

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Fitzgerald crew made hard call to seal doors

*The Washington Post*

With water rushing around them, sailors aboard the beleaguered USS Fitzgerald faced an agonizing decision.

They had made several rescue attempts into the flooded portions of the 505-foot destroyer, which had collided off the coast of Japan with a much heavier container ship early Saturday morning. But they didn't know how many of their fellow shipmates were still trapped inside or even alive, and time was running out.

The sailors either had to close off the flooded areas of the ship, or they feared the entire destroyer might go down, according to three active or former members of the Navy familiar with the incident.

They decided to seal the doors.

By Sunday, the toll of the accident became clear. The bodies of seven drowned sailors were pulled from the areas of the ship that had been cut off. It is not yet clear whether the sailors had already died by the time their shipmates decided to contain the flooding — and it may never be known.

"They were in a situation where they had to make tough choices," said one member of the Navy with knowledge of the crisis, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The worst Navy accident in recent times is now the subject of multiple investigations by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, as well as the Japanese coast guard and Transportation Board.

Investigators are probing how an agile U.S. warship, capable of speeds of more than 30 mph, loaded with nearly 300 crewmembers and equipped with some of the most advanced sensors in the world, managed to collide with a lumbering container ship.

In the coming days, the Navy will download data from the Fitzgerald's Aegis Weapons Systems to help investigators with the reconstruction of the incident, according to Navy documents provided to *The Washington Post*. Both ships' crew will be interviewed, while the "black box" of the container ship will be examined.

Capt. Charlie Brown, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said he would not comment on details of the incident while it is under investigation.

Retired Navy Adm. James Stavridis, who was once the captain of the Fitzgerald's sister ship, the USS Barry, said in an email

**'In an extremis situation in which the safety of the ship is threatened ... the damage control teams would make those decisions in real time.'**

**Retired Navy Adm. James Stavridis**

that as a general rule, a watertight door to a flooded area would never be sealed without "knowing that all of your shipmates had escaped." However, he said there are specific exceptions.

"In an extremis situation in which the safety of the ship is threatened, and thus the lives of all are endangered, the damage control teams would make those decisions in real time," Stavridis said.

The command to close those doors, Stavridis said, would be given by the damage control assistant, who would be in communication with either the captain or the acting officer in charge of the ship.

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ing a news conference this week. "They had to fight this ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic."

Sixteen hours after the accident, the Fitzgerald limped back to her homeport in Yokosuka, Japan, and the remains of the seven sailors were pulled from below decks by Navy divers. They had been trapped in the forward berthing areas — home to more than 100 sailors — after the bulging, bulbous bow of the container ship, named MV ACX Crystal, gored a 12-foot hole below the Fitzgerald's waterline.

The ship's captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, also was in his quarters when the Crystal slammed into the right, or starboard, side of the Fitzgerald. The impact almost entirely flattened his room, according to the Navy member.

Benson was eventually helped to the bridge, but a decision was made afterward

to put the executive officer of the ship in charge and medically evacuate Benson to Japan, according to a Navy member. Two other sailors were also taken off the ship, and have since been released from the hospital.

The Navy member familiar with the incident said that in retrospect, there was little chance that the Fitzgerald was going to sink because of the damage. But he credited the quick actions by the crew with stopping the crisis from getting worse and ensuring that the ship was able to return to port under her own power. He added that the Navy will review the actions of the sailors involved — including those who drowned — for potential valor awards.

Those who died hailed from all parts of America. They included: Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, of Palmyra, Va.; Petty Officer 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, of San Diego; Petty Officer 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, of Weslaco, Texas; Petty Officer 3rd Class Ngoc Truong Huynh, 25, of Oakville, Conn.; Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, of Elyria, Ohio; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, of Chula Vista, Calif.; and Petty Officer 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, of Halethorpe, Md.

The remains of the fallen sailors were flown home from Japan on Tuesday. Adm. John Richardson, the Navy's top officer, and Master Chief Petty Officer Steven S. Giordano, its top enlisted sailor, were there to receive them, according to Navy officials.

Fuel and ammunition are slated to be offloaded from the Fitzgerald in preparation for more extensive repairs, according to the documents, and U.S. shipyards are already lobbying to fix the vessel. Navy officials are also considering putting the Fitzgerald on a gigantic lift ship to bring it back to the U.S., much like it did with the USS Cole after it was targeted by a suicide bomber off the coast of Yemen in 2000.

## Norway extends USMC rotations through '18

WASHINGTON — Marines in Norway will continue rotations there through 2018, the country's Ministry of Defense announced Wednesday.

Approximately 330 Marines arrived in January to bolster cooperation between the two countries and conduct exercises in the wake of continued Russian aggression in Europe.

The initial rotations were to continue through the end of 2017, but now will extend through the end of 2018, with two rotations per year.

"Our Marines in Norway are demonstrating a high level of cooperation with our allies," said Maj. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe & Africa.

"The more we train together alongside one another, the stronger our alliance becomes."

## Water shortages averted on Okinawa

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa appears to have averted water shortages and rationing that local officials predicted months ago after reservoirs fell to their second-lowest levels in a decade.

As of Thursday, the rainy season's final day, water levels at the nine nationally owned reservoirs on Okinawa were at 96.2 percent of capacity, said an official at the Okinawa Draught Countermeasure Council who spoke on the condition of anonymity, which is customary in Japan.

