

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Marines issue new social media policy

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Marines who act illegally or immorally on the internet will be punished, according to the Marine Corps' new social media policy released in the wake of an illicit-photo-sharing scandal.

Punishments could include charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller wrote Friday in a message to all Marines.

Neller's message included an updated social media policy, which was originally released in 2010 but made no mention of criminal consequences for online actions.

"Marines must never engage in commentary or publish content on social networking platforms or through other forms of communication that harm good order and discipline or that bring discredit upon themselves, their unit or the Marine Corps," Neller wrote in the message. "In other words, Marines should think twice before engaging in questionable online activities, and must avoid actions online that threaten the moral, operational readiness and security, or public standing of their units, or that compromise our core values."

Neller cited specific examples of UCMJ charges that Marines could face for posting "commentary and content" that defames, threatens, harasses or discriminates against others. He added such conduct could additionally violate state or federal law, or expose servicemembers to civil actions.

The Marine Corps will require all Marines to sign an acknowledgement that they had reviewed and understand the new policy, said Marine Brig. Gen. James F. Glynn, the service's communications direc-

### Navy Medicine sailors to be individually counseled

By WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The Navy's top medical officer has directed the 63,000 sailors serving in Navy Medicine to be individually counseled about their responsibility to report online incidents that degrade those in uniform.

The Navy and Marine Corps have been rocked by an unfolding scandal involving online publication of explicit photos of female servicemembers without consent.

"This behavior won't be cured by email, mass stand downs, or all hands calls," Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Forrest Faison said in a message sent Friday to Navy Medicine commanders worldwide.

"We need to take a stand every time we witness disrespectful behavior — both in public and in private. This issue is especially critical to Navy Medicine. We are entrusted with the lives and well-being of those who have volunteered to defend our freedom," he said.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is inves-

tigating the sharing of nude photos of military women on the private Facebook page Marines United.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., said last week that NCIS had identified more than 700 active-duty Marines and 150 in the Reserve using the Marines United website. At least one other anonymous website includes dedicated pages for sharing pictures of female servicemembers, with several major Navy commands listed by members looking for such photos.

"As [Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson] has said, that kind of behavior is totally unacceptable," Faison said during an interview after an all-hands call Thursday in Hawaii.

"Female members are critically important and essential members of the Navy and Marine Corps team," he said. "Any sort of actions or behavior that degrades them is degrading to all members of the team, and it has no place on our team at all."

Nearly 23 percent of Navy corpsmen are women; they represent 40 percent of the Navy's medical department officers, he said.

burden of proof" on the Marine Corps to initiate such actions, he said, because "you will have knowingly violated clear guidance published by the commandant of the Marine Corps."

Administrative punishments vary in scale but have the potential to end a servicemember's military career.

It is likely the Marine Corps will use such administrative punishments against at least some Marines found to be involved in the ongoing nude-photo-sharing scandal, which is being investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, officials said.

The NCIS will share information it uncovers about Marines with the Marine Corps even if it does not charge them with a criminal offense, said Curtis Evans, an NCIS division chief.

Nonetheless, the NCIS does expect to seek felony-level charges against some individuals involved in the scandal, which initially began on the private Facebook page Marines United. Current and veteran male Marines allegedly shared a secret drive on the page containing hundreds of photos of female Marines without their consent.

The secret webpage was said to contain threats of rape and other harassing statements against the women, according to a March 4 report by the non-profit news agency The Center for Investigative Reporting and veterans' news website The War Horse that revealed the scandal. Before it was shut down, Marines United had some 30,000 members.

The investigation has expanded to other websites since it was launched in February, Evans told reporters at the Pentagon on Friday. He said about 20 women have come forward as victims, and investigators expect that number to rise.

tor. The social media policy had not previously included such an obligation.

Glynn said the official acknowledgements will aid the service in punishing Marines who choose to violate the policy, especially those actions that do

not amount to criminal activity.

Servicemembers could face a variety of administrative punishments through their commands if they are found to be involved in online misconduct, Glynn said. Signing the new policy "lessens the administrative

# Offering goodwill, US cultivates partnership in strategic Sri Lanka

BY ERIK SLAVIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka — The line began forming hours before sunrise at Kirinda Peripheral Hospital, in a rural, south coast town known mostly by the nation's big-city folk for its nearby elephant sanctuary.

The Sri Lankan, U.S. and Australian military teams expected about 400 patients to show up. By afternoon, there were well over 1,000.

Army medics, Navy nurses and dentists, Australian midwives and doctors of several specialties worked into the night amid the 90-degree heat and tropical humidity, handing out eyeglasses, checking ears and writing referrals for more serious health issues.

"It's cool just to help people," said Sgt. Jorge Laguna-Ramos, of the 62nd Medical Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. "They don't have much, and we have a little bit that we can do and help them. It's rewarding."

In this town and others nearby, nearly everyone lost a loved one or knows someone who did in the 2004 tsunami that ravaged much of South Asia. About 30,000 Sri Lankans died in the disaster, and the south coast of this island nation of 21 million bore some of the worst damage.

