

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US, Turkey on collision course in race to Raqqa

*The Washington Post*

ANKARA, Turkey — The United States and Turkey are on a collision course in Raqqa, as Turkish officials warn that Washington's reliance on Kurdish forces to liberate the Islamic State group's de facto capital would severely damage its relationship with Ankara.

The current U.S. plan to advance on Raqqa depends heavily on the People's Protection Units, or YPG, a Syrian Kurdish militia that Washington has supported with airstrikes and provided with military equipment. But Turkish officials accuse the group of being just another name for the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, a group listed as a terrorist organization by Washington and Ankara that has waged a decadeslong guerrilla war against Turkey. They say the PKK has used YPG-held territory in Syria — territory gained in part with the backing of the United States — to train their fighters and plan attacks against Turkey.

"If [the United States] insists on carrying on this operation with terror organizations, our relations will be harmed — that is clear," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told a group of visiting journalists this month. "Because it will show that they value terror organizations more than us."

Turkish officials repeatedly declined to specify the steps they could take if Washington maintains its alliance with the YPG. But if Ankara wanted to, it could throw a sizable wrench in U.S. strategy in the region — for example, by cutting off access to air bases in southern Turkey, from which the United States launches airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, or by deepening its cooperation with Russia.

President Donald Trump's administration is currently en-

gaged in an intense debate over whether to continue supporting Kurdish forces' advance on Raqqa or shift U.S. support to Turkey and its allies. Top American commanders view the Kurds as superior fighters and the only viable option for ousting the Islamic State. They are skeptical of Turkey's competing proposal to exclude the Kurds altogether and let Turkish troops and an Ankara-backed Syrian Arab force retake the Islamic State group stronghold, with U.S. help.

Even as the Trump administration weighs its options, the U.S. military is ramping up for the assault, drawing up plans to deploy up to 1,000 more American soldiers to Syria in support of the YPG and allied forces, known collectively as the Syrian Democratic Forces, which have advanced to within mere miles of the city. Pentagon officials assess that the roughly 27,000 Kurds in the 50,000-strong SDF are the more effective, experienced fighters.

"The SDF is the partner force most capable of acting swiftly to isolate Raqqa," said Defense Department spokesman Eric Pahon.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on their view of the potential diplomatic collision with Turkey.

Pahon said a majority of the SDF force currently isolating Raqqa are Syrian Arab fighters, including a significant contingent that hail from the area around the city. Nevertheless, he said, it's not clear which group will actually liberate the Islamic State stronghold.

"While that isolation is underway, we will continue to plan for the subsequent phases with our allies and partners, including Turkey," he said. "There have been no decisions made on what force will be used to liberate Raqqa."

## Army: Additional GIs will fill gaps in combat readiness

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army will use an influx of thousands of new soldiers in the coming months to fill gaps in combat readiness at tactical units across the force, the service's top general said Tuesday.

"The biggest drag on Army readiness right now is personnel," Gen. Mark Milley, the Army chief of staff, said at the Future of War Conference in Washington. "We have units out there — many, many units — that have significant holes in their personnel structure, and we need to fill those holes in order to make the ... Army ready for whatever the president needs it to do, whatever the nation needs it to do."

Until recently, the Army had been on track to draw down its force to 460,000 active-duty troops by the end of September, and to 450,000 in 2018. Last week, the Army announced it would instead grow from its force size of about 466,000 to 476,000 by Sept. 30. The service will also add about 12,000 soldiers to its reserve components for a total Army of about 1,018,000 soldiers.

The troop increases were mandated in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, but the Army only recently began expanding its force because it was unclear it would receive the necessary funding while operating on a continuing resolution of its 2016 budget.

The \$30 billion supplemental budget that President Donald

Trump proposed last week to fund the Defense Department through September included funding that would allow the service to pay for increased force strength into 2018.

While Trump's supplemental budget request, which includes \$8.5 billion for the Army, must be approved by Congress, Republican leaders have expressed support for expanding the size of the military. The service already has begun increasing its recruiting goals to achieve the expansion quickly, Milley said, indicating the Army was confident it would receive the funding it requires.

At its height in 2011, the Army boasted nearly 570,000 active-duty troops, but budget constraints and the drawdown of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan forced the service to downsize. Nonetheless, soldiers have remained busy across the world. Army brigades regularly deploy to Eastern Europe, Kuwait and South Korea, and the United States has regularly increased its troop strength in Iraq and Syria to support the fight against the Islamic State group. Top military officials in recent months have signaled more American soldiers could be needed in Afghanistan.

Those missions — and others in dozens of additional countries — have left many units with deficiencies in soldiers who maintain equipment and front-line fighters, Milley said. "We have significant readiness issues, and the biggest one is personnel, and we are going to fill those holes," he said.



# Iraqi PM: Trump to accelerate support

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Emerging from his first meeting with President Donald Trump, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Monday he was assured the U.S. will accelerate its support for his country's struggle against the Islamic State group.

"I think they are prepared to do more" than the administration of President Barack Obama, he said. Obama was reluctant to commit large numbers of U.S. troops to combatting the Islamic State group in Iraq, but his approach, which relied on training and supporting local forces, has succeeded in pushing the militants out of much of the territory they once held.

