

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy seeking to hire 2K new shipyard workers

BY TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy wants to hire about 2,000 new shipyard workers to help make more repairs to surface warships to keep them in service longer, said Vice Adm. Thomas Moore, the Navy's top commander for ship maintenance.

Hiring more workers is a critical component in the Navy's plan to increase the fleet to 350 ships, Moore said Thursday at a panel at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

The Navy needs the extra workers so it can conduct the needed depot work to add five to 10 years of service to the U.S. surface fleet — vessels such as destroyers, cruisers and transport ships.

If the fleet's service can be extended, and the Navy continues to receive budget increases to buy additional ships, it potentially could increase to 355 ships by the 2020s instead of the 2040s as planned now, Moore said.

There are 272 ships in the Navy. The 2018 budget recently proposed by President Donald Trump included \$21 billion to build eight new ships, including the final costs of the almost-complete aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy and the funds to start another new carrier, two destroyers, two submarines, one littoral combat ship and an oiler.

"We could probably shave 10 to 15 years off of what it would take you to get to 355" by increasing the amount of maintenance performed on the fleet, Moore said.

In the past year, citing budget uncertainty, a number of contractor-run shipyards that serve the Navy have laid off several hundred workers at some of the nation's major shipbuilding yards in San Diego and Newport News, Va., including BAE Systems, Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics.

This year, as Trump took office and instituted a 90-day federal hiring freeze, the administration exempted federal shipyard workers and depot maintenance employees, noting the important functions of those workers. Last month, the administration proposed a 2018 budget for the Navy, which would increase the service's spending plan by \$12.6 billion from last year. Part of the funds would be used to hire new federal shipyard employees.

## Carrier groups making waves in western Pacific

BY ERIK SLAVIN AND WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Ronald Reagan and USS Carl Vinson strike groups operated in formation alongside Japanese forces in waters near the Korean Peninsula on Thursday, marking the largest display yet of naval power in response to North Korea's recent ballistic missile tests.

Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz also is headed to the Western Pacific, though Navy officials say it is unlikely that three carriers will remain in the region for long.

In all, 12 warships and two carrier air wings operated together in the Sea of Japan on Thursday.

"These carrier strike groups, as well as two Japan Maritime Self Defense Force ships, were taking advantage of the opportunity to train and improve the way they operate together," 7th Fleet officials said in a statement. "Operating two carrier strike groups provides a unique capability, one of the many ways the U.S. Navy promotes security, stability, and prosperity throughout the region."

Dual-carrier operations in the Western Pacific are rare and generally are calibrated to make a strategic statement.

Before Thursday, the last publicized dual-carrier operation in the region came when the Reagan and USS John C. Stennis groups sailed together last June in the Philippine Sea. That event came ahead of an international tribunal ruling invalidating Chinese positions on the South China Sea that U.S. Navy officials say undermine freedom of navigation.

Today's display comes after North Korea's test-firing of a dozen ballistic missiles this year, despite condemnation from the global community.

The Vinson strike group included the aircraft carrier and the destroyers USS Wayne E. Meyer and USS Michael Murphy, as well as the cruiser USS Lake Champlain. The Japan-based Reagan group included the carrier, the cruiser USS Shiloh and the destroyers USS Barry, USS McCampbell, USS Fitzgerald and USS Mustin.

The Japanese contingent included the destroyer JS Ashigara and the flattop helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga, both of which operated within the Reagan group.

The Vinson will continue its scheduled operations in the Western Pacific but is expected to return to its San Diego homeport shortly, 7th Fleet officials said Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Nimitz will sail south to Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, where it will meet up with the destroyers USS Kidd and USS Shoup, as well as other vessels, Navy officials said.

Military officials have said that the Nimitz group's departure was preplanned and not in response to North Korean provocations.

## Navy receives carrier Gerald R. Ford

*Associated Press*

NORFOLK, Va. — The U.S. Navy has officially received the first of a new class of aircraft carriers.

The Navy announced Thursday that the USS Gerald R. Ford will now go through various workups at sea before becoming operational in 2020.

Delivery of the \$12.9 billion carrier by Newport News Shipbuilding follows delays, cost overruns and issues with new

technology, including a magnetic catapult system to launch jets.

President Donald Trump told Time magazine last month that the Navy should go back to using steam catapults because the new system is "no good" and costs hundreds of millions of dollars more.

The Navy has declined to comment on Trump's comments. It says the new technology can increase flying missions by a third.

## Sentencing set for Navy officer in secrets case

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A U.S. Navy officer soon will be sentenced for revealing military secrets and other crimes.

The Navy says a sentencing hearing is scheduled to begin Thursday in Virginia for Lt. Cmdr. Edward C. Lin, 40. The proceeding on a base in Norfolk could last into Friday.

Navy prosecutors had abandoned efforts to convict Lin of spying for China or Taiwan. They struck a plea deal in May instead that portrays him as arrogant and willing to reveal military secrets to impress women.

Lin faces dismissal from the Navy and up to 36 years in prison.

## Army Reserve colonel faces abuse charge

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A U.S. Army Reserve colonel faces charges of child abuse in North Carolina.

