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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Mattis takes heat on Afghan strategy

By TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said Tuesday that the White House would deliver its revised strategy for Afghanistan by mid-July, amid growing frustrations on Capitol Hill that the country's security is worsening with no plan of action in sight.

Mattis appeared before the House and Senate Armed Services committees in hearings late Monday and early Tuesday to discuss the department's 2018 budget needs, but faced repeated questioning by the lawmakers over the Pentagon's vision for Afghanistan.

Since April, six U.S. servicemembers have been killed in eastern Afghanistan, where the United States is working with Afghan forces to conduct counterterrorism operations

against the Taliban and Islamic State forces there. On Saturday, three members of the 101st Airborne Division — Sgt. Eric M. Houck, 25; Sgt. William M. Bays, 29; and Cpl. Dillon C. Baldrige, 22 — were killed when one of the Afghans they were advising opened fire on them. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We just lost three brave Americans," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the committee chairman. "We're now six months into [President Donald Trump's] administration, we still haven't got a strategy for Afghanistan."

"Let's not ask these families to sacrifice any further without a strategy, which we can then take and implement and help you," McCain said.

"I'm fighting as hard as I can to increase defense spending. It's hard when we have no strat-

egy to pursue," he said.

The Trump administration has been pressing NATO allies to contribute additional forces for the Afghanistan fight even as the United States weighs options on how many more of its own troops it will send. At the House hearing on Monday night, Mattis said the additional U.S. forces requested for Afghanistan would likely be composed of more trainers and advisers.

On Tuesday, he told members of the Senate that he anticipates the administration's plan to be complete in roughly one month.

"I believe by mid-July we will be able to brief you in detail," Mattis told the Senate committee. "We are scrambling to put it together."

Mattis and Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were

at the Capitol Hill hearings in support of the Pentagon's \$639 billion defense budget proposed for 2018. The budget includes \$574.5 billion in the base budget and \$64.6 billion to fund overseas contingency operations.

Both men were also questioned at length about the administration's lack of a wider security strategy, including how to handle North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and how it would address a wide range of concerns over Russia. Questions on Russia ranged from concerns about cyberattacks, its continued aggression in Europe and its recent movement of forces in southern Syria toward a training base where U.S. forces operate.

Mattis said North Korea and Russia are part of a larger national security strategy review, which also is not yet complete.

Remains of 3 soldiers killed in Afghanistan returned

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — They were sons and husbands, fathers and brothers. They were soldiers hailed as "heroes" and "amazing" young men, each a volunteer who chose an Army job that would place them on the front lines.

The bodies of Sgt. Eric M. Houck, Sgt. William M. Bays and Cpl. Dillon C. Baldrige were returned to the United States late Monday after an Afghan soldier turned his gun on them in an apparent insider attack Saturday in eastern Afghanistan's restive Nangarhar province, where they were assisting in the battle against Islamic State terrorists.

The sacred homecoming ceremony, known as a dignified transfer, in which the Ameri-

can flag-draped coffins carrying fallen servicemembers' remains are returned to their families at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, was "very emotional" and "very real," Houck's wife, Samantha, said Tuesday morning.

"There aren't a lot of words — my baby is on home soil, but this, this isn't the way it was supposed to be," she said through tears. "It is not the way I wanted it."

American and Afghan officials said an Afghan commando killed the three 101st Airborne Division soldiers while they were conducting an operation in the Peka Valley, where U.S. and Afghan forces have been battling ISIS for months. The Taliban have claimed one of their insurgents infiltrated the Afghan military in order to kill foreign servicemembers,

though the Pentagon has not confirmed those details, citing an investigation into the incident.

Their deaths come as the United States weighs its future in Afghanistan, where after nearly 16 years of war — the longest in American history — top Pentagon officials characterize it as "a stalemate" with the Taliban.

"We are not winning in Afghanistan," Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday morning when he was pressured by the committee's chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., about the war's future.

"The sacrifice of these heroes is a painful reminder that America is still a nation at war," McCain said. "That is true in Afghanistan where

after 15 years of war we face a stalemate and urgently need a change in strategy and an increase in resources if we are to turn the situation around."

Since the United States began combat operations in Afghanistan in 2001, more than 2,300 Americans have been killed. Another 17,000-plus have been wounded in action.

This year, including the three killed Saturday, six American troops have been killed in Afghanistan — all in Nangarhar province in the fight against ISIS.

Houck, Bays and Baldrige deployed with about 1,400 other soldiers from the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in the fall. Each one was due to return home by August.

N. Korea releases US college student said to be in a coma

The Washington Post

TOKYO — University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier, who has been detained in North Korea for 17 months, has been medically evacuated from the country in a coma, his parents told *The Washington Post* on Tuesday.

Warmbier, who is 22, was due to arrive home in Cincinnati on Tuesday evening, having been evacuated through a Japanese military base in Sapporo, Japan.

The family said they were informed that North Korean officials had told American envoys that Warmbier became ill from botulism sometime after his March trial and fell into a coma after taking a sleeping pill. The Warmbiers said they were told their son has remained in a coma since then.

