

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump backs off raising assault rifle purchase age

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House unveiled a new plan to prevent school shootings that backs off President Donald Trump's support for increasing the minimum age for purchasing assault weapons to 21.

Instead, a new federal commission on school safety will examine the age issue as part of a package the White House announced Sunday in response to the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., last month that left 17 dead. The administration also pledged to help states pay for firearms training for teachers and reiterated its call to improve the background-check and mental health systems.

In a call with reporters Sunday evening, administration officials described the plan as a fulfillment of Trump's call for action in the wake of the Parkland shooting.

"Today we are announcing meaningful actions, steps that can be taken right away to help protect students," said Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who will chair the commission.

DeVos said that "far too often, the focus" after such tragedies "has been only on the most contentious fights, the things that have divided people and sent them into their entrenched corners." She described the plan as "pragmatic."

The plan was panned immediately by gun control advocates, including the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "Americans expecting real leadership to prevent gun violence will be disappointed and troubled by President Trump's dangerous retreat from his promise," said Avery Gardiner, the group's co-president.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, of New York, described it as "tiny, baby steps designed not to upset the [National Rifle Association], when

the gun violence epidemic in this country demands that giant steps be taken."

Trump convened a series of listening sessions in the weeks after the February massacre. In televised meetings with lawmakers, survivors of recent school shootings and the families of victims, Trump made a strong case for arming teachers, but also for increasing the age for purchasing long guns.

"I mean, so they buy a revolver — a handgun — they buy at the age of 21. And yet, these other weapons that we talk about ... they're allowed to buy them at 18. So how does that make sense?" he said last month. "We're going to work on getting the age up to 21 instead of 18."

But Trump also has spoken repeatedly in recent weeks with the heads of the powerful NRA, which considers increasing the age of purchase to be an assault on the Second Amendment. The NRA on Friday sued Florida over a new gun law signed by Republican Gov. Rick Scott that bans the purchase of firearms by anyone younger than 21.

Instead, the issue will be one of a list of topics to be studied by the DeVos commission, which then will provide recommendations to the president. Administration officials said they had not set a deadline for the commission's recommendations, but expected they'd made in less than a year.

During the meetings, Trump also advocated arming certain teachers and school staffers. The White House has directed the Justice Department to help states partner with local law enforcement to provide "rigorous firearms training to specifically qualified volunteer school personnel," said Andrew Bremberg, director of the president's Domestic Policy Council.

## Report: More lewd photos of female GIs shared online

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
AND SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials have launched a new investigation into allegations that files containing hundreds of lewd photographs of service-women have been shared on the internet recently, just about one year after a nude photo-sharing scandal rocked the Marine Corps and the Defense Department.

The latest case, unveiled in a report by Vice News last week, alleges 267 photographs of female servicemembers had been shared online in a Dropbox folder titled "Hoes Hoin'." Immediately upon learning of the new allegations, the Marine Corps alerted the Naval Criminal Investigative Service about the photographs, Marine Corps Capt. Christopher Harrison said Monday.

Harrison and Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, confirmed the new allegations span beyond the Marine Corps and could include all of the military services. They would not say Monday whether active-duty or reserve servicemembers were suspected of distributing the content, which was made illegal in December as part of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Within that law, Congress approved court-martial punishment for servicemembers who engaged in the "wrongful broadcast or distribution of intimate visual images," typically nude photographs shared without the subject's permission,

often called revenge porn.

Gleason said DOD has been working directly with social media platforms to combat the spread of "malicious content," including revenge porn. But it can be difficult for authorities to detect such harassment or to identify the victims, she said.

In the new allegations, Vice reported most of the images in the folder show women in military clothing. Some of them show the women's faces, dog tags, uniforms and name tags.

"Some of the photos are selfies, others are clearly taken by another person," the report said. "Some show women performing sexual acts. A few are of servicemembers fully clothed, in apparent attempt to shame or discredit them."

"Finally, some photos are crude collages showing a fully clothed servicemember in uniform on one side and a nude photo of the same woman on the other," the report added.

Dropbox said in a statement that the link to the photographs had been removed and banned from its file sharing service.