"It would be safe to say that there is no immediate risk of water shortages," the official said. "Over 90 percent is a vast improvement from the situation in May."

The average level at the reservoir over the past 10 years is 88.6 percent.

Things were still uncertain coming into the rainy season's home stretch, the spokesman said. However, on June 15, the level rose from 64 percent to 80.1 percent in a single day.

From staff reports

# Investigators have data recorder of ship that damaged Fitzgerald

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese authorities said Thursday they have obtained a data recording device from a container ship to help determine why it collided with a U.S. destroyer, killing seven American sailors.

Japanese transport safety officials said they obtained the voyage data recorder, similar to an airplane's "black box," from the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal, which is docked in Yokohama near Tokyo.

Investigators are examining the ship's movements, including its location, direction, speed and other data, to determine the cause of its collision with the USS Fitzgerald early Saturday off Izu Peninsula, west of Tokyo.

"By analyzing the data, we should be able to determine the circumstances of how it crashed," Transport Safety Board spokesman Katsunori Takahashi said.

The safety board is focusing on the cause of the collision and the lessons to be learned, while Japan's coast guard is investigating possible professional negligence in the accident.

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard officials are investigating the destroyer at its homeport, Yokosuka Naval Base.

Japanese coast guard official Takeshi Aikawa said the first distress call came from the container ship at 2:25 a.m., and it identified the other party as "a U.S. warship." The coast guard immediately contacted the destroyer to ask about its damage.

"They requested our help in the rescue operations," he said.

Within two hours, a Japanese coast guard patrol ship was at the scene.

The Japanese coast guard has revised its estimate of the collision time from an initial 2:20 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. after interviewing the Crystal's crewmembers and examining the ship's location.

It is not known why the two vessels did not immediately contact the coast guard, Japanese officials say.

There is speculation that the Fitzgerald might have been temporarily unable to commu-

unicate because of damage from the collision, or because its crew was working frantically to keep the ship from sinking. Japanese officials say every ship is equipped with a backup communication system for emergencies.

The U.S. Navy still uses 2:20 a.m. as the time of the collision, but U.S. military officials say they have no intention to dispute the Japanese coast guard and that the investigation will settle the issue.

The collision occurred in Japanese waters, but it is uncertain if Japanese authorities will have access to U.S. investigation results because the U.S. military has the primary right to investigate U.S. warships involved in accidents under a bilateral Status of Forces Agreement. Following a 2009 collision between a U.S. naval ship and a Japanese boat, Japanese authorities were not allowed access to the warship investigation, Japanese transport officials said.

## Medical equipment at US air base in Qatar put patients at risk for 8 years

Stars and Stripes

As many as 135 patients could have been exposed to HIV and hepatitis at a U.S. air base in Qatar because medical equipment wasn't cleaned properly after examinations in an eight-year period.

Air Force officials are notifying patients who might have been exposed to infectious, blood-borne diseases during colonoscopy and endoscopy procedures between 2008 and

2016 at the Al Udeid Air Base clinic, the Air Force Times reported.

Chances are low that the patients contracted any diseases, federal health officials said.

The Air Force determined that technicians sometimes manually cleaned instruments instead of using the more thorough automated process that flushes and brushes the equipment.

News of the patients' possible infection prompted the

Air Force to issue a service-wide alert calling for medical personnel to comply with federal guidelines for cleaning equipment.

Those with questions can call 937-656-3818 for Eastern time zone; 937-656-3818 if outside the continental United States; 707-423-3443 for Pacific and Mountain time zones as well as Hawaii and Alaska; and 228-376-5603 for Central time.



# Car bomb kills at least 29 outside Afghan bank

Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A suicide car bomb exploded Thursday at a bank in Afghanistan's Helmand province as Afghan troops and government workers waited to collect their pay ahead of a major Muslim holiday, killing at least 29 people, officials said.

Most of the casualties in the explosion near the bank in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah were civilians, said provincial Gov. Hayatullah Hayat. At least 60 people were wounded, he said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack at the Kabul Bank in the southern province, which has been the center of bitter battles between

the insurgents and security forces, aided by NATO troops.

The militants, believed to control nearly 80 percent of the province's countryside, increasingly have been making a push into Lashkar Gah to try take the city.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi said in an email that the bomb targeted Afghan security personnel collecting their salaries. He said no civilians were killed and he gave a higher death toll. But the provincial governor and a police chief emphasized that most of the dead were civilians. Witnesses said children were among the wounded.

The Taliban recently have overrun Helmand's key Sangin

district, where British and U.S. troops had fought for years to keep them at bay.

The attacker struck as scores of people, including many Afghan soldiers and civil servants, waited outside the bank ahead of the Eid-al-Fitr holiday, which follows the holy month of Ramadan, expected to end this weekend.

Esmatullah, a border policeman who was at the scene of the deafening explosion, said many people were missing in the ensuing chaos as bystanders, survivors and ambulances struggled to get the most seriously wounded to the hospital.

"We are taking children to the hospital," said Esmatullah, who like many Afghans uses

only one name.

A 12-year-old girl named Hosnia was crying outside the bank as she searched for her father who had brought her to buy shoes ahead of the holiday.

