

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Tillerson takes tough stance on N. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said military action is one of several options on the table for dealing with North Korea but Washington hopes to avoid that.

Tillerson suggested the U.S. will adopt a tougher approach, saying the Obama administration's efforts had failed to stop Pyongyang from pursuing a nuclear weapons program.

"Let me be very clear, the policy of strategic patience has ended. We're exploring a new range of diplomatic security and economic measures," he said during a joint news conference after visiting the heavily militarized border that divides the peninsula. "All options are on the table."

He offered few details, but said military action had not been ruled out.

"Certainly we do not want ... for things to get to military conflict," he said. But he added that "if they elevate the threat of

their weapons program to a level that we believe requires action, then that option's on the table."

South Korea was the second stop on Tillerson's debut trip to Asia as secretary of state. He arrived earlier Friday from Japan and planned to travel to China on Saturday.

While Tillerson declared the Obama-era policy known as "strategic patience" dead, many of his comments reflected similar tenets. He said there would be no talks until North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons program, and he called for tighter sanctions and other economic measures to cut off Pyongyang's sources of foreign revenue.

"Conditions must change before there is any scope for talks to resume," Tillerson said at a joint news conference before going into talks with South Korean counterpart Yun Byung-se.

Many experts have speculated that President Donald Trump would consider unconditional talks with North Korea after

Trump suggested as much during his campaign. But the administration has signaled a harder line particularly as it has been challenged by two North Korean missile tests since Trump took office on Jan. 20.

Tensions have been rising since last year, when the North conducted two nuclear tests and launched two dozen missiles into the sea, demonstrating faster-than-expected progress toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

Most recently, it fired four missiles into the sea near the coast of Japan earlier this month.

Tillerson's trip comes amid high tensions as the U.S. and South Korean militaries are conducting joint war games, which the allies insist are defensive in nature but North Korea considers a rehearsal for an invasion.

Tillerson stressed that any action threatening South Korean or U.S. forces would be met with an "appropriate response."

## President requests \$30B to fund DOD through 2017

By TARA COPP

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's \$30 billion supplemental budget request for 2017 adds thousands of warfighters and pays for new weapons across the services, but it can't pass unless Congress lifts the automatic budget cuts known as sequestration.

On Thursday, Trump unveiled his request for 2017, which would fund the Defense Department through Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Almost \$25 billion earmarked for the base budget would be used to address Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' pledge to restore readiness to personnel and weapons systems worn down by 16 years of combat. The remaining \$5 billion would go into the DOD's overseas contingency operations account.

The account designation is important. If DOD's base budget exceeds the caps established in the 2011 Budget Control Act, automatic cuts would take effect. Congress would need to vote to do away with the cap

to avoid that. Also, the White House could offset the growth in defense spending with cuts to domestic programs. Either option would have to be passed by a deeply divided Congress, which DOD officials acknowledged Thursday would be difficult.

"This is obviously something the administration will have to work [on] with Congress," said John P. Roth, the acting Pentagon comptroller.

In the past several years, lawmakers have gotten around the caps by adding money in the overseas contingency operations account, which is not capped, drawing criticism from congressional watchdogs concerned that it had become a slush fund.

The new planes and personnel were "legitimately base budget kinds of things," Roth said. The \$25 billion also would fund 36,000 new Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen and would pay for a host of weapons systems.

The Navy and Marines Corps would receive \$9.5 billion to address an increase in training accidents, as budget cuts and overseas operations have cut into flight training and ready aircraft. The money

would be used to buy 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighters and six P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft "to replenish combat-worn strike fighters and increase the number of ready available aircraft within 30-35 months," according to budget documents.

It also would add 41,000 flying hours for deployed and nondeployed aircrews and would buy spare parts for helicopters, aircraft and drones.

The Air Force would receive \$7.4 billion, the bulk of which would go to procuring or modernizing unmanned and manned aircraft. The Air Force also would buy five F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

Almost \$400 million would go toward addressing the Air Force's personnel shortages, specifically maintainers and pilots. The funds would be used to increase the number of Air Force personnel from 317,000 to 321,000.

The Army would get \$8.3 billion — more than \$5 billion for new equipment, including \$1.1 billion to replenish diminished ammunition stocks.

## Recruitment effort depicts Marines as good citizens

Associated Press

Amid a scandal over the posting of nude photos of female Marines, the Marine Corps is launching a new recruitment campaign meant to draw millennials by showing its members as not only strong warriors but good citizens.

"Battles Won" is the name of the campaign that includes TV ads and online clips of Marines unloading "Toys for Tots" boxes and real video of a Marine veteran tackling an armed robber.

The campaign has been in the works for months, but its release comes as the Marine Corps' image has taken a beating amid an investigation into nude photos of female Marines posted without their consent on a private Facebook page used by Marines. On Thursday, the number of identified members of the Facebook site Marines United grew to 1,200, including 700 active-duty and 150 Reserve Marines, according to Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif.

The Marine Corps is in the process of trying to boost its numbers and to recruit more women, and the new TV ads include clips of women in combat fatigues.

But Marine Corps officials said the campaign is not aimed at a particular demographic other than those of recruiting age.

The Marine Corps shared the campaign with The Associated Press ahead of its official rollout Friday in conjunction with the first weekend of the hugely popular March Madness college basketball games.

