

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US airstrike kills 8 militants in Somalia

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. airstrike killed eight militants Sunday in Somalia, where in recent months an Islamic extremist group has intensified operations against U.S.-backed forces and has “cemented its control of southern and central Somalia,” the military said.

U.S. Africa Command said the precision strike hit an al-Shabab command-and-control camp positioned about 185 miles southwest of Somalia’s capital, Mogadishu, where a fragile central government is trying to take root.

U.S. forces, in cooperation with the Somali government, are “conducting operations against al-Shabab in Somalia to degrade the al-Qaida affiliate’s ability to recruit, train and plot external terror attacks throughout the region and in America,” AFRICOM said in a statement.

AFRICOM has stepped up the pace of its operations against al-Shabab, which remains a threat despite a decadeslong international effort to defeat the group.

A few years ago, al-Shabab was on the de-

fensive but in recent months, the group has reasserted itself. The group’s resurgence comes as African Union forces, which are leading the fight against extremists in the country, plan to begin withdrawing from Somalia next year.

AFRICOM was blunt about the group’s gains.

“The terror organization has taken advantage of [a] safe haven,” AFRICOM said. “The group has cemented its control [in] southern and central Somalia; they have used this area to plot and direct terror attacks, steal humanitarian aid, and to shelter other radical terrorists.”

In the past eight months, al-Shabab has overrun forward operating bases used by outnumbered African Union forces, seizing a wide-ranging arsenal of weaponry in the process.

Al-Shabab has seized heavy weaponry, armored vehicles, explosives, small arms, ammunition and other supplies to support its operations, AFRICOM said.

Bases that have been overrun include those used by Burundian, Ugandan and Kenyan forces.

AFRICOM did not say what weapons system was used to conduct the strike, but the attack was performed under new authorities approved by President Donald Trump in March, the Pentagon said.

As the African Union plots its withdrawal from Somalia after more than a decade of fighting, the U.S. is racing to bolster Somalia’s fledgling armed forces.

In early May, a U.S. Navy SEAL was killed during operations in Somalia, a sign of the increased risk taken on there by the U.S.

U.S. special operations forces are operating alongside Somali troops on the battlefield in an advisory role while U.S. soldiers have been deployed to Mogadishu to train the country’s troops on how to resupply its forces.

AFRICOM said it will carry out more strikes when needed when “hunting and tracking members of this al-Qaida affiliate throughout Somalia, the region and around the world.”

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US-backed Syrian forces seize parts of Raqqa

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A U.S.-backed Syrian opposition force said Sunday it has captured a northwestern neighborhood of Islamic State’s de facto capital of Raqqa the second district to fall in their hands in days after the group launched a wide offensive to gain control of the extremists’ de facto capital.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said its fighters captured the neighborhood of Romaniah after two days of fighting that left 12 ISIS gunmen dead, including a commander known as Abu Khattab al-Tunsi.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said SDF fighters now con-

trol Romaniah and the eastern neighborhood of Mashlab. The fighters also have entered Raqqa’s western neighborhood of Sabahiya and the industrial district in the east.

Raqqa was among the first cities captured by ISIS, in January 2014, and has been the home of some of the group’s most prominent leaders. The battle for the city is expected to be extended and bloody, and could mark a major turning point in the war against the extremists.

ISIS has been fortifying its positions in Raqqa for months, setting up barriers and hanging sheets of cloth over main streets to provide cover from warplanes. A belt of land mines and militant checkpoints cir-

cles the city.

SDF fighters began their offensive on the city of Raqqa on Tuesday under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

The ISIS-linked Amaq news agency said the city was subjected to intense airstrikes and shelling by the SDF and the U.S.-led coalition releasing a video that showed wide destruction in one of the neighborhoods. The video also showed severely wounded men and children being rushed to hospitals.

In southern Syria, Jordan said its border guards have killed five suspected infiltrators approaching the kingdom’s border from Syria in a pickup and two motorcycles.

The military said in a statement that the incident took place near the spot where Jordan, Syria and Iraq meet.

Jordan has been on alert for possible infiltrations by ISIS extremists who seized territories in Syria and Iraq in 2014. In recent months, Jordan expressed concern that U.S.-backed offensives against ISIS will push some of the militants closer to the kingdom’s border.

The army said nine vehicles approached Jordan from Syria in the past three days, and border guards opened fire to hold them back. The army says that in the latest incident, troops fired on a pickup and two motorcycles, killing five.

USS Giffords is commissioned

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Navy's newest combat ship — named after former Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was injured during a 2011 shooting — was put into active service following a commissioning ceremony Saturday.

Giffords told a crowd at the ceremony in the Texas Gulf Coast city of Galveston that she was honored the 421-foot-long ship will carry her name and that the vessel is "strong and tough, just like her crew."

"I thought of you in my darkest days, the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the United States of America. ... You make me proud. You make America proud," Giffords said as she stood next to her husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly, who was in the Navy.

Kelly lived in Galveston

County when he was stationed at Johnson Space Center in suburban Houston during his NASA service.

Speakers including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Giffords' strength and courage made her worthy of being the namesake of the ship.

