

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## North Korea open to meeting with US

By **KIM GAMEL**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea expressed a willingness to hold talks with the United States, boosting hopes that the recent thaw in tensions on the divided peninsula may extend beyond the Olympics.

The White House responded that it will see if the message “represents the first steps along the path to denuclearization.”

It was too soon to know if the apparent olive branch would lead to a breakthrough in the standoff over the growing threat from the North.

The communist state has consistently maintained that its nuclear weapons program is not up for negotiation.

Just two days ago, the U.S. Treasury Department slapped a tough new round of sanctions on several companies and ships accused of illicit trading with the North. The communist state decried the new sanctions and said that any blockade would be considered an “act of war.”

But the offer was a diplomatic victory for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has said he hoped the detente fostered by the Winter Games would lead to

broader talks including Washington and Pyongyang.

The latest twist occurred during a meeting ahead of the Olympics closing ceremony on Sunday between Moon and chief North Korean delegate Kim Yong Chol, a vice chairman of the ruling Workers’ Party’s central committee.

Kim Yong Chol is also a former general and spymaster who has been accused of being behind two deadly attacks on South Korea in 2010, including the sinking of a ship that killed nearly 50 sailors. He has been blacklisted by Seoul, but the government decided to allow him to attend the Olympics in the spirit of holding a peaceful event.

During their meeting, Moon called for U.S.-North Korea dialogue to be held “at an early date” as a condition for improvement in the inter-Korean relationship, according to his office. It added that Kim agreed and said his country “has ample intentions of holding a North Korea-U.S. dialogue.”

The statement followed an invitation for an inter-Korean summit that was delivered by the North Korean leader’s sister, Kim Yo Jong, who led the delegation to the opening ceremony.

The South Korean leader has not accepted, urging the North to create the conditions necessary for such a visit and to actively engage with the United States.

He and the North Koreans later attended the elaborate festivities marking the end of the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

Photos captured the remarkable image of one of North Korea’s highest officials seated behind President Donald Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, and in the same row as Gen. Vincent Brooks, the commander of U.S. Forces Korea, in the VIP box.

In dealing with North Korea, Trump has bounced between threatening military action and saying he would be willing to talk to the country’s leader, Kim Jong Un, under the right conditions.

The latest U.S. sanctions were part of Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign aimed at getting the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Trump warned over the weekend that if sanctions don’t work, the United States would move to a new phase that could be “very rough” and “very unfortunate for the world.”

## Special delivery: Military to produce MRE pizzas

By **SCOTT WYLAND**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Troops will soon get pizza in places where delivery drivers don’t go.

The military is preparing to produce Meals, Ready to Eat pizzas that are engineered to stay fresh for three years in a pouch. Troops could taste their first pizza MREs in the field by next year, Army officials say.

These don’t compare to the freshly made pizzas at an Italian restaurant, but they stack up well to store-bought pizzas, said David Accetta, spokesman for Natick Soldier Research Development & Engineering Center in Massachusetts.

“I think it’s better than frozen pizza,” he said.

The pizzas come with only one topping — pepperoni — but more varieties will be added as troops weigh in on the kinds they like, he said.

The current generation of MREs must run out before the next generation, which includes the pizzas, can be distributed, Accetta said. He estimated the changeover will happen by 2019.

Some initial reactions were very positive.

“I’m all about it. Adding to the variety of choices for MREs is an outstanding idea, especially if it’s a good choice,” said Capt.

Orlandon Howard with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team deployed to Europe. “It would be like adding flavor and meat to the wheat bread that already comes in the MRE, and that’s a great idea.”

Army researchers spent years trying to develop a pizza without a lot of preservatives that would look and taste fresh after being stored for years in warm temperatures. The key is to maintain the pizza’s pH balance, prevent oxygenation and suppress moisture, Accetta said.

Researchers employed molecular science to create dough-drying methods that led to “shelf-stable bread,” which is

used in MRE pocket sandwiches and now the pizzas, Accetta said.

Pizzas and pocket sandwiches are among the evolving “first-strike meals” that are lighter and more compact than previous MREs, making them easier for soldiers on the battlefield to carry in rucksacks.

As with all new MREs, professional taste-testers sampled the prototypes to gauge the flavor, texture and how the pizzas feel in the mouth, Accetta said. If the pizzas pass muster with the pros, then samples are given to soldiers and Marines. Servicemembers have the final say, he added.

# Amphibious squadron leaders relieved of duties

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The commander and deputy commander of the Navy's Japan-based amphibious squadron have been relieved of their duties, the Navy announced Sunday.

Amphibious Squadron 11 commander Capt. George Doyon was relieved for mishandling complaints from his staff about harassment from the unit's deputy commander,

Capt. Jeff Oakey, over a year-long period, a statement from the service said.

Oakey was relieved from his position for "substandard performance of duty."

Both officers were relieved Saturday by Expeditionary Strike Group 7 commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper and have been temporarily assigned to other jobs at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, the statement added.

Doyon took charge of the unit in January 2017 after serving

as its deputy commander.

Seventh Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Clay Doss told Stars and Stripes the harassment claims against Oakey were not sexual in nature.