The Fayetteville Observer reported Terry Dione Lindon, 51, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse in March after Fayetteville police said he punched his 12-year-old son several times in the face in a restaurant parking lot. He is scheduled to appear in Cumberland County District Court next week.

A spokesman for U.S. Army Special Operations Command said Lindon was a civil affairs colonel assigned to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg before signing out of the unit in April. Officials said he is in the process of retiring from the Army.

# Navy: Anger-drawing auction of household goods not as it seemed

BY JESSICA BIDWELL  
Stars and Stripes

An auction of unclaimed servicemember household goods that started a social media firestorm had the military's blessing and included items that had been abandoned for a decade or more, according to the company and Navy officials.

Gene Daniels Auctions of Chesapeake, Va., had planned a since-postponed May 6 auction of 105 containers, containing over 78,000 pounds of unclaimed shipments from overseas military moves.

A post on the company's Facebook page stated, "Unclaimed Shipments from Overseas. These shipments are unclaimed household goods/personal property of military members who were stationed in locations such as Italy, Germany, Spain and Bahrain."

It added that the containers likely include "hidden treasures" and was accompanied by a photo of shipping crates with recent dates stamped on them.

The advertisement provoked a barrage of angry comments as well as calls to the auctioneers and Bay Area Movers, the company that transported them.

Both Navy officials and Bay Area Movers owner Jean McRae told Stars and Stripes that the crates with recent date stamps pictured in the advertisement weren't part of the auction.

No one had claimed the items up for auction or

paid for their storage in several years, she said.

"There were approximately 50 different lots of storage ranging from the 1990s to mid-2000s," McRae said. "The government was no longer covering storage on these shipments and had stopped many years ago."

Tom Kreidel, a spokesman at the Navy's Fleet Logistics Center Norfolk, Va., said the sale was approved by the government.

"The vast majority of the items in question have been in storage for between 10 and 25 years at the facility," Kreidel said in an email statement. "The Navy worked with the storage facility to conduct a review of all 47 customers through the Service Member Civil Relief Act website. Of these only one customer is still active duty."

Servicemembers are responsible for the cost of temporary storage of household goods after 90 days, according to Navy guidelines.

"Unfortunately, some of our servicemembers fail to make payment arrangements," Kreidel said. "In this particular case, the warehouse waited years and years without receiving payment before finally making the decision to take actions to auction the shipments."

McRae said the complaints hurt her feelings.

"We try to do the best job we can and for someone to call up and say angry things to you, it's uncalled for," she said. "I just wish people would check out the facts before they start rumors through social media."

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## Sub USS Washington delivered to Navy

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

A Virginia-class submarine that encountered a problem early in sea trials has been delivered to the Navy after passing its final at-sea test with flying colors, Newport News Shipbuilding announced recently.

The future USS Washington was delivered to the Navy after earning the highest Figure of Merit score to date from the Navy on any new-construction Virginia-class boat, the shipyard said in a news release Monday.

In March, the Washington had encountered "a material

issue" during its first round of sea trials that required a return to port, the Navy said. The boat already had missed a September 2016 date and was scheduled to be commissioned March 25. The problems were not related to the submarine's integrity nor its nuclear propulsion plant.

But the boat performed well in a follow-up run, allowing it to proceed to acceptance trials. That brought in the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey, which inspects and assesses the condition of Navy ships.

The Figure of Merit is the board's scoring method. A New-

port News vice president said in a statement he was "very proud" of the ship and the crew.

"We absolutely recognize our Navy's increasing need for mission-ready submarines, and we are committed to doing everything we can to support that demand," said Matt Needy, vice president of Virginia class submarine program and fleet services.

The Newport News shipyard, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, builds nuclear-powered submarines in a teaming arrangement with General Dynamics Electric Boat of Groton, Conn.

## Anger and sorrow grip Kabul after attack

*The Washington Post*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan joined in both anger and sorrow Thursday amid the aftermath in bomb-shattered Kabul as mourners buried the dead and officials grappled with questions over how to confront a seemingly unstoppable insurgent threat.

Wednesday's truck bombing in the Afghan capital's diplomatic zone — one of the city's most highly guarded areas — claimed more than 80 lives, injured 460 and decimated entire blocks in one of the bloodiest single attacks to hit Afghanistan in years.

Afghan's Taliban denied any links to the explosion, coming during the first week in the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. But Afghanistan faces violence from other militant factions, including a branch of Islamic State.

Crews worked to clear away building rubble and wrecked cars in a large area around the 15-foot-deep bomb crater, sealed off by hundreds of police.

Victims' families began holding funerals and mourning ceremonies in mosques across the city, and relatives of those with severe injuries hovered around their hospital beds.

But the dominant mood of the capital was a mix of rage and recriminations.

At informal gatherings, on social media and in several small but intense public rallies, people denounced the government of President Ashraf Ghani for failing to prevent the ongoing violence and said the country's future seemed increasingly bleak.

"Let us turn the silence of suffering into a national voice. We must all come together to stop terrorism from going any further and raise our voices against oppression," a young man with a bullhorn exhorted protesters gathered Thursday at the perimeter of the blast site, surrounded by watchful riot police in flak jackets and helmets.

# US boosts firepower at Syria base

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has bolstered its firepower at a small training base in southern Syria in recent days as a group of Iran-supported militiamen backing the Syrian government are encamped nearby and refuse to move, a military spokesman for the anti-Islamic State coalition said Thursday.