"I couldn't find anyone, my brother and my father," she said. "My father told me he will take me to buy shoes. We came here and then there was the explosion."

President Ashraf Ghani assailed the attackers as "enemies of humanity." He said the relentless assaults in Afghanistan are particularly offensive during Ramadan, when the faithful seek forgiveness for their wrongdoings.

## ISIS destroys Mosul mosque

Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Islamic State militants blew up a historic landmark in Mosul — the city's famed 12th-century al-Nuri mosque with its famed leaning minaret known as al-Hadba, from which the ISIS leader proclaimed the militant group's self-styled caliphate nearly three years ago.

The explosion destroyed another piece of priceless Iraqi cultural heritage but also sent a strong message to U.S.-led coalition forces and Iraqi troops closing in on the last stronghold of ISIS, in Mosul's Old City neighborhood.

Iraq's Ministry of Defense said the militants detonated explosives planted inside the structures Wednesday night. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted early Thursday that the destruction was an admission by the militants that they are losing the fight for Iraq's second-largest city.

"Daesh's bombing of the al-Hadba minaret and the al-Nuri Mosque is a formal declaration of their defeat," al-Abadi said, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS.

"It is a shock, a real big shock," Amir al-Jumaili, a

professor at the Archaeology College in Mosul told The Associated Press.

The al-Nuri mosque, which is also known as Mosul's Great Mosque, is where ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made a rare public appearance, declaring a so-called Islamic caliphate, in the summer of 2014, shortly after Mosul was overrun by the militants. The minaret that leaned like Italy's Tower of Pisa had stood for more than 840 years.

ISIS blew up the mosque during the celebrations of Laylat al Qadr, the holiest night of the year for Muslims. The "Night of Power" commemorates the night the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is now underway.

An ISIS statement posted online shortly after the Ministry of Defense reported the mosque's destruction blamed an airstrike by the U.S. for the loss of the mosque and the minaret.

The U.S.-led coalition rejected the ISIS claim. Spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon told The Associated Press coalition planes "did not conduct strikes in that area at that time."

## Senate Republicans unveil health care bill

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Thursday released a health care bill that would curtail federal Medicaid funding, repeal taxes on the wealthy and eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood as part of an effort to fulfill a promise to undo President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

The bill is an attempt to strike a compromise between existing law and a bill passed by the House in May as the GOP struggles to advance their vision for the health care system even though they control both chambers of Congress and the White House.

Around 9:30 a.m., Republican senators entered a room near the Senate chamber where leaders started briefing them on the bill. The legislation was then posted online by the Senate Budget Committee.

The Senate proposal largely mirrors the House measure, with significant differences, according to a discussion draft circulating Wednesday among aides and lobbyists. While the House legislation would peg

federal insurance subsidies to age, the Senate bill would link them to income, as the Affordable Care Act does.

The Senate measure would cut off expanded Medicaid funding for states more gradually than the House bill but would enact deeper long-term cuts to the health care program for low-income Americans. It also would eliminate House language aimed at prohibiting federally subsidized health plans from covering abortions, a provision that may run afoul of Senate budget rules.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., faces the prospect of a revolt from key conservative and moderate GOP senators, whose concerns he has struggled to balance in recent weeks. Republicans familiar with the effort said Senate leaders have more work to do to secure the 50 votes needed to pass the measure, with Vice President Mike Pence set to cast the tiebreaking vote, from the pool of 52 GOP senators. No Democrats are expected to support the bill.

# Authorities say stabbing at Mich. airport is terrorism

BY JEFF KAROUB  
AND MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. — A Canadian man from Tunisia shouted in Arabic before stabbing a police officer in the neck Wednesday at a Michigan airport and referenced people being killed overseas during the attack that's now being investigated as an act of terrorism, federal and court officials said.

Amor Ftouhi, 49, of Montreal, was taken into custody immediately. A criminal complaint charging him with committing violence at an airport says Ftouhi asked an officer who subdued him why the officer didn't kill him.

Although the attack at Bishop International Airport in Flint, Mich., is being investigated as an act of terrorism, authorities have no indication at this time that the suspect was involved in a "wider plot," said FBI special agent in charge David Gelios.

"At this time we view him as a lone-wolf attacker," Gelios said. "We have no information to suggest any training."

The criminal complaint said Ftouhi stabbed airport police Lt. Jeff Neville with a large knife after yelling "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great." According to the FBI, Ftouhi said something similar to "you have killed people in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and we are all going to die."

More charges against Ftouhi could be filed as prosecutors take the case to a grand jury seeking an indictment, Gelios said. The Flint Journal, citing court officials, said Ftouhi is a dual citizen of Canada and Tunisia.

Neville's condition improved to satisfactory from critical, airport police Chief Chris Miller said at a late afternoon news conference where

the charge against Ftouhi was announced.

Ftouhi appeared in federal court in Flint to hear the charge and will get a court-appointed attorney. A court spokesman said Ftouhi will remain in custody until a bond hearing next Wednesday.

The attack occurred just before 10 a.m., prompting officials to evacuate and shut down the airport and add security elsewhere in the Michigan city about 50 miles northwest of Detroit.

Police in Canada were searching a Montreal apartment. Montreal police spokesman Benoit Boisselle said officers with their department were assisting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the search on behalf of an FBI request.