"Most of our commanders complete their tours with distinction, but all are expected to meet high standards of leadership, reliability and responsibility, and the Navy holds them accountable when those standards aren't met," he said.

Capt. Ed Thompson, who led the unit before Doyon, has tem-

porarily reassumed commander duties. Capt. Marc Boran, former deputy chief of staff for operations and plans at ESG-7, is serving as temporary deputy commander.

Headquartered at Sasebo, Amphibious Squadron 11 is responsible for the Navy's forward-deployed amphibious ships, including the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay and the dock landing ships USS Germantown and USS Ashland.

## Military's ability to pursue old sexual assaults imperiled

*The Washington Post*

A ruling by a U.S. military appeals court jeopardizes the Pentagon's ability to prosecute sexual assaults committed before 2006, just as more people are coming forward with years-old allegations as part of the #MeToo movement.

The ruling involves the case of Air Force Lt. Col. Edzel Mangahas, who in 2015 was accused of assaulting a woman in 1997 when they were both cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces dismissed a rape charge against Mangahas this month, saying a five-year statute of limitations applied in the case.

The government argued that anyone facing a rape allegation technically could have been sentenced to death under criteria the military used in cases of rape between the fall of 1986 and the fall of 2006. A death sentence in the military has not occurred in decades, but applying that standard to the case as though it were a possibility would have left the statute of limitations open.

The ruling will make it more

difficult to charge suspects in similar cases from that time period, military justice experts said.

The decision is a "pretty dramatic reversal of precedent," said Zachary Spilman, who left the active-duty Marine Corps in 2014 and now writes about military appeals cases on the website CAAFlog. It's uncertain how the case could affect others cases in which people have been convicted on rape charges for actions in the 20-year window, he said.

"The bottom-line answer that I can give you is that prosecuting old sexual assault cases just got much harder, if not impossible," Spilman said.

Legislation passed by Congress in 2006 explicitly says rape cases have no statute of limitations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but cases before then are subject to laws at the time of the crime.

Cases before 1986 had a five-year statute of limitations. But from 1986 to 2006, the military used more ambiguous criteria that said any offense punishable by death, including rape, "may be tried and punished at any time without limitation."

## Marine 2-star general is chastised as sergeant's conviction is overturned

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

A military court has reprimanded a Marine two-star general at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for unlawfully meddling in a court-martial case against a non-commissioned officer accused of abusing his troops.

The U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington overturned the court-martial conviction of Sgt. Jaime Ortiz. The court found that Maj. Gen. Eric M. Smith went too far in his crackdown against hazing in the 1st Marine Division.

Prosecutors had alleged that Ortiz conspired with fellow noncommissioned officers to haze five junior Marines by forcing them to get special haircuts and ordering them to perform excessive physical exercises. Ortiz was also accused of punching two of them in the chest, according to court filings.

In 2013, Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos issued an anti-hazing order that was designed to track and stop abuse throughout the Corps.

Smith took command of 1st Marine Division June 22. Echoing Amos, one of his first acts was issuing a policy statement

on hazing that called on his commanders to involuntarily discharge anyone found to have abused lower-ranking troops.

Smith urged his commanders to take action against "a few salty" lance corporals "who think they are in charge."

Ortiz was arrested on July 13 in one of those cases, and Smith convened a court-martial against him on Aug. 15. Ortiz's attorneys immediately filed a motion to quash the case, arguing that the general had strayed from unbiased justice to become a "direct accuser."

Under military law, generals are barred from convening trials against Marines if they have a direct, personal stake in the case.

The trial judge agreed with the defense attorneys and moved to vacate Ortiz's case without prejudice, which means that military prosecutors can try him again.

The judge also disqualified Smith from any future role in Ortiz's case, meaning another general in a different command would have to start the entire process over if the Marine Corps still wanted to prosecute the sergeant.



## No consensus in Congress on gun plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a 10-day break, members of Congress are returning to work under pressure to respond to the outcry over gun violence. But no plan appears ready to take off despite a long list of proposals, including many from President Donald Trump.

Republican leaders have kept quiet for days as Trump tossed out ideas, including raising the minimum age to purchase assault-style weapons and arming teachers.

Their silence has left little indication whether they are ready to rally behind any one of the president's ideas, dust off another proposal or do nothing. The most likely option is bolstering the federal background check system for gun purchases, but it's bogged down after being linked with a measure to expand gun rights.

The halting start reflects firm GOP opposition to any bill that would curb access to guns and risk antagonizing gun advocates. Before the Feb. 14 shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla., Republicans had no intention of reviving the politically risky gun debate during an already difficult election year that could endanger their congressional majority.

Under tough public questioning from shooting survivors, Trump has set high expectations for action.

# More governors willing to consider gun law changes

The Washington Post

A growing number of governors have joined calls for a reconsideration of gun laws and school safety measures after the mass shooting in Parkland, Fla., a sign that resulting legislative changes could extend beyond Florida.

The impact of the shootings rippled through the winter meeting of the National Governors Association in Washington this weekend as state leaders expressed willingness to consider new limits on gun ownership and stepped up efforts to address mental health factors. But most said they were opposed to President Donald Trump's proposal to arm teachers.