There was no immediate confirmation from U.S. officials of North Korea's version of events

— notably whether Warmbier was stricken with botulism, a potentially fatal illness that is caused by a toxin but is not usually associated with loss of consciousness.

"Our son is coming home," Fred Warmbier told *The Post* on Tuesday morning after Otto had been evacuated from North Korea.

"At the moment, we're just treating this like he's been in an accident. We get to see our son Otto tonight."

His release was announced by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Washington on Tuesday morning. Tillerson did not discuss Warmbier's medical condition.

Warmbier was on a New Year's Eve tour in North Korea, en route to Hong Kong, where he was to do a January study-abroad trip.

But on his final night in Pyongyang — New Year's Eve

— Warmbier appears to have gone to a staff-only floor of his hotel and attempted to take down a large propaganda sign lauding the regime.

He was charged with "hostile acts against the state," and after an hourlong trial in March 2016 was sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor.

He had not been seen in public since, and Swedish diplomats — who represent American interests in North Korea because the United States has no relations with the country — had been denied access to him since then.

Warmbier was flown out of North Korea on the same day that Dennis Rodman, the controversial basketball star, arrived for his fifth visit in Pyongyang. Rodman's trip raised speculation that he might be going as an envoy to secure the release of Warmbier and three other Americans being detained.

Deputy AG: No good cause to fire Mueller

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Tuesday he's seen no basis for firing Robert Mueller, the former FBI director he appointed as special counsel to oversee an investigation into potential coordination between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia.

Rosenstein repeatedly conveyed his support for Mueller's role at a Senate hearing, held the morning after a close friend of President Donald Trump was quoted in a television interview as saying he was considering dismissing Mueller.

Rosenstein testified that he is the only one who has the authority to fire Mueller, who was appointed following the May 9 ousting of James Comey as FBI director, and that he had seen no good cause to do so. He said he would agree to dismiss Mueller only if there were a legitimate reason. An order from the president would not necessarily qualify, he said.

"I'm not going to follow any orders unless I believe those are proper and appropriate orders," he said.

Rosenstein was testifying hours ahead of a separate Senate appearance by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was expected to face sharp questions from his former colleagues about his role in Comey's firing, his Russian contacts during the campaign and his decision to step aside from the investigation involving Moscow and the Trump campaign.

Lawmakers for weeks have demanded answers from Sessions, particularly about meetings he had last summer and fall with the Russian ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak.

Court deals Trump travel ban another loss

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Another U.S. appeals court stomped on President Donald Trump's revised travel ban Monday, saying the administration violated federal immigration law and failed to provide a valid reason for keeping people from six mostly Muslim nations from coming to the country.

The decision by a unanimous three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals helps keep the travel ban blocked and deals Trump a second big legal defeat on the policy in less than three weeks.

The administration said it would seek further review at the U.S. Supreme Court, as it has already done with a ruling

against the travel ban by another appeals court last month. The high court is likely to consider the cases in tandem.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions insisted the new decision would harm national security — an argument the judges rejected.

Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin, who sued to stop the travel ban, said the 9th Circuit ruling "really shows that we have three branches of government and that there are checks and balances. ... So to me, this is everything that we learned in social studies in high school just coming to play exactly the way it should."

Judges Michael Hawkins, Ronald Gould and Richard Paez — all appointed by President Bill Clinton — said the

travel ban violated immigration law by discriminating against people based on their nationality when it comes to issuing visas and by failing to demonstrate that their entry would hurt American interests.

The president's order did not tie citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen to terrorist organizations or identify them as contributors to "active conflict," the court said.

Trump's suspension of the U.S. refugee program also remains blocked. The 9th Circuit said he was required to consult with Congress in setting the number of refugees allowed into the country in a given year and that he could not decrease it midyear.

US-backed forces fight on edges of Raqqa

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed forces cleared mines from the eastern fringe of Islamic State's Syrian stronghold of Raqqa on Tuesday as a second front south of the city appeared to falter.

After a monthslong campaign to cut supply routes into Raqqa, the U.S.-backed group known as the Syrian Democratic Forces have made swift progress in the past week since entering the city, the de facto capital of ISIS.

The patchwork of factions is backed by airstrikes from a U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS. But the dominance of Syrian Kurdish fighters in the U.S.-allied ground forces has strained U.S. relations with NATO ally

Turkey, which sees any Kurdish military strength as a threat. For decades, Turkey has battled Kurdish separatists in the country's southeast.

In Raqqa, meanwhile, the Syrian Democratic Forces fought around the edges of Raqqa's Old City as residents reported heavy shelling. The area is fortified by walls built in the eighth century.

Satellite images taken May 20 appeared to show that ISIS had erected few defenses on the road to the Old City.

In an interview with Al Jazeera late Monday, a fighter with the Syrian Democratic Forces said his unit was attempting to clear the area of mines and ISIS snipers. The fighter spoke with his face covered.

Human Rights Watch issued a plea to the U.S.-backed forces to do all they can to protect the tens of thousands of civilians who are believed to be trapped inside the city.

