

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Deal clears way for \$1.4T military funding plan

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An agreement reached in the midst of a short-lived federal government shutdown Friday will let lawmakers move forward on a plan to bust budget caps for a \$1.4 trillion, two-year defense budget.

The new agreement, which lifts military spending limits for the next two years, funds the government through a stopgap measure until March 23. By then, lawmakers are hoping to issue a more permanent funding plan.

A two-year budget would usher in a new wave of stability for military spending following a slew of stopgap funding measures in recent years and would help trigger a new era of modernization efforts for the armed forces.

“This budget deal finally makes good on our promise to provide for the men and women who so faithfully serve our nation in uniform,” Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Friday in a statement. “It lays the groundwork for appropriating the funding level authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year

2018 and provides real growth in fiscal year 2019.”

President Donald Trump signed the budget-caps measure into law Friday, about 8 hours into the second government shutdown in three weeks. The shutdown caused disruptions overnight for some Department of Defense workers in the U.S. and for others in the midst of their workdays overseas.

Efforts to reach a deal ahead of a midnight shutdown deadline were stalled when Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., took to the Senate floor for several hours late Thursday to rail against the effort to bust budget caps.

However, by 6 a.m., lawmakers in the Senate and then the House had approved the plan, which was signed into the law a few hours later.

“Now the Defense Department will have the budget certainty it needs to begin the process of rebuilding the military, restoring readiness, and modernizing our forces — all of which are required to maintain America’s military edge over our adversaries in the era of renewed great-power competition outlined in the new National Defense Strategy,” said McCain, who helped shepherd the defense strategy through the Senate in recent years but has been home since De-

ember while battling brain cancer.

In December, Trump signed the \$700 billion policy plan known as the National Defense Authorization Act into law for the 2018 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. The effort sets a spending guide, but doesn’t actually appropriate the money.

The government is still operating on a temporary funding measure known as a continuing resolution, or C.R.

“This deal only sets those higher spending levels, it doesn’t actually appropriate funds to match them,” said Molly Reynolds, a governance studies fellow at the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. The deal sets up “another C.R. that would run for a few weeks until appropriators can actually write the bill pushing the funds out the door for specific purposes.”

With Friday’s \$1.4 trillion deal, the plan would allow lawmakers to appropriate \$700 billion to the Pentagon for fiscal year 2018, which ends in Sept. 30, and another \$716 billion for fiscal year 2019, which begins Oct. 1.

To follow through on this plan, lawmakers will have to issue an appropriations plans by the March 23 deadline of the new stopgap bill.

## Army eyes discipline, morale in boot camp overhaul

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army will soon overhaul its Basic Combat Training course in an effort to produce fitter, more disciplined and better motivated new soldiers, the general in charge of entrance training said Friday.

The Army will hold recruits to higher physical fitness standards, will send them on more realistic combat training exercises and will increase its efforts to teach basic skills such as first aid, arm signal communication and shooting rifles using only iron sights, said Maj. Gen. Malcolm Frost, the commander of the Army’s Center for Initial Military Training.

“First unit assignment leaders want initial entry training to deliver disciplined, physically fit new soldiers who are willing to learn, who are mentally tough, professional

and who are proud to serve in the United States Army,” Frost said. “The bottom line is that when you graduate Basic Combat Training, you are supposed to be ready for your first unit assignment [and] to be ready to step on a plane and go to combat.”

The changes are expected to go into effect before the fiscal year ends in October. They come as the Army looks to recruit some 15,000 new soldiers to increase its force during the coming year.

To incorporate better discipline, the Army will increase its focus in basic training on indoctrinating soldiers on Army values and evaluating them on their discipline.

Recruits will undergo bunk inspections, participate in drill and ceremony competitions and face tests on their knowledge of the Army’s history.

Frost said the focus on the Army’s long history is meant to build esprit de corps,

teaching the service’s values through lessons on pivotal battles from the Revolutionary War to the capture of Baghdad from Saddam Hussein’s forces in the Army’s 2003 Thunder Runs across Iraq.

The increased physical fitness standards will align with ones required of soldiers in the force. That means recruits must score 60 points — determined by a soldier’s age and gender — on each of the three aspects of the Army Physical Fitness Test, push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile runs. Previously, recruits only needed to score 50 points on each test in basic training, Frost said.

To aid recruits in achieving the more stringent fitness requirements and to better prepare them for combat, the Army will increase the amount of time recruits spend in the field and will boost combatants training from 22 hours to 33 hours during the 10-week course.

## Border wall lawsuit case set to start

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — An Indiana-born federal judge, whose Mexican heritage Donald Trump used to paint him as biased against him in a 2016 court case because of Trump's immigration stance, will hear arguments in a lawsuit that could block construction of a border wall with Mexico.

Judge Gonzalo Curiel will hear arguments Friday on a lawsuit from the state of California and advocacy groups that a border wall with Mexico must go through normal environmental reviews.

Trump repeatedly criticized Curiel in 2016 as lawsuits against Trump University neared trial, suggesting that the judge's Mexican heritage meant he could not be impartial in the fraud cases. Trump settled for \$25 million shortly after winning the election.