Also, the military's smallest branch is considering replacing its iconic tagline, "The Few. The Proud. The Marines" — one of the most successful ad campaigns of the 20th century.

The short, simple phrase highlighted the elite status given to Marine warfighters and drew recruits after the draft in the 1970s.

# Marines on photo-sharing site ID'd by NCIS, lawmaker says

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Naval Criminal Investigative Service on Thursday had identified by name 1,200 members of the Marines United Facebook page, a number that included more than 700 active-duty Marines and 150 in the Reserve, said Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif.

But it was not immediately clear whether the identified servicemembers were directly involved in sharing nude photos of female Marines or making derogatory comments on the page. Marines Commandant Gen. Robert Neller recently told the Senate that the service believed 500 members of the website accessed a connected Google drive that contained the images.

Speier's office said Friday that all 1,200 were being considered possible offenders of the online abuse and were believed to have interacted with the photos or commented, based on a closed-door briefing from the NCIS. But neither the investigative service nor the Marine Corps has confirmed this.

An official close to the investigation confirmed the figures but said it appeared the servicemembers, who also included 15 sailors, were identified using about 600 pages of Marines United screenshots turned over by journalist Thomas Brennan, the founder of the nonprofit War Horse website, who uncovered the scandal, and not through analysis of the hard drive.

The identification of names did not mean those individuals were involved in wrongdoing or criminal activity, said the official, who asked for anonymity because he was not cleared to speak publicly about the investigation.

In a statement Friday, NCIS said it was working to clarify the numbers released by Speier.

"NCIS is trying to put all the numbers that are being discussed into context, so the public will be better able to understand the scope of this investigation," spokesman Ed Buice wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Speier disclosed the figures Thursday after a closed-door briefing by the investigative service and Neller to the House Armed Services Committee on the unfolding photo-sharing scandal.

"I am furious, I am saddened and I am frustrated by how we have got to this point," said Speier, who is the top Democrat on the Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the Armed Services Committee chairman, also was in the closed-door briefing Thursday but told Stars and Stripes that he could not confirm Speier's numbers, though he did not dispute them.

Thornberry said Thursday he was not con-

vinced the Marines or other services "fully have their arms around this problem yet" and that the committee could consider including some new legislation addressing the Marines United case in the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress' annual military policy bill.

"It's obviously something we will look at, but I don't know for sure the answer," he said. "Obviously, the investigation is going on. We just had a briefing on it, so you need to understand what you're dealing with before you jump to a conclusion."

Speier, flanked by famed attorney Gloria Allred and a victim of the site, provided the numbers to reporters as she unveiled a bill criminalizing the nonconsensual posting of nude images as lawmakers weighed the possibility of new legislation.

The bill would close a "massive gap" in the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, which bars the dissemination of nonconsensual pornography but is not adequate to prosecute Marines United cases in which women originally allowed photos to be taken but did not consent to have them shared, Speier said.

Other key lawmakers briefed by the Marine Corps said they were weighing the need for new legislation to help the service crack down on the online activity targeting and harassing female Marines.

The top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said "all options are on the table" in dealing with the photo-sharing following other harassment and abuse cases in the Marines, such as hazing at Parris Island, S.C. That could include changes to the UCMJ, Smith said following the briefing with Neller.

"They are not making progress, so we need to figure out how to make progress," he said.

NCIS launched an investigation earlier this month into the Marines United site, which had about 30,000 members and was used to post revealing and sometimes nude photos of the Marines, identifying information such as names and duty stations and degrading and misogynistic comments.

Other sites have since sprung up in defiance of the ongoing investigation and a series of public condemnations from Neller and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Critics and lawmakers have pointed to an ingrained sexism and misogyny in the Marines, which is now integrating women into combat roles, and Neller has repeatedly vowed to change it during public appearances since the scandal broke.

## China plans structure on South China Sea shoal

Associated Press

BEIJING — China plans to build the first permanent structure on a South China Sea shoal at the heart of a territorial dispute with the Philippines, in a move likely to renew concerns over Beijing's robust assertions of its claims in the strategically crucial body of water.

The top official in Sansha, the city that has administered China's island claims since 2012, was quoted by the official Hainan Daily newspaper as saying that preparations were underway to build an environmental monitoring station on Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The preparatory work on the stations and others on another five islands in the strategically vital waterway was among the government's top priorities for 2017, Sansha Communist Party Secretary Xiao Jie was quoted as saying in an interview published in the paper's Monday edition that was seen online Friday in Beijing.

Beijing seized tiny, uninhabited Scarborough in 2012 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels.

## US denies Syria mosque strike

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The U.S. struck an al-Qaida gathering in northern Syria, killing dozens of militants, and is investigating reports that civilians were killed, U.S. officials said Friday.

Syrian opposition activists said about 40 people, mostly civilians, were killed in a mosque in the area, accusing the U.S.-led coalition of carrying out the airstrike Thursday evening.

Friday prayers were canceled across rebel-held parts of northern Syria on Friday after the airstrike that opposition activists and paramedics said struck the crowded Omar Ibn al-Khattab Mosque in the Jeeneh district in Aleppo province, killing and wounding dozens of people, some of whom were left trapped under the rubble.