Speaking at a Washington think tank shortly after his White House visit, al-Abadi said he got the impression that the Trump administration will take

a more aggressive approach, although he did not say what that might entail.

"I think this administration wants to be more engaged in fighting terrorism," he said. "I sense a difference in terms of being head-to-head with terrorism." He added, however, that military force is not necessarily the most effective tool. "There are better ways for defeating terrorism."

Al-Abadi appeared at the U.S. Institute of Peace, a federally funded think tank. The prime minister spoke optimistically of completing the recapture of Iraqi lands still held by the Islamic State group. He said government forces, working effectively with Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, and supported by American airpower and military advisers, are on the brink of fully liberating Mosul, the northern city that has been

the Islamic State group's main Iraqi stronghold since 2014.

He spoke later at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce dinner with U.S. business executives, along with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

In a readout of the pair's meeting, the White House said the United States and Iraq "stand fully committed to a comprehensive partnership, rooted in mutual respect" and agreed to "pursue a long-term partnership to decisively root out terrorism from Iraq and strengthen the Iraqi military and other key institutions."

Trump greeted al-Abadi in the Oval Office shortly after FBI Director James Comey said the FBI and Justice Department have no information to substantiate Trump's claims that Obama wiretapped him before the election. As reporters were leaving, al-Abadi leaned

over to Trump and said, jokingly, "We have nothing to do with the wiretap."

In his think tank appearance later, al-Abadi again struck a humorous note at Trump's expense. After expressing hope that Iraq will succeed in ending decades of internal conflict, he said his country should be wary of partitioning areas along ethnic or religious lines as some have recommended.

"We have to build bridges with others and work with others to be more secure," he said. "Otherwise, what do you do? You build walls? What do you do?" He then grinned widely at the allusion — intended or not — to Trump's plan to erect a wall on the border with Mexico.

Later this week, al-Abadi will be attending a 68-nation meeting to discuss the coalition against the Islamic State group.

## Navy ship visits Myanmar

BY TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

A port call to Myanmar this week by the USNS Fall River marks the first time a Navy ship has visited the Southeast Asian nation since World War II.

The expeditionary fast transport vessel arrived in Yangon, the country's largest city and former capital, on Tuesday.

Marines, sailors, soldiers and civilian crewmembers arrived from Sri Lanka and will be in Myanmar nearly a week before heading to Malaysia, where they will resume the annual Pacific Partnership humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief planning mission.

Relations between the U.S. and Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, have warmed in recent years as the country emerges from decades of military rule.

Myanmar held free elections in 2015, and the Obama administration lifted sanctions last October. Activists still ac-

cuse the government of human rights abuses against ethnic minorities such as the Rohingya, a Muslim-minority group in the majority Buddhist nation.

The Fall River's crew will tour Yangon and engage with the Myanmar navy. The 7th Fleet band will perform at the U.S. Embassy.

The ship is carrying roughly 200 troops and civilians, including personnel from the U.S., Australia, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom for the mission.

"We are honored to sail the USNS Fall River and the international Pacific Partnership mission of friendship and disaster preparedness into Yangon as guests of the people of Myanmar," said Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson, commander of Task Force 73, in a statement. "We thank the Myanmar government, people and Navy for hosting this historic visit and we look forward to building a lasting friendship with the people of Myanmar."

## Tillerson will skip NATO talks in Brussels

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will skip high-level NATO talks in Brussels next month in favor of remaining in the U.S. for a visit by China's president and then traveling to Moscow.

Tillerson's decision to forgo attending NATO's April 6-7 foreign ministers meeting, announced by the State Department, marks an unusual breach of precedent for America's top diplomat. Skipping the talks in favor of meeting with rivals China and Russia also could fuel existing concerns among some allies that the administration's desire for closer ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin could chip at NATO solidarity.

Reuters, citing unnamed sources, said NATO even of-

fered to change the meeting dates to accommodate Tillerson, but that the State Department rejected the offer. Instead, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Tom Shannon will represent the United States at the NATO meeting.

The decision to bypass the NATO talks emerged on the same day FBI Director James Comey testified before a House committee during which he said law enforcement was investigating potential ties between Moscow and Trump associates.

Although Tillerson is expected to miss the April talks in Brussels, he will meet Wednesday with foreign ministers who are attending a meeting in Washington of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also will be in attendance.

## Report: Vets crisis calls still rerouted

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Crisis Line continued to send approximately 30 percent of its calls to backup centers near the end of 2016, according to an internal watchdog report released Monday that outlined widespread problems with the suicide hotline.

The Department of Veterans Affairs established the Veterans Crisis Line as a suicide-prevention effort in 2007 and estimated 10 percent of its calls would be routed to a backup call center — where calls are sent if all phone lines are busy. But from April through November of last year, the amount of calls sent to backup centers hovered at about 30 percent, even after a second call center was opened in Atlanta in October, according to a report from the VA inspector general's office.

Calls sent to some backup centers, which are not run by the VA, are placed in a queue, leading to some waiting for a response or hanging up and trying to call back. The VA doesn't track how long veterans wait in a queue, the report states.