"Nothing gives me greater joy and honor than seeing this great ship named for someone whose strength and resilience is a great lesson to us all," Clinton said.

Others who attended the ceremony included House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; former Vice President Joe Biden; and his wife, Jill, who served as the ship's sponsor. The Navy has said it named the ship after Giffords because of the perseverance she showed after the shooting.

Giffords was shot in the

head at a meet-and-greet event outside a grocery store in Tucson, Ariz., in 2011. Six people died, and Giffords was among 13 injured.

The killer, Jared Loughner, was sentenced to life in prison. Giffords suffers from a language disorder and is partially paralyzed as a result of the shooting.

Giffords helped christen the \$475 million ship in 2015. It's the ninth in a series of high-speed vessels designed to navigate in shallow coastal regions known as littoral waters.

It is the 13th Navy ship named after a living person since 1850 and the 16th ship named for a woman. It will be based in San Diego.

"I will never forget this day or the crew of the USS Gabrielle Giffords. Fair winds and following seas," Giffords said.

Allies train in Baltic Sea

Stars and Stripes

Fourteen countries have converged on the Baltic Sea for BALTOPS, a two-week maritime exercise designed to strengthen nations' military teamwork and combined defense capability.

The U.S.-led exercise is in its 45th year. It is a show of force, with 4,000 shipboard personnel, 50 ships and submarines and about 50 planes participating.

The countries taking part are Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden and the U.S..

BALTOPS began in 1972 during the height of the Cold War. It seeks to shore up combined response capabilities among allied nations to ensure stability in the Baltic region and, if necessary, to defend it.

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Search for USS Shiloh sailor has been suspended

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy and Japan Coast Guard suspended their search at midnight Sunday for a USS Shiloh sailor who officials say likely fell overboard in the Western Pacific last week.

The sailor was reported missing about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, while the guided-missile cruiser was conducting routine operations 180 miles east of Okinawa, Japan, a Navy statement said.

The Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Japan Coast Guard spent over 50 hours in a search that covered roughly 5,500 square miles, officials said.

Helicopters and aircraft from the Yokosuka-based Shiloh, USS McCampbell, USS

Barry, USS John S. McCain and the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan joined three Japanese vessels in the search for the sailor, whose name has not yet been released.

An investigation is underway regarding how the incident occurred.

Rear Adm. Charles Williams, commander of Carrier Strike Group 5 and Task Force 70, thanked the sailors from both nations for their search efforts.

"The decision to suspend the search was not arrived at lightly," he said in a written statement. "Our thoughts are with our lost shipmate, his family, and the officers and crew of USS Shiloh."

The suspended search marks the second loss of a sailor overboard for the Navy in one week.

Navy, Coast Guard call off hunt for overboard sailor

BY KAT BOUZA

Stars and Stripes

The Navy and Coast Guard have called off search-and-rescue efforts after a sailor on the USS Normandy went overboard Tuesday afternoon.

The guided-missile cruiser, which is based in Norfolk, Va., was conducting a training mission approximately 80 nautical miles off the coast of North Carolina when the incident took place, said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Wierzbicki, a Fleet Forces Command spokesman.

Petty Officer Christopher Clavin, 23, of Lincoln, R.I., who served as a fire controlman aboard the Normandy, was identified in the press as the missing sailor by his mother on Thursday.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our shipmate," Capt. Derek Trinkle, the Norman-

dy's commander, said in a statement. "He was an important part of the team and a friend to so many on board."

Members of the Normandy crew witnessed Clavin fall overboard about 3 p.m. Tuesday, prompting an immediate search that included the assistance of the USS Abraham Lincoln, USCGC Forward, USS Bainbridge, USS The Sullivans and USS Mason.

Before the search was called off, the Navy and Coast Guard spent nearly 76 hours and covered 6,300 square miles of ocean looking for Clavin, a Navy statement said.

"We are not alone in our grief," Trinkle said. "Our hearts and thoughts are also with Chris' mother, sister and his entire family."

An investigation into the incident is underway.

Sessions next up on Capitol Hill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is in for sharp questioning by senators Tuesday on the extent of his contacts with Russian officials during the presidential campaign and on his involvement in the firing of FBI Director James Comey.

Whether that hearing will be public or closed is not known.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said Sunday, “There’s a real question of the propriety” of Sessions’ involvement in Comey’s dismissal because Sessions had stepped aside from the federal investigation into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign. Comey was leading that probe.

Reed said he also wants to know if Sessions had more meetings with Russian officials as a Trump campaign adviser than have been disclosed.

Trump on Sunday accused Comey of “cowardly” leaks and predicted many more from him. “Totally illegal?” he asked in a tweet. “Very ‘cowardly!’”

Several Republican lawmakers also criticized Comey for disclosing memos he had written in the aftermath of his pri-

vate conversations with Trump, calling that action “inappropriate.” But, added GOP Sen. James Lankford, of Oklahoma, “releasing his memos is not damaging to national security.” Lankford is on the intelligence committee, the forum for last week’s riveting Comey testimony and Tuesday’s hearing.

The New York City federal prosecutor who expected to remain on the job when Trump took office but ended up being fired said he was made uncomfortable by one-on-one interactions with the president — just like Comey was. Preet Bharara told ABC’s “This Week” that Trump was trying to “cultivate some kind of relationship” with him when he called him twice before the inauguration to “shoot the breeze.”