U.S. Army Maj. Josh Jacques, a U.S. Central Command spokesman, said the U.S. did not target or strike a mosque.

"We targeted an al-Qaeda gathering across the street from a mosque. The mosque does not appear to be damaged following the strike," he said, adding: "We are aware of the reports of civilian casualties and we are looking into it."

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said, "we are not aware of any credible assessment of civilian casualties."

He showed reporters a U.S. military photo of the strike and said that "dozens" of al-Qaida militants who were meeting in the building were targeted and killed. The photo showed extensive damage to the building, and debris scattered toward the mosque, but little visible damage to the mosque or two cars parked next to it.

He said the U.S. was aware the mosque was next door and deliberately did not strike it. He said that some video he has seen showed damage to the building on the other side of the al-Qaida base.

Davis said the U.S. believes there were some high-ranking individuals there, but he did not identify them, and said the U.S. is still assessing the results of the strike. He said al-Qaida had been using the building as a meeting place, but he said he did not know if the building at some point had been associated with the mosque next door.

He said that manned and unmanned aircraft launched airstrikes at the building, which included the use of Hellfire missiles and bombs.

A powerful Syrian opposition group and other opposition activists blamed the U.S.-led coalition for the airstrike. The coalition has been targeting the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's affiliate in northern Syria for more than two years, but it was not clear how the opposition group knew who carried out the strike. Russian and Syrian aircraft also are known to operate in the opposition-held region.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said fragments of ammunition with Latin markings were found in the debris at the scene, which made it possible to conclude that Hellfire missiles were being used.

"The U.S. military has officially confirmed that it was they who struck the area. The goal was a building located across the street from the mosque, which was used to hold meetings by al-Qaida terrorists," she said.

Bahaa al-Halaby, an Aleppo-based opposition activist, said the Thursday night airstrike hit as about 250 people had gathered at the mosque for prayers or to attend a religious lesson. Mosques are usually crowded on Thursday night ahead of Friday, the day of communal prayers in the Muslim weekend.

"This was one of the worst massacres committed in the area," al-Halaby said.

## White House, some in GOP back health care bill tweaks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and some House conservatives agreed Friday to make changes in the troubled Republican health care bill in hopes of easing deep party divisions over the overhaul plan. But other conservatives expressed continued opposition and it remained uncertain that party leaders had won enough support to push the high-profile measure through the House next week.

After a White House meeting between President Donald Trump and about a dozen House Republicans and late-night telephone talks, a leader of one group of House conservatives said he and others were now backing the legislation. The bill would kill much of former President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law and would create

new tax credits and curbs on Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for lower-income people.

"I want everyone to know I'm 100 percent behind this," Trump said at the White House.

Lawmakers said the two sides agreed to additional restrictions on Medicaid that states would be allowed to choose. They said states could impose work requirements on some recipients and could decide to accept a lump-sum federal payment for Medicaid instead of an amount that would grow with the number of beneficiaries.

"We're a yes. We're excited to be there," said Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., leader of the Republican Study Committee, a large group of conservatives.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said votes on the legislation

were planned for next Thursday.

The House GOP's vote counter, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, also attended the meeting and said the changes give Republicans "the best chance" to get the legislation to the Senate. GOP divisions also threaten the legislation in that chamber.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., head of another, harder-line group of conservative House lawmakers, said earlier that the changes being discussed were not enough to win his support. Meadows did not attend the White House meeting.

"They won't have the votes unless they change it" further, said Meadows, who leads the House Freedom Caucus. He said that an optional work requirement for Medicaid "doesn't move the ball more than a couple yards on a very long playing field."

# Documents detail Russian payments to Flynn

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser Michael Flynn was paid more than \$67,000 by Russian companies before the presidential election, according to documents released by a Democratic congressman.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, asked the Trump administration to provide a comprehensive record of Flynn's contacts with foreign governments and interests.

Flynn's ties to Russia have been scrutinized by the FBI and are part of House and Senate committee investigations into contacts between Trump campaign officials and Russians. The investigation comes as U.S. intelligence officials say Russia meddled in the recent election by hacking Democratic emails.

According to the documents, Flynn accepted \$33,750 from Russia's government-run television system for appearing at a Moscow event in December 2015 — a few months before Flynn began formally advising President Donald Trump's campaign — and thousands more in expenses covered by the network and in speech fees from other Russian firms.

Flynn's financial relationship with the

RT network may violate a constitutional provision against gifts from foreign governments and Flynn should pay the money to the U.S. government, said Cummings, senior Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Last week, Flynn registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent whose lobbying work may have benefited the Turkish government. The lobbying occurred before Election Day, from August to November, during the period when Flynn was a Trump campaign adviser.

Trump fired Flynn as national security adviser last month, saying the former U.S. Army lieutenant general misled Vice President Mike Pence and other White House officials about his conversations with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

The newly released files show that RT — designated by the U.S. intelligence community as a propaganda arm for Russia's government — also paid for luxury hotel stays and other expenses incurred by Flynn and his adult son, Michael Flynn Jr., during the Moscow trip.

Flynn, who was fired in August 2014 as chief of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, sat next to Russian President Vladimir Putin during the climax of the

televised RT gala.

Cummings said Flynn's acceptance of payments from RT violated the emoluments provision of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits retired military officers from accepting gifts from foreign powers.