Despite repeated warnings, the small group of fighters about 17 miles northwest of the Tanf base has not moved outside the established nonconflict zone, which extends about 35 miles around the outpost near the Jordanian border, said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition. The U.S.-led coalition trains Syrian rebels to fight ISIS at the base.

"We have increased our combat power in that area," Dillon told reporters at the Pentagon during a phone call from Baghdad. "We have increased our presence and our footprint in the area and prepared for any threat that is presented by the pro-regime forces."

The U.S. has used communication channels with the Russian military, which also backs Syrian President Bashar Assad, and an airdrop of 90,000 leaflets during the weekend to warn the fighters to move away from Tanf, Dillon said. The fighters belong to the same group that the U.S. attacked May 18 for moving too close to the Tanf base.

Dillon said there are "a couple hundred" coalition troops, including U.S. special operators and Syrian rebels, at the base, and the coalition also has increased its air power directly over

the area to defend the base as needed. He declined to detail the firepower added to the base in recent days. He also declined to say how many pro-government forces have gathered near the coalition base at Tanf.

In addition to the small group of fighters inside the nonconflict area, the coalition is also concerned about a growing formation of the militia on the edge of the zone, Dillon said. The U.S. has observed as the militia, which Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recently described as "Iran-directed," moved fighters, tanks, artillery and other weaponry up to the border of the zone to the northwest of Tanf. Dillon said fighters also are patrolling along the nonconflict zone's border to the north and east of the base and building fighting positions.

Despite concerns, the U.S. has not asked the militiamen outside the nonconflict zone to move, Dillon said. They are primarily focused on persuading the fighters closest to Tanf to move.

The militia claims it is in the area only to fight ISIS, Dillon said. However, the coalition does not work with regime-aligned forces and does not want to operate so closely to the group, he said.

"We are just doing everything necessary to make sure that our forces are protected," Dillon said. "We've made it very clear our position and what it is that we want from them and why."

So far, the U.S. has not put a deadline on when the militia should move. It also has not directly warned the group that it would be attacked if it did not vacate its position.

But Dillon said if the group moves any closer to Tanf, the U.S. would see that as a direct threat, and he did not rule out a second airstrike.

## Company: Work on stealthy bikes goes on

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Ultraquiet, electric motorcycles designed to help fighters sneak up on the enemy are getting closer to the battlefield, according to a company building prototypes for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Logos Technologies, which has been developing a hybrid-electric dirt bike known as the SilentHawk since 2015, is now working on an all-electric motorcycle as well as another multifuel hybrid with a lighter, air-cooled engine.

"The idea is to have two test motorcycles," Doug Rombough, Logos' vice president of business development, said in a recent phone interview.

Both will be able to carry equipment and use front-wheel drive, he said.

Alex Dzwil, lead engineer for the SilentHawk, said the drive system makes it easier to start the motorcycle on a steep hill, which can be difficult on an ordinary dirt bike.

The system also provides better traction in deserts and on beaches, he said.

"On a typical dirt bike, you would use a ton of power trying to move in sand," Dzwil said. "With the front-wheel drive, you can climb out of it without using too much power."

The \$15,000 recreational dirt bike — made by California's Alta Motors, on which the SilentHawk is based — weighs 267 pounds. Dzwil said he expects the added features to add

another 20 to 30 pounds.

The all-electric bike will have a range of 40 to 50 miles across off-road terrain. The hybrid, with a multifuel generator added, will be able to travel 170 miles, he said.

The hybrid's range extender will be easy to add or remove, and also would be able to power troops' electronic gear in the field, he said.

"Soldiers could be sitting on a hill and top up the battery with the generator and charge up other gear," Rombough said.

"They are carrying more and more equipment that has to be powered so, it's a great benefit."

Logos will have a year to develop the motorcycles, but already there is interest from the Army, the Marine Corps and foreign militaries, he said.

## Philippine strike kills 11 soldiers in besieged city

Associated Press

MARAWI, Philippines — A Philippine aircraft accidentally bombed and killed 11 soldiers and injured seven others, security officials said Thursday, as troops struggled to end a bloody siege by 500 Islamic State-aligned extremists in a southern city, one of the boldest militant attacks in Southeast Asia in years.

The plane was making a bombing run over militant positions in Marawi city on Wednesday when one bomb accidentally hit army troops locked in close battle with extremists who had taken cover in buildings and houses, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. The plane had made three successful bombing runs before making the error, he said.

“It’s painful. It’s very sad to be hitting our own troops,” Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told a news conference in Manila. “Sometimes, in the fog of war, a lot of things could happen.”

Precision-guided bombs were used earlier in airstrikes in Marawi’s urban areas, but the military ran out of the high-tech munitions and used conventional ones in Wednesday’s bombing run, he said.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano ordered an investigation.

Lorenzana said about 500 militants, including foreign fighters, joined the siege of Marawi, a mosque-studded city that is the heartland of the Islamic faith in the southern Philippines.

About 50 to 100 militants were putting up the strongest stand in buildings across a bridge from Marawi’s city hall, where hundreds of reinforcement troops were deployed. Snipers and buildings that obstructed cannon fire were making it difficult for troops to end the siege, said Lorenzana, who had wanted to end the crisis by Friday.