The military has struggled to deal with servicemembers' behavior on social media since last March, when it was revealed by the online news service War Horse that some 30,000 people had joined a now-defunct Facebook group called Marines United, where active-duty and veteran Marines shared nude photos of female servicemembers and others, made derogatory comments about them and threatened some of the women.

# Program delivers blood to military hospitals

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — A one-of-its-kind military program lets servicemembers far from the battlefields help their wounded comrades by forward-deploying their own blood.

More is always needed. There's steady demand in both Afghanistan and Iraq, where U.S. medical units treat both American and coalition casualties.

The need here soon could grow as more aggressive fighting is expected in Afghanistan this spring.

"The No. 1 thing people can do to save lives when they're not in theater is to give blood," said Col. Walter M. "Sparky" Matthews, a flight surgeon and commander of the U.S. military's medical task force here in Afghanistan. "It's better than any care package."

Despite advances that help stop hemorrhaging, such as wider use of tourniquets, bleed-outs remain the leading cause of preventable death in combat, officials said. Dozens, if not hundreds of pints of blood, can be needed to keep a single patient alive during the treatment of severe battlefield wounds.

Much of that blood comes from servicemembers themselves via the Armed Services Blood Program, which collects it at 20 donor centers and mobile drives throughout the U.S., Europe, Japan and Guam.

Frequent shipments arrive via a regional hub in the Central Command area of operations, said Capt. William Ceballos, head of the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 432nd Blood Support Detachment, deployed here to bank blood and to distribute it to medical teams throughout the country.

"Let's say that you're in the U.S. ... and you donate blood today," Ceballos said. For that pint-sized unit to be tested, boxed up and shipped to Afghanistan, where it could save a life, "we could be looking at three days."

The blood program traces its roots to World War II and remains indispensable, Matthews said. Modern medical advances

## How to give blood

Find a blood drive near you and make an appointment to donate at <https://militarydonor.com>. Be sure to hydrate and eat before your appointment.

Most healthy adults are eligible to give blood, but some may be denied from donating temporarily, indefinitely or permanently for multiple reasons.

To find out more about eligibility requirements, group appointments or hosting a blood drive, visit [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

haven't come up with an effective synthetic replacement for blood.

But at least one key challenge remains.

"Our biggest problem is (getting) donors," said Col. Jennifer Gurney, a trauma surgeon in Iraq.

Some servicemembers give to the American Red Cross believing it goes to troops downrange, officials said, but only donations to the Armed Services Blood Program go specifically to military facilities.

Just down the road from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany last month, more than a dozen people trickled in during lunchtime to donate at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center on Ramstein Air Base.

"This blood is going right over to the trauma shelf on Landstuhl; it's going downrange to combat operations," said Colleen Urban, a donor recruiter for the blood program's lone European center, which holds up to three mobile drives each week to support U.S. European Command, Africa Command and CENTCOM.

Staff Sgt. Kameron Ussery, an aircraft mechanic, had personal reasons to give. His brother, a Marine infantryman, had just deployed to the Middle East.

"I want to know at least some of the blood that can match his is out there somewhere,"

he said.

Donated blood helps troops and anyone else treated at military medical facilities, like family members.

"We actually had a donor (who) gave on Monday — their blood was used on Friday to save an infant" at Landstuhl's neonatal intensive care unit, Urban said.

Each week, she aims to collect at least 100 units, each of which can save up to three lives. It's good for 46 days, so supplies must be refreshed constantly.

Commands could do more to help by sponsoring drives, offering incentives like extra time off or at least allowing personnel time away from work to give.

"Our mission is their mission," she said. "Our blood is from the military for the military."

Some donors were unaware of the program until happening upon a drive. Some only heard of it recently, like Senior Master Sgt. Brenton Sampson, who has donated three times since learning about the program six months ago.

"It goes straight downrange, so I try to help as best as I can," he said. "I wish more people would come out to support this."

A bomb loader, Sampson deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in 2010, where he armed F-15 Strike Eagles for close air support missions. Giving blood is just another way to support his fellow servicemembers in the fight.

His colleague Master Sgt. Alan Lewis has given every 56 days, as frequently as allowed, ever since he learned the program needed his rare type AB-negative blood about eight years ago.