The comments came as students and grieving families continued to push lawmakers to pass new measures to address the murder of 17 students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"I just want to get the word out to the governors of every state that they have to do something today," Andrew Pollack, whose daughter, Meadow Pollack, was killed at the school, said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday." "My daughter's death can't be in vain."

Individual governors said they would be open to raising the age limit for the purchase of long guns to 21, a measure opposed by the National Rifle Association, or said they believed there should be better ways for family members or others to take concerns about unstable individuals to a judge and have weapons confiscated.

Both measures were endorsed Friday by Florida's Republican governor, Rick Scott, a longtime supporter of the NRA, who opposed new gun laws after the 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Florida and the 2017 mass shooting at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

## Fla. sheriff: 1 deputy on scene during shooting

Associated Press

The Florida sheriff whose department responded to this month's high school massacre defended his leadership Sunday while insisting only one of his deputies was on the scene as the gunman killed 14 students and three staff members.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel told CNN investigators are looking into claims three other deputies were on the scene but failed to enter the school when it was possible to save lives. To date, the investigation pointed

to one deputy being on campus while the killer was present, he said.

Israel also labeled as "absolutely untrue" reports the deputies waited outside even though children were inside the building needing medical treatment.

Israel and the sheriff's office have come under scrutiny after last week's revelation that deputy Scot Peterson did not go in to confront the suspected shooter, Nikolas Cruz, 19, during the Valentine's Day attack. It is also facing backlash for

apparently mishandling some of the 18 tipster calls related to the suspected shooter. The tips were among a series of what authorities now describe as the clearest missed warning signs that Cruz, who had a history of disturbing behavior, posed a serious threat.

State Rep. Bill Hager, a Republican lawmaker from Boca Raton, is calling on Florida Gov. Rick Scott to remove Israel from office because of the missed red flags. Israel vowed not to resign.

## Florida, NRA face backlash after school shooting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Rifle Association, and now the state of Florida, faced a growing backlash Saturday as companies cut ties to the gun industry following the latest school massacre and student survivors called for tourism boycotts of their home state until gun control measures are enacted.

Delta and United Airlines said Saturday they will no longer offer discounted fares to NRA members to attend their annual

meetings, and both have asked the gun rights group to remove any references to their companies from the NRA website.

A growing number of large companies have announced they are cutting or reducing ties with the association.

Rental car company Hertz will no longer offer a discount program to NRA members, and First National Bank of Omaha, one of the nation's largest privately held banks, said it will not renew a co-branded Visa credit

card it has with the NRA.

The State of Florida also was facing some backlash. One of the survivors of the Florida school shooting suggested Saturday on Twitter that tourists stay away from the state.

"Let's make a deal," tweeted David Hogg, a Stoneman Douglas student who has been a major player in the #neveragain movement. "DO NOT come to Florida for spring break unless gun legislation is passed."

Insurance company MetLife Inc. discontinued its discount

program with the NRA on Friday. Symantec Corp., the software company that makes Norton Antivirus technology, did the same. Insurer Chubb Ltd. said it is ending participation in the NRA's gun-owner insurance program, but it provided notice three months ago.

The program that provided coverage for people involved in gun-related incidents or accidents had been under scrutiny by regulators over marketing issues.

# Fatal storms cross central US

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Severe thunderstorms spawned suspected tornadoes and triggered widespread flooding that left at least three people dead in Kentucky and Arkansas.

The system that stretched from Texas to the Canadian maritime provinces on Sunday had prompted emergency declarations a day earlier in Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.

In south central Kentucky, the body of a male was recovered from a vehicle submerged in floodwaters in a creek near the community of Franklin on Saturday, the Simpson County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The victim's identity was being withheld pending notification of relatives.

About 20 miles away, Dallas Jane Combs, 79, died when a suspected tornado destroyed her Adairville home earlier Saturday, the Logan County Sheriff's Office told media outlets. Sheriff officials said Combs

was inside the home when it collapsed on her. Combs was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities said Combs' husband was outside putting up plastic to keep rain out of the home when he was blown into the basement area. He sustained minor injuries.

In northeast Arkansas, a man was killed after high winds toppled a trailer home. Clay County Sheriff Terry Miller told KAIT-TV that Albert Foster, 83, died Saturday night after the home was blown into a pond.

About 50 miles away, the National Weather Service said the roof was blown off a hotel in Osceola, about 160 miles north of Memphis, Tenn.

Storm-related damage also was reported in Middle Tennessee, where Fox17 in Nashville reported extensive damage to homes and vehicles. Fox17 says at least a dozen homes were damaged in one Montgomery County subdivision.

The National Weather Ser-

vice said it was sending crews to survey damage in a section of central Tennessee.

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens signed an executive order earlier Saturday declaring a state of emergency ahead of the anticipated storms and flooding in parts of southern Missouri. The order activates the resources of the Missouri National Guard and ensures state resources are available in the event of weather damage.

Other state leaders have issued similar orders. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb declared a disaster emergency for 11 counties and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner issued a state disaster proclamation for three counties hit by flooding.

Flood watches and warnings spanned multiple states Sunday morning, from Missouri to central Pennsylvania, while a wind advisory remained in effect for nearly all of Lower Michigan.