A total of 120 militants have been killed in the fighting since May 23, when a failed government raid to capture one of Asia’s most-wanted militants, Isnilon Hapilon, triggered the siege of the city by the rebels. Twenty-five of the dead militants have been identified as Filipinos, according to military officials. Eight others were foreign fighters, including a Chechen, a Yemeni and several Malaysians and Indonesians, Lorenzana said.

At least 25 soldiers, five policemen and more than 24 civilians have been killed in the clashes, Lorenzana said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the Mindanao region, the southern third of the Philippines, to crush the insurrection.

## House committee issues subpoenas in Russia probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Intelligence Committee says it is issuing subpoenas for Michael Flynn and Michael Cohen — President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser and his personal lawyer — as well as their businesses as part of its investigation into Russian activities during last year’s election.

The committee also issued three other subpoenas — to the National Security Agency, the FBI and the CIA — for information about requests government officials made to unmask the identities of U.S. individuals named in classified intelligence reports.

The subpoenas were announced Wednesday as the special counsel overseeing the government’s investigation into possible Trump campaign ties to Russia has approved former FBI Director James Comey testifying before the Senate intelligence committee, according to a Comey associate.

At a briefing Wednesday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said inquiries about the Russia investigation must

be directed to Trump’s personal attorney, Marc Kasowitz. It marked the first time the White House officially acknowledged outside counsel had been retained. Calls and emails to Kasowitz’s New York firm were not returned Wednesday.

The Comey associate, who wasn’t authorized to discuss details of the testimony and spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to discuss the content of Comey’s planned testimony. The associate did say Robert Mueller, appointed by the Justice Department earlier this month to lead the government’s inquiry, is allowing Comey to make certain statements.

Lawmakers are likely to ask Comey about his interactions with Trump as the bureau pursued its investigation into his campaign’s contacts.

A spokesman for Mueller, a former FBI director, declined to comment. Mueller’s separate probe conceivably could look at the circumstances surrounding Comey’s firing.

Comey is set to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee June 8.

## Girl, 16, accused of hacking Uber driver to death in Ill.

Associated Press

LINCOLNWOOD, Ill. — A 16-year-old girl walked out of a suburban Chicago Walmart holding a machete and a knife she’d stolen, climbed into an Uber car and began hacking at the driver, prosecutors alleged at a hearing Wednesday. The driver died of his wounds Tuesday after giving police a description of the attacker that led to her arrest.

A prosecutor read in court a description of the attack that said Eliza Wasni simply climbed into a car driven by Grant Nelson, 34, and stabbed him and hacked him to death early Tuesday morning. The judge ordered the girl, who was charged as an adult with first-degree murder, held without bond.

The two-page description offers no reason for the attack, but portrays Wasni as a calm girl who “nonchalantly” could be seen walking through Walmart, the knives in hand, before she walked outside without paying.

Prosecutors said that Nelson, a resident of Wilmette, picked the girl up shortly after 3 a.m. Tuesday in Lincolnwood. It was her third ride in an Uber vehicle in the early

morning hours of Tuesday. Two minutes after he began driving, prosecutors said that Wasni began stabbing Nelson from the backseat. Nelson pulled over and ran into a nearby condominium building, where he screamed “Help me, help me! I’m going to die!” until residents called 911.

Wasni climbed into the front seat of Nelson’s blood-splattered silver sedan and drove away, striking a median in the road. She jumped out of the vehicle and fled on foot, prosecutors said.

Officers found Nelson lying in grass. He was bleeding profusely from several wounds, and was able to tell the officers what had happened. He died at a nearby hospital a few hours later.

Using the description given by Nelson, police found Wasni nearby crouching behind an air conditioner — a machete in one hand and a knife in the other. Police warned her that she would be shot with a Taser if she did not drop the weapons, and when she did not comply, an officer used the Taser. Wasni dropped the knives and was taken into custody. Police said she did not make a statement.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Ivy League acceptance was as easy as pizza pie

**TN** BRENTWOOD — A Tennessee teen's love for pizza has delivered acceptance at Yale University to her door.

The Tennessean reported Ravenwood High School graduate Carolina Williams was accepted to the Ivy League school in March, with an admissions officer noting her standout answer to a short essay prompt to write about something she loves to do: order pizza from Papa John's.

Williams said her answer was the first thing that came to mind. She also ranked in the top 10 of her graduating class and participated in multiple extracurricular activities.

Rather than attending Yale, however, she will pursue business at Auburn University, saying she felt it was a better fit and liked the scholarships.

### Philly skateboard park granite sent to Sweden

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Granite from a Philadelphia park that was a skateboarding mecca, though for a long stretch an illegal one, is being put to new use at a skate park being built nearly 4,000 miles away.

Slabs from the city's famed LOVE Park, named for Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture, are being shipped to the city of Malmo, Sweden.

Malmo's skateboarding coordinator told KYW-TV that the granite will be used for a project he says will "rock the skateboarding world."

The park adjacent to Philadelphia's City Hall was long a popular destination for skateboarders, but from 2003 to 2016 skateboarding was banned at the park. Now, the area is un-

dergoing a major redesign that it is turning it into largely green space, effectively killing its use as a skating venue.