At issue is a 2005 law that gave the Homeland Security secretary broad powers to waive dozens of laws requiring environmental and other reviews, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

# Mattis: Serving Dreamers can stay

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Thursday that the roughly 900 undocumented immigrants serving in the U.S. military need not fret over their immigration status even if the program protecting them from deportation expires next month.

"They will not be subject to any kind of deportation," Mattis told reporters at the Pentagon. Adding later, "We would always stand by one of our people."

Servicemembers who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children and are registered in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program would be allowed to remain in the nation unless they were convicted of a "serious felony" or a federal judge already had ordered them deported, Mattis said Thursday after speaking with Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen about the issue. Those protections also extend to the approximately 1,000 DACA program enrollees — known as "Dreamers" — who have committed to military service and are awaiting orders to ship to boot camp, as well as reservists and former servicemembers who have been discharged honorably.

The President Barack Obama-era DACA protections, which grant quasilegal status to its enrollees, are set to expire March 5, leaving hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children vulnerable to deportation if Congress fails to forge an agreement to protect them.

Dreamers have been allowed to serve in the military since 2009 under a program entitled Military Accessions Vital to National Interest, or MAVNI, which places immigrants with in-demand skills, such as language or medical train-

ing, into the military. They must pass stringent background checks to enter the program.

The Pentagon has said some 10,400 individuals, primarily with legal immigration statuses, have served through that program, which can provide them a pathway to citizenship. The Pentagon has not said how many total undocumented immigrants have served in the program.

Mattis' assurances issued Thursday come after undocumented servicemembers for months have expressed concerns about their statuses in the military and the U.S. as President Donald Trump's administration and the Pentagon failed to effectively communicate whether troops would be protected should the program end.

Earlier on Thursday, in an essay published by Politico, one future servicemember expressed concerns about his immigration status, urging the military to ensure Dreamers could serve.

William Medeiros, 25, an undocumented immigrant whose Brazilian parents brought him to the U.S. when he was 6, wrote he fears deportation to a country of which he has little memory, even as he awaits shipment to Army boot camp as part of the MAVNI program.

"I have no ties to my home country and have nothing to fall back on if I would ever have to go back to Brazil," he wrote of the nation he has not visited since arriving in America. "... I want to fight for this country. I'm willing to die for it. Do the right thing."

Mattis said the protections for military-related Dreamers have been in place for some time and the concerns were the result of a misunderstanding.

"I want to make sure we do not have any more problems with it," he said.

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## US strikes kill 11 militants in Pakistan, Afghanistan

Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — Two separate U.S. drone strikes struck a militant compound in a northwestern tribal region of Pakistan and a vehicle in Afghanistan, killing 11 militants, mostly from the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network, officials said Friday.

Seven militants were killed in the first strike Thursday in the Pakistani border village of Gorwak in North Waziristan, once a stronghold of local and foreign militants until the military cleared them out.

The apparent target of the strike was Haqqani network's local commander, Qudrat Ullah, but it was unclear if he was among those killed when the drone's missiles struck

the compound, two officials said.

The officials said there were unconfirmed reports about the killing of a senior Pakistani Taliban commander, Khalid Mehsud, who is also known as commander Sajna, in a separate strike in neighboring Afghanistan.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

Also on Thursday, missiles fired from U.S. drone slammed into a vehicle in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia province, killing four militants, said Shah Mohammad Aryan, a spokesman for the provincial chief police.

The strike took place in the mountainous Barmal district of Paktia province, where

fighters from both the Haqqani network and Pakistan's Tehrik-e-Taliban militant group are believed to operate.

Pakistan opposes U.S. drone strikes, saying they violate its sovereignty.

Confirmation of the strikes came shortly before Afghanistan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai arrived in Islamabad for talks with Pakistani officials.

Friday's visit came days after Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua traveled to Afghanistan and met with Afghan officials following series of militant attacks in Kabul that killed over 200 people. Janjua's visit to Kabul was part of a larger dialogue many Afghans saw it as a response to their accusations against Islamabad.

# Kelly scrutinized after aide's resignation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pressure mounted on White House chief of staff John Kelly Thursday as questions swirled about his defense of a senior aide he fought to keep in a highly sensitive West Wing job despite accusations of spousal abuse from two ex-wives.

White House staff secretary Rob Porter, a member of President Donald Trump's inner circle and arguably Kelly's closest aide, cleaned out his desk on Thursday. But the aftershocks of his resignation reverberated amid concerns about his access to classified information.

Kelly himself faced criticism for defending his aide — only to later shift course after the publication of photos showing one

of Porter's ex-wives with a black eye.

Though the allegations against Porter became public this week, Kelly learned last fall that something was amiss with the staff secretary's attempts to get a security clearance, according to an administration official who insisted on anonymity.

The chief of staff had sought information about the status of security clearance applications for top aides, and it was then he learned there were allegations against Porter from his ex-wives, said the official.

When the allegations first emerged against Porter, a number of senior aides rallied around him, and the White House acknowledged that personal relationships may have

played a role in their response. Communications Director Hope Hicks, who was dating the staff secretary, helped draft the original statements defending him, according to three current and former White House officials.