He said Trump reached out to him again after the inauguration — but he refused to call back — shortly before he was fired.

On Comey’s accusations that Trump pressed him to drop the FBI investigation of his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, Bharara said “no one knows right now whether there is a provable case of obstruction” of justice. “I think

there’s absolutely evidence to begin a case.”

Sessions stepped aside in March from the federal investigation into contacts between Russia and the campaign after acknowledging that he had met twice last year with the Russian ambassador to the U.S. He had told lawmakers at his January confirmation hearing that he had not met with Russians during the campaign.

Sessions has been dogged by questions about possible additional encounters with the ambassador, Sergey Kislyak.

As for the timing of his refusal, Comey said the FBI expected the attorney general to take himself out of the matters under investigation weeks before he actually did. Comey declined to elaborate in an open setting.

In a letter Saturday to Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., Sessions said he had been scheduled to discuss the Justice Department budget before House and Senate committees but it had become clear some members would focus their questions on the Russia investigation.

TV’s Caped Crusader dead at 88

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — “Batman” aired for only three seasons in the 1960s, but Adam West would remain associated with the role forever.

“You get terrible typecast playing a character like that,” West told The Associated Press in a 2014 interview. “But in the overall, I’m delighted because my character became iconic and has opened a lot of doors in other ways, too.”

West, who died late Friday at age 88, initially chafed at being typecast after “Batman” went off the air, but in later years he acknowledged he was happy to have had a role in kicking off a big-budget film franchise by showing the character’s wide appeal.

His straight-faced portrayal of Batman in the campy 1960s TV series lifted the tight-clad Caped Crusader into the national consciousness and inspired future wearers of the superhero’s cape and cowl. The TV show was among the most popular in 1966, the year of its debut, and some of the era’s top actors signed on to play villains. Burgess Meredith squawked as the Penguin. Eartha Kitt purred as Catwoman. And Cesar Romero cackled as the Joker.

Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer, George Clooney, Christian Bale and Ben Affleck have since portrayed Batman onscreen.

“Adam West exemplified heroism,” Affleck wrote on Twitter Saturday. “Kind, funny and an all around great guy. Thank you for showing us all how it’s done.”

West remained friends with the actor who played Batman’s trusty sidekick, Robin. Burt Ward said he and West were friends for more than 50 years.

“We shared some of the most fun times of our lives together, Ward told the entertainment trade paper Variety. “This is a terribly unexpected loss of my lifelong friend. I will forever miss him.”

Across US, marches, rallies for LGBT rights

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the nation’s capital and dozens of other cities across the U.S. supporters of LGBT rights mobilized for marches and rallies Sunday, celebrating their gains but angered over threats to those advances.

The centerpiece event, the Equality March in Washington, was endorsed by virtually every major national advocacy group working on behalf of LGBT Americans.

Leaders of those groups have been embittered by several actions of President Donald Trump’s administration — including the rollback of federal guidance advising school districts to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice.

The activists also complain

that Trump, although he campaigned as a potential ally of gays and lesbians, has stocked his administration with many foes of LGBT rights advances, including Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

Thronged of marchers, many thousands strong, paraded past the White House and toward the Capitol, trailing behind a giant rainbow flag near the head of the procession.

“We’re here, we’re queer, get that Chito out of here,” was among the chants directed at Trump.

For the LGBT community nationwide, it’s an emotional time. Monday is the anniversary of the mass shooting a year ago in Orlando, Fla., that killed 49

people — mostly Latinos — at Pulse, a gay nightclub.

Among the marchers in Washington was Gil Mendez, a Puerto Rican native who traveled with his partner from San Francisco to join the parade. He carried a sign that included the names of all the Pulse victims.

“The attack on Pulse really struck me hard,” he said. “It made the connection between the physical violence of guns and the political attacks on our community.”

Also marching and singing freedom songs along the way was Gregory Elfers, of Teaneck, N.J., who was with fellow members of the New York City Gay Men’s Chorus.

“It’s an opportunity to tell everyone we’re still here and we’re not going away at all,” he said.

Puerto Ricans vote on statehood in referendum

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Ricans are getting the chance to tell the U.S. Congress on Sunday which political status they believe best benefits the U.S. territory as it remains mired in a deep economic crisis that has triggered an exodus of islanders to the mainland.

Congress ultimately has to approve the outcome of Sunday's referendum that offers voters three choices: statehood, free association and independence, or the current territorial status.

Many expect statehood supporters to crowd voting centers because three of Puerto Rico's political parties are boycotting the referendum, including the island's main opposition party. Among those hoping Puerto Rico will become the 51st state is Pedro Pierluisi, the island's former congressional representative.

"Let's send a loud and clear message to the United States and the entire world," he said in a statement Saturday. "And that message is that we Puerto Ricans not only want our U.S. citizenship, but we want equal treatment."

The referendum coincides with the 100th anniversary of the granting of U.S. citizenship to Puerto Ricans, who are barred from voting in presidential elections and have one congressional representative with

limited voting powers.