### Sheriff's department office is evacuated

**MI** WYOMING — Part of a sheriff's department office in western Michigan was evacuated after a detective became ill during testing of suspected narcotics.

The Kent County Sheriff's Department said standard testing was being conducted Tuesday on a white powdery substance when the detective had a possible drug reaction. A hazardous materials team responded, and the detective was taken to a hospital.

The detective was given an opioid overdose reversal drug as a precaution.

Air quality tests were being conducted. Other areas of the sheriff's department offices in Grand Rapids remained open.

### Urinating-dog statue placed by 'Fearless Girl'

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City artist briefly placed a small statue of a urinating dog next to Wall Street's "Fearless Girl" sculpture as a form of counterprotest.

"Fearless Girl" was installed in March by a financial firm as a statement about the lack of women on the boards of big U.S. corporations. It faces the famous "Charging Bull" statue.

The dog's sculptor, Alex Gardega, told The New York Post that he thinks "Fearless Girl" is a disrespectful publicity stunt and "has nothing to do with feminism."

"Fearless Girl" creator Kristen Visbal and a representative for bull creator Arturo Di Modica did not immediately re-

spond to comment requests.

Di Modica has previously complained that "Fearless Girl" turns his bull's message of freedom, peace, strength, power and love into something negative.

### Police being trained to avoid shooting at cars

**SC** COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top law enforcement officer spotted an alarming trend while reviewing shootings by police in the state: increasingly, the suspect's only weapon was the vehicle they were driving.

State Law Enforcement Division statistics showed 13 shootings each in 2014 and 2015 in which the officer considered a suspect's vehicle to be a weapon, almost double the average for the four years prior.

SLED Chief Mark Keel instituted a new emphasis in training for police in South Carolina. Officers are told to position themselves so they can't be hit by cars. Instructors also emphasize that almost all drivers don't want to harm officers, even if they don't want to be arrested. They're reminded that a fleeing suspect will likely be more safely arrested soon.

### One town aids another after tornado damage

**NC** AUTRYVILLE — One North Carolina town that has known its share of tragedy from the weather is sending a firetruck to another North Carolina town shaken by Mother Nature.

Princeville sent a fire engine to Autryville after the Sampson County town lost three firetrucks in a tornado Tuesday.

Princeville lost a fire station last fall after heavy rains from Hurricane Matthew sent the Tar River way over its banks.

Princeville Fire Chief James

Powell said he didn't have to think twice before helping Autryville because his department received so much help in 2016.

### Woman charged after kids locked in trunk

**UT** RIVERDALE — A 39-year-old Utah woman was arrested after she allegedly locked her two young children in her car's trunk while she went inside a Wal-Mart to shop.

Riverdale police said witnesses heard the children, ages 2 and 5, making noise and saw the car shaking, got the older child to pull the emergency latch and called 911.

Tori Lee Castillo was jailed on suspicion of child abuse after being arrested when she returned to the car. Police Lt. Casey Warren said the state child welfare was contacted and the children were turned over to a responsible party.

### Bond of holy man, writer commemorated

**SD** BLACK ELK PEAK — The bond between a famous writer and a Native American holy man has been celebrated with a commemorative hike.

The Rapid City Journal reported that a group of people with the John G. Neihardt State Historic Society in Bancroft, Neb., hiked Tuesday on Black Elk Peak with Myron Pourier, a descendant of holy man Black Elk.

Neihardt's book "Black Elk Speaks" recounts Black Elk's childhood story in which he had a vision of being transported to the top of the mountain. The book has sold hundreds of thousands of copies and serves as a window into Lakota Sioux history and spirituality.

From wire reports

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# LeBron leaving lofty legacy

Associated Press

**CLEVELAND**  
LeBron James will one day take his final bow, the brightest spotlight moving on to someone else.

There will come a time when his legs lose some explosiveness and those vicious dunks will be rendered ordinary. Someday, his jumper won't fall as often, and that astonishing court vision, the key to his game, will become cloudy.

James will face the end of his career one day. Just not anytime soon.

In his seventh straight NBA Finals appearance, and 10 years since he debuted on basketball's grand stage, James' reign continues: undisputed king of the court.

During a postseason in which he has chased down Michael Jordan as the No. 1 scorer in playoff history, James has not only positioned himself for a fourth title, but intensified the debate over whether he's the greatest player in NBA history.

He isn't slowing down while building his case.

James has always dismissed the Jordan comparisons, saying that kind of talk is "only great for barbershops" and that original gravity-defying No. 23 has been his motivational muse, not a target. But after the Cavs won their third straight conference title, punishing an overmatched Boston team in five games — he supplanted Jordan during the clincher — James discussed his place alongside someone who was "like a god" to him growing up.

"I did pretty much everything that M.J. did when I was a kid," James said. "I shot fadeaways before I should have. I wore black and red shoes with white socks. I wore short shorts so you could see my undershorts underneath. I didn't go bald like Mike, but I'm getting there. ... But other than that, I did everything Mike did."

And he's not done, not by a long shot.

James is on a mission, and it's far from accomplished.