# Motorcade arrives at Graham's NC library

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Admirers took photos on their phones, firetrucks parked on freeway overpasses and police officers saluted as a motorcade carrying the body of the Rev. Billy Graham crossed the evangelist's beloved home state of North Carolina for four hours Saturday from his mountain chapel to his namesake library in the state's largest city.

Residents in some of Graham's most cherished places paid tribute to "America's Pastor," starting at the training center operated by his evangelistic association in Asheville.

Well-wishers lined sidewalks and medians as the motorcade reached Charlotte. Pallbearers, followed by family, carried the coffin into the Billy Graham Library, which will serve as a backdrop for the funeral.

Franklin Graham said he was fulfilling a promise to his father to bring the body to Charlotte. He said he was overwhelmed by "the outpouring of love."

Leighton Ford, the evangelist's brother-in-law, said the procession brought gratitude and a tinge of sadness.

"I think he'd say, 'It's not about me. It's about the Lord,'" said Ford. "I remember at his last stadium meeting here in Charlotte, the mayor of Charlotte told us he was riding out on the platform with Billy, and everybody was cheering, and Billy said: 'Wait a minute. It's not about us. It's about Him.'"

Graham, who died Wednesday at his home in North Carolina's mountains at age 99, reached hundreds of millions of listeners around the world with his rallies and his pioneering use of television.

A viewing will be held at the library in Charlotte on Monday and Tuesday. Graham will also lie in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday. Graham will be buried Friday.

# Dems release memo defending FBI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two weeks after President Donald Trump blocked its full release, the House Intelligence Committee published a partially blacked-out version of a classified Democratic memo aiming to counter a GOP narrative that the FBI and Justice Department conspired against Trump as they investigated his ties to Russia.

The document's release Saturday was the latest development in an extraordinary back and forth between Republicans and Democrats about the credibility of multiple inquiries into links between the Trump campaign and Russia, and the integrity of the top U.S. law enforcement agencies.

The document attempts to undercut and add context to some of the main points from a declassified Republican memo made public earlier this month. In that memo, Republicans

went after the FBI and the Justice Department over the use of information compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele in obtaining a secret warrant to monitor the communications of onetime Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page.

The GOP memo included the assertion that the FBI obtained a surveillance warrant without disclosing that Steele's anti-Trump research was paid for by Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

The Democratic memo said the Justice Department disclosed "the assessed political motivation of those who hired him" and that Steele was likely hired by someone "looking for information that could be used to discredit" then-candidate Trump's campaign.

Republicans say that is not enough because the Clinton campaign and the DNC were not named. Trump seized on

this point in a tweet Saturday evening: "Dem Memo: FBI did not disclose who the clients were - the Clinton Campaign and the DNC. Wow!"

The White House on Feb. 9 had objected to the Democratic memo's release, citing national security concerns. That sent the Democrats back to negotiations with the FBI, which approved a version with parts of it blacked out. It was then declassified and released.

Trump had no such concerns about the GOP memo, which he declassified in full on Feb. 2 over strong objections from the FBI about the memo's accuracy.

The Democratic memo asserts that the FBI's concerns about Page long predate the compilation of memos drafted by Steele, now known as the Trump-Russia "dossier," and that the government's application to monitor Page's communications details suspicious activities he undertook during the 2016 presidential campaign.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ex-crime-lab chemist charged in meth theft

**MT** MISSOULA — A former chemist at Montana's state crime lab in Missoula is charged with taking meth left over after testing for suspected drugs in criminal cases.

Court records say the chemist's brother-in-law told police the man confessed to using meth taken from the lab.

The chemist told investigators the lab's drug-testing process does not use the entire sample. The remainder was supposed to be destroyed.

He faces three counts each of felony criminal possession of dangerous drugs, misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor official misconduct. Lab officials are working to determine if any cases have been compromised.

## Officials ask governor to remove sheriff

**MI** JACKSON — Officials in Jackson County are asking Gov. Rick Snyder to remove their sheriff from office over insulting remarks about women and minorities.

A letter was sent Friday by the county's Board of Commissioners. Chairman Steve Shotwell Jr. said Sheriff Steven Rand's conduct is a "threat to the core values of the community."

Rand has apologized for the offensive recorded remarks, which were released by an attorney who represents a lieutenant in the sheriff's department. He said he won't resign.

## Firefighters help deliver baby boy

**VA** HENRICO COUNTY — Two firefighters in Henrico County helped deliver a healthy baby boy.

WRIC-TV reported that a

frantic father pulled up to a Henrico firehouse earlier this month with a woman in labor in the car.

Firefighter Mike Boisseau said the woman "had pretty much delivered on her own, so we just helped the last little bit."

The 14-year department veteran helped deliver the child with firefighter Matt Daugherty. Both firefighters were trained in childbirth, but neither had delivered a baby.

## Young elephant at zoo dies of viral infection

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A popular Asian elephant at the Saint Louis Zoo has died.

The zoo said 6-year-old Kenzi died of a viral infection — elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus, or EEHV — known to be fatal to elephants.

Zoo officials said Kenzi was diagnosed with the virus Feb. 20 and immediately was given anti-viral medication. She died early Saturday morning.

