

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump: Injured lawmaker 'in some trouble'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that wounded GOP Congressman Steve Scalise is “in some trouble” but “he’s going to be OK, we hope,” offering that assessment as a shaken U.S. House gaveled back into session a day after the shooting of Scalise and others at a baseball field.

“It’s been much more difficult than people even thought at the time,” Trump said of the treatment of Scalise, the No. 3 GOP leader, who is in critical condition and underwent a third surgery at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Trump visited the Louisiana congressman at the hospital Wednesday night, and Vice President Mike Pence paid a visit Thursday morning.

“Steve in his own way may have brought some unity to our long-divided country,”

Trump added. “We’ve had a very, very divided country for many years. And I have a feeling that Steve has made a great sacrifice, but there could be some unity being brought to our country. Let’s hope so.”

As the House returned to business, lawmakers sought some semblance of normalcy even as they offered prayers for the wounded and echoed the president in pledges of unity. Two Capitol Police officers sustained relatively minor injuries, as did a congressional aide, and they have been released from hospitals. A congressional aide-turned-lobbyist, Matt Mika, was shot multiple times and critically injured, and he remained hospitalized.

“When tragedy strikes we are family,” said Rep. Nanette Barragan, of California, who plays on the Democratic baseball team and invited all to attend the congressional charity baseball game Thursday night at

Nationals Park. Scalise and the others had been at the GOP team’s baseball practice in nearby Alexandria, Va., when they were shot.

Scalise, 51, was fielding balls at second base when he was hit in the hip, and sustained grievous injuries as the bullet traveled through his pelvis and injured internal organs. In the immediate aftermath Wednesday, the extent of his injuries was not widely known.

The shooter was identified as James T. Hodgkinson, 66, a home inspector from Illinois who had several minor run-ins with the law in recent years and belonged to a Facebook group called “Terminate the Republican Party.” Over social media he had lashed out at Trump and the GOP.

Capitol Police officers in Scalise’s security detail returned fire, and Hodgkinson later died from his wounds.

## Report: Trump investigated for obstruction of justice

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The special counsel appointed to investigate Russian influence in the 2016 presidential campaign is now examining whether President Donald Trump tried to obstruct justice, it has been reported.

Accusations of obstruction arose last month when Trump fired FBI Director James Comey. Last week, Comey testified in a Senate hearing that he believed he was fired “because of the Russia investigation.” Comey also testified he had told Trump he was not under investigation.

The Washington Post reported late Wednesday that special counsel Robert Mueller was seeking interviews with three Trump administration officials who weren’t involved in Trump’s campaign: Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence; Michael Rogers, the head of the National Security Agency; and Richard Led-

### Poll: Most in US think Trump meddled in probe

WASHINGTON — A clear majority of Americans believe President Donald Trump has tried to interfere with the investigation into whether Russia meddled in the 2016 election and possible Trump campaign collusion, a new poll shows. Just one in five supports his decision to oust James Comey from the FBI.

Following Comey’s blockbuster appearance before Congress, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows 68 percent of Americans are at least moder-

ately concerned about the possibility that Trump or his campaign associates had inappropriate ties to Russia. Almost half of Americans say they’re very concerned. Only 3 in 10 say they’re not that concerned.

Americans largely view the issue along partisan lines. Sixty-two percent of Republicans say they’re not very concerned or not at all concerned about any Russia ties. Though just over half of Americans say they disapprove of Trump’s firing of Comey, the number grows to 79 percent among Democrats.

From The Associated Press

gett, the former NSA deputy director.

Trump took to his Twitter account Thursday morning to

denounce the report.

“They made up a phony collusion with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they

go for obstruction of justice on the phony story. Nice,” the president tweeted.

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump’s personal lawyer, had responded Wednesday evening to the Post report by saying, “The FBI leak of information regarding the president is outrageous, inexcusable and illegal.”

The Post report cited anonymous sources who were briefed on requests made by investigators.

It was not known whether the FBI was the source of the information. The New York Times also reported the story.

Mueller met Wednesday with the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee in an effort to ensure their investigations don’t conflict.

The leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee said in a statement issued Wednesday that they “look forward to future engagements” with Mueller.

# Missing Shiloh sailor found alive on ship

By TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A missing USS Shiloh sailor who was presumed to have fallen overboard has been found alive aboard the ship, Navy officials announced in a statement Thursday.

Navy officials released few details other than to say that Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mims will be transferred to the USS Ronald Reagan for a medical evaluation and then will receive a recommendation for follow-on care.

“We are thankful to have found our missing shipmate and appreciate all the hard work of our sailors and Japanese partners in searching for him,” Carrier Strike Group 5 Commander Rear Adm. Charles Williams said in the statement. “I am relieved that this sailor’s family will not be

joining the ranks of Gold Star Families that have sacrificed so much for our country.”

Navy Times reported that Mims may have hidden in one of the engine rooms. It remains unclear how Mims, who has been missing since June 8, survived and avoided crew searches of the ship.