The findings follow internal emails sent in September by the hotline's former director, Greg Hughes, that stated 35 percent to 40 percent of calls were rolling over to backup centers. The reports — and earlier findings from the inspector general that 23 callers were sent to a voice-mail system — prompted a new law requiring the VA to submit improvement plans this year.

"It's unacceptable that the issues with the Veterans Crisis Line have still not been addressed," Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said in a prepared statement. "I am extremely frustrated by the OIG's findings and will continue to conduct oversight."

Poonam Alaigh, the VA's acting undersecretary for health, wrote in response to the report that the hotline "is the strongest it's ever been." She said the VA would follow up on recommendations made in the report.

# US bars electronic carry-ons on some international flights

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government, citing unspecified threats, is barring passengers on nonstop, U.S.-bound flights from eight mostly Middle Eastern and North African countries from bringing laptops, tablets, electronic games and other devices on board in carry-on bags.

Passengers flying to the United States from 10 airports will be allowed only cellphones and smartphones in the passenger cabins, senior Trump administration officials said. Larger electronic items must be checked.

The rules took effect Tuesday

morning, and airlines will have until 3 a.m. EDT on Saturday to implement them or face being barred from flying to the United States, the officials said.

They said the decision was prompted by "evaluated intelligence" about ongoing potential threats to airplanes bound for the United States. The officials would not discuss the timing of the intelligence or say whether any particular terrorist group is thought to be planning an attack.

The Trump administration officials briefed reporters on condition that they not be identified publicly. That was despite President Donald Trump's repeated insistence that any-

mous sources should not be trusted.

The electronics ban affects flights from international airports in Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City; Cairo; Istanbul; Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Casablanca, Morocco; Doha, Qatar; and Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. About 50 flights a day, all on foreign carriers, will be impacted. The officials said no U.S.-based airlines have nonstop flights from those cities to the United States.

Details of the ban were first disclosed by Royal Jordanian and the official news agency of Saudi Arabia.

## Drone-zapping laser ready for Army tests

*The Washington Post*

Lockheed Martin said Thursday it has finished a 60-kilowatt laser system for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and is preparing to hand it over to the Army for further testing. In initial tests, the company achieved 58 kilowatts of power but expects its laser to reach its full potential by the time of its delivery in the next few months.

The laser is what the company calls a "combined fiber" laser beam, bringing together individual lasers to form a single, stronger beam. Lockheed has been testing it at an installation in Bothell, Wash., and plans to ship it to an Army installation in Huntsville, Ala., in the next few months.

"We're really at the dawn of an era of the utility of laser weapons," said Robert Afzal, senior fellow for laser and sensor systems at Lockheed Martin. The Army's specialized military vehicles "can now carry something which is small enough and powerful enough for what we believe will be militarily useful."

Multiple military agencies and defense companies have been working on laser weapon capabilities. In 2014, Boeing published a video of its 10-kilowatt laser destroying a mortar in flight.

Proponents say lasers could be cheaper than traditional munitions systems because they don't require expensive projectiles and they don't need to be reloaded. That could make the system useful in taking down airborne adversaries, such as off-the-shelf drones.

The idea of an off-the-shelf drone fleet commanded by a non-state entity presents new challenges for a global military establishment that has focused for centuries on war with other governments.

For example, Gen. David Perkins said last week that a U.S. ally had taken down an adversary's off-the-shelf quad-copter — which can be purchased online for a few hundred dollars — with a multimillion-dollar Patriot missile.

Mark Gunzinger, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments,

said: "That's \$3 million to shoot down a three-or-four-hundred-dollar drone.... What if you could do that with a beam of light that costs a buck?"

More powerful projectiles such as Hellfire missiles are also more likely to cause collateral damage, making them less practical in certain situations. Proponents say laser weaponry could be more precise and ultimately more effective against small airborne targets.

Lasers "hit targets at the speed of light, they cost almost nothing per shot, and they have an almost unlimited number of times they can be used," said Loren Thompson, chief operating officer of the nonprofit Lexington Institute, which receives funding from defense firms including Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

The Navy has already deployed a ship-based laser that it says is ready for combat use, but the Army faces a unique set of challenges. To protect American soldiers from low-budget drone fleets, the Army would need a highly mobile laser that can sit on the back of a truck.



# Gorsuch: No man above the law

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch said Tuesday that “no man is above the law” when pressed on whether President Donald Trump could reinstitute torture as a U.S. interrogation method.

The exchange with Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina came on Day Two of Gorsuch’s confirmation hearing to fill the 13-month vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Graham suggested Trump might be watching the hearing, and asked Gorsuch what would happen if the president tried to reinstate waterboarding, the now-banned torture technique that Trump embraced on the campaign trail. Graham suggested that Trump “might get impeached” if he tried to do so.

“Senator, the impeachment power belongs to this body,” Gorsuch said, but when Graham followed up on whether Trump could be subject to prosecution, Gorsuch said: “No man is above the law, no man.”

It was one of several charged exchanges Tuesday as Gorsuch mostly batted away Democrats’ efforts to get him to reveal his views on abortion, guns and other controversial issues, insisting he keeps “an open mind

for the entire process” when he issues rulings. He answered friendly questions from majority Republicans in the same way as they tried to help him highlight his neutrality in face of Democratic attempts to link him to Trump, who nominated him.