The tsunami's destruction

added to the hardship in Sri Lanka, which was still in the grip of a decadeslong civil war. The war ended in 2009, and since then Sri Lanka's economy has grown and its poverty levels have fallen sharply, according to the World Bank. Its stability and strategic location near one of the world's busiest shipping routes have drawn renewed interest from the region's powers — particularly from China, which has used ports here as military submarine docks.

Officials say the U.S. also has a critical interest in that shipping lane, and in developing stable, strategic relations with nations along the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region waterways.

So it is no coincidence that, following multiple port calls last year and a visit from a four-star admiral, the U.S. brought the Pacific Partnership exercise to Sri Lanka for the first time.

The humanitarian assistance and disaster relief-preparedness mission, now in its 12th year, began in response to the 2004 tsunami.

"If we leave the mission here with a stronger relationship and a sense of accomplishment on both sides, I think that is success," said Capt. Stanfield Chien, Pacific Partnership mission commander and deputy commodore of the San Diego-based Coastal Riverine

Group 1.

Sri Lankan servicemembers now have a better idea of what the U.S. can provide if another disaster strikes. They observed as Marines pumped hundreds of gallons of seawater from alongside the USNS Fall River at its pier in Hambantota's new port.

The water can be drinkable in 20 minutes, said Staff Sgt. Devario Graham, of the Okinawa-based 9th Engineer Support Battalion.

For Petty Officer 1st Class Amran Haji Omar, a Navy corpsman based at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., this mission may have meant more than for anyone else.

Haji Omar was born a Sri Lankan citizen in the capital of Colombo. He later joined the Navy and became an American citizen in 2012.

On this trip, Haji Omar exchanged knowledge with Sri Lankan medics on tactical combat casualty care. Unlike so many multinational exercises geared toward combat training, Pacific Partnership puts servicemembers like Haji Omar center-stage.

"People focus on the weapons and the high-dollar stuff, and the medical field can get left behind," he said. "I'm pretty proud to come here and help with that, because that's the field I chose."

# Romania, US hold Black Sea exercises

*Associated Press*

CAPU MIDIA, Romania — U.S. Marines and Romanian troops are taking part in joint exercises on the Black Sea coast.

In one maneuver Monday, they launched a Stinger missile at a surface-to-air firing range.

There are 450 Marines and 750 Romanian troops participating in the exercises to simulate defense of the Black Sea coastline and urban areas.

At one point, a Romanian soldier and a Marine shared a laugh while momentarily switching their weapons at the Capu Midia range.

The Spring Storm 17 exercises aim to increase interoperability of Romanian and U.S. troops in a region where NATO members are uneasy after Russia's interventions in Ukraine.

The USS Carter Hall, along with landing craft air cushion and assault amphibious vehicles, are in Romania as part of the training, which began Thursday and ends Wednesday.

# S. Korea says North making progress in weapons program

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — A rocket-engine test conducted by North Korea shows the communist state is making "meaningful progress" with its nuclear weapons program, a South Korean defense official said Monday.

North Korea said Sunday it successfully conducted a ground test of a new high-thrust engine

at its Sohae Satellite Launching Station. Leader Kim Jong Un guided and observed the test, calling it "a great event of historic significance" and declaring it represented "a new birth" of the country's rocket industry.

The quotes were typical of exaggerated rhetoric usually employed by Pyongyang and relayed via the state-run media.

But U.S. officials and experts have said recent activity by

North Korea, including more than two dozen ballistic missile tests since last year, show the country is making alarming progress toward its stated goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

South Korea's military acknowledged Monday that the test, which apparently was conducted on Saturday, showed the North was developing a more

sophisticated engine.

A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, Lee Jin-woo, told reporters that the model tested included a main engine connected to four auxiliary engines.

The test coincided with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's trip to Beijing, the final stop on his first official tour of the region, which included visits to South Korea and Japan.



# Comey confirms FBI looking at Russia, Trump associates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FBI Director James Comey confirmed Monday the bureau is investigating possible links and coordination between Russia and associates of President Donald Trump as part of a probe of Russian interference in last year's presidential election.

The extraordinary revelation, and the first public confirmation of an investigation that began last summer, came at the outset of Comey's opening statement during a hearing of the House Intelligence Committee.

He acknowledged the FBI does not ordinarily discuss ongoing investigations but said he'd been authorized to do so given the extreme public interest in this case.

The hearing, providing the most extensive public accounting of a matter that has dogged the Trump administration for its first two months, quickly broke along partisan lines. Democrats pressed for details on the status of the FBI's investigation, while Republicans repeatedly focused

on news coverage and possible improper disclosures of classified information developed through surveillance.

Under questioning from the committee's top Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff, Comey also publicly contradicted a series of tweets from Trump declaring the Republican candidate's phones had been tapped by President Barack Obama during the campaign.

"With respect to the president's tweets about alleged wiretapping directed at him by the prior administration, I have no information that supports those tweets, and we have looked carefully inside the FBI," Comey said. The same was true, he added, of the Justice Department.

Comey was the latest government official to reject Trump's claims, made without evidence, that Obama had wiretapped his New York skyscraper during the campaign. Rep. Devin Nunes, a California Republican and the committee's chairman, also rejected it earlier in the hearing.