Lewis said his next donation will be plasma to be freeze-dried, a way to get it into the field more easily without need of refrigeration. It can be donated more frequently and lasts longer.

"In my job, I'm aircraft maintenance, so we're not going to be on the front lines," Lewis said. "We support our brothers who are in the fight — both through aircraft and the blood program."

## New destroyer heading to South Carolina for commissioning

*The (Biloxi, Miss.) Sun Herald*

The USS Ralph Johnson set sail from Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., on Friday. The guided missile destroyer is headed to Charleston, S.C., where it will be the latest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer

commissioned into the U.S. Navy on March 24.

The ship is named after Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. Ralph Henry Johnson, who was 19 in the midst of the Vietnam War when his 15-man reconnaissance patrol was attacked

in Quan Duc Valley on March 5, 1968. With the battle enveloping the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, a hand grenade landed in the fighting hole Johnson shared with fellow Marines, according to Huntington Ingalls Industries. Johnson threw his body

over the grenade, absorbing the full impact of the blast. He died instantly and was posthumously honored by President Richard Nixon in 1970.

Following commissioning, the ship will make her way to homeport in Everett, Wash.



# Few details emerge on veterans home attack

Associated Press

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. — Authorities in Northern California have so far been tight-lipped about why a former Army rifleman may have killed three women after a daylong siege at a veterans home in Napa County wine country.

Albert Wong, 36, slipped into a going-away party for two employees of The Pathway Home on the campus of the Yountville veterans home campus Friday, then let some people leave, but kept the three women.

Wong, whose military records show he served in Afghanistan

from April 2011 to March 2012, was enrolled in The Pathway Home's veteran treatment program until he was recently expelled, according to a relative of one of the women.

Law enforcement officials did not respond to questions throughout the weekend about what led to Wong being dismissed from the program or if officials had alerted police or others to any concerns about his mental health. Records also show a state-issued security permit Wong had for a 9mm firearm was canceled in October but state officials could not

immediately say why.

Executive Director Christine Loeber, 48; Clinical Director Jennifer Golick, 42; and Jennifer Gonzales Shushereba, 32, a clinical psychologist with the San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, were remembered as talented women who cared deeply about veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress.

Gonzales Shushereba was seven months pregnant. She was married a year ago and was supposed to travel to Washington with her husband this past weekend to celebrate their

anniversary.

"Jennifer and her colleagues died doing the work they were so passionate about — helping those in critical need," her husband, T.J. Shushereba said in a statement.

Directors of the veterans program are beginning an exhaustive review of security protocols, said The Pathway Home spokesman Larry Kamer. It may never reopen, he said.

The six residents have been moved to other facilities while officials discuss the future of the program, Kamer told the San Francisco Chronicle.

## New Englanders prep for blizzard conditions and a foot or more of snow

Associated Press

BOSTON — Winter-weary New Englanders are preparing for blizzard conditions, a foot or more of snow and high winds as the third major nor'easter in two weeks bears down on the Northeast.

The National Weather Service on Monday issued a winter storm warning for much of New England and a winter weather advisory for eastern New York, Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey even as residual power outages from the previous storm linger.

The storm is expected to hit about midnight and last through most of the day Tuesday, with snow accumulating at a rate of 2 inches per hour during the Tuesday morning commute.

While the first two storms of the month brought coastal flooding and hundreds of thousands of power outages, this winter monster is a little bit different.

"This one's main impact is going to be snow," said Kim Buttrick, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Mass.

More power outages are

possible, but they are not expected to be as widespread as last week. Only minor coastal flooding is possible.

Wind gusts as high as 65 mph are forecast in coastal areas.

Boston and eastern Massachusetts, as well as Rhode Island, could get a foot and a half of snow, with less to the west of the city.

Maine is also bracing for a hard hit. The Portland International Jetport has had 75.5 inches of snow, far above the normal for the date of 51.8 inches, with another 12 to 18 inches on the way, said James Brown, of the National Weather Service.

In New York, heavy, wet snow is forecast for Long Island, which could get 5 to 10 inches of accumulation, while 2 to 4 inches are possible in New York City.