Many believe the island's territorial status has contributed to its 10-year economic recession, which was largely sparked by decades of heavy borrowing and the elimination of federal tax incentives. Puerto Rico is exempt from the U.S. federal income tax, but it still pays Social Security and Medicare and local taxes and receives less federal funding than U.S. states.

Nearly half a million Puerto Ricans have moved to the U.S. mainland in the past decade to find jobs and a more affordable cost of living as the island of 3.4 million people also struggles with a 12 percent unemployment rate. Those who remain behind have been hit with new taxes and higher utility bills on an island where food is 22 percent more expensive than on the U.S. mainland and public services are 64 percent more expensive.

Those who oppose statehood warn that Puerto Rico will struggle even more financially because it will be forced to pay millions of dollars in federal taxes. Many also worry the island will lose its cultural identity.

A spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department told The Associated Press that the agency has not reviewed or approved the ballot's revised language.

3 Gulf nations might let some Qataris stay

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates signaled Sunday they could allow some Qataris to stay in their countries amid a diplomatic rift with the Gulf nation.

Qatar, meanwhile, pledged those nations' citizens will have "complete freedom" to stay in the energy-rich country.

The three Gulf nations cut ties to Qatar on June 5 over its alleged support of militants and ties to Iran and ordered all Qataris out within 14 days, while calling their own citizens back. That's created chaos across the Sunni Gulf nations, whose citizens regularly intermarry and conduct business across countries sharing long historic and cultural bonds.

Early Sunday, the three countries all issued statements urging mixed-nationality families to call their respective interior ministries, which would take into consideration the "humanitarian circumstances" of their situation. For its part, Qatar issued an overnight statement saying residents living in the country from nations that severed ties would have "complete freedom" to stay despite the "hostile and tendentious cam-

paigns" now targeting it.

"The state of Qatar, in accordance to its firm beliefs and principles, works on avoiding political conflicts with states and governments when dealing with their people," the ministry said. "Those residents have the complete freedom in staying in the state of Qatar in accordance with the laws and regulations adopted by the state."

The diplomatic crisis, the worst since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the subsequent Gulf War, has seen Arab nations and others cut ties to Qatar, which hosts a major U.S. military base and will be the host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Kuwait's ruling emir has shuttled between countries trying to mediate an end to the crisis. On Sunday, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah said in a statement that Qatar is "willing to hold a dialogue" to end the crisis and that unity among Gulf nations remains "paramount." So far, the nations involved have yet to hold face-to-face negotiations.

U.S. President Donald Trump has offered strong criticism of Qatar even as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has called for "no further escalation" in the crisis.

US bombers, destroyer hone skills in South China Sea

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Two supersonic Air Force bombers linked up with a Navy destroyer Thursday to "sharpen their combat skills" in the South China Sea, Air Force officials said.

The 10-hour operation between the Guam-based B-1B Lancers and the San Diego-based USS Sterett was designed to refine joint tactics and procedures between the services and to "increase confidence in their ability to fight together," said Lt. Col. Lori Hodge, a Pacific Air Forces spokeswoman.

The mission, part of Pacific Command's continuous bomber presence program,

was "not related to any specific situation or nation," said Hodge, who declined to say in what part of the South China Sea the training took place.

"We don't discuss the actual mission profile specifically for operational security reasons," she said.

Since 2015, the Navy has conducted freedom-of-navigation operations in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, where China has constructed and militarized artificial islands. China is among several nations in a dispute over sovereignty of the Spratlys.

The Navy's operations, which sail ships close to the disputed islands, are done to underscore the United States' position that

the area — where \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year — is in international waters.

The USS Dewey, also homeported in San Diego, passed near Mischief Reef on May 24.

The Sterett was preparing to leave Changi Naval Base in Singapore a week ago, according to Navy statements.

The bombers are among a squadron that deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in February from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. They are assigned to the 9th Expeditionary Bomber Squadron.

Air Force bombers such as B-1s, B-52s and B-2s have rotated through Andersen since 2004.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Horses escape in Golden Gate Park

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities said nearly two dozen horses escaped from their stable in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park before they were wrangled by rangers.

KTVU reported the horseplay occurred early Wednesday morning.

Some of the horses found their way into a nearby dog park, while others were seen roaming the green grasses. None of the horses was injured.

San Francisco Recreation and Park has been exploring the feasibility of offering horseback rides in the park through June 30.

Man's severed head found on steps of home

MS JACKSON — The severed head of a man was found on the front steps of a home in Jackson.

Cmdr. Tyree Jones said the body part was found Saturday shortly after 9 a.m. He did not indicate whether the man lived at the home where the head was found.

The coroner's office was called to the scene. The rest of the man's body has not been located.

Officials said the cause of death, at this time, appears to be severance. Jones said investigators are trying to identify the victim.

City-backed village for homeless women opens

OR PORTLAND — The first city-sponsored homeless village for women in Portland has opened.

KPTV-TV reported that the tiny house community called

the Kenton Women's Village opened Friday.

The facility has space for 14 homeless women and provides shelter, cooking and bathing facilities.

The Partners on Dwelling Initiative and the Village Coalition built the village that also offers connections to health and financial services as the women transition to permanent housing.