Kelly was Porter's loudest defender, including in the first hours after the graphic photos of alleged abuse emerged.

Only later did the chief of staff, who had argued for Porter to keep his post, release a second statement in which he said he supported Porter's resignation.

White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah said Trump was not aware until Tuesday of the accusations against Porter, who was a frequent presence in the Oval Office and helped

craft the State of the Union address. By the time the president was fully briefed on the claims against Porter on Wednesday, Porter had already resigned, according to the official.

Kelly's handling of the Porter affair rattled some aides, who questioned his full-throated defense of an accused batterer, according to more than a half-dozen White House officials and outside advisers who were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

The White House was also put on the defensive about Porter's interim security clearance, fielding questions about how someone could handle some of the nation's most sensitive documents while potentially being ripe for blackmail.

## Heavy snow hits Midwest

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A winter storm moving across the Great Lakes that's forecast to drop about a foot of snow in some areas created treacherous driving conditions Friday, closed schools and forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights.

The National Weather Service issued winter-weather warnings and advisories across the upper Midwest. The snow that began falling late Thursday afternoon was expected to continue through Friday as the storm moves east.

As of Friday morning, the National Weather Service received reports of between 9 and 11 inches of snow over a 24-hour period in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Eight inches was reported in parts of northern Illinois, and up to about 6 inches was reported the Chicago area.

Portions of northern Indiana were hit hard, with 8 inches reported in New Carlisle. Snow across southern and central Michigan ranged from 7 inches on the western side of the state to more than 2 inches in the Detroit area.

## Woman claims airline told her to flush 'emotional support' hamster before flight

The Washington Post

A dwarf hamster named Pebbles is the latest victim in the ongoing battle between airlines and passengers who want to travel with their "emotional support" animals.

Pebbles' owner, Belen Aldecosea, was scheduled to fly from Baltimore to her home in Florida on Spirit Airlines. When she booked her reservation, Aldecosea, 21, said she was assured by a Spirit Airlines representative that she could bring the hamster on board with her. But when she arrived at Baltimore-Washington International airport for her Nov. 21 flight, she was told Pebbles was not welcome.

And then, she told the Miami Herald, things took a turn for the worse.

Unable to bring the hamster with her but needing to get home to deal with a medical issue, Aldecosea said an airline representative suggested she either set Pebbles free outdoors or flush her down the toilet.

Aldecosea said she spent hours scrambling to find another way to get home, including

trying to rent a car. But given it was the holiday season, there were no cars available. And so an increasingly desperate Aldecosea said she flushed Pebbles down an airport toilet.

"She was scared. I was scared. It was horrifying trying to put her in the toilet," Aldecosea told the Herald. "I was emotional. I was crying. I sat there for a good 10 minutes crying in the stall."

A spokesman for Spirit Airlines, a low-cost carrier, confirmed that a Spirit employee incorrectly told Aldecosea that she could bring her hamster on the flight, but denied that an employee told Aldecosea to flush the hamster or harm her in any way.

"Our reservation representative, unfortunately, did misinform the Guest that a hamster was permitted to fly as an emotional support animal on Spirit Airlines," Spirit spokesman Derek Dombrowski said via email. "When the Guest appeared with the hamster at the airport, our agents offered and the Guest accepted an opportu-

nity to take a later flight, so she had time to find other accommodations for the animal. Our records indicate the Guest took that later flight with no further incident."

Dombrowski denied that an employee suggested that Aldecosea flush the hamster down the toilet.

"After researching this incident, we can say confidently that at no point did any of our agents suggest this Guest (or any other for that matter) should flush or otherwise injure an animal," he said.

The story of Pebbles' tragic demise comes as people are still buzzing about another animal companion story that went viral. Last month, a woman at Newark's Liberty International Airport tried to bring her "emotional support" peacock aboard a United Airlines flight. United denied boarding to the peacock, saying it failed to meet several guidelines, including those on weight and size. United officials also said that they had warned the woman that the bird would not be allowed to fly.

## #MeToo leader is accused of misconduct

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Democratic Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, the head of the Legislative Women's Caucus and a leading figure in the state's anti-sexual harassment movement, is accused of groping a male staffer from another lawmaker's office.

Daniel Fierro told The Associated Press on Thursday that Garcia stroked his back, squeezed his buttocks and attempted to touch his crotch in a dugout after a legislative softball game in 2014.

Fierro didn't report it at the time but in January told his former boss, Democratic Assemblyman Ian Calderon, who reported it to Assembly leaders. The Assembly is now investigating Garcia.

Politico first reported Fierro's accusation.

Garcia's spokeswoman, Teala Schaff, said the assemblywoman learned Jan. 23 a complaint was filed but was given no details and only learned the specifics of the allegations from Politico.

"Every complaint about sexual harassment should be taken seriously and I will participate fully in any investigation that takes place," the Los Angeles-area lawmaker said in a statement Thursday. "I have zero recollection of engaging in inappropriate behavior and such behavior is inconsistent with my values."