## Police: Woman poops in pants to hide drugs

**TX** CORSICANA — Police said a Texas woman attempted to hide evidence during an arrest by defecating in her pants to conceal drugs.

Officers in Corsicana were investigating a report of a theft at a grocery store Wednesday when they attempted to subdue a female suspect and take her into custody.

Police said they placed Shannen Martin into the back of a police cruiser, where she intentionally defecated in her pants, then hid a crack pipe, 2.3 grams of crack cocaine and a Valentine's Day card in her excrement.

Officers had to sift through

the woman's feces to retrieve the evidence after Martin was booked on charges of tampering with evidence and possession of a controlled substance.

## McDonald's manager sought in shooting

**OH** CLEVELAND — Police said a McDonald's late-night manager who fired shots at a car in a Cleveland drive-thru line is wanted for felonious assault.

Cleveland.com reported an arrest warrant was issued Thursday for Mark Fort, 52, after police said he shot at a customer's car Wednesday.

Police reports say Fort handed three women in a car a smoothie and a woman in the backseat splashed water outside the car as it pulled away. The women told police they heard Fort call them names, followed by two gunshots.

No one was injured.

## Mom, surveillance video clear brothers

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Two St. Louis men are cleared of criminal wrongdoing, thanks to their tenacious mother and surveillance video.

The man who told police that the brothers tried to rob him last summer is now charged as the real culprit. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Patrick John Owens, 29, was charged Wednesday with robbery, assault and other crimes.

Owens told police Jerry Tate, 23, and Christopher Tate, 25, approached his parked car about 3:15 a.m. Aug. 26 and started a fight. Police initially believed Owens.

Court documents say the video cleared the Tates and showed that Owens tried to rob them before shooting Christopher Tate, injuring his hand and face.

## Police: Man drives into water, is charged

**RI** CRANSTON — Authorities said a Massachusetts man who drove his pickup over a seawall and into the water in Rhode Island was charged with driving under the influence.

Police said the truck crashed into the water late Friday near the Rhode Island Yacht Club. Police identified the driver as Tom Moitoso, 42, of Taunton.

Moitoso was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

## Man sought after shots fired in theater

**NC** GREENVILLE — Police in North Carolina are looking for a man who they say fired shots inside a movie theater.

Greenville police told local media outlets at least one shot was fired into the ceiling of one of the theaters at the AMC Theater late Friday night.

Investigators said the shooting stemmed from an argument over seating. No one was hurt, but the theater was evacuated as a precaution.

## 5 taken to hospital after truck hits home

**MD** ST. MARY'S COUNTY — Five people were taken to a hospital after a truck veered off a roadway and smashed into a home in St. Mary's County.

WBFF-TV reported the tractor-trailer truck crashed into a home on Budds Creek Road around 6 a.m. Saturday.

The sheriff's office in St. Mary's said the truck driver and a woman, man and two juveniles inside the splintered home were transported to a hospital.

From wire reports

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# Germany win 4-man bobsled

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Shut out in Sochi, the German bobsled program swept every other nation away in Pyeongchang.

Francesco Friedrich drove to the four-man bobsledding gold medal Sunday, capping an absolutely dominant showing by the Germans on the sliding track at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Friedrich and his team of Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp and Thorsten Margis left no doubt, finishing their four runs in 3 minutes, 15.85 seconds to win by more than a half-second. The Korean sled driven by Won Yunjong and the German sled driven by Nico Walther shared the silver, the second sliding medal tie in these Games after they finished in 3:16.38.

The Germans came to Pyeongchang set to prove that what happened in Sochi was merely an aberration, and delivered. The Sochi Games were

the first in 50 years where Germany didn't win a single medal in bobsledding, and what they did in Pyeongchang more than made up for that series of disappointments from 2014.

"It was so frustrating in Sochi," Friedrich said. "Winning a medal was our big target and making sure we didn't make the same mistakes. We did it."

Codie Bascue and his team of Evan Weinstock, Steve Langton and Sam McGuffie led the U.S. with a ninth-place finish.

Friedrich has a 21-race winless drought in four-man World Cup starts, but when the stakes are highest he seems to find a way. He has five gold medals from two- and four-man races at the world championships, drove to the world four-man title last season, and added this Olympic gold to the one in two-man that he shared with Canada's Justin Kripps.

"Once you get ahead, it's easier to stay ahead," said U.S. pilot Justin Olsen, who finished

20th. "Look at what Friedrich did. He got the lead in the first heat and he kept on going. This is not like the speedskating mass start where you get a lap ahead and get chased down. You get a lap ahead here, you stay a lap ahead."

Friedrich becomes the fifth German pilot to sweep two-man and four-man golds in the same Olympics, joining Andreas Ostler in 1952, Meinhard Nehmer in 1976, Wolfgang Hoppe in 1984 and Andre Lange in 2006.

And push athlete Kevin Kuske, who was in his last race, won his sixth medal in five Olympic appearances. He's now the fourth bobsledder with six Olympic medals, after helping Walther win silver.

In Pyeongchang, not only did Germany win gold in all three bobsled events — matching its feat from Turin 2006 — but also became the first country to win six sliding gold medals at a single Olympics.