Police train with unruly 'zombies' at conference

OH DELAWARE — Police officers got some help from the undead during a crowd-management training course in Ohio.

The Columbus Dispatch reported a couple of dozen "zombie" volunteers threw water bottles, blocked doorways and tossed insults at officers as they weaved around cones on bicycles at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

The training was held during the International Police Mountain Bike Association Conference at Ohio Wesleyan University outside Columbus. The zombie-involved exercise was intended to teach officers how to manage crowds at festivals or during civil disorder.

Deer crashes through window into paint store

PA MOUNT POCONO — The owner of a Pennsylvania paint store is thankful he wasn't hurt when a deer smashed through a window and roamed around before leaving through the store's main exit.

Steven Gleason said he was speaking with a customer June 1 when the frightened deer smashed through the window of his Gleco Paint store in Mount Pocono.

Surveillance video shows the

animal sliding around on the tile floor but doing little damage before darting out of the store and into the woods.

Woman distracted by phone stable after fall

NJ PLAINFIELD — A woman distracted by her cellphone was in stable condition a day after she tripped over a door and fell 6 feet into a basement opening in New Jersey.

Plainfield Public Safety Director Carl Riley said the woman, whom he would not identify, remained hospitalized Friday.

Surveillance video showed the woman Thursday as she walked along a Plainfield street. It shows her looking at her phone, walking into the open door and then tripping and falling into the opening.

The 67-year-old landed in the cellar of Acme Windows, where workers were repairing gas lines.

Man who skipped meal tab found dead

IL ALGONQUIN — A man who jumped into the Fox River after skipping out on a restaurant tab in a northwest Illinois suburb was later found dead.

Algonquin police said in a statement that the body of Ernest Prentic, 29, of Carpentersville, was discovered in the river about 6:30 p.m. June 2. The Chicago Sun-Times reported police did not specify where his body was located.

Police were called about 9:20 p.m. June 1 to Nero's Restaurant in Algonquin after reports that a man later identified as Prentic had run out without paying his tab. A fisherman saw him leap into the river.

Dive teams searched the area

until midnight and resumed their search the next morning.

Moose takes leisurely stroll on golf course

ME LOVELL — A few rounds of golf were likely held up as a moose leisurely strolled around a Maine golf course.

Onlooker Emily Poitras said the moose walked to the middle of one of the courses at a Lovell country club June 4 and stood there for about 5 to 10 minutes. It then resumed its slow walk across the course.

Poitras called game wardens because she had seen the same moose around the course a few times over the course of the week.

Officials told her they weren't alarmed and guessed the moose was likely trying to molt, a process in which a moose sheds its heavy winter fur for a lighter summer coat.

Man with HIV charged in girlfriend's death

OH TOLEDO — An Ohio man accused of not telling his girlfriend he was HIV-positive has been charged with murder after the woman's death, which was attributed to AIDS.

Ronald Murdock of Toledo also is charged with felonious assault. A judge set his bond at \$1.5 million.

The indictment alleges Murdock had sexual contact with someone without disclosing that he had the virus that causes AIDS. WTVG-TV reported that Murdock's girlfriend, Kimberly Klempner, 51, had AIDS and died in February. Her son, Josh Klempner, said Murdock dated the woman for years without telling her he had HIV and that he was married.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Cavs face monumental NBA Finals hurdle

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The celebrating after Game 4 was done by Cavaliers fans, not Golden State players, their families or anyone else dressed in blue and gold who came looking for a historic party.

“Cavs in 7! Cavs in 7!” Cleveland fans chanted as they walked toward the exits.

Yes, the NBA Finals are right where they were last year and could still end with the same result.

But it seems like an even more improbable task than it did last year.

The Cavaliers and Warriors, who have tangled for three consecutive Junes, headed back to the West Coast on Saturday after Cleveland’s record-setting 137-116 victory. Kyrie Irving said he was aware the Warriors wanted to finish a 16-0 romp through the postseason and celebrate a title on the Cavs’ court, just as they did in 2015.

But Draymond Green said Golden State is eager to end this one back in the Bay.

“We have a golden opportunity going home on Monday to

close this thing out. I’ve won one on the road. I want to see how it feels to win at home,” he said. “We have to come out with some fire and try to get it done.”

They couldn’t do it in this same situation last year.

Golden State brought a 3-1 lead back west but then took the floor without Green, who was suspended for accumulation of flagrant foul points, and couldn’t stop LeBron James or Irving. The Cavaliers won that game to start what became the biggest comeback in NBA Finals history.

Now they need the biggest ever in the NBA’s postseason.

No team has erased a 3-0 deficit in any series. Then again, few had a player like James, who set an NBA Finals record with his ninth triple-double in Game 4, or Irving, who scored 40 points.

The Warriors are no longer unbeaten in the playoffs, but James said they still have the Cavaliers where they want them.

“Listen, at the end of the day, we want to just try to put ourselves in position to play another game, and we did that tonight

and hopefully we can do it Monday night where we can come back here,” James said.

He has won a road game in 29 consecutive series, another of his many NBA postseason records, but the challenge now is far greater than what the Cavs faced last year. Golden State will be at full strength this time, and while the Warriors have finally lost a game, they haven’t lost any confidence.