Graham asked Gorsuch whether Trump had asked him to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the case establishing a right to abortion, and what he would have done had Trump asked him to do so.

“Senator, I would have walked out the door,” Gorsuch replied. “That’s not what judges do.”

“My personal views, I tell you, Mr. Chairman, are over here. I leave those at home,” Gorsuch said in response to a question from Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa. And he gave versions of that same response numerous times to other senators.

Questioned by Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California about the Supreme Court’s 2008 ruling affirming the right of people to keep guns in their homes for self-defense — *District of Columbia v. Heller* — Gorsuch said, “Whatever is in *Heller* is the law and I follow the law. ... It’s not a matter

of agreeing or disagreeing.”

Gorsuch said he has not been asked since his nomination to make promises about future rulings.

Republicans are unanimously supporting Gorsuch, and they asked supportive questions as he appeared for a second day before the committee. But Democrats made clear on the first day that they were in no mood to “rubber stamp a nominee selected by extreme interest groups and nominated by a president who lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes,” as Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont put it.

Democrats remain incensed over how Republicans treated former President Barack Obama’s nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, who was denied even a hearing last year after Antonin Scalia’s death created an opening on the high court. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell insisted that since a presidential campaign was underway it was the right of the next president to fill the opening, and his gamble paid off when Trump won the election and nominated Gorsuch, a 49-year-old judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

## Trump warns GOP of costs of rejecting health care bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned House Republicans they could lose their seats in next year’s midterm elections if they failed to back the GOP health care overhaul and fulfill a long-promised goal to undo former President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act.

In a rare trip to the Capitol, the president met behind closed doors with rank-and-file Republicans, some wavering on the legislation two days before a climactic vote. Top House Republicans unveiled revisions to their bill Monday night in hopes of nailing down support. Trump’s message to Republicans: “If you don’t pass the bill, there could be political costs,” said Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C.

At a rally Monday night in Louisville, Ky., Trump underscored what he called “the crucial House vote.”

Trump’s closed-door meeting with House Republicans was coming as party leaders released 43 pages worth of changes to a bill whose prospects remain dicey. Their proposals were largely aimed at addressing dissent that their measure would leave many older people with higher costs.

Included was an unusual approach: language paving the way for the Senate, if it chooses, to make the bill’s tax credit more generous for people aged 50 to 64. Details in the documents were initially unclear, but one GOP lawmaker and an aide said the plan sets aside \$85 billion over 10 years for that purpose.

The leaders’ proposals would accelerate the repeal of tax increases Obama imposed on higher earners, the medical industry and others to this year instead of 2018. Also, it would be easier for some people to deduct medical expenses from their taxes.

Older and disabled Medicaid beneficiaries would get larger benefits. But it would curb future growth of the overall Medicaid program.

## Labs remain most popular breed

Associated Press

NEW YORK — America’s most popular dog breed is taking yet another victory Lab.

Labrador retrievers extended their record run last year in the top spot, leading the American Kennel Club’s new rankings Tuesday for a 26th straight year. But Rottweilers are enjoying renewed favor, and some other dogs have been striding up the popularity ladder. A closer look at some of the rungs:

### The Top 10

In 2013, Labs grabbed the record for the longest stretch

at No. 1, and they haven’t let go. Affable, relatively easy to train and eager to please, they’re popular partly because “you don’t have to be an expert dog owner to own a Lab,” says AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo.

The rest of the top 10, in order: German shepherds, golden retrievers, bulldogs, beagles, French bulldogs, poodles, Rottweilers, Yorkshire terriers and boxers.

### Rottweilers’ rise

At No. 8, the Rottweiler posted its highest ranking in almost 20 years. Renowned for their loyalty, confidence and protective instincts, Rotties were

America’s second-most-popular dog in 1997 but faded to 17th within a decade, as some small breeds surged for a time. But Rottweilers muscled their way back into the top 10 in 2015.

### Movers and shakers

Several breeds in the top 10 have been there for a decade or more, but other breeds have made sizable moves in the past decade: Siberian huskies, up from 25th to 12th; Great Danes, from 24th to 14th; and Australian shepherds, from 34th to 16th.

The only breed to rank in the top 10 every decade since the AKC’s 1880s founding? The beagle.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Drive-thru DUI results in felony, not fast food

**DE** DOVER — Officials say a Delaware man was charged with driving under the influence after he allegedly was found passed out in the drive-thru lane of a McDonald's restaurant.

Authorities arrested Octavio Lopez-Hernandez, 21, around 1 a.m. Saturday after police were called to the restaurant.

Lopez-Hernandez was taken into custody without incident and charged with third offense DUI, a felony.

## Boy fits in washer but then can't get out

**TX** PLANO — A 13-year-old suburban Dallas boy playing around at home with some friends decided to see if he could fit in a washing machine.

Turns out he could.

But then he couldn't get out.

His parents wound up calling firefighters in Plano. Fire department spokeswoman Peggy Harrell told The Dallas Morning News firefighters were able to remove the top from the washer and pull out the boy. He wasn't hurt.