Comey was testifying along with National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers, who also disputed allegations that surfaced last year that British intelligence services were involved in the wiretapping.

Trump took to Twitter before the hearing, accusing Democrats of making up allegations about his campaign associates' contact with Russia. He said Congress and the FBI should be going after media leaks and maybe even Hillary Clinton instead.

Trump also suggested, without evidence, that Clinton's campaign was in contact with Russia and had possibly thwarted a federal investigation. U.S. intelligence officials have not publicly raised the possibility of contacts between the Clintons and Moscow. Officials investigating the matter have said they believe Moscow had hacked into Democrats' computers in a bid to help Trump's election bid.

## VA exempts more vacant jobs from hiring freeze

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has added more than 60 job titles to the list of vacant positions exempt from the temporary federal hiring freeze enacted in January by President Donald Trump.

VA Secretary David Shulkin issued a memorandum last week on the additional exemptions, including some positions in the Veterans Benefits Administration, a move lawmakers have urged so more workers can be hired to help with veterans' claims.

"This announcement is critical for veterans waiting for answers on their disability claims, appeals and seeking care in places like Montana," Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said in a prepared statement.

Robert Synder, who held the role of VA secretary in the weeks before Shulkin's confirmation, exempted 94 job titles Jan. 27, just days after the 90-day freeze took effect Jan. 23. That exemption allowed the VA to continue filling thousands of open positions, Shulkin has told lawmakers.

Shulkin's memo increases freeze-exempt jobs to 156. It was unclear Monday how many more of the 45,000 vacancies could be filled based on Shulkin's memo. However, depending on how many vacancies there are for each job title, there could be hundreds, possibly thousands, of additional positions exempt from the hiring freeze.

Republicans and Democrats have voiced concern about how the hiring freeze would affect the VA.

The Government Accountability Office, a leading government watchdog, announced in February the VA would remain on its "high-risk" list, partly because of hiring difficulties in the department. The list comprises areas of government susceptible to waste and mismanagement and in need of more oversight.

## Senate hearings for high court pick begin

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bitter partisanship marked the start of Senate confirmation hearings for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick on Monday as Democrats angrily condemned Republicans for refusing to act on Barack Obama's nominee last year and Republicans accused Democrats of playing politics.

The nominee himself, Judge Neil Gorsuch of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, seemed almost an afterthought at times, sitting at the witness table, occasionally nodding or taking notes, as the 20 members of the Judiciary Committee took turns delivering lengthy opening statements.

Gorsuch will get his turn to speak at the end of the day Monday, when he will deliver his opening statement, and questioning will begin on Tuesday. Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, announced the panel would vote on Gorsuch's nomination April 3, with a vote on the Senate floor expected later that week.

It's all unfolding 13 months after Justice Antonin Scalia's death created a Supreme Court vacancy.

In his opening statement, Grassley alluded caustically to Democrats' complaints about judicial independence in the Trump era. Gorsuch told several lawmakers privately that he was disheartened by Trump's attacks on judges who ruled

against him over his immigration ban, but that didn't go far enough for Democrats.

While insisting they would evaluate Gorsuch fairly, several Democrats spoke angrily about the treatment of Judge Merrick Garland, Obama's Supreme Court nominee, who was denied so much as a hearing for 10 months by Senate Republicans.

Gorsuch, 49, is a respected, highly credentialed and conservative judge with a legal philosophy akin to Scalia's.

Several of the more liberal Senate Democrats have already announced plans to oppose Gorsuch and seek to block his nomination from coming to a final vote.

## Poll: Most young Americans don't see Trump as valid leader

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jermaine Anderson keeps going back to the same memory of Donald Trump, then a candidate for president, referring to some Mexican immigrants as rapists and murderers.

"You can't be saying that (if) you're the president," said Anderson, 21, a student from Coconut Creek, Fla.

That Trump is undeniably the nation's 45th president doesn't sit easily with young Americans like Anderson, who are the nation's increasingly diverse electorate of the future, according to a new poll. A majority of young adults — 57 percent — see Trump's presidency as illegitimate, including about three-quarters of blacks and large majorities of Latinos and Asians, the GenForward poll found.

GenForward is a poll of adults age 18 to 30 conducted by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

A slim majority of young whites in the poll, 53 percent, consider Trump a legitimate president, but even among that group 55 percent disapprove of the job he's doing, according to the survey.

Trump's legitimacy as president was questioned earlier this year by Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who said: "I think the Russians participated in helping this man get elected. And they helped destroy the candidacy of Hillary Clinton."

Trump routinely denies that and says he captured the presidency in large part by winning states such as Michigan and Wisconsin that Clinton may have taken for granted.

## LGBT community frets over hate crime prosecutions

Associated Press

LUCEDALE, Miss. — In the waning days of President Barack Obama's administration, supporters of LGBT rights hailed the first federal hate crime conviction for the killing of a transgender woman in Mississippi. With President Donald Trump now in office, they worry about the future of such prosecutions.