By having one of his finest statistical postseasons — 32.5 points per game, 8.0 rebounds, 7.0

assists, 57 percent shooting through 13 games — James is dismissing any argument about the league's true MVP. Although he'll finish behind Russell Westbrook, James Harden and Kawhi Leonard when the regular-season award is given out next month, James has reminded everyone over the past six weeks that he remains the measuring stick at 32.

He's raising the bar even higher, during a decade in which his actions — on and off the floor — have shaped the league.

"LeBron James has dominated, seriously dominated, this era of basketball. His domination has been about the equivalent to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's in his time," Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas said. "He's playing for his place in history, to be talked about as one of the best to ever play. The conversation will come down between he, Kareem and Michael Jordan. Then it's just a matter of taste. Who do you want?"

Of all his accomplishments, making seven straight final rounds is near the top of the list. James is the seventh player to appear in seven consecutive Finals, and the first since Bill Russell led a handful of Celtics on their dynastic run in the 1960s.

James reluctantly reflects on what he's done. As the Cavs prepared for the Warriors, he took time to consider his latest feat.

"It's going to be great for my legacy," he said. "Once I'm done playing the game and can look back on the game and say, 'Oh, this guy went to three straight Finals, four straight Finals, five, six, whatever. It's great to be talked about, see what I was able to accomplish as an individual. When you talk about longevity and being able to just play at a high level for a long period of time, I've been fortunate enough to be able to do that and take two franchises to four Finals apiece — and no one has ever done that either."

"I've always been proud to be part of the biggest stage in our league, and it's the Finals."

And this is Act III of a three-year drama with Golden State.

# Navratilova calls Court 'homophobe'

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Martina Navratilova has written an open letter criticizing Margaret Court's comments about same-sex marriage and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. She is recommending that tennis officials rename the arena that bears the Australian great's name at Melbourne Park.

Court won a record 24 Grand Slam singles titles in the 1960s and 1970s and is now a Christian pastor. In a letter published in The West Australian newspaper last week, Court wrote that she would stop flying Qantas "where possible" because the Australian airline "has become an active promoter for same-sex marriage."

The 74-year-old Court has been a critic of homosexuality for decades, and expanded her comments in a Christian radio station interview this week.

On Thursday, Navratilova's letter addressed to "Dear Margaret Court Arena" and published by Fairfax Media newspapers in Australia, suggested that sporting venues should be named for a person's "whole body of work."

"When you were named after Margaret Court, it seemed like the right thing to do," former No. 1-ranked Navratilova wrote. "After all, Rod Laver already had the big stadium and Court is one of the all-time greats. I had long ago forgiven Court for her headline-grabbing comments in 1990 when she said I was a bad role model because I was a lesbian."

"It is now clear exactly who Court is: an amazing tennis player, and ... a homophobe. Her vitriol is not just an opinion. She is actively trying to keep LGBT people from getting equal rights (note to Court: we are human beings, too). She is demonizing trans kids and trans adults everywhere."

Navratilova recommended the No. 2 arena at the Australian Open be given a new name.

# Police: Racial slur sprayed on James' home

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Visibly shaken by an event he couldn't control, Cleveland's LeBron James struggled Wednesday to focus on his seventh straight NBA Finals or the Golden State Warriors.

For the game's best player, basketball was overshadowed by racism after police said James' mansion in Los Angeles was vandalized in the morning with a racial slur spray painted onto the front gate.

Nearly a year since he sat at the same podium inside Oracle Arena and addressed Muhammad Ali's impact as an activist following the heavyweight champion's death, James discussed the daily challenges of being black in the U.S.

"No matter how much money you have, no matter how famous you are, no matter how many people admire you, being black in America is tough," James said. "We have a long way to go as a society and for us

as African-Americans until we feel equal in America. But my family is safe, and that's what's important."

According to police, an unidentified person spray painted the N-word on the front gate of James' \$20 million home Wednesday morning. The property manager told officers that it is believed the incident was captured on surveillance video. Police are investigating it as an act of vandalism and a possible hate crime.

# Penguins strike quickly for 2-0 lead

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — By coach Peter Laviolette's math, the Nashville Predators have been pretty good for all but 10 minutes of the Stanley Cup Final.

It's not much. Unless you're playing the Pittsburgh Penguins. Then it's too much. Way too much.

The defending Stanley Cup champions needed just over three minutes at the start of the third period to turn a taut Game 2 into a runaway, beating Pekka Rinne three times in a 4-1 victory on Wednesday night to inch closer to becoming the first team in nearly 20 years to win back-to-back titles.

The barrage started with Jake Guentzel. Mired in an eight-game goal drought heading into the series, the 22-year-old Nebraska-born rookie provided the winner in Game 1 and again in Game 2 when he

pounded home a rebound just 10 seconds into the third for his third of the series and 12th of the playoffs.

"It's crazy," said Guentzel, who has an NHL rookie record five game-winning goals this postseason. "You can't even put into words what it feels [like]. But we know the ultimate goal is two more wins and they're going to be tough to get."

Only if Rinne turns back into Rinne. The 34-year-old spent the first three rounds of the playoffs helping carry Nashville to the Final for the first time. Now he's the biggest reason the Predators head back to "Smashville" for Game 3 on Saturday night reeling. After giving up four goals on 11 shots in Game 1, he allowed four more on 25 shots in Game 2. He was pulled when Evgeni Malkin ended Pittsburgh's surge with his ninth of the playoffs 3:28 into the third.