Boisselle said three people staying at the residence had been taken in for questioning.

Luciano Piazza, the building landlord, said Ftouhi was not a difficult tenant and that he is married and has children.

"I never had any problems with him," Piazza said. "I'm really surprised. I would see him at least once a month when he paid his rent."

Gelios said Ftouhi legally entered the U.S. at Champlain, N.Y., on June 16 and made his way to the Flint airport Wednesday morning.

Ftouhi spent some time in public, unsecured areas of the airport before going to a restroom where he dropped two bags before attacking the officer with a 12-inch knife that had an 8-inch serrated blade, Gelios said.

Ftouhi never went through any security screening, Gelios said. He described Ftouhi as "cooperative" and talking to investigators.

Miller, the airport chief, said Neville "fought him to the end," managing to stop the stabbing and bring Ftouhi to the ground as Miller and other officers arrived to help.

## Study links legalized pot to more car crash claims

Associated Press

DENVER — A recent insurance study links increased car crash claims to legalized recreational marijuana.

The Highway Loss Data Institute, a leading insurance research group, said in study results released Thursday that collision claims in Colorado, Washington, and Oregon went up 2.7 percent in the years since legal recreational marijuana sales began when compared with claims in surrounding states. Legal recreational pot sales in Colorado began in January 2014, followed six months later in Washington, and in October 2015 in Oregon.

"We believe that the data is saying that crash risk has increased in these states and those crash risks are associated with the legalization of marijuana," said Matt Moore, senior vice president with the institute, which analyzes insurance data to observe emerging auto safety trends.

Mason Tvert, a marijuana legalization advocate and communications director with the Marijuana Policy Project, questioned the study's comparison of claims in rural states such as Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana with Colorado, Oregon and Washington that have dense population centers.

# Tropical storm Cindy soaks several shores

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Gulf Coast states were in for a third day of rough weather as Tropical Storm Cindy sloshed ashore early Thursday in southwestern Louisiana.

Already blamed for one death in Alabama, Cindy was expected to keep churning seas and spin off bands of severe weather from eastern Texas to northwestern Florida.

The storm's maximum sustained winds had decreased to near 40 mph Thursday morning with additional weakening expected, the U.S. National Hurricane Cen-

ter said.

A boy on an Alabama beach was struck and killed Wednesday by a log washed ashore by the storm. Baldwin County Sheriff's Capt. Stephen Arthur said witnesses reported the 10-year-old boy from Missouri was standing outside a condominium in Fort Morgan when the log, carried in by a large wave, struck him. Arthur said the youth was vacationing with his family from the St. Louis area.

It was the first known fatality from Cindy. Otherwise, the storm was blamed for widespread coastal highway flooding, rough seas and scattered reports of power

outages and building damage caused by high winds. There were numerous reports of waterspouts and short-lived tornadoes spawned by the storm.

National Weather Service forecasters estimated the storm had dumped anywhere from 2 to 10 inches of rain on various spots along the Gulf Coast from southern Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle as of Wednesday. More rain was on the way.

Alek Krautmann, of the National Weather Service in Slidell, La., said Thursday's pattern would likely be much like Wednesday's, with bands of intermittent, sometimes heavy rain spinning onto the coast.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Crime-fighter squirrel disappears from home

**ID** BOISE — A pet squirrel named Joey who gained fame as a crime-fighter might be more of the lover type.

Joey, who police credited with scaring off a burglar trying to break into his home's gun safe, made his long goodbyes earlier this month, then scampered up a backyard apple tree at his Meridian, Idaho, home and hasn't been seen since.

"If I had to guess, he found a girlfriend and they're off doing their squirrel thing," said Adam Pearl, who raised Joey in his home for about 10 months.

## Deputies rescue llama that strayed onto road

**CA** VACAVILLE — A couple of Solano County sheriff's deputies are one llama's heroes after they saved it from traffic.

KTVU-TV reported that deputies David Hollingsworth and Jordan Austin "found themselves having to think outside the box to coax this llama out of the roadway after it escaped from its pasture."

The llama went wayward on Monday and the deputies corralled it without incident. Dashcam video shows the deputies putting a pink harness on the llama as four of its pals watched from the other side of the fence.

The llama received "verbal counseling," a post on the sheriff's Facebook page stated.

## Woman forgives man who killed her daughter

**OH** CANTON — The mother of a pregnant woman slain by a former Ohio police officer has forgiven her daughter's killer and has persuaded prison officials to allow

the couple's surviving son to visit his father behind bars.

The Canton Repository reported that Patty Porter, 70, is working for the early release of Bobby Cutts Jr. The former Canton police officer was sentenced to life in prison in 2008 for the murder of his girlfriend, Jessie Davis, 26, and their unborn daughter.

Porter has persuaded state prison officials to allow Cutts' son, Blake, 12, to visit his father at a prison in Toledo after sending him letters.

## Inmates getting dogs, pheasants for program

**NY** BUFFALO — Inmates at the Erie County Correctional Facility are getting a flock of baby pheasants and a couple of dogs.

Sheriff Timothy Howard said 650 pheasant chicks arrived last week at the jail's Inmate Pheasant Brooding Program. Inmates raise the game birds and release them in the fall as part of a partnership with the Department of Conservation to increase the western New York pheasant population.