Trump's new attorney general, Jeff Sessions, opposed the 2009 hate crime law when he was a U.S. senator, saying it was overly broad and he thought it was unnecessary to include further protections for gay and transgender people. During his January confirmation hearing, Sessions told fellow senators they "can be sure I will enforce" the law, but some observers wonder about his commitment.

"We really might be looking at a new day under Sessions, and that has huge implications for how the federal government is going to treat violence that is absolutely rampant in the transgender community," said Jordan Woods, a University of Arkansas law professor who studies LGBT legal issues.

Sentencing in the Mississippi case is May 15. With a plea agreement in place, it's unlikely Sessions could change the strategy in this prosecution.

Joshua Vallum, an ex-convict and top-ranking gang member, faces life in prison without parole for killing Mercedes Williamson, 17, who was born male but transitioned to female. Prosecutors say Vallum, 29, and Williamson dated and that he killed his transgender girlfriend because he worried fellow gang members would discover their relationship and kill both of them because gay sex was strictly forbidden by the

Latin Kings gang.

Attorney Dru Levasseur, of the LGBT rights group Lambda Legal, said supporters had a frustratingly long wait for the first federal hate crime prosecution involving a transgender person.

"We waited for many years for the government to finally deploy that law," Levasseur said.

Hate crimes historically have been a priority for the FBI and the Justice Department. Investigations are typically initiated by the FBI and the attorney general doesn't need to sign off on each prosecution.

Six Democrats in Congress wrote to Sessions on March 10 to ask the Justice Department to investigate as hate crimes the deaths of seven transgender women this year, including another one in Mississippi.

The Justice Department declined comment.

Crimes motivated by a loathing of sexual orientation or race often will be prosecuted under state hate crime charges, but those vary. Mississippi, for example, doesn't include crimes against transgender people.

Usually, defendants also will face charges such as assault or murder, but people are more likely to be convicted in federal court and sometimes can face longer sentences.

In Vallum's case, he pleaded guilty to murder in state court and was sentenced to life in prison with a chance of parole. He could get life in prison without parole for his federal guilty plea.

"There's a lot of variability in the willingness of state and local jurisdictions to prosecute," said Rebecca Stotzer, a University of Hawaii professor who has studied violence on LGBT people.

## Report: Norway is the happiest country on the planet

Associated Press

If you want to go to your happy place, you need more than cash. A winter coat helps — and a sense of community.

A new report shows Norway is the happiest country on Earth, Americans are getting sadder, and it takes more than just money to be happy.

Norway vaulted to the top slot in the World Happiness Report despite the plummeting price of oil, a key part of its economy. Income in the U.S. has gone

up during the past decade, but happiness is declining.

The U.S. was 14th in the latest ranking, down from No. 13 last year, and over the years, Americans steadily have been rating themselves less happy.

"It's the human things that matter. If the riches make it harder to have frequent and trustworthy relationships between people, is it worth it?" asked John Helliwell, the lead author of the report and an economist at the University of

British Columbia in Canada (ranked No. 7). "The material can stand in the way of the human."

Studying happiness may seem frivolous, but serious academics have long been calling for more testing about people's emotional well-being, especially in the U.S. In 2013, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report recommending that federal statistics and surveys, which normally deal with income, spending, health and

housing, include a few extra questions on happiness because it would lead to better policy that affects people's lives.

Norway moved from No. 4 to the top spot in the report's rankings, which combine economic, health and polling data compiled by economists that are averaged over three years, from 2014 to 2016. Norway edged past previous champ Denmark, which fell to second. Iceland, Switzerland and Finland rounded out the top 5.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man uses toy lightsaber to repel knife attack

**SC** ROCK HILL — South Carolina police said a man defended himself with a toy lightsaber when his stepdaughter tried to slash him with kitchen knives.

The Herald in Rock Hill reported that the 17-year-old girl was charged with assault after the Thursday night altercation.

A police report says witnesses saw an argument and then the girl used two kitchen knives to try to slash the stepfather.

The report says he picked up a plastic toy lightsaber to defend himself.

## Mosques to hold Open Mosque Day

**MA** BOSTON — Sixteen mosques across Massachusetts will hold an Open Mosque Day to give the public a chance to meet Muslim neighbors.

On April 2, attendees will be able to tour a mosque, hear a brief introduction to Islam and witness a Muslim prayer service.

Wafaa Wahabi, of the American Islamic Center in Everett, said in a time of widespread misunderstanding about Islam, Muslims hope to show the communities they live in that they “live, pray and dream just like anyone else.”

## Woman fired in abuse case wants job back

**IA** DES MOINES — A former Des Moines school bus assistant fired after being accused of abusing a special-needs student says she should get her job back, and an arbitrator agrees. But the school district is fighting the effort to put her back on a bus.

The Des Moines Register reported that an arbitrator ordered in December that Ruby Taylor be reinstated. That came after her union filed a grievance on her behalf after her 2015 firing. The school district filed a petition last week seeking to have the arbitrator’s decision thrown out.

Taylor was fired after surveillance video from November 2015 showed her yelling at the crying student and pushing him against the bus wall, pressing his face into a window, after he repeatedly stood up.

## Police find man thought to have been abducted

**VA** CHESTERFIELD — Police in Virginia’s Chesterfield County said they found a man whose disappearance they have been investigating as an abduction.