Rinne entered the series with a .947 save percentage in the postseason. Against Pittsburgh, it's at .777 and he remains winless in his career against the Penguins in games he's started.

"The limited chances they've had they've done a good job," Rinne said. "Overall these two games, like I said, it's disappointing to be down 2-0 but we have to be feeling still positive with the way we played as a whole and creating chances."

Asked twice afterward if he was committed to starting Rinne on Saturday, Laviolette stressed Rinne has been "terrific," adding there are plenty of things the Predators can do better in front of him like stopping the odd-man rushes that allowed the Penguins to take charge.

"There's a stretch they're able to gain some momentum, able to capitalize and be op-

portunistic and that swung two games in their favor," he said.

Pontus Aberg scored the lone goal for the Predators, who were once again undone by a sudden barrage from the NHL's highest-scoring team, though they haven't lost faith in Rinne. Defenseman P.K. Subban said the team was "extremely confident" and in the prospect of going home, where the Predators are 7-1 during the playoffs.

"We're going to win the next game and then we'll see what happens from there," Subban said.

It wouldn't take much to be better than what happened in Pittsburgh.

In Game 1, the Penguins pushed three goals by Rinne in a span of 4:11 in the first period to build a 3-0 lead. The Predators rallied to tie before Guentzel's go-ahead goal with 3:17 remaining put the Penguins ahead to stay.

# Wawrinka cruises into third round in Paris

Associated Press

PARIS — Former French Open champion Stan Wawrinka posted another solid performance to reach the third round at the French Open on Thursday.

Yet to drop a set at the tournament so far, the three-time Grand Slam champion played aggressively and close to the lines throughout, hitting 45 winners to beat Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-4, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

"The most important thing for me is the way I play," said Wawrinka, who beat Novak Djokovic in the final two years ago. "It was a difficult challenge because he is varying and mixing his shots well."

Dolgoplov made only 18 unforced errors but Wawrinka played a flawless baseline game, punctuated by some superb shots.

"It was a very, very good match," said Wawrinka, who will next take on Italian Fabio Fognini.

"Again a tough match," Wawrinka said. "Kind of player like Dolgoplov, unpredictable."

Earlier, Karen Khachanov advanced to the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time by upsetting 13th-seeded Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-4, 6-4. The 21-year-old Russian had 12 aces against Berdych and set up a big server contest.

He will take on No. 21 seed John Isner for a spot in the fourth round. The American player hit 21 aces in his 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) victory over Paolo Lorenzi.

On a sunny day at the clay-court Grand Slam, there was plenty of drama and tears on court 2, where Nicolas Almagro retired early in the third set against No. 29 seed Juan Martin Del Potro because of an injured left knee.

Del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion, also had physical problems on his upper right leg during the match. He won the first set 6-3, then Almagro took the second by the same score, and it was 1-all in the third when the match ended.

Almagro's left knee was taped by a trainer. Then he stopped playing and rested both hands on his knees and shook his head. Then he held his hands on his head and began crying.

Nick Kyrgios lost his second-round match to Kevin Anderson 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

The 18th-seeded Kyrgios won the first set but double faulted twice to hand the South African the second. He immediately flung his racket to the ground so hard that it buckled.

Kyrgios then smashed the broken racket six times against a water container as he

sat down at the end of a game, before flinging it away.

The Australian was given a point penalty and he never recovered, losing the next two sets in little over an hour.

In the women's draw, Agnieszka Radwanska won back-to-back matches for the first time since reaching the final in Sydney in January.

Radwanska, seeded ninth at the French Open, beat qualifier Alison Van Uytvanck 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-3.

Earlier in the clay-court season, Radwanska has missed the Madrid and Rome tournaments because of a right foot injury.

"I have been struggling with my health for a couple of weeks," Radwanska said. "I only had a week practice, so I am just very happy to be in the third round."

Second-seeded Karolina Pliskova is through to the third round for the first time after beating Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia.

Pliskova, who is the highest-ranked player at Roland Garros after world No. 1 Angelique Kerber lost on Sunday, won 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 over the 86th-ranked Alexandrova.

Among the other women advancing to the third round were No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina and No. 14 Elena Vesnina.

# Jones leads O's over Yankees in return

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — After missing four straight games with a hip injury, Adam Jones finally returned to the Baltimore Orioles' starting lineup.

It was hard to determine who was happier: Jones, his teammates or manager Buck Showalter.

Jones homered and drove in five runs, Chris Davis added a two-run shot and the Orioles beat Masahiro Tanaka and the New York Yankees 10-4 on Wednesday night.

Jones contributed an RBI double to a four-run third inning, hit a three-run homer in the fourth and drove in a run with an infield hit in the eighth.

"A rest here and there is good," Jones said. "Glad I was able to come back out there, add some more energy, and the guys followed suit. So, good series win."

Baltimore took two of three from the AL

East leaders after coming in with a seven-game losing streak. The Yankees have lost 11 straight series in Baltimore — the second-longest road skid in franchise history behind a 12-series drought at Oakland from 1985-91.

Jones led the way, going 3-for-5 and scoring twice.