# Bjoergen gets record 15th medal

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Marit Bjoergen has left a legacy that will be hard to top.

In her final Olympic race, the most decorated athlete in the history of the Winter Games obliterated the field, winning the 30-kilometer mass start cross-country ski race by 1 minute, 49 seconds over silver medalist Krista Parmakoski of Finland.

The 37-year-old Norwegian was never challenged Sunday en route to her eighth career gold medal and 15th overall since she began competing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

"When I look behind me and see what I have done, it's incredible," said Bjoergen, who broke down in tears at one point after the race. "It has been an amazing career for me, this is my last Olympics and to finish like this is incredible."

Bjoergen won five medals at the Pyeongchang Games, more than any other athlete.

She never left a doubt about the outcome of Sunday's race.

Bjoergen took the lead about 2 kilometers in and continued to stretch it. With 7 kilometers remaining she was so far ahead of the rest of the field that second-place skier Teresa Stadlober couldn't see her, and took a wrong turn on the course. By the time the Austrian corrected her course, she had fallen to eighth place.

**Curling:** The Swedish women won the gold medal in the final match of a marathon curling festival on Sunday, beating South Korea 8-3 in nine ends to leave the "Garlic Girls" with a silver that is the hosts' first-ever Olympic medal in the sport.

Sweden took control of the match by stealing a point in back-to-back ends — the fourth and the fifth — even though Korea had the last-rock advantage. After Korea mustered just one point in the sixth, Swedish skip Anna Hasselborg delivered a takeout on her final rock of the seventh to score three points.

# Russia needs OT for hockey gold

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — The Olympic anthem was merely background noise, the doping scandal the farthest thing from their minds.

As the white flag with the five Olympic rings rose toward the rafters Sunday following the gold medal game in men's hockey, the champion Russians in their nondescript red-and-white uniforms joined their fans cloaked in red, white and blue and belted out the "State Anthem of the Russian Federation," drowning out the recorded song that was required as part of International Olympic Committee sanctions.

This Olympic title meant so much more to the Russians, no matter that the tournament was missing NHL players and the "Olympic Athletes from Russia" were all here only after months of scandal.

Joyous players tossed coach Oleg Znarok in the air as fans

let out the same "ROSS-I-YA" chants that filled the arena in Sochi four years ago, where home ice meant nothing as the Russians lost in the quarterfinals. There was no disappointment this time as the Russians triumphed in the tournament they were favored to win, capturing gold with a 4-3 overtime victory over Germany after Kirill Kaprizov's power-play goal capped a classic final and gave the nation a jubilant moment after weeks of disappointment.

"We understood the whole thing from the start so we were calm about it," coach Oleg Znarok said. "Russia is in our hearts."

The win came only a few hours after the IOC decided against allowing the Russians to march under their flag in the closing ceremony Sunday night after a curler and a bobsledder had positive drug tests during the Games.

Winning this gold medal at

his fifth Olympics meant more to 39-year-old captain Pavel Datsyuk than the two times he lifted the Stanley Cup.

"When you play for your country and I win this medal, this special time it's more important," Datsyuk said. "I have accomplished my dream. Now I have no dream."

The dream Russia couldn't reach with NHL stars finally happened with Kaprizov scoring the winner on the power play 9:40 into overtime as Patrick Reimer sat in the penalty box for a high-sticking infraction.

A silver medal gave Germany its best finish at the Olympics after capturing bronze in 1932 and 1976.

Beating Germany, which stunned eventual bronze-medalist Canada to reach the final, gave the Russians their first gold medal in hockey since 1992 in Albertville when they competed as the Community of Independent States.



# Amid probe, business as usual for hoop fans

Associated Press

Arenas were packed, fans were cheering and schools were competing.

In most places, it was a typical Saturday of college basketball. There was little visible hangover from the latest developments in the federal investigation of corruption in college basketball.

Coaches were taking the same tact they have been, some saying they've found no evidence of wrongdoing and appear to be waiting for the next shoe to drop. Several players still played despite being named in a Yahoo Sports report saying documents showed they had taken impermissible benefits.

Fans, for the most part, were not surprised — with some saying the circumstances have been reality in college hoops for a long time.

Others had fun with it.

At SMU, where the Mustangs were taking on No. 13 Wichita State, some students chanted "FBI! FBI!" and held balloons spelling out the name of the federal agency leading a corruption investigation that has led to 10 arrests of coaches and others alleged to have worked in the seamy underbelly of the sport. One of more than two dozen names mentioned as receiving impermissible benefits in documents in a Yahoo Sports report Friday was former Wichita State guard Fred VanVleet, now with the NBA's Toronto Raptors.

In sentiments echoed by many coaches, Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall said he didn't know about the alleged payments but that his program overall has "nothing to hide."

Utah's student section mocked Southern California forward Chimezie Metu, who was mentioned in Yahoo's report but played and scored 14 points to lead the Trojans in a win. The Utah fans displayed signs like "Need Money? Metu! (Me too)" and chanted, "Payroll! Payroll!" whenever he had the ball or returned to the bench.

"When I'm on the court, nothing else matters. I was just out there playing. I wasn't paying attention to anything anybody else was saying," Metu said. "I'm not going to lose any focus at all. I didn't do anything wrong. Nobody in my family did anything wrong. ... For me, there was never a doubt I'd play."