Police initially said the man, Luis Conde-Saavedra, was last seen about 10 p.m. Friday and the circumstances of his disappearance were suspicious. Police said Conde-Saavedra was found Saturday morning suffering from non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said they are still looking for his vehicle, a 2011 Nissan Altima that is teal in color with a Virginia license plate VTR-2060. Police did not release any other details about the circumstances of Conde-Saavedra’s abduction.

## Church flier hinting at murder won’t be mailed

**MT** BILLINGS — The U.S. Postal Service is refusing to mail a promotional flier for a Billings church.

The flier resembles a sheet of yellow notepad paper and is printed with just a few words that look like they’ve been typed on a typewriter. It reads,

“We’re gonna have to kill Him,” a reference not to a mysterious murder plot but to the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Billings Gazette reported the Harvest Church created the flier to promote a series of sermons leading up to Easter.

Church officials said the Postal Service refused to mail the flier because of its threatening content. Postal Service officials said the flier failed to include a return address and didn’t meet several other formatting standards.

## Officials: Battle against screwworms is won

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said it will wind down its response against flesh-eating maggots that threaten small, endangered deer in a national wildlife refuge in the Florida Keys.

The checkpoint for New World screwworms in Key Largo closed Saturday after more than five months of aggressive response efforts and no new screwworm infestations found since Jan. 10.

New World screwworms can eat livestock and pets alive, and once cost the U.S. livestock industry millions of dollars every year. There hadn’t been a U.S. infestation in more than 30 years, until agriculture officials confirmed in September that the screwworm was killing the dog-sized Key deer.

## Officer loses job over database access

**NJ** PLAINFIELD — A former police officer has admitted he illegally used a department computer to get motor vehicle information that enabled a tow truck company to seize a vehicle.

Christopher Donovan left the

Plainfield police force when he pleaded guilty to computer data disclosure. He had served with the department for nine years.

Union County prosecutors said the co-owner of a towing company that has a contract with the city asked Donovan to identify the owner of an abandoned vehicle that the company wanted to seize in January 2015. Donovan used a police department computer to obtain the information from a confidential law enforcement database.

Prosecutors will recommend that Donovan receive a probation term.

## Bystander bitten by police dog sues city

**OH** AKRON — An Ohio woman bitten by a police dog that was chasing her trespassing neighbor is suing the city of Akron over alleged negligence by the dog’s handler.

The Akron Beacon Journal reported Deborah Callaway, 57, claims the police dog caused her pain and suffering after it bit her left leg and knee on July 4, 2015.

The incident began when Officer Michael Orrand’s cruiser was nearly struck by Callaway’s neighbor, who was riding a motorcycle in the wrong traffic lane.

The neighbor fled into Callaway’s apartment, and Orrand released his K-9 partner during the pursuit. The dog reportedly attacked both Callaway and her neighbor.

Police reports say Callaway was treated for “apparent minor injuries.”

A city spokeswoman declined to comment.

From wire reports

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# S. Carolina stuns Duke to reach Sweet 16

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — South Carolina is heading to Madison Square Garden — and not for the NIT.

A Gamecocks program known largely — and mocked often by some — for its back-to-back NIT championships in 2005 and 2006 is now heading to the world's most famous arena as part of the NCAA's Sweet 16. They are making their first appearance in the regional semifinals since the bracket expanded after an 88-81 victory Sunday night over No. 2 seed Duke in the East Regional.

And Sindarius Thornwell says he believes bigger things are ahead.

"We're not satisfied," he said. "We're in

it, so why not win it?"

The Gamecocks (24-10) seem capable of anything after this one.

Thornwell had 24 points, Chris Silva scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half and Duane Notice had 17 points, 14 in a 65-point second half, as South Carolina rallied from 10 points down for a second straight NCAA victory.

The 65 points were the most given up in a half by a Mike Krzyzewski-coached Duke team.

The Gamecocks shook off a 20-percent shooting first half for the win.

"I told the guys at halftime, someone's got to have the courage and make shots," South Carolina coach Frank Martin said.

When the horn sounded, South Caro-

lina players, coaches and staff rushed to the fans at Bon Secours Wellness Arena to celebrate — a crowd that included Houston Texans Pro Bowl defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, a former Gamecock.

Next up is the East Regional where South Carolina takes on third-seeded Baylor, an 82-78 winner over Southern Cal earlier Sunday.

Duke (28-9) was attempting to reach the round of 16 for the sixth time in eight seasons. The Blue Devils, though, could not surmount South Carolina's stifling defense. Leading scorer Luke Kennard had his second straight subpar shooting game, finishing 1-for-6 for 11 points before fouling out.

# Wolverines knock off 2-seed Louisville

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Moe Wagner gritted his teeth, pumped his fist and stuck out his mouthpiece to the crowd's delight Sunday.

A few minutes later, the tough German took a couple more bows — first on the baseline in front of Michigan's bench, then with the rest of his teammates near midcourt.

Suddenly, the often overlooked 6-foot-11 forward was the well-deserved center of attention.