Fierro, who was 25 at the time, said he decided to tell Calderon about the incident because of Garcia's outspokenness in the #MeToo movement, which references the social media campaign used by millions to tell personal experiences with sexual harassment.

"If the person leading the charge on it isn't credible, it just ends up hurting the credibility of these very real stories," Fierro told the AP.

# Records: Utah public paid for rooms in prostitute case

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Taxpayer funds were used to pay for at least two hotel rooms that a Utah lawmaker who resigned this week is alleged to have used to meet with a prostitute last year, according to records found by a state House of Representatives official.

After the British newspaper the Daily Mail reported allegations Thursday that Republican Rep. Jon Stanard twice hired a prostitute in 2017, House and state elections officials said they were checking to see if taxpayer or campaign money had been used for the hotel stays that the report alleges Stanard booked.

House Chief of Staff Greg Hartley told The Associated Press in a text message that Stanard, who resigned Tuesday night, was reimbursed for hotel stays in Salt Lake City in

June and August 2017 when Stanard was attending legislative meetings at the state Capitol, four hours from his home in St. George. The dates and hotel names correspond with text messages reported in the Daily Mail.

"It looks like they were legislative days," Republican House Speaker Greg Hughes told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Hughes said he didn't yet know if the House would ask Stanard to return the hotel reimbursements.

"If there has been an abuse of public funds or if public funds were used in a way that's inappropriate, we would," Hughes said. "I don't have solid answers for those things. I would need to have a way that I would know conclusively that that is the case."

Phone and text messages to Stanard's personal cellphone

were not returned, but it indicated he read the texts seeking comment. His lawyer, Wally Bugden, declined to comment and did not respond to a follow-up email asking if he was denying the allegations.

Hughes said he did not yet know what the House would do next to try to determine if the Daily Mail report was correct.

It was unclear if the House would be able to check whether Stanard used a state-issued cellphone to text the prostitute to arrange encounters because someone electronically wiped the phone and it no longer contains his text messages.

Stanard, who is married, resigned after serving five years in the House. He voted last year in favor of a law that made state prostitution laws stricter, including raising the penalty for people who are convicted twice of solicitation.

## Man in India accused of selling wife's kidney – she didn't know it was gone

The Washington Post

NEW DELHI — It was about two years ago when Rita Sarkar began to feel a sharp ache in her abdomen. Sarkar, of West Bengal, told her husband about the pain, and he took her to a medical facility in Kolkata for treatment.

"They convinced her she needed an operation," her father said in a phone interview with The Washington Post. Medical staff at the facility told Sarkar she needed an immediate appendectomy. She underwent surgery the next day, she told India's the Telegraph.

"My husband warned me not to disclose the surgery in Kolkata to anyone," Sarkar, 28, told the Hindustan Times. They kept her inside her home for several months that followed,

her father said. But after the appendectomy, Sarkar's pain intensified — this time, in her lower back. She pleaded with her husband to take her to see a doctor, but he refused.

Then, about three months ago, relatives on Sarkar's father's side took her to a local medical center, the largest health care facility in the northern region of West Bengal. An ultrasound there uncovered the fact that Sarkar's right kidney was missing.

"I was shattered," Sarkar told the Telegraph. In addition, her left kidney was infected, her father told The Post. "She's still very ill," he said.

On Friday, the woman filed a complaint with West Bengal police, authorities told The Post. On Monday, police arrested the woman's husband,

Biswajit Sarkar, a cloth merchant from the Murshidabad district, and her brother-in-law, Shyamal Sarkar, said Uday Shankar Ghosh, the inspector-in-charge.

The men have been charged with commercially trading human organs and detaining a woman with criminal intent, according to local news outlets. Police say the husband confessed to selling the kidney to a businessman in the Indian state of Chattisgarh.

Sarkar alleges that her husband sold off her kidney to make up for her family's failure to meet dowry demands.

"Now, I understand why he forbade me to reveal anything," she told the New Indian Express.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Professor reprimanded for photo with heads

**CT** HARTFORD — A newly released document shows a top University of Connecticut dental school professor was reprimanded over a photo showing him and several students with two severed heads used for medical research.

The November letter by UConn School of Dental Medicine Dean R. Lamont MacNeil reprimands orthodontics professor Flavio Uribe for inappropriate and disrespectful conduct. The letter was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press through a public records request.

The photo was taken in June at the Yale School of Medicine during a surgical workshop and shared in a private group chat.

Uribe, who did not take the photo, did not immediately return messages Wednesday. He previously told the AP the photo was unfortunate, and he was surprised when it was taken.

## Bill limits medical pot to terminal illnesses

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — A Missouri bill would provide access to medical marijuana for people who have terminal conditions.

A House committee heard testimony Tuesday on the bill sponsored by Republican Rep. Jim Neely, who has previously introduced bills related to legalizing medical marijuana, the Columbia Missourian reported.

The only person who testified against the bill was Woody Cozad, a lobbyist for the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Cozad said the bill would confuse prosecutors because if passed, Missouri state law would conflict with federal law.