Navy officials suspended the search for Mims on June 11. During the search, 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. Helicopters and other aircraft from the Shiloh, USS McCampbell, USS Barry, USS John S. McCain and the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan also assisted in the search before it was suspended.

The Navy statement said that the Shiloh crew continued searching the ship even

after surface and air searches were canceled. A previous statement released by the Navy stated that the crew were in the process of planning a memorial service for Mims, who was presumed lost at sea.

Mims joined the Navy in February 2014 and reported to the Shiloh the following August. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and Sea Service Ribbon, the statement said.

Mims was presumed to have been the second sailor to fall overboard from a Navy ship in a one-week period. 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.

## Jet deal, ship visits show US-Qatar ties

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A deal between the United States and Qatar for F-15 fighter jets and a visit to Doha by two American warships on Thursday showed the vital military links Washington maintains with a country now in a dispute with several other Arab nations.

Qatar remains the home of some 10,000 American troops at a major U.S. military base. So far, the dispute between Doha and nations led by Saudi Arabia has yet to shake that partnership, though cracks are showing in responses from President Donald Trump and his administration.

In Washington, Qatari Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah met Wednesday with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and signed a deal for F-15 fighter jets it described as being worth \$12 billion. The U.S. military announced a similar \$21.1 billion deal in November for 72 F-15QA fighter jets for Qatar. It wasn’t immediately clear if the two deals were one and the same. Mattis has offered his support to Qatar in the past. Mattis formerly oversaw Central Command, whose forward operating base is in Qatar.

Meanwhile, the USS Chinook, a coastal patrol ship, and U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Baranof both were in Doha on Thursday, said Cmdr. Bill Urban, of the U.S. Navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet. He called the trip a “routine port visit.” Qatar’s state-run news agency described the presence as being part of a “joint exercise” with the Qatari navy.

## Medic is Trump’s 1st MOH recipient

*Associated Press*

SOUTH HAVEN, Mich. — Members of Army medic James McCloughan’s unit in Vietnam called him “Doc.”

Now, those soldiers, several of whom McCloughan saved during the ferocious, days-long Battle of Nui Yon Hill in 1969, will have a new name for him: Medal of Honor recipient.

Army spokeswoman Valerie L. Mongello said Tuesday that the 71-year-old from South Haven, Mich., will become the first person to be awarded the nation’s highest military honor by President Donald Trump.

“I feel honored to be able to accept this for the 89 men that fought that battle,” McCloughan said, referencing the number of American combatants, dozens of whom were killed, wounded or went missing during the 48 hours of fighting against hundreds of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

Then a 23-year-old private first class who was drafted a year earlier after earning a degree in sociology from Olivet College, McCloughan repeatedly entered the “kill zone” to rescue wounded comrades despite being pelted with shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade. McCloughan “voluntarily risked his life on nine separate occasions to rescue wounded and disoriented comrades,” the White House said in an emailed statement Tuesday. “He suffered wounds from shrapnel and small arms fire on three separate occasions, but refused medical evacuation to stay with his unit, and continued to brave enemy fire to rescue,

treat, and defend wounded Americans.”

McCloughan described the shrapnel as “a real bad sting,” during an interview with The Associated Press at his South Haven home, not far from Lake Michigan. “But at that particular time, I was tending to two guys and dragging them at the same time into a trench line.

“I looked down, and I was covered with blood,” McCloughan said of the wound that prompted a captain to suggest he leave the battlefield to receive aid.

McCloughan had different ideas.

“He knew me enough to know that I wasn’t going, and he better listen to me.”

He did. McCloughan stuck around until the battle’s conclusion, coming to the aid of his men and fighting the enemy, at one point knocking out an enemy RPG position with a grenade. In all, the Pentagon credits McCloughan with saving the lives of 10 members of his company.

McCloughan called the battle “the worst two days of my life.”

McCloughan left the Army in 1970, and for the next four decades he taught psychology and sociology and coached football, baseball and wrestling at South Haven High School before retiring in 2008.

Then-Secretary of Defense Ash Carter recommended McCloughan for the Medal of Honor last year. There was a problem, however: The medal needs to be awarded within five years of the recipient’s heroic actions. But Congress can waive the time limit, which is what happened in McCloughan’s case.



# ISIS claims to have taken bin Laden's Afghan hideout

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State said its fighters have captured Osama bin Laden's infamous Tora Bora mountain hideout in eastern Afghanistan, but the Taliban on Thursday dismissed the claim, saying they were still in control of the cave complex that once housed the former al-Qaida leader.

Earlier, ISIS released an audio recording, saying its signature black flag was flying over the hulking mountain range. The message was broadcast on the militants' Radio Khilafat station in the Pashto language late on Wednesday.

It also said ISIS has taken over several districts and urged villagers who fled the fighting to return to their homes and to stay indoors.

A Taliban spokesman denied ISIS was in control, claiming instead that the Taliban had pushed ISIS back from some territory the rival militants had taken in the area.