In New Jersey, the storm is expected to start out as light rain in most areas, then turn to a wintry mix before changing over to all snow by early Tuesday, leaving behind anywhere from 1 to 4 inches.

"Hopefully, this will be the final punch of the winter," Buttrick said.

## Helicopter crashes into NYC's East River

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A pilot who survived when his helicopter went down in Manhattan's East River, killing five passengers, said in an emergency radio transmission that he had engine failure.

The pilot is heard saying, "Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!" during the crash Sunday night. The pilot reported "an engine failure over the East River" and referenced a hotel, while the person at the other end of the transmission had trouble making out what the pilot was saying.

The pilot freed himself and was rescued by a tugboat, but emergency divers had to remove the passengers on the charter helicopter, which was being used for a photo shoot, from tight safety harnesses while they were upside down, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said.

"It took a while for the divers to get these people out. They worked very quickly, as fast as they could," Nigro said. "It was a great tragedy that we had here."

The National Transportation Safety Board dispatched investigators Monday.

Video taken by a bystander

and posted on Twitter shows the red helicopter land hard in the water and then capsize, its rotors slapping at the water.

Witnesses on a nearby waterfront esplanade said the helicopter was flying noisily, then suddenly dropped and quickly submerged. The pilot appeared on the surface, holding on to a flotation device as a tugboat and then police boats approached.

"It was sinking really fast," Mary Lee, 66, told the New York Post. "By the time we got out here, we couldn't see it. It was underwater."

A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the Eurocopter AS350 went down just after 7 p.m. The aircraft was owned by Liberty Helicopters, a company that offers private charters and sightseeing tours popular with tourists. A phone message left with the company was not immediately returned.

The skies over New York constantly buzz with helicopters, and crashes are not unheard of.

Nigro and police Commissioner James O'Neill said the rescue operation Sunday took place in a 4 mph current in water about 50 feet deep, under challenging conditions.

The cause of the crash has not been determined.

# In North Korea, no news on US summit

Associated Press

TOKYO — News of the planned summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent shockwaves around the globe. But in North Korea — as of Monday, several days after the announcement — not a word about it had been reported by the state-run media.

Pyongyang has been surprisingly quiet on the momentous, and possibly even historic, events that have come in quick succession in recent months.

It has essentially barred foreign media from visiting the country for more than a month and, while trumpeting the need for better inter-Korean relations, clung to the same anti-U.S., pro-nuclear-weapons tone

it struck at the height of its missile-testing frenzy last year.

Officials in Seoul say Pyongyang is keeping them in the dark as well.

“Regarding the North Korea-U.S. summit meeting, there hasn’t been an official response by the North Korean government. So we think North Korea is having a cautious approach on the issue as it needs time to organize its stance,” Unification Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said Monday.

It’s not unusual for the North Korean media to take their time in getting out the news.

Because they are state-run, all newspapers, radio and television broadcasters and the official news agency are without fail on message. As Baik suggested,

sometimes it takes a while to figure out what that message should be.

The North Korean government might have also been holding off because it’s concerned the summit proposal could fall through, which could be hard to explain to its own public.

But as of Monday, the only official word of the North’s offer of a summit with Trump in exchange for a moratorium on missile and nuclear tests had come from South Korea. The North’s main newspaper, the Rodong Sinmun, which is run by the ruling party, had only put out a few paragraphs about a visit by senior South Korean officials last week.

It made no mention of any summit plans, let alone any con-

ditions or statements on whether Kim is seriously mulling abandoning his nuclear weapons.

Though it warranted just a brief in the North’s main newspaper, last week’s meeting in Pyongyang was a big one.

It led to an agreement for Kim to have a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in next month. The same officials then carried to Washington a verbal message of Kim’s willingness to meet Trump, which the U.S. president is said to have immediately accepted. The Trump-Kim summit is supposed to take place by May.

The lack of confirmation from Pyongyang has generated skepticism about how accurately Seoul and Washington are depicting Kim’s intentions.

## Passenger plane crashes, catches fire at Nepal airport

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A passenger plane carrying 71 people from Bangladesh crashed and burst into flames as it landed Monday in Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital, killing dozens of people with others rushed to area hospitals, officials said.