"It's a lot easier with him there," Showalter said. "You could tell he was pretty fresh."

Tanaka (5-5) lost his fourth straight start, extending the longest such streak of his career. The right-hander gave up seven runs and nine hits in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

"I just thought he was in a lot of bad counts tonight," manager Joe Girardi said. "His slider was not sharp tonight. He managed to get through a few innings and then he made some mistakes after that."

The Yankees had 11 hits but stranded 11 and went 1-for-12 with runners in scoring position.

Kevin Gausman (3-4) allowed two earned runs and eight hits over 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, walking five and striking out four. He twice escaped bases-loaded, two-out jams to earn his second win since April 13 and provide hope for a starting rotation that was 1-9 since May 8.

"I thought he didn't break," Showalter said.

The Orioles took charge in the third. After Jones' run-scoring hit, Mark Trumbo hit a two-run double and Davis added an RBI single.

Jones' fourth-inning homer on Tanaka's first offering made it 7-1. It was the 14th long ball allowed by Tanaka in 11 starts, including eight in his last four appearances.

"It was a tough outing," Tanaka said through an interpreter. "I was not able to get first-pitch strikes. To Adam Jones, those were the times you might have to throw balls first instead of just throwing aggressively for strikes."

# Astros roll over Twins for 7th straight win

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — George Springer reached base in all six plate appearances and hit two of Houston's season-high six home runs to lead the Astros to their seventh straight victory, 17-6 over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday.

Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman, Evan Gattis and Marwin Gonzalez also went deep for the Astros, who scored 40 runs in the three games to set a franchise record for runs in a series of any length. They had 19 hits on Wednesday and 37 in the series.

Brian Dozier, Eddie Rosario and Jason Castro homered for the Twins, who have lost four straight.

Springer's two homers traveled an estimated 900 combined feet, including a moon shot off of Ryan Pressly in the six-run seventh inning that landed just short of the third deck in left-center field. That was measured at 473 feet, the second-longest homer this season behind a 481-footer by Arizona's Jake Lamb on April 29.

**Padres 2, Cubs 1:** Rookie Franchy Cordero tripled in the eighth and scored on Yangervis Solarte's fielder's choice as San

Diego handed visiting Chicago its season-high sixth straight loss.

Luis Perdomo and two relievers combined to hold the struggling Cubs to three hits. The rebuilding Padres won their season-high fourth straight game and swept the Cubs for the first time since Aug. 6-8, 2012.

**Cardinals 2, Dodgers 1:** Dexter Fowler hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning to back Carlos Martinez and give host St. Louis a victory over Los Angeles.

Martinez (4-4) allowed one run and four hits while striking out nine as he pitched eight innings to help St. Louis snap a three-game losing streak.

**Diamondbacks 6, Pirates 5 (14):** Chris Owings singled home the go-ahead run in the 14th inning and visiting Arizona outlasted Pittsburgh in a game that took more than 4½ hours to play — plus a 93-minute rain delay.

Paul Goldschmidt and Nick Ahmed homered for the Diamondbacks, who led in the ninth and 11th before finally putting away the Pirates.

**Blue Jays 5, Reds 4:** Devon Travis hit a tiebreaking two-

run home run in the seventh inning and Luke Maile also hit a two-run home run as host Toronto beat Cincinnati to complete a three-game sweep.

Jason Grilli (2-4) pitched one inning for the victory as the Blue Jays won for the eighth time in nine games and finished May at 18-10.

**Athletics 3, Indians 1:** Sean Manaea allowed three hits in seven innings, Chad Pinder homered twice and drove in all three of visiting Oakland's runs in a win over Cleveland.

Manaea (4-3) retired the first 10 hitters before Francisco Lindor homered with one out in the fourth. He gave up singles to Daniel Robertson and Edwin Encarnacion, along with a walk to Jose Ramirez.

**Brewers 7, Mets 1:** Eric Thames hit his first home run in three weeks, Keon Broxton also went deep against an ineffective Jacob deGrom, and Milwaukee beat host New York for just its third win in 10 games.

**Marlins 10, Phillies 2:** Justin Bour hit two home runs, increasing his season total to 15, and Miami completed its first series sweep of the season by beating visiting Philadelphia before a sparse crowd.

**Nationals 3, Giants 1:** Max Scherzer struck out 11 in a five-hitter and Washington beat host San Francisco to complete a three-game sweep.

**Red Sox 4, White Sox 1:** Pablo Sandoval hit a tiebreaking single in visiting Boston's four-run sixth inning and Drew Pomeranz struck out eight in his second straight win, helping the Red Sox beat Chicago.

**Rays 7, Rangers 5 (10):** Logan Morrison and Derek Norris homered in a three-run 10th inning to cap a late Tampa Bay comeback against host Texas.

**Tigers 6, Royals 5:** J.D. Martinez and Justin Upton each hit a two-run double with two outs in the third inning, helping visiting Detroit hold off Kansas City.

**Angels 2, Braves 1:** At Anaheim, Calif., Eric Young Jr. made his first home run of the season a timely one, hitting a solo shot in the eighth inning to lift Los Angeles over Atlanta.

**Mariners 5, Rockies 0:** James Paxton and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as Seattle blanked visiting Colorado.