The Tora Bora mountains hide a warren of caves in which al-Qaida militants led by bin Laden hid from U.S. coalition forces in 2001, after the Taliban fled Kabul and before he fled to neighboring Pakistan.

According to testimony from al-Qaida captives in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, bin Laden fled from Tora Bora to Afghanistan's northeastern Kunar province before crossing the border into Pakistan. He was killed in a 2011 raid by U.S. Navy SEALs on his hideout in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad.

Pakistan complained the raid violated its sovereignty while bin Laden's presence — barely a few miles from the Pakistani equivalent of America's West Point military academy — reinforced allegations by those who accused Pakistan of harbor-

ing the Taliban and al-Qaida militants. Pakistan denies such charges, pointing to senior al-Qaida operatives it has turned over to the U.S.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that Taliban fighters pushed ISIS back from areas of Tora Bora that ISIS had captured earlier.

Mujahid claimed that more than 30 ISIS fighters were killed in battle. He added that a U.S. airstrike on Taliban positions on Wednesday that killed 11 of its fighters had benefited ISIS.

The remoteness of the area makes it impossible to independently verify the contradictory claims.

Afghan officials said earlier that fighting between ISIS and the Taliban, who had controlled Tora Bora, began on Tuesday but couldn't confirm its capture.

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Daulat Waziri would not say whether ISIS was in complete control of Tora Bora. But he said Afghan forces engaged ISIS militants in the Chapahar district of eastern Nangarhar province, killing five and pushing them out of the area.

The province, which borders Pakistan, is the main foothold of ISIS in Afghanistan. An affiliate of ISIS, which is fighting in Syria and Iraq, emerged during the past two years and seized territory, mainly in Nangarhar.

The Afghan forces' offensive will continue toward Tora Bora, Waziri said Thursday, adding that if the Afghans "need air support from NATO, they are ready to help us."

## Principal apologizes for banning Army uniform from high school graduation

Associated Press

BRENTWOOD, Calif. — A Northern California high school principal on Monday issued a public apology and handed a diploma to an Army reservist who was not allowed to wear his military uniform at his graduation ceremony last week.

Liberty High School Principal Patrick Walsh apologized to Pfc. Harland Fletcher, a reservist in the U.S. Army, and took full responsibility for the mishap at a ceremony where many waved American flags.

Fletcher sat out the Friday ceremony at Liberty High School after the principal told him he would have to wear a cap and gown over his uniform if he wanted to participate.

"I made a mistake last Friday night, and I don't mince words. I deeply regret what occurred," Walsh said.

Walsh held a private ceremony at the high school in Brentwood, Calif., that was attended by Fletcher's family and about 100 people, many of them veterans in uniform.

## UPS employees return to warehouse after 3 killed

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — United Parcel Service trucks started rolling again Thursday at a warehouse in San Francisco where an employee a day earlier shot and killed three colleagues and wounded two others before he killed himself in front of police officers.

Investigators were trying to determine what prompted Jimmy Lam, 38, to open fire during a meeting with co-workers.

Lam, a UPS driver, had filed a grievance claiming that he was working excessive overtime and appeared to specifically go after the three drivers he killed before fatally shooting himself.

He filed the grievance in March complaining of too much overtime and requesting that the package delivery company relieve him of working extra hours going forward, Joseph Cilia, an official with a Teamsters Union local that represents UPS workers in San Francisco, told The Associated Press.

During a Wednesday morning meeting, Lam walked up to driver Benson Louie and

shot him. As his co-workers frantically fled the room, he shot Wayne Chan in the back, and then walked up to him and "finished him." Mike Lefiti was fleeing from the building when Lam went out onto the street and shot him, Cilia said witnesses told him.

"It's senseless. I can't think of anything. Why him? Why them?" Cilia asked. "I can't put it together."

Officials late Wednesday confirmed San Francisco residents Louie, 50, and Chan, 56, and Lefiti, 46, of Hercules, were killed in the shooting.

Two other UPS employees were wounded, but Cilia said both were released from the hospital.

Amid a barrage of gunfire, some workers sought refuge on the roof of the four-story facility, while others ran outside and pounded on the windows of a public bus, witnesses said.

"They were screaming, 'Go! Go! Go!'" said Jessica Franklin, 30, who was riding to work when the bus made a regular stop in front of the UPS facility. "As they got on the bus, they were all ducking."

# Putin: Western sanctions made Russia stronger

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia has climbed out of recession despite the continuing Western sanctions, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday, adding that the restrictions have forced the country to “switch on our brains” to reduce its dependence on energy exports.

Speaking in a live call-in show televised nationwide, Putin deplored the U.S. Senate’s decision Wednesday to impose new sanctions on Russia as a reflection of Western efforts to “contain” Russia but insisted that the measures have only made the country stronger.

The Republican-led Senate voted Wednesday to punish Moscow for interfering in the 2016 election by approving a wide-ranging package of sanctions that targets key sectors of Russia’s economy and individuals who carried out cyberattacks.