The death toll remained unclear amid the chaos of the crash and the rush of badly injured victims to nearby hospitals. Brig. Gen. Gokul Bhandari, the Nepal army spokesman, said 50 people had died and the fate of the others was unknown. But a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said at least 38 people had died, 23 had been injured and 10 were unaccounted for.

An Associated Press journalist who arrived at the scene soon after the crash saw the US-Bangla Airlines twin-propeller plane broken into several large pieces, with dozens of firefighters and rescue workers clustered around the wreckage in a grassy field near the runway. Hundreds of people stood on a nearby hill, staring down at what remained of the Bombardier Dash 8.

The plane swerved repeatedly as it prepared to land in Kathmandu, said Amanda Summers, an American working in Nepal. The crowded city sits in a valley in the Hi-

malayan foothills.

“It was flying so low I thought it was going to run into the mountains,” said Summers, who watched the crash from the terrace of her home office, not far from the airport. “All of a sudden there was a blast and then another blast.”

Fire crews put out the flames quickly, perhaps within a minute, she said, though for a time clouds of thick, dark smoke rose into the sky above the city.

The plane had circled the airport twice as it waited for clearance to land, Mohammed Selim, the airline’s manager in Kathmandu, told Dhaka-based Somoy TV station by telephone.

A spokesman for Dhaka-based US-Bangla Airlines said the flight was carrying 67 passengers — 32 from Bangladesh, 33 from Nepal and one each from China and the Maldives.

Airline spokesman Kamrul Islam said there were four crewmembers on board but did not provide their nationalities.

The plane swerved repeatedly before it crashed, landing near the runway and bursting into flames.

Kathmandu’s airport has been the site of several deadly crashes. In September 2012, a Sita Air turboprop plane carrying trekkers to Mount Everest hit a bird and crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 19 on board.

## Britain: ‘Highly likely’ Russia behind poisoning

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain’s prime minister said Monday that it was “highly likely” that Russia was responsible for poisoning ex-spy Sergei Skripal with a military-grade nerve agent in southwestern England last week.

Theresa May said that should Russian state involvement be proven, it would be considered an “unlawful use of force by the Russian state against the United Kingdom,” and gave the Russian ambassador until the end of Tuesday to respond.

May said that Skripal and his daughter were poisoned with a form of nerve agent known as Novichok and there were two possible explanations: The attack was an act of the Russian state, or Russia has lost control of a deadly, banned substance.

She said that Britain expects the Russian ambassador to explain which version is true.

May spoke in the House of Commons after she chaired a National Security Council meeting to hear the latest evidence in the case. She has been under mounting pressure to hit Russia with sanctions, diplomatic expulsions and other measures in response to the poisoning.

May said Britain would consider tough action if the Russian explanation is inadequate, though she didn’t give details.

Skripal, 66, and his daughter, Yulia, 33, remain in critical condition following the March 4 nerve agent attack.

The Kremlin has rejected suggestions that it’s behind the poisoning.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Hearing set for man accused of biting cop

**OH** ELYRIA — A man accused of biting off part of an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper's ear has been found not competent to stand trial.

A judge in Lorain County last week ordered mental health treatment for Cornelius Carey Jr., 44, and set a September hearing to reassess his competency for trial. Carey has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to charges including assault and resisting arrest.

The Jan. 11 confrontation occurred after Trooper Lance Deshuk spotted Carey walking in the middle of a road near La-Grange. Authorities said Carey became confrontational, hit Deshuk in the face and then bit him before Deshuk managed to subdue him.

## Club closed over hoofed attraction

**FL** MIAMI BEACH — A bit featuring a scantily clad woman riding bareback on a white horse prompted officials to shut down a Florida nightclub.

Miami Beach City Manager Jimmy Morales announced Friday that he was revoking Mokai Lounge's business license.

A video that went viral Thursday night showed the woman riding the horse inside the club. As the animal moved through the crowded space, it appeared to panic and the woman fell off. No injuries were reported.