In letters sent to Trump, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and FBI Director James Comey, Cummings said Flynn "violated the Constitution by accepting tens of thousands of dollars from an agent of a global adversary that attacked our democracy." Cummings was referring to the intelligence agencies' conclusion that Russia instigated cyberhacking of Democratic Party officials and organizations in the months before the presidential election.

Separately, the Army is looking into the matter of Flynn's reporting and compensation but has found no answers yet, according to spokesman Col. Pat Seiber.

In addition to the RT payments, Flynn also was paid \$11,250 for two speeches in Washington — one in August for Volga-Dnepr Airlines, a Russian charter cargo airline, and a second, in September, for Kaspersky Government Security Solutions Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of Kaspersky Lab, a Russian-based cybersecurity firm.

## Long before new hacks, spying by Russia worried US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Years before Russian intelligence agencies stood accused of interfering in the U.S. presidential election and of orchestrating a massive Yahoo data breach, there was lingerie model Anna Chapman and her band of "Illegals" — Russian spies who assumed false identities and lived as deep-cover agents in middle-class America.

The busting-up of that spy ring, along with the arrest two years ago of a Russian spy who posed as a Manhattan banker and this week's announcement of an indictment of Russian agents in the Yahoo email hack, underscore long-running efforts by the American authorities to closely monitor and occasionally interrupt the Kremlin's intelligence-gathering operations.

Though allegations of meddling in the political process represent a stunning, new flare-up in relations between the two countries, U.S. intelligence agencies for years have been concerned by Russian efforts to infiltrate American society and government.

"What we have seen as far as the arrests is really only scratching the surface of the real Russian activity here," said Scott Stewart, vice president of tactical analysis at the Texas-based Stratfor intelligence

firm.

Many counterintelligence investigations can last for years without resulting in criminal charges, preventing the public from having a complete grasp of evidence collected or tactics that are used.

But a few sensational Justice Department prosecutions in the past decade have pulled back the curtain on Russian efforts to recruit university students, to gather information on the stock market and on sanctions, to sway public opinion and to cultivate well-placed contacts. And recent hacking allegations make clear that old-fashioned spying techniques have now been augmented by cyberoperations expertise that in some cases can accomplish similar goals.

"They want to understand how the White House is going to work, and how Washington will respond to what Russians are doing in Europe and the Middle East," said Steven Pifer, a senior fellow at the liberal-oriented Brookings Institution and a former foreign service officer focused on Russia.

It's not surprising that once the public understands the capabilities and motives of Russian intelligence "that there's a great deal of concern about their ability to gather intelligence and use it to influence real-world events," said Adam Fee, who was lead attorney in the 2015 prosecution of

Evgeny Buryakov, who posed as a banker in New York while spying on the U.S. for the Russian Federation.

Public interest in counterintelligence operations spiked with the U.S. assessment in January that Russian intelligence agencies were responsible for the hacking of Democratic email accounts and for sharing that information with WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website, with the goal of aiding the Trump campaign.

That interference remains under federal investigation, but some experts see parallels between those cyberattacks and prior Russian espionage efforts.

Alarming to American authorities, Russian hackers have engaged in more conventional crimes, such as stealing credit and debit card account information, and in some cases have piggybacked off Russian intelligence services. The Justice Department this week announced charges against two Russian intelligence agents, and two hired hackers, accused in a 2014 breach of at least 500 million Yahoo user accounts.

"I view cyber as merely being a new tool of espionage to pursue the same goals of espionage — whether that's recruiting, stealing information, it's basically the same things they've always done," Stewart said. "It's just a new tool to accomplish those tasks."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## State trooper takes puppies into custody

**GA** ATLANTA — A Georgia State Patrol trooper took three canine vagrants into custody — and then he and a few of his colleagues adopted the abandoned puppies as their own.

The Georgia Department of Public Safety posted on its Facebook page Tuesday that trooper Jordan Ennis found three puppies while patrolling a southwest Atlanta subdivision on Monday. He was driving in the abandoned subdivision known as a dumping site for stolen cars when he spotted the puppies in a briar patch.

The agency said Ennis and his police dog, Tek, brought the puppies into headquarters. They were promptly adopted by Ennis and three members of the headquarters staff.

## Woman hit by train during modeling shoot

**TX** NAVASOTA — A woman said her daughter was killed when she was struck by a train while having photos taken of her on the tracks in a bid to launch a modeling career.

Hakamie Stevenson told The Eagle newspaper in Bryan, Texas, that her daughter, Fredzania Thompson, 19, attended Blinn College in Bryan but wanted to put her education on hold to model.

Authorities said Thompson was standing between two sets of tracks Friday in Navasota when a BNSF Railway train approached. She moved out of the way of the train but was apparently unaware that a Union Pacific train was coming in the opposite direction on the other tracks and was struck.

The person who was taking photos of Thompson was not hurt.

## Sled dogs help pull tourists' car from snow

**AK** FAIRBANKS — A group of tourists got an extra Alaska experience when a dogsled team helped pull their car out of snow in Fairbanks.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported that Neil Eklund and his son were returning from giving a dogsled tour on the Chena River when they saw an SUV stuck in the snow on Sunday.