The Senate bill follows up on several rounds of other sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the European Union over Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula and its support for pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine.

Putin argued that Russia has done nothing to warrant the Senate’s move, saying it highlights the West’s policy of containing Russia and also reflects domestic infighting in the U.S.

“It’s evidence of a continuing internal political struggle in the U.S.,” he said.

Putin said that the sanctions have given Russia an incentive to shed its dependence on oil and gas exports and to “switch on our brains and talents” to develop other industries. He emphasized that the electronics and aerospace industries and agriculture all have received a boost.

Russia has responded to the U.S. and EU sanctions by halting most Western food imports, a move that has helped increase Russian agricultural output.

The Russian leader claimed that the “crisis is over,” pointing at modest economic growth during the past nine months, low inflation and rising currency reserves.

# N. Korea: US student freed on ‘humanitarian grounds’

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Thursday that it released an American university student “on humanitarian grounds,” making its first official statement on the issue two days after Otto Warmbier was sent home to Ohio in a coma.

The report came as new details emerge about Warmbier’s treatment after he was arrested in January 2016 and subsequently was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for trying to steal a propaganda poster.

The brief report carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Warmbier, 22, had been in hard labor but did not comment on his medical condition.

He “was sent back home on June 13, 2017 on humanitarian grounds according to the adjudication made on the same day by the Central Court of the DPRK,” it said, using the North’s official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The University of Virginia student was medically evacuated from North Korea and was taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center on Tuesday.

His father, Fred Warmbier, told Fox News that his son had been “terrorized and brutalized” during his detention and has been in a coma for more than a year.

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and a Democrat, credited the State Department with securing Warmbier’s return. But he said the U.S. government should respond forcefully “if it’s determined that there was a cover-up and Otto’s condition was

not disclosed and he didn’t get proper treatment.”

Three Americans remain in North Korean custody over allegations of so-called hostile acts and spying. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said efforts to get them released are continuing.

## ‘Severe neurological injury’

Meanwhile, a hospital spokeswoman said Thursday that Warmbier suffered a “severe neurological injury.”

Warmbier is in stable condition at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center with his mother by his side, hospital spokeswoman Kelly Martin said. Doctors planned an update later Thursday.

His father, Fred Warmbier, said he does not believe North Korea’s explanation that the coma resulted from botulism and a sleeping pill. He said there was no reason for North Korea to keep his son’s condition a secret and to deny him top medical care.

Fred Warmbier called his son’s return bittersweet.

“Relief that Otto is now home in the arms of those who love him and anger that he was so brutally treated for so long,” he said at a news conference at Wyoming High School, where Warmbier graduated in 2013 as class salutatorian and played soccer.

Fred Warmbier said that he doesn’t know why North Korea released his son but that the country doesn’t do anything out of “the kindness of their hearts.” He called on the country to release other Americans currently held there.

“There’s no excuse for the way the North Koreans treated our son,” he said.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.

# London fire toll at 17; ‘miracle’ if any more survived

Associated Press

LONDON — London firefighters traumatized by the devastation they witnessed in a high-rise apartment blaze that killed at least 17 people worked Thursday to make the building safe so they could continue the search for more victims.

Entire families are missing,

and the death toll is certain to rise after flames tore through the 120-unit Grenfell Tower in the early hours of Wednesday when most people were asleep. Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton said it would be a “miracle” if anyone else were to be found alive.

It is unsafe for firefighters to go to all parts of the 24-story

tower, so the fire department is working with structural engineers to shore up the building so they can complete a “fingertip search” of the entire structure, Cotton said.

Some residents threw a baby and other children out the window to escape the flames. There were other reports of adults jumping.

“I spoke to one of my officers who was very near when someone came out the window, and he was in tears and he is a professional fire officer,” Cotton told Sky News. “We like to think of ourselves as ‘rough, tough’ and heroes — they are heroes — but they have feelings, and people were absolutely devastated by yesterday’s events.”



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Child hurt in shooting during a slumber party

**KY** LEXINGTON — A barrage of bullets fired at a house in Kentucky wounded a child during a birthday slumber party in a shooting police say was not random.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported that Lexington Police Lt. Jeremy Tuttle said officers were called early Tuesday morning to the house and the 11-year-old girl was alert when she was taken to a hospital. Her name has not been released.

Public information officer Brenna Angel said several children and adults were inside the home when the shooting occurred. Angel said the homeowner was hosting the party for the victim, who turned 12 on Wednesday.

## Woman injured in fall to rocks at hiking site

**MD** CASCADE — A woman who fell an estimated 40 to 50 feet into a rocky area at a popular Maryland hiking site was rescued.

The Herald-Mail reported the 26-year-old woman, who has not been identified, was rescued Tuesday evening at High Rock. Leitersburg Volunteer Fire Company Sgt. James Ulrich said the woman suffered serious injuries and was flown to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

Ulrich said emergency officials initially considered having a Maryland State Police helicopter hoist the woman, but determined that would take too long. Rescuers equipped with helmets and harnesses lowered themselves into the rough terrain where the woman fell and lifted her out. The process took a little more than an hour.