One school where officials were not enjoying themselves Saturday was Arizona.

Wildcats recruit Shareef O'Neal, son of former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal, withdrew his commitment after ESPN reported coach Sean Miller was heard on a wiretap discussing a \$100,000 payment to freshman Deandre Ayton to get him to sign with the school.

Miller did not coach Saturday night in the 14th-ranked Wildcats' game at Oregon. Associate head coach Lorenzo Romar stood in for Miller, and the Wildcats lost 98-93 in overtime to the Ducks.

While Miller was absent, Ayton played and finished with 28 points and 18 rebounds. Oregon fans taunted him with a sign in the image of a check for \$100,000.

Several other players singled out in the report played on Saturday.

Kentucky fans cheered Kevin Knox before he started against Missouri, and the freshman forward did his best to keep things normal. An internal review found no issues and he said afterward, "I was sure I would be able to play all week. I let Kentucky and compliance handle all that."

Texas held out Eric Davis against Oklahoma while the Longhorns conduct their own investigation.

At Duke, Wendell Carter Jr. was in the starting lineup after the school said there were no issues with his eligibility. Carter said he refused to let it become a distraction "because I know I didn't do anything. I know my family didn't do anything."

## College basketball roundup

# Creighton scores biggest upset in program history

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Marcus Foster scored 28 points, Davion Mintz gave Creighton the lead for good early in overtime, and the Bluejays defeated the highest-ranked opponent in program history with an 89-83 upset of No. 3 Villanova on Saturday.

Creighton (20-9, 9-7 Big East), playing without injured starting forward Ronnie Harrell Jr., ended a three-game conference losing streak and won for the first time in nine games against Villanova since 2014. The Bluejays also avenged a 20-point road loss to Villanova on Feb. 1.

Villanova (25-4, 12-4) squandered an eight-point lead with 4½ minutes left and missed seven of its last nine shots before a meaningless layup at the end of overtime.

**No. 1 Virginia 66, Pittsburgh 37:** Virginia allowed just seven points in the first half against host Pittsburgh and secured the regular-season Atlantic Coast Conference title outright.

**No. 5 Duke 60, Syracuse 44:** Marvin Bagley III had 19 points in his return from a sprained knee, and host Duke beat Syracuse for its fifth straight win.

**No. 8 Kansas 74, No. 6 Texas Tech 72:** Devonte Graham scored 26 points and Kansas set an NCAA record with its 14th straight regular-season conference championship, beating host Texas Tech to clinch at least a tie for the Big 12 title.

**No. 6 Gonzaga 79, BYU 65:** Johnathan Williams scored 16 points, and Gonzaga beat host BYU to clinch another West Coast Conference championship.

**Florida 72, No. 12 Auburn 66:** KeVaughn Allen bounced back from his first scoreless game in more than three years with 24 points, including two huge 3-pointers in the closing minutes, and host Florida beat Auburn.

**No. 13 Wichita State 84, Smu 78:** Markis McDuffie scored a season-high 26 points off the bench, including nine

during the first four minutes of the second half, to lead visiting Wichita State over SMU.

**Oregon 98, No. 14 Arizona 93 (OT):** Arizona played without coach Sean Miller and lost at host Oregon at the end of a difficult day for the troubled Wildcats program.

Oregon (19-10, 9-7) used a stellar performance at the line and a balanced attack to pick up its second straight win. Elijah Brown scored 22 of his season-high 30 points after halftime.

**No. 15 Clemson 75, Georgia Tech 67:** Gabe DeVoe scored 25 points and Shelton Mitchell added 14 as he returned from two games missed with a concussion, leading host Clemson past Georgia Tech.

**No. 17 Michigan 85, Maryland 61:** Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman scored 22 of his career-high 28 points in the decisive first half, and Michigan easily defeated host Maryland for its fifth straight victory.

**No. 19 Tennessee 73, Mississippi 65:** Admiral Schofield scored 23 points, Jordan Bowden scored 15, Lamonte Turner scored 13 and Tennessee beat host Mississippi.

**No. 21 West Virginia 85, Iowa State 70:** Jevon Carter scored 24 points and made some history as host West Virginia pulled away to beat Iowa State.

**No. 22 Saint Mary's 67, Santa Clara 40:** Jock Landale had 19 points and eight rebounds in his final home game, and Saint Mary's beat Santa Clara.

**No. 24 Middle Tennessee 79, UAB 54:** Nick King scored 22 points, Giddy Potts had 17 and host Middle Tennessee celebrated its first game as a ranked team by beating UAB.

**Navy 62, Loyola (MD) 56:** George Kiernan scored 17 points and Shawn Anderson scored 13 and host Navy rallied at the end.

**Air Force 75, Utah State 65:** Lavelle Scottie had 18 points, Sid Tomes and Trevor Lyons added 14 each for host Air Force.

## NHL roundup

## Ovechkin scores 38th in Capitals' win

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On the night Alex Ovechkin reached one milestone, his goal-scoring prowess moved him closer to another.

Ovechkin added to his NHL lead with two goals while tying the Washington record for most games played, and the Capitals beat the Buffalo Sabres 5-1 on Saturday.