"The battle for Raqqa is not just about defeating ISIS but also about protecting and assisting the civilians who have suffered under ISIS rule for three and a half years," said Lama Fakih, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch.

The U.N. refugee agency also warned of possible humanitarian crises in the Raqqa region and called for more secure land routes to bring in supplies.

The Raqqa battle is unfolding as a similar fight in northern Iraq seeks to wipe out the last ISIS strongholds in Mosul.

With the twin pressures, senior ISIS leaders and others may have withdrawn to Syria's eastern province of Deir Ezzor.

In southern Syria, meanwhile, U.S.- and Iran-backed forces have been jostling for pole position ahead of an offensive to capture the area.

For Iran, this includes securing a land route across the Syrian-Iraqi border to its Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah. For the United States, control of Deir Ezzor would be a boost to President Donald Trump's calls to blunt Tehran's influence in the region.

It also would provide U.S.-backed forces with an important bargaining chip to be cashed in if a final peace settlement for Syria is reached.

Iraq: Mass food poisoning at camp for Mosul's displaced

Associated Press

HASSAN SHAM U2 CAMP, Iraq — Food poisoning at a camp for displaced residents of Mosul killed at least two people and sickened more than 700, Iraq's health minister said Tuesday. Some officials accused a Qatar-based charity of providing tainted food — a claim that could not be confirmed.

A woman and a girl died and at least 200 people were rushed from the desert tent camp to hospitals in the nearby city of Irbil.

An Iraqi lawmaker who visited the camp overnight and Saudi state television quickly accused a charity from Qatar of providing the tainted food. The claims could not be independently confirmed, and Qatari officials did not immediately answer calls for comment.

In Baghdad, Health Minister Adila Hamoud told The Associated Press that 752 people became ill after a meal the previous evening at the Hassan Sham U2 camp, about 13 miles east of Mosul.

The food was meant for an iftar, a meal with which Muslims break their dawn-to-dusk fasting during the holy month

of Ramadan. Hamoud said at least 300 people remain in serious condition. She refused to speculate whether the poisoning might have been intentional.

Amira Abdulhaliq, from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said it remains unclear at which point in preparing, packaging, transporting or distributing the meals the food became contaminated.

"So far, we have received around 800 cases; around 200 have been transported to the hospitals in Irbil," she said.

At midday Tuesday, medics were treating patients in a large tent at the edge of the camp. About 20 to 30 patients, mostly small children, lay on blankets on the floor as several more serious cases were being ferried away by ambulances. At least one new patient was brought in during the day. Most of those afflicted were suffering from stomach cramps and dehydration resulting from vomiting and diarrhea.

Iraqi lawmaker Raad al-Dahlaki, who chairs the parliament's immigration and displacement committee and who visited the camp overnight, said the meal contained rice, a bean sauce, meat, yogurt and

water. He put the number of sickened people at 850.

Al-Dahlaki said the food was distributed by a Qatari nongovernmental organization, a charity known as RAF. He added that Iraqi officials were to meet those from the organization later Tuesday. The Doha-based charity did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

At a joint press conference later in the camp, Irbil police Chief Abdulhaleq Talaat said seven people were arrested in connection with the incident. Irbil Gov. Nawzad Hadi said only one person — a child — had died.

The different death tolls could not immediately be reconciled.

Talaat and Hadi said the food was prepared in an Irbil restaurant by a local NGO, Ain el Muhtajeen, under a donation by RAF. Dr. Sabur Ahmed, head of Irbil children's hospital, said 22 children remained hospitalized, while the rest have been discharged.

On Twitter, Saudi state television accused RAF of supplying the tainted meals and posted images it said showed the camp's children "poisoned by the terrorist Qatari RAF

organization."

Since a diplomatic crisis between Qatar and other Arab nations led by Saudi Arabia began June 5, Arab media across the greater Persian Gulf have daily unleashed a series of highly critical reports on Qatar. Those reports include highly provocative stories about Qatar allegedly trying to undermine regional security, often presented without attribution or evidence.

RAF is the acronym for the Qatar-based Thani Bin Abdullah Al Thani Foundation for Humanitarian Services, a charity that collects donations to do aid work around the world, including providing meals to needy families during the holy fasting month of Ramadan. RAF is among 12 organizations and 59 people put on what Saudi, Emirati and Bahraini officials described as a list of terrorist entities and individuals Friday.

Qatari government officials also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Qatari state television, meanwhile, a repeatedly aired program has discussed how the ongoing diplomatic dispute has stopped it from providing meals to Syrian refugees at a major camp in Jordan.

Stand-down of F-35s is extended

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has extended its stand-down of F-35s at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., to determine what has caused a string of oxygen system failures in its newest fighter jet.

“The 56th Fighter Wing will continue their pause in local F-35A flying to coordinate analysis and communication between pilots, maintainers, medical professionals and a team of military and industry experts,” base spokesman Maj. Rebecca Heyse said in a prepared statement.