Several veterans supported the bill but want it expanded to include people who have post-traumatic stress disorder related to their military service. Marijuana provides relief for veterans with PTSD, chronic pain and sleep disorders, and is a better way of alleviating symptoms compared to opioids, said Dustin Peters, a veteran of both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Police: Man sells fake Eagles season pass

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey officials say a Philadelphia man has been arrested for selling fake season tickets for the Philadelphia Eagles football team, then attempting to use the money to gamble at an Atlantic City casino.

Police said the 56-year-old man, who is a licensed attorney in New Jersey, placed an online advertisement for a Philadelphia Eagles Stadium Builder License and claimed he was selling it on behalf of a couple. The Press of Atlantic City reported the suspect sold the license in late January for \$9,400.

New Jersey State Police said the man then attempted to gamble the money on Jan. 29, and was arrested later that day.

A SBL gives its owner the right to purchase Eagles season tickets every year.

## State high court: Do you know this justice?

**MA** BOSTON — The highest court in Massachusetts is turning to the public to solve a judicial mystery.

For years, a portrait of a former justice has hung outside the chambers of the chief justice of the state Supreme Judicial Court, which traces its roots to 1692. The trouble is nobody

knows who he is.

He's believed to have served on the court sometime between 1780 and 1820.

Court officials have for years been trying to identify the mystery jurist without success, so current Chief Justice Ralph Gants is asking for the public's help.

The person who provides reliable authentication of the portrait will be invited to the court to stand with Gants as he unveils a plaque bearing the mystery justice's name. A guided tour of the courthouse also will be provided.

## Lawmakers allow free-range parenting

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A proposal aimed at adding safeguards for the practice of "free-range parenting" has now been passed by both the Utah House and Senate.

The Deseret News reported that representatives in the House unanimously passed a bill Wednesday that ensures parents are not accused of neglect for allowing mature kids to do things alone like travel to school, explore a playground or stay in the car.

Free-range parenting is a modern buzzword for families aiming to raise self-sufficient kids, but how much freedom at what age remains a fierce debate.

## Plane returns to airport over naked passenger

**AK** ANCHORAGE — An Alaska Airlines flight to Seattle returned to Anchorage early Wednesday after a passenger locked himself in the bathroom, took off all his clothes, and refused to follow crew instructions.

Kate Danyluk, a passenger on the flight, told The Associated Press she knew something

was wrong because the flight attendants kept going back and forth in the aisles and had put on rubber gloves.

Airport police and FBI met the plane when it landed shortly before 3 a.m. It wasn't immediately clear if the man was arrested. The FBI did not return repeated messages to the Associated Press on Wednesday.

Danyluk didn't see the man, and said several other men were standing near the bathroom to shield the view.

There were 178 passengers on the flight. The reboarded flight took off for Seattle just after 6:30 a.m.

## Mom says day care waxed toddler's brows

**WA** PASCO — Officials said they're investigating a mother's complaint that her toddler's eyebrows were waxed at a day care in south-central Washington state.

The Tri-City Herald reported that Alyssa Salgado, 19, says she dropped her 2-year-old daughter off Thursday morning at a day care in Pasco that's run by the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties. When she picked the child up later, a patch of skin between the child's eyebrows was red and it appeared eyebrow hairs were removed.

Salgado posted before and after images to Facebook. Her outraged post about what happened was shared more than 20,000 times.

Officials with the Boys & Girls Club and the Washington Department of Early Learning confirmed they are investigating. Frank Ordway, the department's assistant director, said he couldn't discuss the investigation. But he did say the complaint was unusual.

From wire reports

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# Swiss curlers stun US with perfect score

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — In a sport known for its politeness, the sight of American curlers Matt and Becca Hamilton banging their brooms against the Olympic ice in frustration was a bit of a rarity. But then so was the manner in which they lost the game.

Despite holding a 4-3 lead heading into the final end, or round, of curling's mixed doubles match Friday, the United States lost 9-4 to reigning world champion Switzerland after the Swiss managed something exceedingly unusual in curling: a perfect score known as a six-ender. How rare is a six-ender? Think of a perfect game in baseball.

First, a bit of a primer: Mixed doubles curling, which is making its Olympic debut in Pyeongchang, has different rules than standard curling. There are only two players on each team — a man and a woman — as opposed to four. There are eight ends instead of 10. And each team throws six rocks in each end instead of eight.

Although Switzerland was behind by one point going into the final end, Jenny

Perret and Martin Rios had an advantage known as the hammer — the right to throw the final stone of the game. They managed to get their first five stones into the house, putting the Americans in a precarious position.

Becca Hamilton threw her final rock, which needed to get to the button — the center of the bull's eye-shaped target — in order to preserve their lead. "Hard, hurry, hurry!" she screamed at her brother, Matt, who was frantically sweeping the ice in a bid to get the stone to the right spot. "You got to go, go, go, go, go!" She then raced ahead and joined in the sweeping frenzy as the rock drew close to the button.

It was not to be. The stone ended up a few inches past its target, prompting the disappointed siblings to slam their brooms against the ice. Switzerland promptly knocked the Americans' lone rock out of the house and kept all six of their stones within the target's rings, giving them that rare and coveted six-ender. (In regular curling, which uses eight stones, a perfect score is known as an eight-ender or "a snowman.")