Wagner scored a career high 26 points, made the basket that spurred Michigan's furious second-half rally and capped the day with a three-pointer to give the Wolverines the lead for good as they knocked off second-seeded Louisville 73-69 to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2014.

"He's got the mentality where he wants to make the play," said Derrick Walton Jr., who drove in for Michigan's final basket with 29 seconds left. "He just makes the right play at all times. He has the calls to make the big plays, so we feed off him because he's not afraid of anything."

Trailing 45-36 with 16:09 to play, Wagner made a layup that started a 17-6 run to give Michigan its first lead since the opening minutes of the game. When Wagner knocked down a three-

pointer with 6:39 to go to break a 55-55 tie, the Wolverines never trailed again.

**North Carolina 72, Arkansas 65:** Tar Heels players talked all year about their run to last year's NCAA championship game — that, as painful as the loss was, it prepared them for another Final Four push.

On Sunday at Greenville, S.C., down to a handful of possessions with its season suddenly in peril, North Carolina's experience saved it from a stunningly early exit.

Kennedy Meeks had 16 points and a huge tip-in with 44.2 seconds left, helping top-seeded UNC barely avoid a huge upset by rallying late to beat Arkansas in the second round of the NCAA Tournament's South Region.

**Oregon 75, Rhode Island 72:** At Sacramento, Calif., Tyler Dorsey hit a contested go-ahead three-pointer from the top of the arc with 38.4 seconds to play before E.C. Matthews airballed a long three in the waning moments trying to force overtime as the third-seeded Ducks rallied in the second half to beat the Rams and advance in the Midwest Regional.

Dorsey also tied the game with a three with 1:45 remaining on the way to 27 points before teammate Dillon Brooks took a charge on the other end

for Oregon (31-5).

**Kansas 90, Michigan State 70:** At Tulsa, Okla., Josh Jackson scored 14 of his 23 points in the second half to help the Jayhawks pull away late and reach the Sweet 16 for a second straight year with a win over the Spartans.

Frank Mason III added 20 points for the top-seeded Jayhawks (30-4), who have advanced to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament in nine of coach Bill Self's 14 seasons.

**Baylor 82, Southern California 78:** At Tulsa, Okla., Johnathan Motley had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the third-seeded Bears defeated the Trojans.

Terry Maston scored 19 points, King McClure added 17 and Manu Lecomte scored all 12 of his points in the final 5 minutes for the Bears (27-7), who advanced to play South Carolina in the Sweet 16.

**Kentucky 65, Wichita State 62:** At Indianapolis, Bam Adebayo timed it perfectly, slapping the shot away with his right hand less than a second before the buzzer sounded. For the 13th game in a row, The Wildcats' fabulous freshmen had their hands all over another win.

The youngest team in March Madness grew up in the closing minutes on Sunday and sent Wichita State to yet another

second-round heartbreak, 65-62 in the NCAA Tournament.

Kentucky (31-5) moved into the Sweet 16 for the seventh time in nine years. The Shockers (31-5) were wiping away tears after another crushing second-round loss.

Three years ago, Wichita State was 35-0 when it lost to Kentucky 78-76 in the second round, crestfallen after Fred Van Vleet's three-pointer missed at the buzzer.

**UCLA 79, Cincinnati 67:** Lonzo Ball scored 19 points and ignited UCLA's rally from a poor start with nine assists, lifting the third-seeded Bruins in Sacramento, Calif.

UCLA (31-4) had a hard time solving sixth-seeded Cincinnati's active defense in the first half, unable to get shots to drop or get out in transition. The Bruins found a new gear in the second, breaking out for dunks and dropping in strings of three-pointers to quickly push the lead to double digits.

The Bruins will face No. 2 seed Kentucky in the South Regional semifinals Friday in Memphis.

Cincinnati (30-6) had no real answer when the Bruins got rolling, falling short of their first Sweet 16 appearance since 2012. Jarron Cumberland had 15 points to lead the Bearcats.

# Newman ends 127-race winless streak

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — A big gamble in the desert heat ended a long victory drought for Ryan Newman.

When just about everybody else decided to take a tire-changing pit stop in the final few laps on Sunday, Newman figured he'd be going in with them.

His crew chief, Luke Lambert, thought otherwise.

It was a decision that earned Newman a victory in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race, ending his 127-race winless streak.

"Just a heck of a gutsy call by Luke Lambert," Newman said. "It's his first win as a crew chief in the cup series and I think making a gutsy call like that makes it that much more special for him."

While the leaders were in the pits, Newman

moved from seventh to first and for the final two laps held off Kyle Larson, the second-place finisher for the third straight race.

Kyle Busch, the leader for nearly all of the final stage of the race, was third on a day when the temperature soared to 97 degrees at Phoenix International Raceway.

Like nearly all the rest of the field, Larson and Busch went to the pits on the late caution caused when Joey Logano's car blew a right tire and slammed into the wall six laps from the finish.

Newman won his 18th Cup race but his first since the 2013 Brickyard 400. He gave Chevrolet its first victory of the season and ended a 112-race losing streak for Richard Childress Racing.

"I can't say enough about what it means," Newman said.

When the caution ended, two laps separated him from the win.

rated him from the win.