Since May 2, five pilots at the base have reported experiencing incidents of hypoxia — when a person doesn’t get enough oxygen to his or her tissues — while flying F-35s at Luke. On Friday, the Air Force announced flights would stop for one day to examine the incidents. On Monday, the stand-down was extended indefinitely, Heyse said.

“The safety of our airmen is paramount and we will take as much time as necessary to ensure their safety,” Heyse said in the statement.

In separate incidents, pilots reported failures in the oxygen systems on some F-35s. The systems produce and regulate air that pilots breathe while flying, so they maintain enough oxygen in their bloodstream to function. When the system fails, a pilot is at risk of disorientation, loss of consciousness or possibly death. In each of the five incidents at Luke, the pilots were able to initiate a backup oxygen system in time.

The F-35 stand-down follows a similar situation with the Navy T-45 Goshawk trainer jets after a series of oxygen system failures were reported in some of those aircraft. The T-45 stand-down started in April and has lasted more than two months. So far, none of the student pilots who would be flying the T-45 at one of the Navy’s three training bases has returned to using the aircraft, the service said last week.

S. Korea seeks stronger alliance

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN ARMY GARRISON, South Korea — South Korea’s new president called for a stronger alliance with the United States and urged the combined forces to maintain a firm defense posture as they face a growing threat from the North.

President Moon Jae-in spoke Tuesday in opening remarks during his first official visit to Yongsan Garrison in Seoul for a meeting with Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

“I believe that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula is more dire than ever before,”

he said, pointing to a series of missile tests by North Korea this year, including five since he took office on May 10.

Moon said he was especially concerned about the last launch on June 8, when the North fired four surface-to-ship cruise missiles, which he said “constitutes a direct threat to our combined naval forces.”

The meeting occurred amid concerns in Washington that the liberal leader may be less friendly toward the decades-old alliance because he has said he would pursue dialogue and economic engagement with the North.

Moon also suspended the deployment of four more launchers for a controversial U.S.

missile defense system, known as THAAD, pending a full environmental assessment. His administration said the decision was aimed at ensuring transparency and it has no plans to renege on the agreement to station the anti-missile battery on the peninsula.

In his remarks Tuesday, he reiterated his commitment to the alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War that ended with an armistice instead of a peace treaty. The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in South Korea.

Moon was elected in a snap election after his predecessor, Park Geun-hye, was ousted and jailed as part of a corruption and influence-peddling scandal.

Possible N. Korean drone takes THAAD photos

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A drone believed to have been sent by North Korea took photographs of an advanced U.S. missile defense system in South Korea, a Defense Ministry official said Tuesday.

A local resident found the Sony camera-equipped drone last week after it apparently crashed on a mountain near the heavily fortified border that di-

vides the peninsula.

South Korea’s military discovered photos of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, after analyzing the content of the 64-gigabyte memory chip, the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity due to department rules.

The official said the photos were not high resolution, and most of them were of forest land and residential areas.

But more than 10 of the pho-

tos showed THAAD, presumably from an altitude of just over a mile, in the southeastern area of Seongju, the official said.

More analysis was needed to determine if the drone had transmitted any photos, the official added.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff has said it suspects North Korea sent the drone, which has an 8-foot wingspan and is similar to several other drones found in the border region in 2014.

Navy identifies sailor missing off USS Shiloh

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has identified a sailor who went missing off the USS Shiloh last week during routine operations 180 miles east of Okinawa.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mims, a gas turbine systems technician on the Yokosuka-based guided-missile cruiser, has been missing since 9:30 p.m. Thursday and is presumed to have fallen overboard, a Navy statement said.

The Shiloh’s crew conducted

multiple searches of the ship and Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Japan Coast Guard ships spent more than 50 hours searching for Mims in a 5,500-square-mile area, the statement said.

Helicopters and other aircraft from the Shiloh, USS McCampbell, USS Barry, USS John S. McCain and the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan assisted in the search before it was suspended on Sunday, the statement said.

Mims, from Interlachen, Fla., joined the Navy in February

2014 and reported to the Shiloh six months later. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and Sea Service Ribbon, the statement said.

He is the second sailor to fall off a Navy ship in a week. On June 6, Petty Officer Christopher Clavin, of the USS Normandy, was reported missing while the ship trained off the North Carolina coast. Navy and Coast Guard ships searched for Clavin for more than 76 hours, officials said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bats invade fire station, forcing eviction of crew

FL HUDSON — A Florida fire-rescue crew has been evicted from its station by an invasion of bats.

The Tampa Bay Times reported anywhere from 500 to 1,000 bats found their way into the station in Pasco County, north of Tampa. The nocturnal winged critters were found in the sleeping quarters, weight room and bathrooms and created an unsanitary and unsafe working environment. Officials were working with a trapper to remove them.

It's illegal to completely remove them until after August when the baby bats mature. Until then, officials will seal off entrances to the living quarters.

City officials draw line against toplessness

MD OCEAN CITY — Ocean City officials want to be clear: Women can't go topless on the Maryland beach.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported that Ocean City's Town Council unanimously passed an ordinance in an emergency session last weekend to make that point.