No curling team has ever managed a per-

fect score at the Olympics, according to the World Curling Federation. Perfect scores in professional-level curling are so unusual that various countries' curling clubs have special awards for them. Curling Canada hands out pins and certificates to teams who score eight-enders. The American Curling Foundation & Museum has an eight-ender patch it bestows upon teams who nab perfect scores.

Rios laughed when asked if he was aware he and his teammate had set a record for the first perfect curling score at the games.

"We wanted to win the game and that's it," he said. "I was making jokes about it during the last end, but just our focus was to score a deuce — that's it."

The Hamiltons had another tough game during the afternoon round robin, conceding in the sixth end to South Korea after falling behind 9-1.

Norway handed Switzerland its first loss during the afternoon session, beating them 6-5. In other mixed doubles action, Canada and Russian athletes each picked up two wins on Friday against Finland and China.

# Russian appeals of IOC doping ban rejected by court

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Russia's desperate attempt to get 45 banned athletes — including several medal favorites — into the Pyeongchang Olympics failed just hours before Friday's opening ceremony.

The International Olympic Committee had banned Russia because of a massive doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games, but gave individual athletes the chance to apply for admission to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia." There were 168 Russians who passed the vetting process. Dozens more filed appeals with the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

On Friday, the court upheld the IOC's right to decide who can compete.

Anti-doping officials praised the ruling, which is a heavy blow to Russian medal chances.

"That's it. The story is over," Russian delegation spokesman Konstantin Vyborno said.

After two days of hearings, the CAS panel ruled that the commissions that evaluated whether Russian applicants were eligible did not act in a "discriminatory, arbitrary or unfair manner."

CAS secretary general Mathieu Reeb read from a statement and declined to take questions, saying the IOC process "could not be described as a sanction but rather as an eligibility decision."

The IOC and the World Anti-Doping Agency welcomed the decision. The IOC said the decision "supports the fight against doping and brings clarity for all athletes."

WADA president Craig Reedie described it as "absolutely correct."

Among those excluded are six-time gold medalist Viktor Ahn, the short track speedskater whose return to his native South Korea for the Olympics had been eagerly anticipated by local fans.

Also out are cross-country skiing gold medalist Alexan-

der Legkov and skeleton gold medalist Alexander Tretiakov, as well as potential medal contenders in biathlon, luge and bobsled.

Three former NHL players — Sergei Plotnikov, Anton Belov and Valeri Nichushkin — also lost appeals, though it was widely considered unlikely they would have played even if they had been successful because the Russian roster is already full.

U.S. Anti-Doping Agency chief executive Travis Tygart said the decision was "a small glimmer of hope in an otherwise dark and sordid affair."

"You hope justice has been served but how some of these athletes can keep dirty medals from Sochi but be excluded now is hard to reconcile," Tygart said. "And why the IOC rushed the process on the Sochi medal decisions is unexplainable and a tragedy for clean athletes."

In a telephone interview, Reedie told The Associated Press: "I am delighted at the decision and the way they ex-

pressed it."

"They have quite clearly understood that there was systemic manipulation of the anti-doping process," Reedie said. "It means the games can proceed. Athletes can get their heads down and go. This particular issue is now behind us."

U.S. athletes also welcomed the end to uncertainty around the participation of some Russian athletes.

"That is great news," said U.S. women's skeleton athlete Katie Uhlaender, who placed fourth in the Sochi Olympics — one spot behind bronze medalist Elena Nikitina, who was one of the 45 appealing her ban.

U.S. bobsledder Nick Cunningham said he has tried to not focus on the will-they-or-won't-they drama surrounding the Russians.

"If dirty athletes are taken out, then clean athletes will prevail," Cunningham said. "That's what I hope."

AP Sports Writers Stephen Wade, Tim Reynolds and Eddie Pells contributed to this report.

## NHL roundup

## Kucherov, Lightning roll past Canucks

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Nikita Kucherov got the Tampa Bay Lightning off to a strong start in their first home game in three weeks.

Kucherov stopped an 11-game goal drought, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 27 saves for his NHL-best 32nd victory, and the Lightning beat the Vancouver Canucks 5-2 on Thursday night.

Yanni Gourde, Adam Erne, Steven Stamkos and Victor Hedman also scored for the Lightning, who returned home after a 5-3 trip.

"We had the puck a lot because we were smart with it

in the neutral zone," Stamkos said. "It allowed dominating shifts in their defensive zone."

Vancouver's Brock Boeser scored his 26th goal and Anders Nilsson stopped 31 shots.

"They know how to put the puck in the net," Nilsson said. "That's a good team over there. I felt OK but obviously none of us were good enough."

Kucherov opened the scoring on his 28th goal by converting a rebound 14:36 into the first period.

"You're not going to keep a kid like that down for long," Stamkos said. "It was a matter of time. You could tell by his celebration he was happy to score."

**Coyotes 4, Wild 3 (OT):** Clayton Keller scored his team's fourth straight goal at 3:55 of overtime to give visiting Arizona a comeback victory over Minnesota.