## Dad gets jail after liquor sickens daughter

**PA** ALLENTOWN — A Pennsylvania father was sentenced to a maximum of four years in state prison after his 13-year-old daughter was hospitalized after drinking 17 shots of vodka.

Charles Younger had previously pleaded guilty to child endangerment. The 39-year-old was sentenced Monday.

The girl's mother also had pleaded guilty to the charge. Michelle Edwards was sentenced to up to 23 months in Lehigh County Jail last week.

Police said the parents provided their daughter and another 15-year-old girl with liquor for the daughter's 13th birthday in January.

Police were called to the home after the 13-year-old vomited and passed out. Police said Younger and Edwards had fled the scene.

## Toddler found floating in day care pool dies

**DC** WASHINGTON — A boy found floating facedown in a children's pool at a home day care center in Washington has died.

Local news outlets reported the child, who would have turned 2 years old this month, died Tuesday at Children's National Medical Center. Authorities responded to Diane's Child Care in Washington earlier that day.

Police said an initial investigation revealed the toddler fell into the pool, but did not release further details.

The Metropolitan Police Department and the Child and Family Services Agency are investigating. Police do not believe, at this point, that the day care provider was negligent.

## Residents advised on pending rally by KKK

**VA** CHARLOTTESVILLE — Local leaders have advised residents the Ku Klux Klan has planned a rally to protest a Virginia city's decision to remove a statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee.

The Daily Progress reported Charlottesville officials told residents at Mount Zion First African Baptist Church on Monday about the North Carolina-based Loyal White Knights' rally scheduled for July 8 at Justice Park, renamed from Jackson Park after a city council vote in early June.

Police Chief Al Thomas, Charlottesville's first black in the position, said citizens should stay away because of concerns that emotional decisions made could "force us to step in."

Vice Mayor Wes Bellamy said a plan for those who "must go" could be to lock arms while silently facing away, as citizens should not fight with the group.

## Girl, 5, recovering from black widow spider bite

**MA** MENDON — A 5-year-old girl is recovering at her home in Massachusetts after being bitten by a black widow spider.

Kristine Donovan said she noticed a bruise on her daughter Kailyn's leg last week. The bruise grew larger, which led Donovan to take her daughter to a pediatrician.

Donovan said she ended up taking her daughter to the emergency room after an antibiotics treatment didn't work.

It was there where doctors confirmed the bruise was necrosis from a black widow spider's venom.

Dr. William Durbin told the Boston Globe the girl's wound

is superficial, and he expects her to make a full recovery.

## Off-duty officer kills a would-be robber

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Police said an off-duty officer fatally shot a man who was attempting to rob a St. Louis gas station.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported the officer had stopped at a Shell station late Tuesday after getting off work. Interim Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole said the officer was inside the store with two clerks when a man walked in, pulled out a gun and demanded money.

O'Toole said the man and the officer both fired, but only the would-be robber was hit. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and a handgun he's believed to have used was recovered. His name wasn't immediately released.

## Altering of yearbook's Trump images probed

**NJ** WALL — The superintendent of a New Jersey school district where yearbook photos of two high school students were altered to remove President Donald Trump's name on their clothing said it doesn't appear that students were involved.

Wall Township School Superintendent Cheryl Dyer said the district's investigation is ongoing.

The district also is probing why a Trump quote submitted by the freshman class president wasn't included under her photo while a quote by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appeared under the senior class president's photo.

The teacher who served as the yearbook adviser has been suspended with pay, but district officials have not said why

From wire reports

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# Mayweather-McGregor is set as August showdown

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Nobody truly knows whether Floyd Mayweather's boxing match with Conor McGregor will turn out to be a unique spectacle or an overhyped debacle.

The only certainty is that the next 2½ months of hype will be a masterpiece of fight promotion from two of the best ever to play that game.

Mayweather and McGregor revealed their plan Wednesday to fight Aug. 26 in Las Vegas. In an appropriate move for a fight that grew into reality after two years of verbal jousting and several months of social-media skewering, the two titans of their respective sports confirmed the news on their Instagram accounts.

And in another preview of what everyone should expect during their summer of promotion, McGregor's post included his photo opposite Floyd Mayweather Sr., the boxer's 64-year-old father, with a straight-faced caption: "THE FIGHT IS ON."

Odds makers immediately made Mayweather a big 11-1 favorite in a fight that will take place in a boxing ring and be governed by boxing rules. It will take place at 154 pounds.

Mayweather, who retired in September 2015 after winning all 49 of his pro fights, will face the Irish UFC superstar at the T-Mobile arena on the Las Vegas Strip. He had tweeted a picture of himself sparring in recent days to show he was already getting ready for the bout.