The newly refined ordinance says "there is no constitutional right for an individual to appear in public nude or in a state of nudity."

It takes effect immediately. It clarifies that anyone showing "the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering" would be violating the law and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

Last week, the head of the beach patrol said lifeguards will no longer approach and scold women who are topless. Some on social media assumed

that meant going topless would be allowed.

Deer crashes into motorcycle; rider hurt

NH ROCHESTER — An 80-year-old Maine woman is in the hospital after a deer knocked her off a motorcycle while jumping across the road in New Hampshire.

Carol Delisle, of Wells, was a passenger on 84-year-old Clifford Wescott's three-wheel motorcycle Saturday. Rochester police said the deer was crossing the road and tried to avoid hitting the motorcycle by jumping over it.

The deer struck Delisle, pulling her off the bike and onto the road while dislodging her helmet. The elderly woman was flown to Maine Medical Center with head injuries. She was in critical condition Monday.

Woman rescued from river, then arrested

ME LIMINGTON — Police said firefighters helped a woman who was stranded on a rock in a Maine river get safely back to shore, where she was immediately arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Police said Kimberly Hayford, 37, and a man became stranded Saturday night after their inflatable raft was punctured by a rock in the Saco River near Limington. Firefighters coaxed the pair off the rock, and they were able to get back to safety.

A sheriff's deputy took their IDs and checked for any outstanding warrants, which the department said is standard procedure.

Hayford was wanted for not paying a \$720 fine related to a conviction for operating under the influence.

Man sucked under street sweeper dies

FL JACKSONVILLE — A man was killed when he was sucked underneath a street sweeper in Florida.

Local news outlets reported that a street sweeper operator was killed early Saturday after officials say he became entangled while trying to clear something from the machine at a parking lot in the Mandarin neighborhood of Jacksonville.

Witnesses said the man was heard crying for help, but by the time rescuers arrived he was already unresponsive.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Sgt. Mark Musser said police worked throughout the day to contact both the man's family and his employer.

The man's identity wasn't immediately released.

Pizzeria demolished after sinkhole appears

OH CROOKSVILLE — A small village in central Ohio has demolished a popular pizzeria after a sinkhole opened up beneath the building.

WBNS-TV reported Sprankle's Village Pizza in Crooksville had to close and be demolished after a 20-foot deep sinkhole appeared Friday morning, causing the first floor to partially collapse.

Sprankle's has been a staple in Crooksville for 47 years. While crews prepared to demolish the building, employees and community members salvaged as much food and equipment as they could. Crooksville is about 60 miles southeast of Columbus.

Owner Roger Sprankle told WBNS the sinkhole might have been caused by having a creek on one side of the building and a rail line on the other.

Man in wheelchair dies in second shooting

MI GRAND RAPIDS — A man who has been in a wheelchair since being shot in 2011 has died in a shooting in Grand Rapids.

The body of the 28-year-old man was found Saturday next to a church. Family members identified him as Demond Bridgeforth.

A cousin, Shonda Hill, said Bridgeforth used a wheelchair and "didn't bother nobody." She said he had a "good spirit." WOOD-TV posted a photo of his wheelchair at the shooting scene.

Grand Rapids police are asking the public to share any information. Sgt. Terry Dixon called it a "very unfortunate situation."

Frozen lemonade truck gets stuck on rocks

RI WARWICK — Authorities said a frozen lemonade truck apparently drove over a seawall and got stuck on the rocks in Rhode Island.

Warwick patrolman Brian Murray told The Providence Journal that witnesses told police the Original New England Frozen Lemonade van backed into a parked motorcycle Friday, drove forward, backed up again and then drove forward onto riprap at Oakland Beach Park.

Murray said the van's driver, a 68-year-old woman, suffered a head injury. She was hospitalized.

No charges are expected to be filed.

From wire reports

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Warriors win second NBA title in 3 years

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — As a fresh NBA champions cap sat a tad off-kilter on his head, Kevin Durant embraced mother Wanda. Then he moved across the podium and hugged Stephen Curry before accepting his shiny MVP trophy, holding out his arms and hoisting it for everyone to see.

From the Bay all the way to OKC.

Durant capped his spectacular first season with the Warriors by bringing home that coveted NBA championship he joined Golden State last July so determined to get. He scored 39 points in a fast-and-furious, Finals-clinching 129-120 victory over LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 5 on Monday night.

"You can talk about whatever you want to talk about, but nobody comes in and cares about the game or loves the game as much as I do or works as hard as do I at the basketball game. You can talk about whatever happens on the outside, but inside those lines, I come to bring it every day," Durant said. "I

work hard, I believe in myself, I believe in the game, I respect the game, I love the game, and I knew at some point in my life that it will come around for me."

Stephen Curry added 34 points, 10 assists and six rebounds as Golden State closed out its second title in three years after squandering a 3-1 lead a year ago. That stung ever since, and even Durant understood, because he gave up the same lead to the Warriors a round earlier with Oklahoma City.

James, who in 2012 with Miami beat the Thunder in Durant's only other Finals, wound up with 41 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists.