Eklund said he had never pulled a car out with a sled before, but with his nine dogs, he had plenty of power to free the vehicle and send the stranded tourists on their Alaskan adventure.

## Scenic viewers stolen from historic trail

**MA** FLORIDA — Massachusetts State Police are investigating the theft of a pair of 305-pound scenic viewers that gave tourists spectacular views along the state's famous Mohawk Trail.

The viewers are those coin-operated, binocular-like devices mounted on metal posts that are often found at inspiring vistas.

Police said Wednesday they think the bronze and cast iron viewers were cut from their wooden platform next to the Eastern Summit gift shop in the town of Florida sometime between Feb. 27 and March 7.

Police said the devices are considered collectibles.

## Judge tosses lawsuit over flatulence firing

**NJ** TRENTON — A federal judge has dismissed a discrimination lawsuit that said one of New Jersey's top pork roll

makers fired a worker for passing too much gas.

Louann Clem said her husband struggled with extreme gas and uncomfortable diarrhea due to gastric bypass surgery.

Her suit claimed Case Pork Roll President Thomas Dolan complained about the smell. She also worked at the firm.

Richard Clem was fired in February 2014 and his wife quit the same day, the lawsuit said.

Clem's initial claim was dismissed last summer. Her amended lawsuit said managers made "insulting and humiliating" comments to her about her husband that caused her mental and physical anguish.

The court eventually dismissed that claim in January, saying she failed to prove the managers created an abusive work environment.

## Search on for angry patron who threw food

**GA** JONESBORO — Police in Georgia are searching for an unhappy customer who threw her takeout order at restaurant workers.

Clayton County Police Det. Sefan Schindler told WSB-TV Wednesday the woman was upset because she said there wasn't enough seasoning salt on her French fries at a Zaxby's restaurant in suburban Atlanta. The woman took two takeout containers filled with food and tossed them over the counter.

Restaurant video shows the woman leaving with her order and then returning with a man to complain to a manager. The unhappy woman punched the register monitor. Schindler said she spewed curse words toward employees.

The man with her stood in silence during her tirade. According to news reports, the incident occurred March 10.

Schindler said the woman

could face charges for damage to the property.

## Naked man rescued from sandwich shop

**CA** NAPA — Rescue workers had to remove part of a wall to pull a naked man out of a sandwich shop where he spent the night trapped inside a narrow passage.

San Francisco television station KRON-TV reported that a construction crew arriving at a Napa job site Tuesday heard faint calls for help coming from the closed shop.

Authorities said it appears the man fell into the shaft from the roof of the building.

A construction worker told the television station the man said he was looking for a wishing well when he became trapped.

Workers removed a portion of the shop's front wall to rescue the man. He was not identified and taken to a hospital for treatment.

## 2 women charged in fight over parking spot

**PA** ASHLAND — State troopers have charged two women with disorderly conduct for a hair-pulling fight that erupted over a newly shoveled parking spot on a snowy street.

Troopers in Schuylkill County said a 23-year-old woman claimed she shoveled the spot only to have her 43-year-old neighbor's husband park his pickup in it.

Police said the women argued about the parking space before pushing and punching one another, and pulling each other's hair.

Both have been charged with disorderly conduct.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Koenig lifts Badgers over Virginia Tech

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Bronson Koenig made a school-record eight three-pointers and scored 28 points and Nigel Hayes added 16 as NCAA Tournament-tested Wisconsin advanced in the East Region with an 84-74 victory over Virginia Tech on Thursday night.

The eighth-seeded Badgers (26-9) made all the big plays in the closing minutes to set up a meeting with top-seeded Villanova on Saturday. The Wildcats shook off a sluggish and strange first half and downed Mount St. Mary's 76-56.

No team understands the survive-and-advance mentality in this tourney better than Wisconsin, the only team in the country to make the Sweet 16 the last three years.

And the Badgers counted on Koenig and Hayes, two of their four senior starters, to get them within one win of another trip to the third round.

Zach Leday scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half to pace the ninth-seeded Hokies (22-11), making their first NCAA visit since 2007.

Wisconsin has won 12 NCAA games in the past four tournaments, a testament to the Badgers' consistency and Koenig and Hayes have helped push the Big Ten power among the nation's elite programs.

**Virginia 76, UNC Wilmington 71:** At Orlando, Fla., London Perrantes scored 24 points, Marial Shayok added a career-high 23 off the bench and No. 5 seed Cavaliers rallied from 15 points down to beat the No. 13 seed Seahawks.

Perrantes scored 19 points in the second half as Virginia (23-10) got its slow-paced offense going. His biggest bucket was a driving bank shot with 1:37 remaining, which put the Cavs up 71-66.

UNCW (29-6) wouldn't go away, though. Chris Flemmings drained a three-pointer from

the elbow and then Devontae Cacok hit a layup to make it 73-71 with less than a minute to play. But Shayok answered on the other end, banking in a runner that gave the Cavs some breathing room in the closing seconds.

**Florida 80, East Tennessee State 65:** At Orlando, Fla., Devin Robinson tied his career-high with 24 points, Kasey Hill added 14 and the No. 4 seed Gators used a second-half surge to beat the 13th-seeded Buccaneers.