The fire department, in a tweet about the Saturday rescue, calls it "extreme #springcleaning."

## Police track 30 ATVs, motorcycles on bridge

**CA** OAKLAND — California Highway Patrol officers said the agency tracked a group of more than 30 all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and motorcycles over the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge and discovered that they were harassing other drivers.

The East Bay Times reported that the group's members fled

after CHP officers tried to stop them Sunday evening.

The pilot of the agency's spotter plane followed the main group of riders and directed CHP officers to a smaller group. When officers surrounded the group, one motorcyclist fled but was later stopped.

Authorities also seized several off-road vehicles and motorcycles.

## Police: Suspect found on hood of moving car

**VT** BERLIN — Vermont police responding to a report of a crime in progress found their suspect — on the hood of a moving vehicle.

The Berlin Police Department said Michael Perry, 29, tried to get inside several homes before his failed attempt late Saturday to commandeer a car occupied by a group of teenage girls.

Sgt. Chad Bassette said that the teenagers locked the doors and drove off with Perry on the hood. He said the driver tried unsuccessfully to shake Perry off as he tried to smash the windshield, showering the teens with glass.

Perry, a transient from Barre, faces multiple charges including assault, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and possession of heroin.

## Woman sends money, never receives pups

**MS** GREENWOOD — Police said a Mississippi woman wired \$530 to Ohio to buy two Pomeranian puppies. She lost her money and never received her furry bundles of joy.

The Greenwood Commonwealth reported the woman found the puppy offer on Facebook and used Western Union to send the money to two people she had never met in Colum-

bus. Greenwood Police Chief Ray Moore said the first payment for \$260 was sent March 6 to a person named Jamara Marlin. The second payment of \$270 was sent March 7 to a Sebastian Jordan. Both transfers were picked up.

## Deer rescued after hours on frozen pond

**NJ** ROXBURY — Crews rescued a deer that was stuck in a frozen pond in New Jersey for nearly a day.

The deer was pulled from the water in Roxbury shortly after 10 a.m. Sunday. But the animal initially struggled to walk on its own and it wasn't immediately known if it had suffered any injuries.

The rescue came shortly after an amphibious land boat that crews were using to get near the deer started taking on water, forcing the rescuers into the pond's cold waters. But officials said none of them were injured.

The deer had gotten stuck about 60 yards off shore on Saturday morning.

## Dormant scholarship fund worth \$2M found

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Modest college scholarships are being offered to high school students thanks to the surprise discovery of a long dormant, nearly \$2 million fund.

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza announced that his administration was reviving the Edward Hinkling Bradford Scholarship.

The fund had been established in 1974 to help public school students pay for books, fees and other college expenses not typically covered by scholarships. Students who demonstrate financial need can qualify for a grant worth \$750.

The Providence Journal said

records show Bradford left \$112,000 to the city. Four students received scholarships annually for a time, but the funds haven't been issued in about 10 years.

## Driver tries to drive with three wheels

**NH** CANTERBURY — Police say a New Hampshire man arrested for drunken driving kept motor-ing along even after one of the wheels fell off his box truck.

The Concord Monitor reported that police believe Roy Hubble of Belmont lost one of his truck's wheels after striking a granite post in Concord, across from the state prison.

Police were getting updates from motorists following him as he drove onto Interstate 93. He was charged with operating under the influence of alcohol when he exited in Canterbury.

## Driver crashes into building after chase

**MA** SAUGUS — A Massachusetts man was arrested after police say he crashed a rental truck into a police cruiser and auto body shop as police were chasing him.

Saugus police said they began chasing a U-Haul early Sunday morning in connection with a sandwich shop break-in. The truck traveled into Lynn and back into Saugus before going into Revere, where it struck a Revere police cruiser. An officer who was outside the cruiser wasn't hurt.

The truck then crashed into the auto body shop and caught fire.

Authorities charged Robert Silvia, 50, of Cambridge with several crimes including negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding and breaking and entering.

From wire reports

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# Quinnipiac women surprise 4-seed Miami

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The long shots kept making long shots.

And the Sweet 16 is Quinnipiac's reward.

Morgan Manz scored 22 points and made six three-pointers, Aryn McClure added 15 and 12th-seeded Quinnipiac stunned fourth-seeded Miami 85-78 in a second-round NCAA Tournament game Monday night. Quinnipiac (29-6) next heads to Stockton, Calif., and plays top-seeded South Carolina on Saturday, now just two games from the Final Four.

"Just a great game," Quinnipiac coach Tricia Fabbri said. "Great game, I'm sure, to watch."

Sarah Shewan and Paula Strautmane each scored 11 for the Bobcats, who made a season-best 15 three-pointers and led for the final 31 minutes — holding on for their

12th straight win even after Miami got within a point on three separate occasions in the final 3:22.

"That was just a great performance by Quinnipiac," Miami coach Katie Meier said. "I mean, just phenomenal. ... I don't think we did a whole heck of a lot horribly. They just were really special tonight."

Jessica Thomas scored 25 points and Keyona Hayes added 21 for Miami (24-9), which was looking for its first trip to the round of 16 since 1992. The Hurricanes were outscored 45-15 from three-point range, and the end was particularly emotional — and painful — for Meier and her seniors.