“When you have home court ideally you take care of business at home and get a split on the road. So we’re in a great spot, and now we have to capitalize,” Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. “But last year is last year, this year is this year. I’m pretty sure Draymond won’t get suspended for Game 5. Maybe he will. I don’t know. But we’ll go back and tee it up again.”

As great as James, Irving and the Cavs’ shooters were when they scored 86 points in the first half and made 24 3-pointers, Golden State still showed signs of getting into the game even on off nights for Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson. They don’t figure to shoot as poorly again at home, nor should the Cavaliers expect to

have a 39-point advantage from behind the arc.

“I can’t foresee them coming to Oracle and hitting 24 3s,” Green said.

James said after Game 3 that it takes an A-plus-plus game to beat the Warriors, and the Cavs delivered one Friday. But they have to do it four straight times to keep the crown that they brought home from California last June.

The Warriors carried their collapse with them throughout this season, and they will surely hear more 3-1 chatter over the next two days as some pressure shifts to them while the series moves to their home.

But they didn’t have Green then and they have Kevin Durant now, two reasons why the Warriors believe they will finish the job this time.

The unbeaten talk is gone. A chance for a championship remains in their grasp.

“Sixteen and one sounds pretty damn good anyway,” Thompson said. “Forget about that undefeated talk or whatever. It’s time to put on a show for our fans in Oakland and the rest of the Bay. Try to close out at Oracle.”

Nadal wins record 10th French Open title

Associated Press

PARIS — His clay-court prowess as unassailable as ever, Rafael Nadal won his record 10th French Open title by dominating 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in the final Sunday.

No other man or woman has won 10 championships at the same major in the Open era, which began in 1968.

Call it a Perfect 10.

The 31-year-old Nadal was overwhelmingly good from start to finish against Wawrinka — and over the past two weeks en route to La Decima, Spanish for “10th.” Not only did Nadal win every set he played in the tournament, he dropped a total of only 35 games, the second fewest by any man on the way to any title at a Grand Slam tournament in the Open era with all matches being best-of-five-sets.

Along with improving to 10-0 in finals at

Roland Garros, Nadal increased his career haul to 15 Grand Slam trophies, breaking a tie with Pete Sampras for second place in the history of men’s tennis, behind only rival Roger Federer’s 18.

It marked a stirring return to the top for Nadal at his preferred event and on his preferred surface: Over his career, he is 79-2 at the French Open and 102-2 in all best-of-five-set matches on clay.

“I play my best at all events, but the feeling here is impossible to describe. It’s impossible to compare it to another place,” Nadal said. “The nerves, the adrenaline, I feel on the court are impossible to compare to another feeling. This is the most important event in my career.”

A year ago in Paris, Nadal surprisingly withdrew before the third round because of a wrist injury, making the announcement at a news conference while wearing a blue brace on his left arm and a look of

resignation on his face. He couldn’t bring himself to watch much of the rest of the 2016 French Open, he said, other than some doubles matches involving a good pal, and the singles final.

Finally back to full strength in the off-season, Nadal returned to work, reconstructing his forehand and redoubling his efforts to get back to his best.

Wawrinka is no slouch; he owns three major titles, including one from Roland Garros, and had never lost a Grand Slam final. But a five-set semifinal win Friday over No. 1-ranked Andy Murray must have taken something out of the 32-year-old from Switzerland, the oldest French Open finalist since 1973. His shots didn’t have their usual verve, his legs their usual spring.

“Nothing to say about today,” Wawrinka told Nadal during the trophy ceremony. “You were too good.”

Tapwrit wins Belmont

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The road to the winner's circle in the Belmont Stakes ran through the Kentucky Derby, even if the Derby and Preakness winners skipped the final leg of the Triple Crown.

Tapwrit overtook favored Irish War Cry in the stretch to win by two lengths on Saturday, giving trainer Todd Pletcher his third career victory in the Belmont. He won in 2007 with Rags to Riches and in 2013 with Palace Malice.

The first four finishers all followed a well-worn path: run in the Derby, skip the Preakness and come back fresh for the Belmont. Five of the last nine Belmont winners did just that.

Tapwrit finished sixth in the 20-horse Derby after encountering traffic in what Pletcher described as "a sneaky good" race.

"We felt like with the five weeks in between, and with the way this horse had trained, that he had a legitimate chance," said Pletcher, who is based at Belmont Park. "I think that's always an advantage."

Irish War Cry was 10th after pressing the early pace in the May 6 Derby.

Patch took third in the Belmont after being 14th in the Derby. Gormley, ninth in the Derby, finished fourth on Saturday.

Ridden by Jose Ortiz, Tapwrit ran 1½ miles in 2:30.02 on his home track.

"The distance, I was sure he could handle it," Ortiz said.

Tapwrit paid \$12.60, \$6.50 and \$5 at 5-1 odds.

Irish War Cry returned \$4.70 and \$3.90 as the 5-2 favorite in front of 57,729 on an 82-degree day. Patch, the one-eyed horse trained by Pletcher, was another 5¾ lengths back in third and paid \$6.50 to show.

Pletcher took two of the year's three Triple Crown races, having saddled Always Dreaming to victory in the Derby.