"This is really an unprecedented event," said Stephen Espinoza, head Showtime Sports, which will handle the pay-per-view. "Really we haven't seen anything in modern history that resembles it, it's impossible to predict how many sales this will do."

Few athletes in recent sports history have sold their sports better than the imperious Mayweather and the loquacious McGregor.

Both fighters have spent years crafting outlandish public personae characterized by a few common themes: cartoonish arrogance, a fetishistic obsession with money and an eagerness to make reckless pronouncements about their opponents, their opponents' fans — and, increasingly, each other.

They'll use those gifts to ratchet up the hype during a hot summer culminating in their desert showdown. Along the way, they might even sell the skeptical portion of the public on a fight that — as even its promoters acknowledge — could turn out to be a colossal mismatch.

Financial terms were not released, though Mayweather got the greater share of revenue when he fought Manny Pacquiao and is expected to have a similar percentage against McGregor.

Depending on pay-per-view sales, both fight-

ers could earn huge purses, though probably not the \$200 million or so Mayweather earned for Pacquiao.

"Everybody's happy," said Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe.

McGregor, the wildly popular UFC star, is 21-3 in UFC fights, and is coming off a win in November against Eddie Alvarez. Though he hasn't boxed professionally, McGregor did box while growing up and is known for his striking expertise in UFC.

"The reason he's such a superstar is this guy will fight anyone, anywhere and at any time," UFC chief Dana White said about his fighter. "It's the right fight at the right place at the right time."

Mayweather apparently learned about McGregor's verbal skills even before his fighting acumen, according to Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe. McGregor rapidly rose from obscurity to multi-division UFC dominance only because he coupled his mixed martial arts skills with attention-grabbing soundbites.

"This kid, he's been making a lot of noise," Ellerbe said Wednesday, recalling the reason that he first introduced Mayweather to video of McGregor's punching power.

The two fighters are expected to do a press tour that should provide fireworks shortly before going into final training for the fight.

Mayweather and McGregor have traded innumerable shots online and through the media while this fight evolved from a preposterous barroom fantasy discussion into a real thing.

As recently as December, Ellerbe said a Mayweather-McGregor fight would never happen because the UFC's top brass wouldn't allow it. White also acknowledges he was once lukewarm about the possibility, believing Mayweather wouldn't risk his legacy.

Now the megafight was on, after remarkably simple negotiations among the UFC, Mayweather Promotions and Showtime, and even if the actual bout may not shape up as a great matchup, the run-up to the fight will. Both fighters are noted for their ability to sell their fights, and both have exchanged in trash talking and more to promote their bouts.

"As with every Mayweather and McGregor fight part of the appeal is the spectacle and outsize personalities who are participating in it," Espinoza said.

A national press tour is expected to kick off soon. Mayweather and McGregor will spend the summer showing off their promotional gifts for a fight that started as a social media argument — and became the main event of the year.

## Report: West intrigued with joining Clippers

LOS ANGELES — Jerry West could be leaving his job as an adviser to the NBA champion Golden State Warriors to take a role with the Los Angeles Clippers.

The 79-year-old Hall of Famer tells ESPN he's intrigued at the prospect of working for team owner Steve Ballmer, whom he calls "a winner."

West says he would like to help Doc Rivers, the coach and president of basketball operations, and general manager Lawrence Frank.

The Clippers are focused on retaining key free agents this summer, including Chris Paul.

West has been with the Warriors since 2011. The team has won two NBA titles during his time in the Bay Area.

## 1st 2 NFL settlement claims total \$9 million

The first two claims in the NFL's billion-dollar concussion settlement were announced, a total of \$9 million in benefits.

The U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania overseeing the process was notified Thursday that the claims were approved.

The payouts were for \$5 million for a qualifying diagnosis of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and \$4 million for a qualifying diagnosis of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy). The names of the former players were not disclosed as part of the filings.

Those amounts mean that both individuals played a minimum of five NFL seasons and were diagnosed before their 45th birthdays.

Because CTE can only be diagnosed once someone has died, the player's estate would be collecting that payout, approved on June 5. The ALS claim was approved on May 26.

More than 14,500 class members out of a potential well above 20,000 have registered for benefits ahead of the Aug. 7 deadline. That can include former players or their families.

From The Associated Press



# Pitino punished; 2013 title in doubt

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The NCAA has suspended Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino for five Atlantic Coast Conference games following its sex scandal investigation.

The governing body also handed down other penalties Thursday, including placing the basketball program on four years' probation, vacating wins in which ineligible players participated and issuing a 10-year show-cause order for former basketball operations director Andre McGee.

Former escort Katina Powell alleged that McGee had hired her and other escorts to strip and have sex with Louisville recruits and players.

The NCAA, which described the activities as "repugnant," has not vacated the Cardinals' 2013 national championship. The NCAA says the school must determine which games ineligible players participated in. Players deemed ineligible would be those involved in the sex parties, which are considered impermissible benefits.