"When that buzzer went off, I really didn't see this conversation I'm having with you all right now happening," said Thomas, who played her final game in a Miami uniform.

Quinnipiac is one of two double-digit

seeds in the Sweet 16. Oregon, the No. 10 seed in the Bridgeport Region, is the other. But a Pac-12 team defying odds to get there is one thing.

A team from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference doing it, that's quite different.

"Grit," McClure said. "That's pretty much it."

Adily Martucci's three-pointer with 57.5 seconds left put Quinnipiac up 78-74, silencing a raucous home Miami crowd. Manz knocked the ball away from Thomas on a drive on the ensuing Hurricanes' possession, and the Bobcats — probably best known in Division I as a hockey school — would soon be celebrating the biggest win in the history of their program.

"I just did what my coaches have been asking me to do for the last four years," Manz said. "That was to let it fly, because we had nothing to lose."

## Oregon upsets Duke to advance to Sweet 16

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — When it comes to NCAA Tournament experience, all of the Oregon Ducks are like freshmen — because they'd never been here until now.

Fortunately for the Ducks, their actual freshmen are playing far beyond their ages.

Freshman Ruthy Hebard had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Oregon earned its first Sweet 16 berth by upsetting Duke 74-65 on Monday night in the second round of the tournament.

"It's funny, we never really put a goal on how far we can go, just because we didn't know what we had," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said. "We've kind of attacked the entire season as a work in progress. ... With a young team, you kind of have to do that."

"House money, that's a good way to put it," he added. "We're playing with house money."

Maite Cazorla added 17 points and Lexi Bando finished with 14 points to help Oregon (22-13) become the first No. 10 seed in a decade to reach the round of 16.

The Ducks, in their first tournament since 2005, had

never advanced past the second round in their 12 previous appearances. Now they're on to Bridgeport, Conn., to take on third-seeded Maryland (32-2) in a regional semifinal.

"I think what we're all going to take is just, we've got to play our hardest," Hebard said. "No one's guaranteed a spot. Seeds don't mean anything ... and hopefully, we'll keep winning."

Lexie Brown scored 25 points for the second-seeded Blue Devils (28-6), who have been upset at home in the tournament's second round twice since 2014. They played without guard Kyra Lambert, who tore her left anterior cruciate ligament in the first round against Hampton.

"I thought Lexie played extremely hard, and did many, many things out there that needed to be done, and at times needed to be done by two people, not just one," coach Joanne P. McCallie said.

**UConn 94, Syracuse 64:** Kia Nurse scored 29 points and tied an NCAA Tournament record with nine three-pointers to lead UConn in a second-round rematch of last year's national championship game.

Nurse hit 10 of her 13 shots,

missing three attempts from behind the arc for the Huskies, who won their 109th straight game and 26th consecutive NCAA Tournament game. That streak includes last April's 82-51 win over the Orange that gave the Huskies their fourth consecutive title.

**UCLA 75, Texas A&M 43:** Kari Korver scored 21 points, hitting seven three-pointers, and fourth-seed host UCLA routed Texas A&M.

Monique Billings and Jordin Canada each added 12 points for the Bruins, who had the largest margin of victory in school history in a tournament game.

### Oklahoma City Regional

**Baylor 86, California 46:** Alexis Prince and Nina Davis each scored 16 points and host Baylor is going to the Sweet 16 for the ninth year in a row.

Davis, one of four Baylor seniors, also had six rebounds and five assists in her last game at the Ferrell Center. Prince added five rebounds and six assists, while Kristy Wallace had 10 points and nine assists.

**Louisville 75, Tennessee 64:** Asia Durr scored 23 points, Mariya Moore made all five

three-pointers for 19 points.

Moore's perimeter shooting provided a lift on a night that fourth-seeded Louisville had to work hard late to finish 44 percent from the field. She scored the Cardinals' first eight points of the fourth quarter with back-to-back threes for a 54-47 lead before Durr followed with seven of their next eight points to make it 62-51 with 4:07 remaining.

**Washington 108, Oklahoma 82:** Kelsey Plum scored 38 points, adding another record to her career résumé, and No. 3 seed Washington raced past No. 6 seed Oklahoma.

The Huskies (29-5) are going to the Sweet 16 in consecutive years for the first time in school history, thanks to an offensive showcase against the Sooners where Plum didn't do it alone.

### Lexington Region

**Stanford 69, Kansas State 48:** Brittany McPhee had 21 points, Alanna Smith added 19 and second-seeded Stanford routed host Kansas State to advance to the Cardinal's 10th straight Sweet 16.

Stanford roared to a 39-21 halftime lead and never looked back.



# Brady's Super Bowl jersey finally found

Associated Press

BOSTON — Tom Brady's missing Super Bowl jersey has been found in Mexico six weeks after it vanished from the Patriots' locker room — but the mystery isn't over.

The NFL said the jersey was found in "possession of a credentialed member of the international media," and authorities were investigating Monday whether a former Mexican tabloid newspaper executive played a role in the theft.