"In this day and age, there are not a lot of players with the same team. Those days are probably past a little bit," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said. "He's durable. Those two combinations have had a big impact on the franchise for a long time now."

Evgeny Kuznetsov scored 50 seconds into the game and had two assists. Andre Burakovsky and Lars Eller also had goals for Washington, which leapfrogged Pittsburgh and moved back into first place in the Metropolitan Division. The Capitals had lost two in a row and five of seven.

Ovechkin's 37th goal came on the power play with 9:47 remaining after Buffalo closed to 2-1 on Sam Reinhart's goal 14 seconds into the third period. Ovechkin redirected a shot past Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner with 1:24 left for his 38th goal.

The 32-year-old Ovechkin played in his 983rd NHL game, tying Calle Johansson

for most in Capitals history.

"I'm getting old, you know?" Ovechkin joked. "Soon it's going to be 1,000. That's a pretty big number for games. I'm pretty happy to reach that milestone with one organization. It's pretty cool."

Ovechkin holds franchise records for goals (596) and points (1,105). He is four goals from becoming the 20th player in NHL history with 600.

"When you get closer, you want it done earlier," Ovechkin said. "You're stuck at 599, you want to pass it. Hoping in a couple of games I will have it done and we move forward."

**Panthers 6, Penguins 5:** Evgenii Dadonov scored with 1:53 to play to complete a hat trick and give host Florida the victory.

**Lightning 4, Canadiens 3 (SO):** Brayden Point scored in regulation and added the shootout winner and Tampa Bay regained the top spot in the NHL with the victory over host Montreal.

**Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 3:** Ron Hainsey broke a tie with 1:23 left to give Toronto its franchise record-tying ninth straight home victory.

**Red Wings 3, Hurricanes 1:** Henrik Zetterberg scored the go-ahead goal in the second period to tie Hall of Famer Ted

Lindsay on Detroit's career list and the host Red Wings beat Carolina.

**Jets 5, Stars 3:** Patrik Laine scored two goals, Dustin Byfuglien had three assists and visiting Winnipeg scored five goals in the second period.

**Flames 5, Avalanche 1:** Rookie Jon Gillies made 28 saves for his second straight victory, and Mikael Backlund had a goal and two assists in host Calgary's victory.

**Devils 2, Islanders 1:** Kyle Palmieri scored two third-period goals and host New Jersey opened some daylight on New York in the race for a wild-card playoff berth.

**Coyotes 2, Ducks 0:** Antti Raanta made 26 saves for his second shutout in three games and host Arizona held off Anaheim.

**Flyers 5, Senators 3:** Brandon Manning had a goal and two assists and Philadelphia beat host Ottawa for its fifth consecutive victory.

**Blue Jackets 3, Blackhawks 2:** Josh Anderson scored in the third period, Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 31 shots and host Columbus won.

**Oilers 4, Kings 3:** Ryan Strome's empty-net goal at 19:01 of the third period and a successful coach's challenge with less than 10 seconds left gave Edmonton a victory over host Los Angeles.

## NBA roundup

## Durant leads Golden State in rout of OKC

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kevin Durant scored 28 points for Golden State while avenging an embarrassing home loss to his former Oklahoma City team earlier this month and another on the road in November, leading the Warriors past the Thunder 112-80 on Saturday night.

Stephen Curry added 21 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals as Golden State put on the kind of defensive performance coach Steve Kerr has been seeking from the defending champs.

Russell Westbrook had 15 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists for Oklahoma

City, which failed to reach 100 points for the first time in the last five games. The Thunder had scored at least 100 in 14 of their last 16.

**Timberwolves 122, Bulls 104:** Jeff Teague scored 25 points, Andrew Wiggins added 23 and host Minnesota won its first game since All-Star Jimmy Butler was injured.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 13 rebounds for his 53rd double-double of the season. Jamal Crawford scored 19 for the Timberwolves, including three three-pointers that keyed a 16-2 spurt to open the fourth quarter.

Zach LaVine scored 21 to lead the Bulls in his return to Target Center after the block-

buster offseason trade that sent Butler to Minnesota.

Butler had to be helped off the floor Friday night in a loss at Houston. He has a meniscal injury to his right knee, and it's unclear how long he will be sidelined.

**Jazz 97, Mavericks 90:** At Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell had 25 points, five rebounds and five assists as Utah earned its 12th win in 13 games.

**Trail Blazers 106, Suns 104:** Damian Lillard scored 40 points, including a left-handed layup with .9 seconds remaining, and visiting Portland rallied from 15 down in the final 7½ minutes to hand Phoenix its ninth straight loss.

**Celtics 121, Knicks 112:**

Kyrie Irving had 31 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, leading host Boston to its second victory in two nights since the All-Star break.

**76ers 116, Magic 105:** Joel Embiid had 28 points and 14 rebounds, and host Philadelphia extended its season-high win streak to seven.

**Heat 115, Grizzlies 89:** Tyler Johnson scored 23 points to lead six players in double figures, and host Miami stopped a three-game slide.

**Lakers 113, Kings 108:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 17 of his season-high 34 points in the third quarter, and Los Angeles snapped a three-game road losing streak.