Louisville interim President Greg Postel issued a statement saying the school believes the additional "severe" penalties are excessive and plans to appeal. The university, which has self-imposed several sanctions, has 45 days to respond.

"The entire UofL community is saddened by what took place. It never should have happened, and that is why the school acted to severely penalize itself in

2016," Postel said. "Today, however, the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions went beyond what we consider to be fair and reasonable.

"We intend to appeal all aspects of the penalties."

Pitino, who has repeatedly denied any knowledge of McGee's actions, also fired back at the NCAA after reviewing the report.

"Not only was this unjust and over the top in its severity," the coach said at a news conference, "but I've lost a lot of faith in the NCAA.

"We are devastated by the news, all of us are," Pitino added. "But moving forward we believe we will win the appeal because it's right and it's just, and what went on was unjust and inconceivable."

The long-awaited NCAA announcement reiterated its original view that Pitino should have known about McGee's activities with Powell, who alleged in a 2015 book that McGee paid her \$10,000 for 22 shows at the Cardinals' dormitory from 2010-14, a period that includes their NCAA title run.

The NCAA's release included statements by the panel on its decision, saying: "The types of activities that occurred in this case were repugnant and threaten the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model, regardless."

The NCAA also said, "Without dispute, NCAA rules do not allow institutional staff members to arrange for stripteases and sex acts for prospects, enrolled student-athletes and/or

those who accompany them to campus."

Other penalties prescribed by the panel also include men's basketball scholarship reductions and recruiting restrictions; a fine of \$5,000, plus the university must return money received through conference revenue sharing for its appearances in the 2012 to 2015 NCAA men's basketball tournaments.

The NCAA accepted the university's self-imposed 2015-16 postseason ban.

The panel had harsh comments about McGee's actions in its decision.

"The former operations director, the individual entrusted to keep order at Minardi Hall, created an environment that has no place on a college campus and was directly at odds with college athletics and higher education," the panel said.

Louisville officials and Pitino met with the governing body in April, and at that time once again denied the allegation that the Hall of Fame coach failed to monitor McGee. Pitino has said he had no knowledge of the activities described in Powell's book, "Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen." The NCAA had said it in its earlier response to the school that Pitino didn't seem to want to know what his assistant was doing.

But Postel repeated his support of Pitino on Thursday.

"This ruling is also unfair to Coach Pitino," Postel said, "who we believe could not have known about the illicit

activities."

The NCAA, once again, disagreed.

"For approximately four years, the head coach failed in his responsibility to monitor the activities of the former operations director, who reported to him," the report stated. "He essentially placed a peer of the student-athletes in a position of authority over them and visiting prospects and assumed that all would behave appropriately in an environment that was, for all practical purposes, a basketball dormitory.

"Further, he delegated responsibility for monitoring the former operations director to his assistant coaches, who later stated they were unaware it was their job."

There are references throughout the report to similar cases involving a lack of appropriate coaching oversight at other big-name schools — Miami, Syracuse and Indiana among them. Veteran Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim and SMU's Larry Brown were each suspended for nine games in the 2015-16 season for infractions, related to both failing to keep track of how their players were receiving academics help.

Louisville self-imposed several sanctions last year, including a postseason ban along with reducing scholarships and recruiting visits by assistant coaches.

## Mickelson withdraws after rain-free forecast

Associated Press

ERIN, Wis. — Phil Mickelson withdrew from the U.S. Open a little more than an hour after the sun climbed over Erin Hills, realizing there was no chance to get from his daughter's high school graduation in California and make his Thursday afternoon tee time.

This is the first time Mickelson has missed the U.S. Open since he failed to qualify in 1993.

Roberto Diaz of Mexico, the next alter-

nate in line, took his place.

Mickelson had been holding out hope that with the potential of storms over Wisconsin, there might be a long enough delay that he could still make his tee time. His daughter, Amanda, is the class president at Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad, Calif., and was to give the commencement speech.

The graduation started at noon Wisconsin time. Mickelson figured he would need at least a four-hour delay at Erin Hills, where the course was closed twice in the

last three days because of thunderstorms.

Instead, the U.S. Open began under sunshine and with practically no threat of bad weather all day.

Mickelson holds the U.S. Open record with six runner-up finishes, and it's the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam.

"It's a tournament that I want to win the most," Mickelson said two weeks ago when he first revealed the conflict.

# Thames ends slump in win over Cards

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Eric Thames would like to erase the last six weeks from his memory.

The Milwaukee Brewers infielder took a big step in that direction on Wednesday. Thames homered and drove in three runs, Matt Garza pitched five innings in his first start after a short stint on the disabled list, and the Brewers held on to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-6.

Eric Sogard added a two-run double to lead a four-run second inning as Milwaukee improved to 18-13 on the road.

Thames came into the contest in a 1-for-15 skid. He was hitting just .108 in June and posted a .221 mark in May. Signed as a free agent in November after three seasons in South Korea, Thames was one of the hottest hitters in the National League in April and set a franchise record with 11 home

runs.

But May and June have not been that kind.