It wasn't the only piece of memorabilia recovered: Authorities found a Brady jersey that had gone missing after the Patriots' 2015 Super Bowl win over the Seattle Seahawks.

A helmet belonging to a Denver Broncos player was also discovered, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The stolen jersey — and the investigation that stretched from Boston to the border — captivated Patriots fans and social media for several days after the Patriots' 34-28 overtime win over the Atlanta Falcons.

"If it shows up on eBay or something, somebody let me know," Brady said after the game.

Houston police investigators relied on a tip from an informant to trace the jersey, estimated to be worth about \$500,000, to Mexico.

U.S. and Mexican officials have not identified the suspect,

but the name of a former newspaper director circulated widely in Mexican news media and on social networks.

A Mexican federal government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case, said the attorney general's office participated in the investigation and obtained a search warrant. The jersey and other objects were found March 12, the official said.

The newspaper's owner, Organizacion Editorial Mexicana, issued a statement saying the director resigned two days later for "personal reasons."

The paper said that if the accusations are true, it "strongly condemns" that the employee used his position "to obtain a

media accreditation to be able to access the field of play, news conferences and probably other areas of NRG Stadium." The paper said it had not been contacted by investigators.

A company official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the former director was not part of the media outlet's Super Bowl coverage.

"He got accredited on behalf of La Prensa, but he took vacations. ... He was not sent by us," the person said. "They were not even aware that (he) had gone to the Super Bowl."

The former director handed over his company phone when he resigned last Tuesday, the person said.

## Warriors bump, shove, shoot their way past Thunder

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors didn't have Kevin Durant for Monday night's game at Oklahoma City.

With or without Durant, there's animosity to go around in this hot-blooded rivalry.

Klay Thompson scored 34 points to help the Warriors beat the Thunder 111-95 in a heated matchup filled with trash talk, technical fouls and a shoving match centered on the usually cool-headed Curry.

It was Golden State's second visit to Oklahoma City since Durant spurned his longtime employer to sign a free agent contract with the Warriors last summer. Durant has been out since February with a left knee injury and sat on the bench with his team.

Even with Durant out, the negative energy from the first meeting was still there. Curry exchanged shoves with Semaj Christon just before halftime, and both were issued technical fouls. Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook and Golden State's Draymond Green also got technicals for their roles in the

skirmish.

"Your normal jump ball, fight for position situation," Curry said. "I was just trying to get in between Russ and — trying to get in between those two. I felt him push me. I kind of let that first one go, and then I kept going, and there was another little push, and I tried to hold my position."

Westbrook saw it differently. "I think Curry tried to get into it with Semaj, and tried to push him, and I stepped in right between," Westbrook said. "Once I see something going down with my teammates, I'm hopping in."

The game itself was a knockout. The Warriors led by as many as 27 points while completing a sweep of the four-game season series.

Curry scored 23 points for the Warriors, who won their fourth straight and halted Oklahoma City's winning streak at five games.

Westbrook scored 47 points the last time the teams met in Oklahoma City. This time, he had 15 points on 4-for-16 shooting.

**Rockets 125, Nuggets 124:** James Harden drove the length

of the floor for a layup with 2.4 seconds left to lift host Houston over Denver.

Harden had 39 points, 11 assists and was three rebounds shy of his 20th triple-double of the season. Houston outlasted Denver in a duel between the second- and third-highest scoring teams in the NBA.

**Celtics 110, Wizards 102:** Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points after missing the previous two games with a bruised right knee, leading host Boston to a victory over Washington in another testy matchup between two of the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

Avery Bradley added 20 points and nine rebounds for Boston, which moved 2½ games ahead of the Wizards for second place in the East. The Celtics trail first-place Cleveland by two games.

**Pacers 107, Jazz 100:** Jeff Teague scored 21 points, Paul George added 19 and host Indiana beat Utah.

Indiana continued its trend of following a loss with a win — failing to do either in consecutive games since Feb. 16. The win helped the Pacers maintain the No. 6 spot in the Eastern

Conference playoff chase.

**Hornets 105, Hawks 90:** Nicolas Batum and Kemba Walker each had 16 points and host Charlotte handed slumping Atlanta its fourth straight loss.

The Hornets scored 17 points off 18 turnovers and led by as many as 23 in the fourth quarter.

**Magic 112, 76ers 109 (OT):** Nikola Vucevic had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Evan Fournier scored 19 points and host Orlando beat Philadelphia in overtime.

Orlando overcame a 17-point second-half deficit. Fournier led the way in OT with eight points, and Terrence Ross had four points in the extra session and 15 overall.

**Clippers 114, Knicks 105:** Blake Griffin scored 30 points, Chris Paul had 13 points and 13 assists and host Los Angeles beat the New York.

DeAndre Jordan added 14 points and 10 rebounds, and the Clippers blew the game open by outscoring the Knicks 34-19 in the third quarter for a 25-point lead.

# Bozak's late power-play goal lifts Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO — Nazem Kadri called Monday's game a "must-win" for the Maple Leafs if they were to have any hope of chasing down the Boston Bruins for third place in the Atlantic division.

It took until the 58th minute before the Leafs pulled in front, Tyler Bozak scoring the go-ahead power-play goal in Toronto's 4-2 victory over Boston.