Howard said the jail also got two new puppies for its Pups at the Pen program: Gaston, an 18-month-old retriever mix, and Dino, a 4-year-old terrier mix. The dogs will live with inmates who will socialize and train them. Then the dogs will be available for adoption through the SPCA of Erie County.

## Several are recovering after seaside shootout

**SC** MYRTLE BEACH — Several people are recovering in South Carolina hospitals after a seaside shootout in Myrtle Beach.

Multiple media organizations reported the shooting happened shortly after midnight Sunday. Part of the gunfire was cap-

tured and streamed online by a bystander.

Myrtle Beach Police said officers went to the area as a large crowd was gathering. A fight broke out, and one person pulled a gun and fired. An armed security officer witnessed the shooting and shot the gunman, who carjacked a vehicle and got away as he sprayed gunfire.

It was the third shooting in Myrtle Beach within 12 hours.

## Proposal to ban selling children smartphones

**CO** DENVER — Colorado voters may consider the nation's first legal limits on children buying smartphones.

A proposal cleared by state ballot officials for 2018 would ban the sale of smartphones to children younger than 13. Backers of the childhood smartphone ban would need about 300,000 voter signatures to get on the ballot.

The ban would require cell-phone retailers to ask customers how old the primary user of the smartphone is. Retailers that sell a phone for a youngster's intended use could be fined \$500 after a warning.

## Woman dies after fall from Jeep with no doors

**FL** YULEE — A Georgia woman died after falling from a Jeep Wrangler in Florida.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Brittanie Gail Evans, 24, of Douglas, was sitting in the front passenger seat of the Jeep late Saturday near Yulee, about 20 miles north of Jacksonville, Fla. The driver and two other passengers also were from Georgia.

The Jeep did not have any doors on it. The report said that "for an unknown reason," Evans was leaning out of the

vehicle when she fell onto the road.

According to the report, neither Evans nor the driver wore seat belts, and alcohol may have been a factor in Evans' death.

## Man gets prison for setting car on fire

**AK** FAIRBANKS — An Alaska man who set a car on fire as people were inside will serve seven years in prison.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported Dexter Reedy, 28, reached a plea deal with the state Wednesday. He pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree arson. He received a nine-year sentence with two years suspended and three years of probation. Reedy is also required to get anger management counseling and stay away from alcohol and illegal drugs during his probation.

According to charging documents, Reedy was suspected of threatening to kill one man and starting a fire on a truck as a couple was inside last year. The people were unharmed.

## Student jabs dress code in her yearbook quote

**NJ** WEST MILFORD — A New Jersey high school student is taking a jab at her school's dress code with a quote in her senior yearbook.

West Milford High School student Tori DiPaolo's quote reads, "I'm sorry, did my shoulders distract you from reading this quote?"

She told NorthJersey.com she was referencing a portion of the school dress code that prohibits exposing shoulders.

DiPaolo said the formal robes she wore in the graduation photo technically violate the dress code, which she found ironic and inspired the quote.

From wire reports

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# McDavid shines; Vegas drafts Fleury

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Connor McDavid won his first Hart Trophy. Hardly anybody in hockey believes it will be his last.

The Edmonton captain claimed the award as the NHL's most valuable player Wednesday night at the league's postseason awards show at T-Mobile Arena, the new home of the expansion Vegas Golden Knights.

McDavid also won the Ted Lindsay Award, given to the league's most outstanding performer in a vote of his fellow players. He already knew he would win the Art Ross Trophy as the NHL scoring champion.

"To see the trophies up close and personal, touch them, get your picture with them, it makes it a little more real," McDavid said. "Today is a very special day in my life, for sure."

The honors capped a remarkable sophomore season for the 20-year-old center, who won his first scoring title and led the Oilers back to the Stanley Cup playoffs after an 11-year absence. The former No. 1 pick beat out fellow finalists Sergei Bobrovsky of Columbus and Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby.

"I'm so proud to be in Edmonton," McDavid said. "I'm

so proud to be an Oiler, and so proud to play with the guys."

McDavid is the third-youngest player to win the award. Only Crosby and Wayne Gretzky claimed the Hart as teenagers.

Boston center Patrice Bergeron won the Selke Trophy for the fourth time as the NHL's best defensive forward, and San Jose's Brent Burns won his first Norris Trophy as the top defenseman. Toronto center Auston Matthews easily took the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie, and Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky won his second Vezina Trophy.

Nashville's David Poile was named the NHL's top executive after the Predators' first Western Conference title, and Columbus' John Tortorella won the Jack Adams Award as the top coach.

Ottawa goalie Craig Anderson won the Bill Masterton Trophy for perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey. Anderson left the Senators during the season to support his wife, Nicholle, in her fight against throat cancer, but returned to become Ottawa's career victories leader.

Calgary's Johnny Gaudreau won the Lady Byng Trophy for sportsmanlike play.

The league also revealed the results of the Golden Knights' expansion draft during the show, with former Pittsburgh goalie Marc-Andre Fleury getting wild cheers from an arena filled with new fans of the NHL's 31st franchise.

While Crosby didn't claim the Hart, the back-to-back Stanley Cup champion won the Richard Trophy as the top goal-scorer.