**Golden Knights 5, Sharks 3:** James Neal and Jonathan Marchessault scored in a 3½-minute span in the third period, helping visiting Vegas to the win over San Jose.

**Stars 4, Blackhawks 2:** Tyler Seguin scored twice, Ben Bishop made 37 saves and visiting Dallas beat fading Chicago for its fourth straight win.

**Sabres 4, Islanders 3:** Sam Reinhart poked in a rebound with 4:14 left, and host Buffalo beat New York after squander-

ing a three-goal lead.

**Senators 4, Predators 3 (OT):** Mike Hoffman scored 3:01 into overtime, lifting host Ottawa past Nashville.

**Blues 6, Avalanche 1:** Brayden Schenn scored twice and Vince Dunn had a career-high three assists to help host St. Louis beat Colorado.

**Flyers 5, Canadiens 3:** Travis Konecny scored twice and Claude Giroux had a goal and two assists to help host Philadelphia beat Montreal.

**Flames 3, Devils 2:** Johnny Gaudreau scored the go-ahead goal and set up linemate Sean Monahan's second of the game, and visiting Calgary won its third straight.

## Cavaliers, Lakers make big moves at trade deadline

Associated Press

From Isaiah Thomas to Dwyane Wade and Derrick Rose, the Cleveland Cavaliers loaded up on big names last summer.

None will be there if the Cavaliers get back to the NBA Finals.

In what felt like an unprecedented do-over for a contending team, the Cavaliers simply changed the pieces that weren't fitting for new ones on Thursday at the trade deadline.

Fans who usually marvel at LeBron James were instead praising his general manager, as Koby Altman used a series of swaps to strengthen a sputtering team and leave open the possibility for more moves.

"They got better. They made the moves they wanted to make and I'm sure they're going to make it work over there," Golden State's Kevin Durant said. "It's fun for all the fans and the media to kind of see what's going on with the trade deadline."

Cavs fans probably had the most fun, and for good reason. Cleveland was the story Thursday.

The Cavaliers acquired Jordan Clarkson and Larry Nance Jr. in the deal with Los Angeles, which also got Channing Frye and a first-round pick from Cleveland.

George Hill came from Sacramento and Rodney Hood from Utah as the Cavaliers dealt away Rose, Wade, Jae Crowder and Iman Shumpert — changing nearly half their rotation.

All that wheeling-and-dealing stole headlines even with nearly two-thirds of the league making deals.

The Los Angeles Lakers were the other newsmakers on deadline day — though their moves were to try to win this summer, not this season. Their deal with the Cavaliers, in which they acquired Thomas, got them out of future salary and set themselves up to offer perhaps two maximum contracts in free agency.

"This is what I came here to do, was to create flexibility for our organization," Lakers President Magic Johnson said, "so that one day we can have a superstar or two come to this organization with our incred-

ible young talent that we have, that we will continue to grow."

Wade returned to Miami, mending fences with Pat Riley and finding a soft landing in a place where he won three championships following the fallout in Cleveland. The Heat struggle to score and used a second-round pick to bring back the player who did that more than anyone else for their franchise.

"The fact that he decided to come off the bench in Cleveland has minimized and also limited his opportunities to do certain things that he has always been capable of doing, so I would imagine he would morph right back into the role of being a scorer, a front-line scorer for us, a crunch-time scorer for us, a defender on the ball in niche situations," Riley said.

Some players traded Thursday were immediately waived. Players who are on NBA rosters have to be waived by March 1 to be eligible to play for another team in the postseason.

That means the high-spending contenders can try to add talent without giving any up by signing veterans who took

buyouts to become free agents. Boston did that Thursday when it signed Greg Monroe, and the Warriors and Cavaliers — who will have open roster spots after Thursday's moves — will surely be watching to see if players like Tyreke Evans or Joe Johnson become available in the coming days.

There were some teams that didn't want to wait and did some tinkering Thursday.

Detroit, unbeaten since acquiring Griffin from the Clippers, acquired point guard Jameer Nelson from Chicago. The Denver Nuggets brought in Devin Harris and sent out Emmanuel Mudiay in a three-team trade with New York that landed Doug McDermott in Dallas.

The Warriors stayed put at the deadline, as did contenders Houston and Oklahoma City. DeAndre Jordan remained with the Clippers and Evans didn't get a trade out of Memphis, meaning two of the names receiving heaviest speculation ahead of the deadline will be right back where they started.

## NBA roundup

# Celtics hold off Wizards in overtime

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two days after Boston lost to the team chasing the Celtics atop the Eastern Conference standings, guard Kyrie Irving wasn't about to let his team suffer another defeat.

Irving scored 12 of Boston's last 17 points and finished with 28 to help the Celtics remain in sole possession of the East lead with a 110-104 overtime victory over the Washington Wizards on Thursday night.

"Every game for us is a learning experience, and it's almost like a 'must-win,'" Irving said after his second game back from a thigh injury. "Just based on the amount of expectations and what we put on ourselves and one another on a game-to-game basis."