"I left everything on the floor every game," James said after averaging a triple-double in his eighth Finals.

Kyrie Irving followed up his 40-point gem in Game 4 with 26 points but shot 9-for-22.

This time, King James gave way to KD, who was the NBA Finals MVP 10 years after being picked second in the NBA Draft behind Greg Oden.

Durant drove left, right and

down the middle, knocked down three-pointers, dished and dunked. He hit a 17-foot fadeaway over James early in the fourth quarter, then assisted on a three-pointer by Andre Iguodala the next time down as the Warriors pulled away.

Iguodala, the 2015 Finals MVP, came up big again with his 2017 postseason-best 20 points off the bench in a testy, tightly called finale to this trilogy Finals that everyone had stamped on the calendar from the moment Durant departed Oklahoma City to join Curry and Co. last July.

The Warriors won in 2015 before the Cavs made their historic comeback last year. Then it was Golden State's time again, with Durant as the prized addition.

Sure, the Warriors missed becoming the first undefeated champion, but 16-1 still gave Golden State the best winning percentage of any title team at .941.

Durant shot 14 for 20 and Curry — the two-time reigning MVP who took a backseat as the new big star got acclimated — finished off a brilliant post-

season. Not to mention a healthy one after his 2016 injuries.

Green stayed on the court in a game that featured three technicals on one play 3:08 before halftime. David West fought for the ball with Irving, then they got tangled up and Tristan Thompson entered the fray and he and West went at each other face-to-face. West, Thompson and J.R. Smith received techs after a replay review.

Green had sat out this very game a year ago, suspended because of flagrant foul point accumulation. He had 10 points, 12 rebounds and five assists in this clincher.

With a much-improved bench led by Iguodala, JaVale McGee, Shaun Livingston and West, that "Strength In Numbers" slogan that has become such a staple the past two seasons shined all season long, from Durant's 19-game absence late in the regular season with a left knee injury to assistant coach Mike Brown stepping in for 11 postseason games to lead the way while Steve Kerr was ailing.

Durant named Finals MVP in first year with team

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — They made their group plea to Kevin Durant last summer, Stephen Curry and the core of the Golden State Warriors traveling cross-country to go at a prized free agent the only way they do it around here: with "Strength in Numbers."

Durant didn't really need a hard sell that day in the Hampdens. He chose Curry, Draymond Green, Klay Thompson and a chance at his first championship over returning to Oklahoma City. Scorned and scrutinized from every angle for that decision, Durant triumphantly raised his arms and an MVP trophy Monday night all these months later — beaming as a first-time NBA champion, just as planned.

He hugged mother Wanda many a time. And Curry, too. Even LeBron James, celebrating the fight and brilliance they each demonstrated during an entertaining back-and-forth basketball show in this Finals trilogy. Golden State in 2015, the Cavaliers last year, the Warriors again this time.

"I hear all the narratives throughout the season that I was joining, I was hopping on bandwagons, I was letting everybody else do the work," Durant said. "But then that was far from the truth. I came in and tried to help my team. Like I said, tried to be myself, be aggressive and sacrifice as well."

For all that chatter about chemistry on a super-team — some called them "supervil-

lains" — how there might not be enough shots for all the big-time scorers, the Warriors kept winning as the world watched the every move of the East Bay franchise under a microscope.

Durant and Curry were always right in the middle, yet they stayed loose and focused by building their own relationship — not to mention shooting skills — through regular shooting contests that were oh so close.

"The way that he embraced the opportunity in the Finals, it was unbelievable," Curry said. "It's kind of crazy to think about the conversations we had this summer and going into the year about how we can both mesh and do what we do and be the players that we are and (to) see it come to life in this

series, it was unbelievable."

Durant, an eight-time All-Star who only needed a ring to cement his superstar status, scored 39 points in a championship-clinching 129-120 victory and averaged 35.2 points and 8.4 rebounds in these Finals.

"I'm just happy for him. He's had an amazing career, but he just took it to the next level," coach Steve Kerr said. "He was incredible all season long. He had an amazing series, just dominated. Everybody for the last 10 years knew how good he was, but until you break through and win that first championship, there's always still something there. I'm just so happy Kevin has broken through. And there's more to come from him."

Twins take shortstop Lewis with top pick

Associated Press

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Hunter Greene was selected by the Reds as a pitcher, while Brendan McKay's bat attracted the Rays.

And in a Major League Baseball draft stocked with two-way talents at the top, the first-place Minnesota Twins went another way Monday night.

Surprise leaders in the AL Central after finishing 59-103 last year, the Twins spent their No. 1 pick on speedy Royce Lewis, a slick-fielding shortstop out of JSerra Catholic High School in California.

"We know he's going to be a leader the second he steps on the field," Minnesota chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said.

Greene was next to come off the board — and until he did, many wondered where he would fit as a pro.

The right-hander from California also played an impres-

sive shortstop at Notre Dame High School, but a fastball that can reach 100 mph has the Reds projecting him as a future ace.

Featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated this season and labeled the big star baseball needs, Greene was the first of four prospects in attendance at the draft site to be selected.

"If there was ever a young man who could live up to a Sports Illustrated cover at age 17, I think Hunter's that young man," Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

Greene was asked to give a scouting report on himself as a pitcher.

"Man, I'm a monster," he said, chuckling. "I'm different on the field than I am off the field. I'm just going to go out there and compete and challenge and pound the zone and go after guys like I know I can and like everybody else knows I can."

And while the Reds drafted him as a pitcher, Greene sound-

ed as though he still might have designs on playing the infield, too. Already there is talk he could be a designated hitter in the low minors when he's not pitching.

"I don't even know yet," Greene said, wearing a Cincinnati cap and jersey. "I still love doing both and I think the ballclub is excited for getting two players for one. So I think they're pretty pumped up for that, so we'll see how it works out."

At No. 3, the San Diego Padres selected North Carolina prep left-hander MacKenzie Gore, marking the first time since 1990 that the top three picks were all high school players.

Then it was McKay, another two-way star from Louisville, going fourth to the Rays as a first baseman.

McKay had teams considering whether they should draft him as a pitcher, hitter — or both. The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year is

batting .343 with 17 homers and 56 RBIs for the College World Series-bound Cardinals. He's also 10-3 with a 2.34 ERA and 140 strikeouts in 104 innings on the mound.

He sounded happy to have a chance to keep hitting, and the Rays said they plan to give him an opportunity to pitch in the minors as well.

"It's just awesome, getting to swing it every day, play every day," McKay said in an interview with MLB Network. "It's going to be fun to be involved, and being on the field a lot."

McKay told the Tampa Bay Times that Minnesota made him an offer to be the first overall pick, but he thought he "could get a better offer from another team."

The 18-year-old Lewis played both shortstop and outfield in high school. He hit .377 with four homers and 25 stolen bases this season.

College World Series

Florida tops Wake Forest for final berth

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — With a one-run lead and a spot in the College World Series at stake, Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan put an inconsistent freshman on the mound.

Tyler Dyson responded with the performance of his life, helping the Gators (47-18) return to Omaha, Neb., for the third consecutive season and for the sixth time in the past eight years.

Dyson allowed two hits and struck out seven in five scoreless innings of relief, and Florida beat Wake Forest 3-0 Monday night to earn the final berth to college baseball's biggest stage.

JJ Schwarz provided Dyson (3-0) a little extra breathing room with a towering, two-run home run in the third inning, and right-handed ace Alex Faedo tossed the final two innings for his first career save about an hour after Detroit selected him with the 18th overall pick in the MLB draft.

But Dyson got all the postgame praise. "He should grow from this day and be a totally different pitcher moving forward,"

O'Sullivan said.

Added Wake Forest coach Tom Walter: "Dyson was the difference today. He kept coming after us. He made pitch after pitch and pitch, and we just couldn't solve him."

Dyson turned in the longest outing of his career, and was downright nasty against the country's leading home-run-hitting team.

"I couldn't let the seniors and juniors that are going off to pro ball end their season here," Dyson said. "I just wanted to hand the ball to Alex and let him finish it."

Faedo had made 43 starts since his previous relief appearance in April 2015. But with four weather delays totaling nearly 10 hours during the best-of-three series, Faedo was in the bullpen for the decisive game and on the mound when it mattered.

He struck out Ben Breazeale to end the game and then got mobbed by teammates near the hill. After a traditional dogpile and some water splashing, the Gators donned "Omaha Bound" hats and returned to the dugout and celebrated Dyson.

"We wouldn't have won today without

him, and I think that was huge," Schwarz said. "I thought today there was a whole new monster out there."

Wake Forest (43-20), which hit five home runs in a Game 2 victory, was held to four hits and shut out for the fourth time this season.

Draft party: Faedo was the first player from the two teams selected in the draft Monday. Detroit, which drafted Faedo in the 40th round out of high school three years ago, chose him in the first round.

His family and friends watched the draft from a workroom near the field and cheered wildly when his name was called. Faedo, meanwhile, was in the bullpen and unaware he was even drafted until after the game.

"It hasn't even sunk in yet," he said.

Faedo (7-2, 2.60 ERA) was the fifth Florida pitcher to be selected in the draft's first round since 2012, joining A.J. Puk (2016, Oakland), Dane Dunning (2016, Washington), Jonathon Crawford (2013, Detroit) and Brian Johnson (2012, Boston).

Taillon wins 1st start after cancer treatments

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jameson Taillon walked off the mound for the final time Monday night, sat in the dugout and felt fortunate to have pitched once again in the major leagues.

Taillon worked five scoreless innings in his return from treatments for testicular cancer and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Colorado Rockies 7-2.

"I just got to step back and enjoy the moment and realize that I was back," Taillon said. "It was special to see all my teammates. The Pirates, the coaches, the medical staff, management, the players, everyone was with me every step. It was special."

Taillon (3-1) allowed five hits, walked two and struck out five. The 25-year-old

had surgery May 8, four days after losing to the Reds at Cincinnati, then made three rehab starts in the minor leagues.