"I haven't even thought about that, to be honest with you," Crosby said. "Been a lot of things going on."

Crosby was sorry to part ways with Fleury, his longtime teammate in Pittsburgh.

"I'll let him know how weird it was seeing him in a jersey like that," Crosby said. "I know that he is going to do great things here."

Bergeron also won the Selke in 2012, 2014 and 2015. The two-way Bruins star beat out Anaheim's Ryan Kesler and joined Bob Gainey as the only players to win the Selke four times.

Bergeron paid tribute to Gainey after the Montreal great presented the award to him.

"I think it's the way that he played the game hard and was always in the right position," Bergeron said. "Not only him on the ice, but also him off the

ice as a role model, as a person, I've always respected him for that. It was special to receive that award from him, because he was such an important player for the NHL."

Bobrovsky got 25 of the 30 first-place votes to outdistance Braden Holtby and Carey Price after leading the league with a 2.06 goals-against average and a .931 save percentage. Bobrovsky, the first Russian to win the award twice, and Tortorella played major roles in the Blue Jackets' revival for the best season in franchise history.

Burns beat out Ottawa's Erik Karlsson for the Norris in a duel of two 70-point scorers. Burns doesn't think offensive numbers alone determine the Norris winner.

"That's the way I play the game," Burns said. "For me to be successful, to help the team, I've got to help create offense and get into the plays. If I'm not doing that, if I'm not skating and creating things, then I'm not really doing much out there."

Matthews was the no-brainer choice for the Calder after his 69-point rookie season for the Leafs, who hadn't had a Calder winner since Brit Selby in 1966.

## Expansion Knights load up on defensemen

Associated Press

George McPhee secured a king's ransom to avoid selecting certain players in the Vegas Golden Knights' expansion draft, and he's not done dealing.

Not by a long shot.

McPhee got his starting goalie and first face of the franchise in Marc-Andre Fleury, a top-line winger in James Neal and a plethora of defensemen by raiding the existing 30 NHL teams. He also picked up two more first-round picks in the entry draft Friday night along with other selections, prospects and NHL players.

"It looks good," Fleury said of the initial roster. "I think we picked up some good players, but a lot of draft picks also with it."

Here's a look at what Vegas did in the expansion draft and hints of what's to come:

**Goaltenders:** Fleury was long expected to be the man in net for Vegas, which also

got a 2020 second-round pick from the Pittsburgh Penguins for the agreement to select the 32-year-old with three Stanley Cup rings. Calvin Pickard from Colorado and Jean-Francois Berube from the New York Islanders are only 25, and each one could be Fleury's backup or trade bait.

**Defensemen:** This is where McPhee spared no expense, even as he picked up assets for not taking Minnesota's Matt Dumba or Marco Scandella, Anaheim's Sami Vatanen or Josh Manson, Tampa Bay's Slater Koekkoek or Jake Dotchin or the Islanders' Calvin de Haan or Thomas Hickey. Making those agreements got Vegas forward prospect Alex Tuch from the Wild, defenseman Shea Theodore from the Ducks, unsigned forward prospect Nikita Gusev from the Lightning and the 15th pick and defensive prospect Jake Bischoff from New York.

The existing Golden Knights' blue line isn't bad: Brayden McNabb from Los Angeles, Colin Miller from Boston, Jon Merrill from New Jersey and Griffin Reinhart from Edmonton. They also signed former ECHL Las Vegas Wranglers player and adopted local Deryk Engelland, formerly of the Calgary Flames, to a \$1 million, one-year deal.

**Forwards:** Nashville GM David Poile couldn't hide his emotions at the moment Neal's name was announced. The 10-time 20-goal scorer gives Vegas immediate top-line scoring punch, and the Predators couldn't work out a trade to spare him.

The Golden Knights also got a bargain-basement 30-goal scorer in Jonathan Marchessault and acquired 26-year-old winger Reilly Smith and his \$25 million, five-year contract from Florida for the measly price of a 2018 fourth-round pick.



# Poche' helps lift LSU over Florida St.

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Jared Poche' returned to LSU for his senior season for moments like this. His freshman teammate, Jake Slaughter, just started making his memories.

Poche' became LSU's career wins leader with a splendid performance over eight innings, Slaughter hit his first home run in three months for an early five-run cushion, and the Tigers eliminated Florida State from the College World Series with a 7-4 win Wednesday night.

LSU (50-18) advanced to the Bracket 1 final against No. 1 national seed Oregon State, which beat the Tigers 13-1 on Monday. The Tigers would have to beat the Beavers on Friday and again Saturday to reach the best-of-three finals week.

Rather than think ahead to the daunting task awaiting the Tigers, the moments after the win over the Seminoles were a time to fete their reliable left-hander and the kid who got a start because coach Paul Mainieri had a gut feeling it was the

right thing to do.

"Poche' was just the man tonight," Mainieri said. "He put the team on his shoulders and carried us to the promised land. We needed that win to keep our season alive to win our 50th game, to make the final four, to have a shot at Oregon State. There was a lot riding on this ballgame tonight, and Poche' was a cool customer and just went out there and pitched as well as I've ever seen him pitch."

Florida State (46-23) will go home without a national title for a 22nd time, and 16th under coach Mike Martin, who completed his 38th year as coach. No program has as many CWS appearances without winning the championship.