## 'Rowdy inebriate' flips into woman at bar

**GA** ATHENS — A drunken man's attempted backflip in a Georgia bar ended badly.

The Athens Banner-Herald cited an Athens-Clarke County

police report that said a 22-year-old woman was hit in the head when the man flipped off her booth and landed on her table.

She and several friends were at the bar earlier this month when the unidentified man tried to kiss one of them.

The police report says "the rowdy inebriate then decided to up the proverbial ante by attempting to do a back flip off of the booth back and onto the table," which went "exactly as (the victim) anticipated."

The woman was treated at a hospital.

## Critics: Mannequins in court evoke lynchings

**OR** PORTLAND — Critics say headless plastic mannequins that northern Oregon prosecutors are using in cases against three black men are reminiscent of lynchings.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday that the displays are hanging from a metal coat rack in a Multnomah County courtroom wearing the clothes of Marcellus Allen, Tracey Lomax and Xabian Riley.

The three men were found guilty in 2014 in a fatal shooting case but are being retried after the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed their convictions.

Prosecutor Glen Banfield said the clothes on the displays are the same ones that the defendants are suspected of changing into after the shooting and are serving as a reference point for witnesses.

## 100K-gallon manure spill soils waterway

**PA** LANCASTER — About 100,000 gallons of manure spilled into two streams in Pennsylvania, killing fish in the area but not posing a threat to the water quality.

LNP newspaper reported a

manure storage facility failure at a farm in Sadsbury Township caused the spill March 5. The state Department of Environmental Protection said the manure facility was located under a barn and had the capacity of 150,000 gallons.

The department said the manure reached Williams Run and the East Branch of Octoraro Creek that feeds into the Octoraro Reservoir.

The reservoir supplies drinking water to people in Chester and Delaware counties.

## Large lizard escapes cage in pet shop

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Residents near San Diego were warned to watch out for a four-legged fugitive: a 5½-foot monitor lizard that wriggled out of its cage.

Mike Estevez told KGTV that a 35-pound reptile named Bubbles was last seen March 4 at his store, Mike's Pets, in Spring Valley.

Estevez said the carnivorous critter probably managed to escape through a tiny crevice at the bottom of a cage. Security camera footage shows Bubbles sauntering toward the rear of the store.

Estevez said Bubbles is good around people but he's advising anyone who sees the reptile not to try to grab it.

## Woman finds bloody tooth in her cashews

**OH** RAVENNA — An Ohio woman says she found a tooth with dried blood on it while eating cashews.

WOIO-TV reported Nickollette Botsford said she felt something hard while eating the nuts and vomited when she saw it looked like a tooth.

The Ravenna woman said a hospital confirmed it as a

human tooth spotted with dried blood. Her hospital report said she was treated for exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

Kraft Heinz Co. confirmed the item was a "foreign object" and said it's investigating its manufacturing process and suppliers.

## Naked man, woman arrested at hotel

**VA** STERLING — A Virginia sheriff's office says two people in the buff were rebuffed at a hotel.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office wrote in its daily incident log that deputies responding to a Sterling hotel on the afternoon of March 4 encountered Brent Martinez, 36, and Maria Cano-Morales, 31, both of Sterling and both "unclothed."

Both were arrested and charged with indecent exposure. Cano-Morales posted bond, while Martinez remained held at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center.

## Police raids net nearly \$10M in illegal pot

**WA** SEATTLE — The King County Sheriff's Office says detectives seized nearly \$10 million worth of illegally grown marijuana in a series of raids earlier this month.

The haul included more than 7,600 plants and 783 pounds of dried pot, which the sheriff's office said may have been destined for the East Coast.