Robinson, an NBA prospect who had been relatively quiet late in the season, scored his most points in nearly two months. He made 10 of 17 shots and chipped in seven rebounds. The speedy Hill reached double figures for the fourth consecutive game. He also added six rebounds and five assists for his most complete game in a month.

Kevarrius Hayes, filling in for injured center John Egbunu,

finished with seven points, seven rebounds and six steals. He broke the school record for steals in an NCAA Tournament game.

**Villanova 76, Mount St. Mary's 56:** At Buffalo, N.Y., Donte DiVincenzo scored 21 points and the top-seeded Wildcats shook off a slow start and stumbled forward in the East Regional with a victory over the 16th-seeded Mountaineers.

The Wildcats (32-3) weren't themselves for much of the first half before they opened the second half with a 21-6 run to take the first step toward defending their championship. Villanova is trying to be the first back-to-back titlist since Florida in 2007.

Since the NCAA went to seeding in 1985, No. 1 seeds are 130-0 against No. 16s. The historic upset remains elusive, but for a while it looked like it could happen inside KeyBank Center.

## Notre Dame avoids meltdown, holds off Princeton

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Bonzie Colson scored 18 points and Notre Dame survived a first-round NCAA Tournament scare by pulling out a 60-58 win over Princeton.

The West Region's 12th-seeded Tigers had a chance to pull ahead on their final possession, but Devin Cannady missed an open three-pointer just before the final horn. Notre Dame's Steve Vasturia pulled down the rebound and was fouled.

The Fighting Irish (26-9) nearly squandered an 11-point second half lead. Guard Matt Farrell scored 16 points, but missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with Notre Dame up 59-58.

Spencer Weisz led the Tigers with 15 points.

**West Virginia 86, Bucknell 80:** At Buffalo, N.Y., Nathan Adrian had 12 points and 10 rebounds, leading the Mountaineers past the Bison.

Tarik Phillip scored 16 points for fourth-seeded West Virginia, which struggled at times with outside-shooting Bucknell. The Mountaineers (27-9) avoided a repeat of last year's first-round meltdown when they lost to Stephen F. Austin.

**Xavier 76, Maryland 65:** At Orlando, Fla., Trevon Bluiett scored 21 points and Sean O'Mara had 18 to help the 11th-seeded Musketeers upset the sixth-seeded Terrapins.

Xavier moves on in the West Regional, marking the third straight year it has advanced to the second round. Maryland, which has started three freshmen for much the season, lost in the first round for the first time since 1997.

**Florida State 86, Florida Gulf Coast 80:** At Orlando, Fla., Dwayne Bacon scored 25 points and Jonathan Isaac added 17 points and 10 rebounds to help the third-seeded Seminoles hold off the Eagles.

Florida State (26-8), making its first appearance since 2012 in the NAAs, advanced in the West Regional.

**Gonzaga 66, South Dakota State 46:** At Salt Lake City, Jordan Mathews scored 16 points to help the Bulldogs slowly pull away from the Jackrabbits and avoid the first 1 vs. 16 upset in the history of the tournament.

South Dakota State (18-17), champion of the Summit League, led for the first 17 minutes of the game and stayed in range for most of it.

**Saint Mary's 85, VCU 77:** At Salt Lake City, Jock Landale had 18 points and 13 rebounds as the seventh-seeded Gaels held on to beat the 10th-seeded Rams.

Saint Mary's led most of the way, but had to fight to hold on after the VCU defensive pressure started to become too much in the second half.

**Arizona 100, North Dakota 82:** At Salt Lake City, fresh-

man Lauri Markkanen scored 20 points as the second-seeded Wildcats cruised past the 15th-seeded Fighting Hawks.

Arizona used a 13-1 run early in the first half to take 24-13 lead and never looked back. The Wildcats (31-4) led 53-37 at halftime thanks to a dominant 16-point half from Markkanen and a 61.1 shooting percentage in the first 20 minutes.

**Northwestern 68, Vanderbilt 66:** At Salt Lake City, Northwestern got its first-ever NCAA Tournament victory after Commodores guard Matthew Fisher-Davis inexplicably grabbed Wildcats guard Bryant McIntosh on purpose, sending McIntosh to the free-throw line for the go-ahead points with 15 seconds left.

Riley LaChance made a layup with 18 seconds remaining in Thursday's game to put the ninth-seeded Commodores up by one after trailing by as many as 15.

## Boilermakers finish strong, beat Vermont

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The drought is over for Purdue. Vincent Edwards and company finished it off with one big push against Vermont.

Edwards scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half, and the Boilermakers held off the Catamounts 80-70 on Thursday for their first win in the NCAA Tournament in five years.

Caleb Swanigan added 16 points, 14 rebounds and four assists for fourth-seeded Purdue (26-7), which lost to Arkansas-Little Rock in double-overtime in the first round last year. It also dropped its tournament opener to Cincinnati in 2015.

"Both of those games just replayed in my head all year, even though we had seasons to play," Edwards said. "I still could replay it almost every last three, four possessions, in each of those games. So to come out here, I just really wanted the win."

It was the first NCAA Tournament victory for the Boilermakers since they beat Saint Mary's in the first round on the same day in 2012. Next up is No. 5 seed Iowa State, which advanced with an 84-73 win against Nevada.