"It feels like we gave it everything we had, and it wasn't meant to be," Martin said. "We gave it our best shot. We never felt sorry for ourselves. We kept battling. There'll be seven disappointed coaches to leave here. Am I disappointed? Well, if I'm not, I'm not much of a competitor."

Poche' (12-3), making his school-record 69th career start, won for the 39th time to break the record Scott Schultz set from 1992-95.

Poche' left after Quincy Nierste and Cal Raleigh homered on consecutive pitches in the ninth. Zack Hess, hitting 98 mph on the radar gun, struck out the side for his third save.

"If you had told me four years ago before I started my career at LSU that in four short years you're going to be in Omaha and break the all-time wins record, there's no way I would have believed that," said Poche', drafted in the 16th round by the San Diego Padres last year and in the ninth by the Oakland Athletics this year. "This record, it's definitely not an individual award. Having guys making plays behind me, scoring runs for the games I throw, I see this more as a team award."

Slaughter, making his first CWS start and batting out of the 9-hole, barely cleared the left-center fence when he connected on a hanging breaking ball from FSU starter Cole

Sands (6-4) in the second inning. The homer, which made it 5-0 and ended Sands' night, was Slaughter's first since March 15 and third of the season.

"Believe it or not, Jake, moments continue to get better than this," Mainieri told Poche' at the postgame news conference.

Slaughter said he just wanted to put a good swing on the ball.

"When I hit it," he said, "I really thought there wasn't a good chance of it going out."

Slaughter, who had been a pinch runner and pinch hitter in the Tigers' first two CWS games, got the start in place of Nick Coomes. Mainieri said he put Slaughter in the lineup because he liked how he matched up against Sands.

"That's the one spot in our order that has fluidity to it," Mainieri said. "Coomes has done some really good things. He had two hits the first game and Jake hit the three-run homer today. Jake's been having some really good batting practice sessions. Just went with a hunch."

## 76ers ready to turn corner with back-to-back top picks

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — If championship rings were awarded for No. 1 draft picks, Josh Harris' fingers might look like Tom Brady's.

The NBA and NHL team owner has two shots at one this weekend — first on Thursday night with the Philadelphia 76ers and then 24 hours later with the New Jersey Devils. Harris, the dual sport owner, and the 76ers already had the top pick in last year's draft. And this year's snag of No. 1 in a trade with Boston made them just the fourth team in NBA history to pick first in two straight drafts.

The Sixers have mastered the art of losing like few franchises in professional sports ever have over the last five

years. Not even the Geno's vs. Pat's debate has split loyalties in Philly quite like the three words that have defined the organization since the implosion started: Trust The Process.

But suffering through the ilk of Alexy Sheved, Malcolm Thomas and Sonny Weems for the reward of Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and that top pick Thursday night just might be worth it.

Barring a trade, the 76ers are expected to take Washington guard Markelle Fultz with the No. 1 pick. Sixers fans are frothing at the idea that Simmons and Fultz could become the next great backcourt combination, feeding a healthy Embiid and forming a playoff core next season.

"We're still in the growth process," team president Bryan

Colangelo said. "We like to call it a measured, organic pattern of growth."

Try slapping that slogan on a T-shirt.

For some fans in the Process clique, the No. 1 pick has already made The Process a success; worthy of the initiative that started with former general manager Sam Hinkie clearing the cupboard of talent and fat contracts for 10-win seasons and top picks down the road.

The road ends Thursday in New York.

With Embiid, Simmons and likely Fultz, the days of the 76ers serving as some sort of grandiose symbol of sacrifice are dead.

The trio isn't here to lose.

But there are no guarantees that anything will get better for the Sixers. Just ask the Minne-

sota Timberwolves and their 10 top-10 picks and no playoff appearances since 2004. Or try the Los Angeles Clippers who picked first, fourth, third and second from 1998-2001 and had just one first-round exit over that span until 2012.

Better yet, stay closer to the Liberty Bell. The 76ers took Evan Turner with the No. 2 overall pick in 2010 and expected to pair him with Jrue Holiday in the backcourt for a decade. Picks like Nerlens Noel and Jahlil Okafor (No. 3 in 2015) failed to make any kind of significant dent in the Sixers' rebuild.

Now Colangelo gets his second crack at No. 1, a year after taking Simmons out of LSU. Colangelo, though, picked Andrea Bargnani with the top pick in 2006 with Toronto.

# Mariners end Verlander's perfect bid

Associated Press

SEATTLE — After five innings of offensive futility, Jarrod Dyson was just looking to get on base. He did, and turned the game around.

Dyson's bunt single broke up Justin Verlander's bid for a perfect game in the sixth inning Wednesday night and sparked the Seattle Mariners to a 7-5 comeback win over the Detroit Tigers.

Nelson Cruz had three RBIs and Mitch Haniger homered as Seattle overcame a 4-0 deficit with three runs in the sixth and four in the seventh to hand the Tigers their fifth consecutive defeat.

Verlander retired his first 16 batters but didn't make it through the sixth. With one out, the speedy Dyson gave the Mariners their first baserunner, beating out a drag bunt between the mound and first that Verlander was unable to reach.