"He pitched well," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "His command wasn't anything close to what we've seen in the past. He went out there and he pitched. It was fun to watch. He had to roll up his sleeves and go to work."

Josh Harrison hit a two-run home run, his eighth, in the first inning off Kyle Freeland (7-4). Harrison, David Freese and Jose Osuna each had two hits for the Pirates.

Freeland, a rookie, lost for the first time in seven road starts by giving up five runs (four earned) and nine hits in 5²/₃ innings.

The NL West-leading Rockies dropped their second straight game following a

seven-game winning streak. Pittsburgh won its third straight.

Freese hit an RBI double and scored on Andrew McCutchen's single in the third, extending the Pirates' lead to 4-0.

Rockies right-hander Chad Bettis is also recovering from testicular cancer. He spoke with Taillon on the phone last month and plans to visit with him before the three-game series ends Wednesday night.

"I guess it was meant to be for me to be here to see his first start back," Bettis said. "It's a very positive step forward for him and I'm very happy."

Bettis is also upbeat about his recovery. He rejoined the Rockies last week after his final round of chemotherapy in Phoenix and is currently throwing off flat ground from 120 feet.

Roundup

Padres rookie Cordero gets first home run

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Franchy Cordero got his big chance last month when three San Diego Padres outfielders went down with injuries.

Cordero, who made his major league debut on May 27, has responded with several good performances, none bigger than in a 9-3 victory Monday night against the Cincinnati Reds.

The rookie hit his first major league home run as part of a six-run second inning that also included Yangervis Solarte's sixth home run.

Cordero doubled in his next at-bat for his fifth multihit showing in 15 games, and made a diving catch in center field.

"He's here quicker than expected," manager Andy Green said, "but he's shown he deserves to be here. He belongs here. He had a great game."

Austin Hedges had three hits and three RBIs, and starter Luis Perdomo (1-3) helped San Diego win for just the second time in nine games.

Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo (3-5) had allowed a major league-high 20 home runs entering Monday and took in a 6.25 ERA. Arroyo lasted 4²/₃ innings and allowed two home runs and nine runs. The 13 hits

given up tied his career high set Sept. 26, 2008, at St. Louis.

"These guys were just all over me tonight," he said of the Padres. "It looked like they knew what was coming half the time."

Arroyo, whose ERA is 7.01, acknowledged that he needs to pitch better.

"I've got to catch a streak here where I can put two or three good quality outings together," he said. "If not, I'm sure there's going to come the time when someone's going to take my spot if I don't get it done."

Cordero, 22, drove an 84-mph fastball from Arroyo over the left field wall for two runs.

Cordero is in his second season in center field after high error totals moved him off shortstop.

"You have to have faith in yourself and believe things are going to happen," Cordero said through a translator.

Mets 6, Cubs 1: Jacob deGrom pitched a five-hitter and Asdrubal Cabrera atoned for an embarrassing error by lining two home runs and turning four double plays as the host Mets beat the Cubs.

DeGrom (5-3) threw the Mets' first complete game of the season as New York won its fourth in a row.

Still under .500 but getting healthier, the Mets started a key two-week stretch where they face 14 straight games against teams that reached the NL playoffs last year.

Braves 11, Nationals 10: Tyler Flowers hit a go-ahead three-run home run off Matt Albers in the ninth inning as Atlanta came from three runs down to beat host Washington and snap a three-game skid.

Flowers had been hitless in his first four at-bats before he took Albers' fastball to the opposite field and into the Nationals bullpen.

Matt Adams hit a pair of homers, including one off starter Stephen Strasburg. The Nationals' ace gave up six runs and three homers. Adams' second homer, a solo shot, was the first of five runs scored against a Nationals bullpen that blew its 11th save and second during a four-game losing streak.

Red Sox 6, Phillies 5 (11): Dustin Pedroia singled home the winning run in the 11th inning to lift the host Red Sox to a win.

Pablo Sandoval opened the inning with a single off Casey Fein (0-1). Deven Marrero pinch-ran and moved up on a sacrifice. After Mookie Betts was intentionally walked, Pe-

droia hit a ground single to right and Marrero beat the throw from Aaron Altherr with a headfirst slide on a close play.

White Sox 10, Orioles 7: Kevan Smith hit his first career home run, Avisail Garcia celebrated his 26th birthday with three RBIs and the host White Sox beat the Orioles.

The White Sox opened a four-game series on a strong note after dropping nine of 11 and handed the Orioles their fifth straight loss.

Smith set the tone with a two-run drive in the second against Wade Miley (2-4) and finished with a career-best three RBIs.

Mariners 14, Twins 3: Nelson Cruz drove in four runs and Mitch Haniger had four hits as visiting Seattle started a series against Minnesota with a football score for the second time in a week.

Rangers 6, Astros 1: Yu Darvish pitched seven solid innings and Nomar Mazara hit a three-run homer to give visiting Texas a win over Houston.

Yankees 5, Angels 3: Aaron Judge hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning to lead the Yankees to their sixth consecutive victory.