Rangers rally past Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Robinson Chirinos and the scuffling Texas Rangers put the latest hurt on the Washington Nationals' wobbling bullpen.

The below-.500 Rangers rallied and beat the NL East leaders for the second straight game, with Robinson Chirinos hitting a three-run homer in the 11th inning for a 6-3 victory Saturday.

"It was an amazing win for us," Chirinos said. "It's really good. It tells you a lot about the guys to not give up."

Chirinos nearly put Texas ahead during the two-run, ninth-inning rally off closer Koda Glover that tied the game at 3. His bid for a tiebreaking sacrifice fly, however, was

thwarted by Washington right fielder Bryce Harper, who made a strong throw to nail a runner at the plate.

Glover's second blown save was the 10th for Washington this season. He was pulled after Chirinos' flyball.

After exiting the game, Glover — who was on the disabled list earlier this season with a left hit impingement — told manager Dusty Baker he was dealing with "nagging" back pain all day.

"[Glover] admitted he should have told me or us before the game, you know, he said his back was really locked up, we didn't know it," Baker said.

Washington almost won in the bottom of the ninth. With two outs, Trea Turner bunted

with a man at third, but pinch-runner Wilmer Difo hesitated going home and was quickly tagged out.

In the 11th, pinch-hitter Joey Gallo doubled with two outs off Shawn Kelley (3-2). Following an intentional walk to Nomar Mazara, Chirinos drove a fast-ball just over the left-field wall.

Keone Kela (3-1) went two innings to earn the win.

"That's one thing about these guys. They don't get deflated," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "They don't give up at all. They stay in the fight."

First baseman Ryan Zimmerman did not play due to back pain. The NL batting leader with a .365 average is day-to-day.

Roundup

NL-best Rockies knock off Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mark Reynolds and Charlie Blackmon homered, rookie Jeff Hoffman pitched neatly into the seventh inning and the Colorado Rockies won their seventh straight game, beating the Chicago Cubs 9-1 Saturday.

The Cubs lost their fourth in a row, dropping the World Series champions to 30-31.

The Rockies, who have the best record in the NL, improved to 24-10 on the road.

Yankees 16, Orioles 3: Rookie Aaron Judge hit his major league-best 19th home run and host New York connected five times in all, battering Chris Tillman and Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Dodgers 5, Reds 4: Corey Seager delivered a run-scoring double in the bottom of the ninth as Los Angeles earned a victory over visiting Cincinnati.

Red Sox 11, Tigers 3: At Boston, Chris Sale outlasted Detroit's Justin Verlander to win his seventh straight decision in a matchup of big-name

pitchers.

Mets 6-8, Braves 1-1: Steven Matz pitched seven impressive innings in his season debut, Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer and visiting New York beat Atlanta to sweep a doubleheader.

Astros 3, Angels 1: Mike Fiers had another solid start and Brian McCann homered to lead host Houston over Los Angeles.

Rays 6-2, Athletics 5-7 (First Game 10 inn.): Sean Manaea won his fifth consecutive start to help visiting Oakland split a rare scheduled doubleheader with Tampa Bay. It was the first scheduled doubleheader since 2011.

White Sox 5, Indians 3: David Holmberg allowed two runs in five innings for his first win in two years, Jose Abreu had an RBI single in a three-run first and Chicago defeated host Cleveland.

Blue Jays 4, Mariners 2: Ezequiel Carrera led off the eighth inning with his fifth homer of the season to break a

2-all tie, Kendrys Morales and Justin Smoak each added long balls and visiting Toronto beat Seattle.

Cardinals 7, Phillies 0: Carlos Martinez struck out 11 in a complete-game shutout and host St. Louis beat Philadelphia.

Diamondbacks 3, Brewers 2: Zack Godley allowed two hits over 6⅔ innings, Brandon Drury hit the go-ahead two-run home run and Arizona beat visiting Milwaukee.

Pirates 7, Marlins 6: Jordy Mercer hit a tying two-run triple in the eighth and John Jaso followed with a go-ahead double, lifting host Pittsburgh over Miami.

Twins 3, Giants 2: Brian Dozier and Kennys Vargas hit home runs, leading Jose Berrios and visiting Minnesota over San Francisco.

Royals 12, Padres 6: Lorenzo Cain hit two homers, including a grand slam that capped a nine-run eighth inning rally that sent Kansas City over host San Diego.

Beavers top Vanderbilt for berth

Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — KJ Harrison hit his second three-run homer in two games and Oregon State advanced to the College World Series with a 9-2 super regional victory over Vanderbilt on Saturday night.

It was the Beavers' 21st straight win. Fans at Goss Stadium chanted "Oh-Ma-Ha" for the final out before the players dogpiled on the field at Goss Stadium.

The Beavers won the opener of the best-of-three series 8-4 on Friday, a day after reports surfaced that the team's top pitcher pleaded guilty to a molestation charge as a teenager.

The Oregonian/OregonLive detailed the molestation case against left-hander Luke Heimlich when he was 15. Shortly before Friday's game, Heimlich's attorney said the junior had asked to be excused from playing.