"I was just trying to get something going," said Dyson, whose earlier throwing error helped Detroit build a 4-0 lead. "The guy was having a perfect game on us. I'm not just going to keep going up there hacking at him. I know how our matchups have been in the past. He always wins the battle,

so I had to just try to play my game and I was able to get down a good bunt."

Mike Zunino walked and Jean Segura followed with a broken-bat single to load the bases.

Ben Gamel lined a single to make it 4-1. Robinson Cano struck out looking, but Cruz followed with a two-run double to left field, chasing Verlander after 110 pitches. He struck out 11 and walked one.

Verlander had no problem with Dyson bunting to break up a no-hit bid.

"It was a perfect bunt," Verlander said. "That's part of his game. I don't think it was quite too late, given the situation, to bunt, especially being as how that's a major part of what he does. I really didn't have any issues with it. It wasn't like I got upset about it."

Haniger tied the score with his sixth homer, driving an 0-1 pitch from Shane Greene (1-1) over the wall in left to open the seventh. Segura and Gamel reached on consecutive two-out singles and Cano followed with a two-run double to right-center to give the Mariners a 6-4 lead. Cruz's single to center scored Cano.

"Sixth and seventh inning, they just hit

us," Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said. "They got hits, they scored runs, scored seven runs in those two innings and that was the ballgame."

Tony Zych (3-2) pitched 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings for the win. Nick Vincent worked the eighth and Edwin Diaz finished for his 12th save, despite allowing a two-out homer to Ian Kinsler, his seventh.

Verlander, who has pitched two no-hitters, was charged with three runs and four hits. Detroit scored twice in the sixth to open a 4-0 lead against starter James Paxton. Miguel Cabrera and J.D. Martinez opened with consecutive singles and both runners advanced on a throwing error by Dyson in center. Justin Upton followed with a two-run single.

James McCann led off the third with his eighth home run to put the Tigers in front. They made it 2-0 in the fourth when Martinez doubled and Upton followed with an RBI single.

"The way he was throwing out there, I just thought if we could get him in the stretch, get him off his comfort zone, and we did," Mariners manager Scott Servais said about Verlander.

## Roundup

# Marlins finally get to Scherzer with rally

Associated Press

MIAMI — Max Scherzer's bid for the third no-hitter of his big league career ended with one out in the eighth inning, and he then gave up two unearned runs and the Miami Marlins rallied to beat the Washington Nationals 2-1 Wednesday.

After backup catcher A.J. Ellis reached on an infield single for Miami's first hit, an error by first baseman Adam Lind and a hit batter loaded the bases with two outs. Scherzer threw a wild pitch that scored the tying run, and Giancarlo Stanton lined an RBI single — the Marlins' only other hit — to put them ahead.

Scherzer (8-5) threw no-hitters against the Pirates and Mets in 2015, and he seemed on his way to another when he began the eighth inning with a 1-0 lead.

**Dodgers 8, Mets 2:** Yasiel

Puig riled struggling New York with a long look at his three-run homer, Yasmani Grandal added two solo shots and streaking host Los Angeles took over first place in the NL West.

**Diamondbacks 16, Rockies 5:** Taijuan Walker pitched six solid innings and slapped an RBI single during his team's biggest inning ever on the road — a 10-run fourth — and Arizona went on to beat Colorado.

**Astros 5, Athletics 1:** Carlos Correa homered, Mike Fiers (5-2) won his fourth straight decision and major league-best Houston won its ninth consecutive game in Oakland.

**Cardinals 7, Phillies 6 (10):** Tommy Pham's second solo homer off Hector Neris in the ninth inning tied it and visiting St. Louis rallied from a 5-0 deficit to beat Philadelphia in 10 innings.

**Royals 6, Red Sox 4:** Sal-

vador Perez hit his first career grand slam, connecting in the eighth inning to rally host Kansas City over Boston.

**Yankees 8, Angels 4:** Didi Gregorius and Matt Holliday each hit a go-ahead homer and host New York piled on from there, beating Los Angeles to snap a season-high seven-game losing streak.

**Padres 3, Cubs 2:** Erick Aybar hit a tying home run in the sixth inning, Luis Torrens walked with the bases loaded against Koji Uehara (2-4) in the eighth and visiting San Diego stopped a three-game losing streak by beating Chicago.

**Rays 8, Reds 3:** Left fielder Mallex Smith rushed in to tag out speedy Billy Hamilton after a lengthy rundown, highlighting host Tampa Bay's win over Cincinnati.

**Blue Jays 7, Rangers 5:** Darwin Barney's two-run homer

capped a six-run first inning and visiting Toronto held on for a win over Texas.

**Twins 4, White Sox 2:** Jose Berrios (7-1) won his fourth straight start and Miguel Sano homered for the second straight game as host Minnesota beat Chicago.

**Braves 5, Giants 3:** Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer off Cory Gearrin (1-2) in the 11th inning to lift host Atlanta to a win over San Francisco.

**Brewers 4, Pirates 3:** Domingo Santana hit a two-run home run Pittsburgh reliever Daniel Hudson (1-3) in the seventh inning to lift host Milwaukee.

**Indians 5, Orioles 1:** Carlos Carrasco (8-3) struck out 10, Francisco Lindor homered and visiting Cleveland defeated skidding Baltimore.