"Yeah, it's frustrating," Bruins forward Brad Marchand said of the late penalty call.

"They let a lot go in the third and to call that one, that was a little questionable.

"But we still have to kill that off. Definitely tough to lose like that where we played so hard all game. We played a pretty game, but it's unfortunate."

The win in regulation pulled the Leafs (81 points) within one point of the Bruins (82) with a game in hand.

"It's massive," Kadri said of the win. "Especially to do it in the fashion that we did — in regulation."

Holding down the final wildcard position in the Eastern Conference, the Leafs lead the

New York Islanders (78) by three points and the Tampa Bay Lightning (77) by four with 11 games to play.

A young team, the Leafs have looked increasingly comfortable in the unfamiliar terrain of a playoff race where space and goals are at a premium and mistakes are punished in the standings.

"It's that type of playoff hockey where one or two mistakes could cost you the game," Kadri said. "You're not going to see too much open ice out there so it's important when you get those chances you capitalize on them."

There was little separating the Leafs and Bruins. The Original Six foes scored seven minutes apart in the first — on goals from David Backes and Morgan Rielly — and then tussled evenly for the next two periods.

There were high-end scoring chances, scrums between whistles, hard checks into the endboards, big saves, and wars of words between the benches.

**Predators 3, Coyotes 1:** Ryan Ellis scored twice and Pekka Rinne made 25 saves in host Nashville's victory over

Arizona.

Viktor Arvidsson also scored for the Predators, who have won four of five. Craig Smith added two assists.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson had the lone goal and Mike Smith stopped 28 shots for the Coyotes, who have lost three straight.

**Sabres 2, Red Wings 1:** Jack Eichel and Matt Moulson each scored a power-play goal in the first two periods to help visiting Buffalo beat Detroit.

Robin Lehner made 34 saves for the Sabres.

Tomas Tatar scored in his third straight game, pulling the Red Wings within one midway through the second. They had power plays early and late in the third period but failed to take advantage, falling to 0-for-4 with an extra skater.

Petr Mrazek stopped 28 shots for Detroit.

Buffalo has won two straight for the first time in more than a month.

**Stars 1, Sharks 0:** Kari Lehtonen made 30 saves for his 36th career shutout and second this season as host Dallas edged San Jose.

Curtis McKenzie scored

his fifth goal on a tip-in from the slot that beat Sharks goalie Aaron Dell in the second period.

Adam Cracknell took the shot from the left point. Jiri Hudler also assisted on the goal.

Pacific Division leader San Jose (42-23-7) lost a third straight game for only the second time this season. Dallas (29-33-10) is barely alive in the playoff race with 10 games remaining.

**Oilers 2, Kings 0:** Cam Talbot made 35 saves for his second consecutive shutout and seventh this season as Edmonton ended an eight-game home-stand with a victory over Los Angeles.

Patrick Maroon and Milan Lucic scored for the Oilers, who won their fourth in a row to move one point ahead of Calgary and into a tie for second place in the Pacific Division with Anaheim. Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid each had a pair of assists.

McDavid leads the NHL with 82 points.

Jonathan Quick stopped 29 shots for the fading Kings, who have lost four of five.

## Female hockey players say wage negotiations productive

Associated Press

USA Hockey and the women's national team say their meeting Monday was productive and they hope to have an agreement this week that will end their ongoing wage dispute and avoid a boycott of the world championships.

The sides met for more than 10 hours in Philadelphia and will continue discussions later this week. Players announced last week they'd boycott the world championships in Michigan unless significant progress was made toward a labor agreement.

USA Hockey and players released statements saying they hoped a deal would be reached in time for the tournament,

which begins March 31.

Players said they were hopeful to get an agreement in time to have a training camp and prepare to defend their world championship gold medal on home ice.

"We feel like we made progress today," star forward Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson said by phone.

Lamoureux-Davidson, twin sister Monique Lamoureux-Morando, captain Meghan Duggan, Hilary Knight, Kacey Bellamy and Kendal Coyne were among the players who took part in the meeting on the players' side. President Jim Smith, executive director Dave Ogrian, treasurer Donna Guariglia and director of women's hockey Reagan Carey were

among those representing USA Hockey.

USA Hockey said its goal remains to have the team it selected for the world championships still represent the U.S. later this month.

Players said negotiations had been ongoing for 14 months over fair wages and equitable support. The meeting Monday, which Lamoureux-Davidson said lasted from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., was positive in that the sides were in the same room talking on the verge of training camp, which was scheduled to begin Wednesday.

"This morning [we thought], 'Wait and see how this goes,' and after today we're all hopeful that we can make something work," she said. "We're hope-

ful, I think, on both sides."

Players are pushing to be paid outside the six-month Olympic period, saying USA Hockey pays them nothing for the other 3½ years.

USA Hockey said it is not in the business of employing athletes and put out a list of players' financial demands that players referred to as "patently false."

Despite trading barbs last week, the sides agreed to meet in downtown Philadelphia the morning after the National Women's Hockey League final in Boston, which several players took part in. Their lengthy meeting didn't produce an agreement, but at least the agreement that talks would continue.