Jaylen Brown added five of his 18 points in overtime for Boston. The Celtics have won five of six, and remained a game ahead of Toronto in the race for the East's top playoff seed after the Raptors' win over New York earlier Thursday. The Raptors beat the Celtics 111-91 in Toronto on Tuesday.

Otto Porter had 27 points and 11 rebounds for Washington, and Bradley Beal had 18 points and matched his career high with nine assists.

But as John Wall remains sidelined following knee surgery, the Wizards committed 22 turnovers and shot just 2-for-12 in the overtime period, dropping their second straight game after winning five straight.

**Warriors 121, Mavericks 103:** At Oakland, Calif., Ste-

phen Curry had 20 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Golden State bounced back from a tough recent stretch.

Kevin Durant added 24 points, nine rebounds, four assists and two blocked shots while Draymond Green put up another impressive line: 12 points, 10 rebounds, six assists, two blocks and two steals.

**Lakers 106, Thunder 81:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 20 points, and host Los Angeles beat short-handed Oklahoma City.

Brandon Ingram added 19 points, Julius Randle scored 17 and Kyle Kuzma had 16 for the Lakers, who won their eighth straight at home.

**Raptors 113, Knicks 88:** Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Pascal

Siakam added 14 points and a career-high six assists and Toronto beat visiting New York.

Serge Ibaka and Jakob Poeltl scored 13 points, Delon Wright and C.J. Miles each had 11, and Fred VanVleet had 10.

**Trail Blazers 109, Hornets 103 (OT):** Jusuf Nurkic had 24 points and 14 rebounds, and Portland returned home with a win over Charlotte.

CJ McCollum added 22 points for the Blazers, who were coming off a winless three-game trip.

**Magic 100, Hawks 98:** Evan Fournier scored 22 points, D.J. Augustin added 16 points and nine assists, and Orlando held on to beat visiting Atlanta.

Marreese Speights added 14 points and Jonathon Simmons had 13 for the Magic.

## College basketball roundup

# No. 21 North Carolina knocks off ninth-ranked Duke

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina went from looking a step slow and struggling to keep Duke's touted freshmen off the boards to roaring out of halftime with an aggressive edge on the way to a rousing win.

Maybe the 21st-ranked Tar Heels just needed their fiercest rival to bring out something that had been missing for weeks.

Joel Berry II scored 21 points and UNC hung on late to beat the ninth-ranked Blue Devils 82-78 on Thursday night, capping an emotional performance that included a comeback from a dozen down in the first half.

The Tar Heels (18-7, 7-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) had recently emerged from their first three-game losing streak in four years by beating the only team (Pittsburgh) yet to win a league game. And they had struggled to find much of a

confidence-building flow.

Until Thursday, with the Blue Devils (19-5, 7-4) in the Smith Center in front of a crowd operating at ear-ringing levels.

"Once everybody got going," said Kenny Williams, who matched his career high with 20 points, "we proved to ourselves how good we can be."

The Tar Heels had four players score at least 15 points, including Pittsburgh graduate transfer Cameron Johnson going for 18 points and 13 rebounds in his first taste of the Duke-UNC rivalry. And that helped the Tar Heels reverse a first-half rebounding struggle against Duke's bigger front line of Marvin Bagley III and Wendell Carter Jr., and dominate the glass after halftime.

**No. 11 Saint Mary's 83, Loyola Marymount 62:** Jock Landale scored 21 points and Jordan Ford had 20 points and nine rebounds to lead the visiting Gaels.

Saint Mary's (24-2, 13-0 West

Coast Conference) has won 19 straight games. Its last loss was in November. Landale added nine rebounds and four steals.

Eli Scott had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Loyola Marymount (7-17, 2-11).

**No. 12 Gonzaga 71, Pacific 61:** Killian Tillie had 21 points and 10 rebounds and made a key tip-in with 1:39 remaining in the visiting Bulldogs' victory over the Tigers.

Johnathan Williams added 10 points and 13 rebounds to help Gonzaga (22-4, 12-1 West Coast Conference) win its sixth straight.

Roberto Gallinat had 15 points for Pacific (12-14, 7-6).

**UCLA 82, No. 13 Arizona 74:** Aaron Holiday scored 17 points, Gyorgy Golomon added a career-high 16 and the visiting Bruins shot their way past the Wildcats.

UCLA (17-7, 8-4 Pac-12) attacked the Wildcats from the opening tip, repeatedly getting to the rim, opening up shots at

the perimeter. The Bruins shot 52 percent from the floor and were 11-for-24 from the three-point arc to win for the third time in their past five games at McKale Center.

Holiday added eight assists, and Thomas Welsh finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Allonzo Trier led Arizona (19-6, 9-3) with 17 points, and Deandre Ayton had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

**No. 16 Clemson 72, Pittsburgh 48:** Gabe DeVoe matched his career high with 25 points, helping the host Tigers beat the Panthers.

DeVoe was 7-for-11 from three-point range. Shelton Mitchell made three threes on his way to 12 points, and Elijah Thomas had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Clemson (20-4, 9-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Terrell Brown led Pittsburgh (8-17, 0-12) with 19 points on 9-for-15 shooting.