the struggling Grizzlies their fourth straight loss.

# Porzingis tears ACL

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kristaps Porzingis will have to wait to play in the All-Star Game. Same with the playoffs.

He hoped to accomplish both during his third season in the NBA, his first as the unquestioned star of the New York Knicks.

But those plans were derailed when Porzingis crashed to the court, punching the floor in pain after a dunk in the second quarter of a loss to the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

An MRI revealed a torn left ACL, an injury that will sideline Porzingis for the rest of this season and perhaps a good deal of the next.

Disappointment could be felt not only in New York but around the NBA. Porzingis is a popular player for his wide array of skills at 7-foot-3 that led Kevin Durant to nickname him a "unicorn," but also for the personality he brought to New York when he arrived in 2015 as a teenager from Latvia.

"Was hoping for the best news when I saw the play after the game," LeBron James wrote on Twitter. "Best wishes and have a speedy healthy recovery."

Porzingis was set to play on James' team next week when he made his debut as an All-Star, and he was also set to defend his title in the Skills Challenge. He hoped to return from Los Angeles to a playoff race.

Those Knicks' hopes suffered a huge blow when Porzingis went down. The Knicks were already facing a tough climb from 11th place in the Eastern Conference, and that would have been difficult even with Porzingis carrying them.

The Knicks probably would have needed to find some help by Thursday's trade deadline, and perhaps they would have tried given Porzingis' stated desire for a playoff push. But now they are better off playing for the lottery than the playoffs, and any moves they make would likely be with that in mind.

## College roundup

# Vols hand Kentucky second-straight loss

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Lamonte Turner scored 16 points, including a clutch three-pointer with 26 seconds remaining, Admiral Schofield followed with a dunk off a turnover and No. 15 Tennessee edged No. 24 Kentucky 61-59 on Tuesday night for its sixth consecutive victory.

The Volunteers ran down the shot clock in the final minute before Turner fired from long range for the go-ahead basket in a tight game featuring 17 lead changes and 13 ties.

The joyous Vols (18-5, 8-3 Southeastern Conference)

came away with just their fifth Rupp Arena victory and first since 2006 while handing the Wildcats their second consecutive loss.

**No. 4 Michigan State 96, Iowa 93:** Miles Bridges had 25 points and a crucial steal with five seconds left and Michigan State rallied past lowly host Iowa for its seventh straight win.

**No. 5 Xavier 98, Butler 93 (OT):** Trevon Bluiett scored 17 of his 26 points in the final 14½ minutes of regulation and overtime to help Xavier rally.

**No. 6 Cincinnati 77, Central Florida 40:** Kyle Washington scored 13 points, Gary Clark

added 12, and Cincinnati gave another dominating defensive performance.

**No. 10 Kansas 71, TCU 64:** Devonte' Graham scored 24 points, and Udoka Azubuike added 16.

**Northwestern 61, No. 20 Michigan 52:** Bryant McIntosh tied a season high with 24 points for host Northwestern.

**No. 22 Wichita State 85, Memphis 65:** Austin Reaves scored 22 points, Landry Shamet added 20 points and five assists and Wichita State overcame early shooting struggles to beat host Memphis.