"You're on old tires. It's really easy to screw it up," Newman said. "You've got to get your tires cleaned off right, you've got to get a good launch, you've got to run through the gear box right, and then you've got to hold everybody off."

Once again, Logano's misfortune foiled Busch, who was leading up until that tire blew.

Last week Logano's car knocked Busch's into the wall on the final stretch in Las Vegas. That led Busch to storm down pit row and throw a punch at Logano, creating a scuffle with the crews and a meeting for the drivers with NASCAR officials on Friday.

Busch took the lead Sunday with a quick pit stop during a caution flag and led for 113 laps before heading to the pits after Logano's crash.

## Notre Dame survives scare by Purdue in OT

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Purdue used a 10-0 run to force overtime and had Notre Dame on the ropes until Marina Mabrey banked in a jumper from the free-throw line with the shot clock running down that sparked the Irish to an 88-82 victory in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday night.

"That's a prayer that got answered for us finally," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "We said a lot of prayers throughout that game. So we were sure happy that one went in."

The Boilermakers used a 10-0 run to tie the game at 78-78 and had a chance to take the lead in the closing seconds but couldn't get a shot off. Lindsay Allen opened overtime with a basket inside and after Marina made a steal, she hit the bank shot that gave the Irish an 82-78 lead.

"When people hit banks that usually aren't banks, you know that good things go for the other team most of the time," Purdue coach Sharon Versyp said. "We were right there. We still had opportunities. But we fell short."

Mabrey led with 21 points

and Arike Ogunbowale added 18 points, including making four points in the final nine seconds as No. 1 seed Notre Dame survived playing the second half without leading scorer Brianna Turner, who injured her left knee in the final minute of the first half and is scheduled to undergo an MRI on Monday.

**Notre Dame 64, Creighton 52:** Sydney Wiese scored 13 points and second-seeded Oregon State moved on to the Sweet 16.

Oregon State (31-4) will go on to face third-seeded Florida State in Stockton, Calif.

Fellow senior Gabriella Hanson also had 13 points for the Beavers, who are making a fourth consecutive appearance in the tournament. Last season the Beavers advanced to the Final Four before falling to eventual champion UConn.

### Lexington Regional

**Texas 84, N.C. State 80:** Brooke McCarty scored 23 points and No. 3-seed Texas got a put-back basket from Joyner Holmes with 4 seconds left to send the Longhorns to the Sweet 16 for the third year in a row.

Lashann Higgs had given

Texas a two-point lead when she made one free throw with 8 seconds left but missed the second. Holmes grabbed the rebound, missed her first shot, grabbed the rebound then made the second to seal the win. Holmes finished with 16 points and nine rebounds.

**Ohio State 82, Kentucky 68:** Tori McCoy scored six straight points midway through the fourth quarter to help Ohio State withstand Kentucky's furious rally from a 19-point second-half deficit and escape.

The fourth-seeded Wildcats trailed 50-31 early in third but closed to 65-64 with 6:04 remaining. The fifth-seeded Buckeyes answered with eight straight points behind McCoy.

### Bridgeport Regional

**Maryland 83, West Virginia 56:** Destiny Slocum nailed a 70-foot shot to cap a pivotal second quarter for host Maryland.

Brionna Jones had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Slocum scored 21 and Shatori Walker-Kimbrough added 19 for third-seeded Maryland (32-3)

### Oklahoma City Regional

**Mississippi St 92, DePaul 71:** Blair Schaefer scored 18

points, Jazzmun Holmes added 14 and host Mississippi State beat DePaul.

Second-seeded Mississippi State used a 14-0 run in the middle of the third quarter to turn a tight game into a 61-43 advantage.

### Stockton Region

**South Carolina 71, Arizona State 68:** A'ja Wilson scored 21 points, including the put back that gave South Carolina the lead for good and the free throws that sealed it, to help the No. 1 seed host Gamecocks beat eight-seed Arizona State.

Sophie Bruner missed a heavily contested three-pointer at the buzzer that would have tied it.

Brunner led Arizona State with 20 points and nine rebounds.

**Florida State 77, Missouri 65:** Shakayla Thomas scored 20 points and third-seeded host Florida State advanced to the Sweet 16 for the third straight season.

Thomas, who also had 11 rebounds, was one of four Seminoles in double figures. Brittany Brown added 16 points while Imani Wright and Leticia Romero each scored 14.



# Lillard's 49 help lead Blazers by Heat

Associated Press

MIAMI — Damian Lillard scored a season-high 49 points, including 28 after halftime, as the Portland Trail Blazers continued their playoff push by beating the Miami Heat 115-104 on Sunday night.

Lillard tied a career high with nine three-pointers. He shot 14-for-21 from the field, 9-for-12 from three-point range and made all 12 of his free throws.

He had 16 points after checking in for the final time with 8:26 left, sparking a game-ending 28-18 run.

"I felt good, so in my mind I was like 'When I get back in the game, I'm just going to take the game over,'" Lillard said. "That's the kind of game I felt I had going."

Portland (32-37) moved within a game of idle Denver for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference.

"I love the effort that we're playing with," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "Damian

Lillard's performance goes without saying. But it was a really good team effort and a great end to the road trip."