"It feels good but I don't think we want to stop here," said Dakota Mathias, who made three three-pointers and finished with 13 points. "We play a good opponent the next game, have a quick turnaround, we've got to take care of ourselves and get back at it."

It was Vermont's first loss of 2017. The Catamounts (29-6), the regular-season and tournament champions in the America East, had the nation's longest active win streak at 21 games. But they lost versatile senior Kurt Steidl to a knee injury in the first half and were unable to make up for a huge disadvantage inside against the bigger, stronger Boilermakers.

"We played a really good first half and were able to stay neck-and-neck with them, but in the second half they just made a few more plays and hit a couple of threes down the stretch," Catamounts guard Dre Wills said.

# Middle Tennessee State upsets No. 5 Minnesota with 81-72 win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Middle Tennessee took down another Big Ten team in the NCAA Tournament, though the latest victory didn't really feel like an upset.

The Blue Raiders stood up to Minnesota's rugged defense, then blew past the foul-prone Golden Gophers for an 81-72 victory on Thursday.

Middle Tennessee proved it was no one-year wonder after shocking Michigan State as a No. 15 seed last March.

"We think we belong on a national stage," coach Kermit Davis said. "I knew we'd play well and we did so today."

Reggie Upshaw scored 19 points and Giddy Potts added 15 for the Blue Raiders (31-4), who move on to face fourth-seeded Butler in the second round on Saturday.

No longer a mystery team in March, Middle Tennessee played like seasoned NCAA veterans with the way it held off the Gophers' comeback attempt from a 17-point deficit in front of a loud and large contingent of Minnesota fans.

Upshaw, a senior captain, responded with seven straight points, including a three-pointer and a reverse layup during a 7-3 run to help give Middle Tennessee a 10-point lead with 3:40 left.

"I don't think so at all," Davis said when asked if he would classify the win as an upset. "We have a lot of respect for Minnesota, but I think our record speaks for itself, and what we've done all year long."

The Blue Raiders set a school record for victories and a Conference USA record with 17

league wins.

A season of redemption came to an end for fifth-seeded Minnesota (24-10), which bounced back from an eight-win season in 2015-16 to return to the NCAAs.

"I know that going into next year ... they raised expectations so quickly," coach Richard Pitino said. "And next year it's going to be even more."

**Butler 76, Winthrop 64:** At Milwaukee, the Bulldogs pushed around a team that had designs on following in their bracket-busting footsteps.

With the way Avery Woodson shot from the perimeter in the first half Thursday, Butler had little to worry about down the stretch against Winthrop.

Woodson scored 18 points and tied a career high with six three-pointers in his tourney debut, and the fourth-seeded Bulldogs contained star guard Keon Johnson in a win over the 13th-seeded Eagles in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"I liked their attention to detail, for the most part. I liked their ability to share the ball, for the most part," Butler coach Chris Holtmann said. "I thought we did some good things against a quality team."

Woodson, a graduate transfer from Memphis, hit five threes in the first half to help the fourth-seeded Bulldogs build a 14-point halftime lead.

A 12-2 run in the middle of the second half gave Butler a 60-43 lead with less than eight minutes left and put the game out of reach. Xavier Cooks had 23 points to lead the Big South champion Eagles (26-7).

## Iowa State outlasts Nevada

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Monte Morris delivered another solid all-around performance. Deonte Burton, Naz Mitrou-Long and Matt Thomas took turns coming up with big plays.

A little experience goes a long way this time of year.

Morris had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Iowa State outlasted Nevada 84-73 on Thursday night to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year.

"He's the best point guard in the country," Iowa State coach Steve Prohm said. "He's a winner."

Burton added 14 points and

eight rebounds as the fifth-seeded Cyclones won for the 10th time in their last 11 games, building on their impressive run through the Big 12 Tournament. Mitrou-Long and Thomas had 13 points apiece.

Iowa State (24-10) will try for its third Sweet 16 appearance in four years when it takes on No. 4 seed Purdue on Saturday. It was Nevada's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in a decade, and the difference in experience was noticeable, especially during the Wolf Pack's slow start.

"We lost to a team that's really good," coach Eric Musselman said. "I thought in the first half that their experience really showed."

Cameron Oliver scored 22 points for Nevada (28-7), which had won nine straight by an average of 15 points. Jordan Caroline had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Marcus Marshall finished with 16 points on 5-for-16 shooting.

"We just couldn't get over the hump this time," Oliver said.

It was a triumphant homecoming for Burton, Darrell Bowie and Donovan Jackson, three Milwaukee natives who have played a key role in Iowa State's success this season. Jackson scored 12 points on a perfect shooting performance, and Bowie finished with eight points and five boards.

"That's how you put on for your city," Bowie said.

# Predators knock off Capitals 2-1 in OT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Viktor Arvidsson scored 1:05 into overtime and the Nashville Predators bucked their season-long trend of OT struggles by beating the Washington Capitals 2-1 in the NHL on Thursday night.

Arvidsson's goal improved the Predators to 4-7 in the 3-on-3 period this season and 7-19 over the past two years.

"That feels nice," said goaltender Pekka Rinne, who made 22 saves but didn't face a shot in overtime. "Obviously there's been a lot of games last couple years that hasn't gone our way in OT, and winning that game in OT, Arvy putting the puck in the net, that was a huge win."