Bryce Fehmel (5-2) started Saturday's game for the Beavers (54-4), who won back-to-back World Series titles in 2006 and 2007. He pitched all nine innings, allowing the two runs on five hits with 10 strikeouts.

"We never dreamed he'd go nine, I don't know how long it's been since he's had a start," Oregon State coach Pat Casey said. "He was so good that I almost fell asleep. He just was fantastic. I went out to make a change, and the umpire said, 'Gosh I hope you're not taking that pitcher out.' I said we were putting a center fielder in."

Vanderbilt (36-24-1) started 6-foot-4 right-hander Kyle Wright (5-6), who could be the first-

overall pick in the Major League Baseball draft on Monday.

Wright had bounced back from a slow start this season. His ERA was as high as 5.59 on April 1. But he yielded one earned run or fewer in six of his last eight starts, improving his ERA to 2.98 going into the start against the Beavers.

The Beavers went up 4-0 in the third on Steven Kwan's RBI single and Harrison's home run. Harrison also hit a three-run shot in the series opener.

Vandy closed the gap to 4-2 in the sixth on Jeren Kendall's run-scoring single and an RBI groundout from Julian Infante.

Wright loaded the bases with two outs in the seventh inning then walked Harrison to make it 5-2 for Oregon State. His replacement, Zach King, gave up a single to Trevor Larnach and two more runs scored.

Cadyn Grenier added a two-run triple for the Beavers in the eighth.

"They just keep coming. Very inspired, very motivated right now," Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin said about the Beavers. "The makeup of their team is very good. They've got a lot of parts, and they're tough to stop."

Wright left after 6²/₃ innings, allowing seven runs and eight hits with eight strikeouts. Afterward he said he wasn't thinking about the draft.

"I'm really not concerned about that right now. I just took a tough loss," he said. "Right now I'm just trying to spend as much time with my teammates as I can."

Aggies rally past Davidson

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas A&M used a seven-run rally in the eighth inning to topple Davidson 12-6 and earn the Aggies' first berth in the College World Series since 2011.

"What a hard-fought super regional," A&M 12th-year coach Rob Childress said. "Davidson gave us everything we could handle, and then some. We were fortunate to win the weekend."

A&M swept the super regional after the Aggies also won 7-6 on Friday in the series opener against the Wildcats.

The Aggies (41-21) on Saturday trailed 6-5 in the eighth inning with two outs when pinch hitter Jorge Gutierrez popped up behind the mound for what appeared to be a third out — and a slim lead by Davidson (35-26) headed into the ninth. But third baseman Eric Jones and second baseman Alec Acosta collided while both were trying to make the catch, and the ball popped loose and out of Acosta's glove with both on the ground. Two A&M runners dashed across the plate and the Aggies grasped their final lead of the super regional.

"We certainly don't do anything conventionally," said Davidson coach Dick Cooke, whose program was making its first NCAA Tournament appearance after winning the Atlantic 10 tournament.

While there was plenty of debate around the stadium and even around the nation on whether Acosta had held on to the ball long enough for the third out, Cooke said afterward that by letter of the rules it was a good call.

A&M reliever John Doxakis (4-3) took over for struggling starter Corbin Martin in the fifth inning and allowed a lone run over the next 2¹/₃ innings, before giving way to Kaylor Chafin. The Aggies' most reliable reliever this season then shut down the Wildcats over the final two innings.

Ellis, McKay lead Louisville back to Omaha

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — After consecutive one-run heart-breaking losses, Louisville left no room for error in this NCAA super regional.

From Brendan McKay's effective pitching to big hits by Drew Ellis and Logan Taylor — who also contributed a spectacular game-saving, ninth-inning catch — the Cardinals came through in every phase against rival Kentucky.

Next stop: Omaha.

Ellis homered twice, Josh Stowers and Taylor each delivered extra-base RBI hits and left-hander McKay scattered eight hits and two runs as Louisville topped Kentucky 6-2 on Saturday and become the first school to clinch a College World Series berth.

"It means everything," McKay said of the achieve-

ment. "After the two previous seasons, being so close to winning in 2015 and then last year being up three runs in the ninth and before it all comes crashing down on you, this probably the best moment I've ever had."

A day after smacking a three-run homer in Louisville's 5-2, opening-game win, junior first baseman Ellis hit solo shots in the second and sixth innings to ignite a super regional sweep that returned the Cardinals (52-10) to the CWS for the third time in five seasons and first since 2014.

Stowers followed with an RBI triple, and Taylor delivered the first of two eighth-inning insurance runs as Louisville remained unbeaten in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's very refreshing to be able to go back to Omaha," said Taylor, who went 2-for-4. "It

makes all the work you do and all the frustration that you've had building up over the last two years (satisfying), to finally get over that hump. ... We've been cut off at the supers, and now we're past that and can keep going."

McKay (10-3) had to work at times but was effective, striking out nine in 6²/₃ innings to win a showdown with Kentucky ace Sean Hjelle (11-4).

Marcus Carson and Tristan Pompey knocked in runs for Kentucky (43-23), which made its first super regional appearance.

The Cardinals' victory also claimed Bluegrass bragging rights against Kentucky after the schools each won at home earlier this season. A wild, if delayed, celebration followed before a red-clad sellout crowd of 6,237.