"That was one incredible performance," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "There's less than five players in this league that you have to do something different on your pick-and-roll coverage. Lillard obviously is one of those guys. Once he got going ... he was outstanding."

James Johnson scored 24 points for Miami, which lost for just the second time in its last 17 home games.

**Cavaliers 125, Lakers 120:** Kyrie Irving scored 46 points and LeBron James added 34 as visiting Cleveland had to rally from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to edge Los Angeles.

James, Irving and Kevin Love all sat out the blowout loss to the Clippers on Saturday. That night off left them with the energy to lead a 43-point fourth quarter.

**Spurs 118, Kings 102:** Pau Gasol scored 22 points and LaMarcus Aldridge

added 18 as host San Antonio rolled past Sacramento to end a two-game losing streak.

**Raptors 116, Pacers 91:** DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points in three quarters as all five Toronto starters were in double figures against visiting Indiana.

**Mavericks 111, Nets 104:** Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and nine rebounds as Dallas beat host Brooklyn.

**76ers 105, Celtics 99:** Robert Covington made the go-ahead three-pointer late in the fourth quarter to lift Philadelphia over visiting Boston.

**Pistons 112, Suns 95:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 23 points as host Detroit overcame a sluggish performance for the much of the game, finally pulling away from short-handed Phoenix.

**Pelicans 123, Timberwolves 109:** Anthony Davis had 28 points and 12 rebounds to lead New Orleans past visiting Minnesota.

# Blackhawks rally past Avalanche for win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jonathan Toews scored twice and Richard Panik and Artemi Panarin each had one in a span of 3:02 in the third period to erase Colorado's two-goal lead and rally the Chicago Blackhawks past the Avalanche 6-3 on Sunday night for their fifth straight win.

Patrick Kane scored his team-leading 32nd goal and Marcus Kruger added an empty-netter for Chicago, which won for the 17th time in its past 20 games to pull seven points ahead of slumping second-place Minnesota in the Central Division. The Wild dropped their fifth straight, 5-4 to Winnipeg on Sunday.

With Chicago trailing 3-1, Toews tipped in Kane's bouncing shot at 10:17 of the third period to cut it to 3-2. The goal withstood a video review that showed Toews may have been offside.

"Once we got that first [goal], things just started clicking for us," said Toews, who scored his 19th and 20th goals to give him 20 or more in each of his 10 NHL seasons. "I think we

all collectively made that decision, that we had to play better and were looking for that first bounce, and maybe we could put some pressure on them."

Panik rifled in a loose puck from the slot 17 seconds later to tie it at 3. Panarin put Chicago ahead 4-3 just 17 seconds after that.

The victory, combined with Los Angeles' 5-2 loss at Calgary on Sunday night, clinched Chicago's ninth straight playoff berth.

**Jets 5, Wild 4:** Josh Morrissey one-timed in a goal with 7:17 left to end Minnesota's rally from four goals down and give host Winnipeg a chaotic victory.

It was Minnesota's fifth straight loss. The Wild have only two wins in their past 10 games.

**Penguins 4, Panthers 0:** Sidney Crosby again picked up the slack with Evgeni Malkin out, getting his 10th career hat trick to lead host Pittsburgh past Florida.

Crosby's natural hat trick came in a span of 11 minutes between the second and the

third period, pushing his goal total to an NHL-high 40 and moving him into a tie with Edmonton's Conner McDavid for the league scoring lead with 80 points.

**Blue Jackets 4, Devils 1:** Lukas Sedlak and Brandon Dubinsky scored on penalty shots and visiting Columbus clinched its third playoff berth in franchise history with a victory over New Jersey.

This was only the third time in NHL history that a team scored twice in a game on penalty shots. Thomas Gradin and Ivan Hlinka of Vancouver did it in 1982, and Ryane Clowe and Joe Thornton of San Jose converted in 2009.

The win was the fourth straight for the Blue Jackets, gave them their first 100-point season and moved them into a tie with Washington for the NHL's best record with 11 games left.

**Flames 5, Kings 2:** Line-mates Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan had a goal and two assists each to lead host Calgary over Los Angeles.

Michael Stone, Mark Gior-

dano and Kris Versteeg also scored for the Flames, and Brian Elliott made 19 saves for his 11th straight win to tie a club record set by Mike Vernon in the 1988-89 season.

The Flames moved into third in the Pacific Division past the Edmonton Oilers.

**Flyers 4, Hurricanes 3:** Travis Konecny tied it with 42.9 seconds left in the third period and Brayden Schenn scored 38 seconds into overtime, lifting host Philadelphia over Carolina.

Jordan Staal scored a power-play goal with 8:11 left in the third to put Carolina ahead 3-2, but Konecny scored with Flyers goalie Steve Mason on the bench for an extra attacker, then Schenn ended it by finishing a rebound from close range.

**Canadiens 4, Senators 1:** Carey Price made 30 saves for his 33rd win of the season and host Montreal defeated Ottawa to sweep the home-and-home series.

Tomas Plekanec, Jordie Benn, Paul Byron and Nathan Beaulieu scored for the Canadiens.