James Neal also scored his 21st goal for Nashville, which extended its winning streak to three and its point streak to five.

Brett Connolly scored the Capitals' regulation goal, and Braden Holtby stopped 22 of the 24 shots he faced. Washington fell to 7-3 in overtime this season.

**Blackhawks 2, Senators 1:** Richard Panik scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period, lifting visiting Chicago over Ottawa.

**Blue Jackets 2, Panthers 1:** Zach Werenski and Josh Anderson scored 3:26 apart in the second period to lead host Columbus over Florida.

**Maple Leafs 5, Lightning 0:** Morgan Rielly and Matt Martin scored 15 seconds apart during their team's four-goal second period and Frederik Andersen made 33 saves as visiting Toronto moved into the lead for the second Eastern Conference wild-card spot.

**Kings 2, Sabres 0:** Jarome Iginla and rookie Adrian Kempe scored in the third period and Jonathan Quick earned his first shutout of the season in host Los Angeles' victory.

**Blues 4, Sharks 1:** Vladimir Tarasenko scored two goals to give him 34 this season and Zach Sanford added his first since joining his new team to help visiting St. Louis

complete a regular-season sweep of San Jose.

**Hurricanes 3, Wild 1:** Victor Rask scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:24 to play and host Carolina beat Minnesota.

**Jets 4, Islanders 2:** Bryan Little scored twice and Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves as visiting Winnipeg beat New York to snap a four-game skid.

**Oilers 7, Bruins 4:** Patrick Maroon scored twice, Leon Draisaitl had a goal and two assists and Connor McDavid added three assists as host Edmonton cruised past Boston.

**Stars 4, Canucks 2:** Tyler Seguin scored on the power play in the third period as visiting Dallas beat Vancouver.

**Devils 6, Flyers 2:** Adam Henrique and Taylor Hall scored two goals apiece to help host New Jersey snap a 10-game winless streak.

**Red Wings 5, Coyotes 4 (SO):** Gustav Nyquist's shootout goal gave visiting Detroit a victory over Arizona.

# Thompson, Warriors cruise to win over Magic

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — Klay Thompson scored 21 of his 29 points in the first quarter and the Golden State Warriors cruised past the Orlando Magic 122-92 in the NBA on Thursday night.

Stephen Curry added 25 points and nine assists after appearing to injure his right foot in the opening minutes, Andre Iguodala scored 14 and Zaza Pachulia had 10 points and 10 rebounds to help the Warriors improve to an NBA-best 54-14 and clinch their third straight Pacific Division title.

Thompson, who owns the NBA record for most points in one quarter with 37 against Sacramento on Jan. 23, 2015, was almost perfect in the opening period against Orlando. The three-time All-Star made his first five shots beyond the arc and shot 8-for-11 overall while helping the Warriors to an early double-digit lead.

**Thunder 123, Raptors 102:** Russell Westbrook had 24 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds in three quarters for his 34th triple-double of the NBA season as visiting Oklahoma City registered its fourth consecutive win with a victory over Toronto.

The league's leading scorer moved closer to the NBA's single-season record for triple-doubles, 41 set by Oscar Robertson

in the 1961-62 season. Oklahoma City has 14 regular-season games left.

Victor Oladipo added 23 points as the Thunder split the season series with the Raptors, the fourth straight year the teams have done so.

**Cavaliers 91, Jazz 83:** LeBron James scored 33 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter as host Cleveland defeated Utah.

Kevin Love played for the first time since having surgery on his left knee last month and scored 10 points in 19 minutes. But Kyrie Irving and Iman Shumpert left the game with injuries.

James was 13 of 20 from the field and had 10 rebounds with six assists. He also moved into 13th place all time in field goals in the fourth quarter, passing Tim Duncan.

Irving, who scored 21 points, didn't play in the fourth quarter because of tightness in his left knee. Shumpert sprained his left shoulder in the third quarter.

**Grizzlies 103, Hawks 91:** Marc Gasol had 18 points as part of his triple-double to help resurgent Memphis top host Atlanta.

The Grizzlies have won three straight — including road games at Chicago and Atlanta on back-to-back nights — following a five-game losing streak.

Gasol, who had 10 rebounds and 10 assists, reached the triple-double with his

assist on JaMychal Green's three-pointer with 3:10 remaining.

**Nets 121, Knicks 110:** Brook Lopez scored 24 points as visiting Brooklyn dominated the second half to beat New York for a second victory over its Big Apple rivals in five days.

The Nets made five straight three-pointers during a 38-point third quarter, turning around the game after they were just 2-for-16 behind the arc in the first half.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 20 points and 10 rebounds for Brooklyn, which beat New York 120-112 at home on Sunday and earned a split of the city series after the Knicks won the first two meetings. Former Knicks star Jeremy Lin had 15 points and eight assists in his first game at Madison Square Garden this season.

Kyle O'Quinn came off the bench to score 23 points for the Knicks, who still haven't won consecutive games in 2017.

**Nuggets 129, Clippers 114:** Will Barton scored a career-high 35 points, Nikola Jokic recorded his fifth triple-double of the season and host Denver beat Los Angeles to win its fourth straight.

Jokic finished with 17 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists to help lead Denver to a win in a matchup of short-handed teams.