"The last month and a half, it's just been a grind," Thames said. "But that's baseball. I'm going to keep fighting, keep plugging away, keep adjusting."

Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell was happy to see Thames break out.

"Two big hits, he got us out to a big lead," Counsell said.

Aledmys Diaz hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals, who nearly recovered after falling behind 6-0. St. Louis has lost two in a row after winning four straight.

Closer Corey Knebel came on with two outs in the top of the eighth after a one-hour rain delay and got the last four outs for his 10th save in 13 chances.

Thames ripped a two-run homer in the first and an RBI double in the second against

starter Mike Leake (5-6).

Garza (3-2) allowed four runs and five hits. He suffered a chest contusion while running into teammate Jesus Aguilar on June 3 and missed one start.

"I was just telling myself, 'slow down, catch your breath, keep going,'" Garza said. "They barreled a lot more balls up than I wanted them to. But that's the nature of the beast."

Milwaukee tallied six runs on six hits over the first two innings against Leake, who dropped his fourth successive decision. Leake bounced back with four scoreless innings after the rough start.

"He figured it out and sailed," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said.

Diaz's blast off reliever Jacob Barnes in the eighth brought St. Louis to 7-6.

The contest was delayed twice by rain, with the delays

totaling 1 hour, 50 minutes.

## First-inning magic

The Cardinals had given up a total of just two runs in the opening inning during their first 34 home games. Thames doubled that total with his two-run homer.

## Wong removed

St. Louis INF Kolten Wong was removed before the sixth inning due to right forearm tightness.

Wong, who went 1-for-2, has hit safely in six consecutive games since coming off the disabled list June 6 with a left elbow strain.

"He was favoring it, he couldn't really throw," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "I think it happened on (a) check swing. We'll have him looked at closely."

## MLB roundup

# Moustakas' homer helps KC complete 2-game sweep

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike Moustakas hit his 18th home run leading off the second inning, Jorge Bonifacio and Lorenzo Cain followed with back-to-back shots in the third and the Kansas City Royals beat the San Francisco Giants 7-2 on Wednesday to complete a two-game sweep.

Bonifacio finished with two hits and three RBIs, Whit Merrifield added three hits and three runs while Alcides Escobar singled three times to help Jason Hammel end an eight-game winless stretch on the road that dated to 2016.

Hammel (3-6) allowed one run over 6 2/3 innings to beat the Giants for the first time in 12 starts.

Moustakas, one of Kansas City's top hitters over the past two weeks, stayed hot with his home run off former Royals pitcher Johnny Cueto (5-6)

**Marlins 11, Athletics 6:** Marcell Ozuna homered to start host Miami's comeback from an early four-run deficit, helping complete a two-game sweep of Oakland.

**Red Sox 7, Phillies 3:** Mookie Betts homered twice and Xander Bogaerts had three RBIs to help visiting Boston beat Philadelphia.

**Blue Jays 7, Rays 6:** Russell Martin hit a tiebreaking home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift host Toronto over Tampa Bay.

**Diamondbacks 2, Tigers 1:** Taijuan Walker (5-3) pitched five sharp innings in his return from the disabled list, and visiting Arizona won its fourth straight game, beating Detroit.

**Padres 4, Reds 2:** Franchy Cordero's go-ahead single in the seventh inning capped a comeback that included Hunter Renfroe's two-run homer, sending host San Diego to a

sweep-completing victory over Cincinnati.

**Astros 13, Rangers 2:** Derek Fisher homered and had an RBI single for his first major league hits in a nine-run sixth inning to help host Houston to a victory over Texas to avoid a three-game sweep.

**Braves 13, Nationals 2:** Kurt Suzuki homered, Julio Teheran (6-4) earned his third consecutive victory and visiting Atlanta defeated Washington to earn a rare series victory on the road against its NL East rival.

**Rockies 5, Pirates 1:** Ian Desmond hit his fourth home run of the season and rookie German Marquez (5-3) pitched effectively into the sixth inning as visiting Colorado beat Pittsburgh to snap a three-game losing streak.

**Mets 9, Cubs 4:** Curtis Granderson opened a five-run eighth inning with his 300th homer, a tiebreaking shot that

helped host New York rally past Chicago.

**Dodgers 6, Indians 4:** Relief ace Andrew Miller (3-2) gave up a tiebreaking home run for the second straight night — a solo shot to pinch-hitter Kike Hernandez in the eighth inning — and visiting Los Angeles defeated Cleveland.

**Mariners 6, Twins 4:** Mitch Haniger and Mike Zunino homered against Ervin Santana (8-4) early, and the Seattle bullpen held off host Minnesota late.

**Angels 7, Yankees 5:** Short-stop Andrelton Simmons hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning to break a tie and lead host Los Angeles to a victory over New York.

**Orioles 10, White Sox 6:** Wellington Castillo hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high five runs, and visiting Baltimore snapped a six-game losing streak with a rain-delayed victory over Chicago.