Ten people were arrested, and the sheriff's office said it is seeking to have 10 homes, four vehicles, a 32-foot recreational vehicle and more than \$200,000 in cash forfeited to the government.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Tourney provides break from scandal

Associated Press

The coaches, players and TV announcers waited breathlessly for the reveal, then broke down the snubs, seedings and matchups with the same glee as kids unwrapping gifts under the Christmas tree. In all, the unveiling of the NCAA Tournament bracket felt pretty much like business as usual. That’s really not the case this season. March Madness will provide a three-week break from the troubling headlines

that have consumed college basketball. All four of the tournament’s No. 1 seeds — Virginia, Villanova, Kansas, Xavier — have been caught up in allegations of rule-breaking that have come up through an FBI investigation and resulting news coverage detailing potential NCAA violations. They aren’t alone. No fewer than a dozen of the 68 programs who kick off the tournament this week have had their names mentioned in these

reports. There’s an undeniable chance the team cutting down the nets in San Antonio on April 2 could be forced to forfeit its title a few years down the road, after the NCAA sorts through the damage. But in considering who was in and out, the selection committee only looked at who was eligible, not who was being investigated. It made for a bracket that looks fairly typical — even if the underpinnings of college basketball may be out of whack.

## NCAA Tournament

**FIRST FOUR**  
**At UD Arena**  
**Dayton, Ohio**  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
LIU Brooklyn (18-16) vs. Radford (22-12)  
St. Bonaventure (25-7) vs. UCLA (21-11)  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
N.C. Central (19-15) vs. Texas Southern (15-19)  
Arizona State (20-11) vs. Syracuse (20-13)  
**EAST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At PPG Paints Arena**  
**Pittsburgh**  
Villanova (30-4) vs. LIU Brooklyn-Radford winner  
Virginia Tech (21-11) vs. Alabama (19-15)  
**At American Airlines Center**  
**Dallas**  
Texas Tech (24-9) vs. Stephen F. Austin (28-6)  
Florida (20-12) vs. St. Bonaventure-UCLA winner  
**Friday, March 16**  
**At Little Caesars Arena**  
**Detroit**  
Purdue (28-6) vs. Cal State Fullerton (20-11)  
Arkansas (23-11) vs. Butler (20-13)  
**At Viejas Arena**  
**San Diego**  
Wichita State (25-7) vs. Marshall (24-10)  
West Virginia (24-10) vs. Murray State (26-5)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At PPG Paints Arena**  
**Pittsburgh**  
Villanova—LIU Brooklyn-Radford winner vs. Virginia Tech-Alabama winner  
**At American Airlines Center**  
**Dallas**  
Texas Tech-Stephen F. Austin winner vs. Florida—St. Bonaventure-UCLA winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Little Caesars Arena**  
**Detroit**  
Purdue-Cal State Fullerton winner vs. Arkansas-Butler winner  
**At Viejas Arena**  
**San Diego**  
Wichita State-Marshall winner vs. West Virginia-Murray State winner  
**At TD Garden**  
**Boston**  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 23**  
Villanova-LIU Brooklyn-Radford—Virginia Tech-Alabama winner vs. Wichita State-Marshall—West Virginia-Murray State winner  
Purdue-Cal State Fullerton—Arkansas-Butler winner vs. Texas Tech-Stephen F. Austin—Florida-St. Bonaventure-UCLA winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 25**  
Semifinal winners  
**SOUTH REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At American Airlines Center**  
**Dallas**  
Tennessee (25-8) vs. Wright State (25-9)  
Miami (22-9) vs. Loyola of Chicago (28-5)  
**At Taco Bell Arena**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
Kentucky (24-10) vs. Davidson (21-11)  
Arizona (27-7) vs. Buffalo (26-8)

**Friday, March 16**  
**At Spectrum Center**  
**Charlotte, N.C.**  
Creighton (21-11) vs. Kansas State (22-11)  
Virginia (31-2) vs. UMBC (24-10)  
**At Bridgestone Arena**  
**Nashville, Tenn.**  
Cincinnati (30-4) vs. Georgia State (24-10)  
Nevada (27-7) vs. Texas (19-14)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At American Airlines Center**  
**Dallas**  
Tennessee-Wright State winner vs. Miami-Loyola of Chicago winner  
**At Taco Bell Arena**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
Arizona-Buffalo winner vs. Kentucky-Davidson winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Spectrum Center**  
**Charlotte, N.C.**  
Virginia-UMBC winner vs. Creighton-Kansas State winner  
**At Bridgestone Arena**  
**Nashville, Tenn.**  
Cincinnati-Georgia State winner vs. Nevada-Texas winner  
**At Philips Arena**  
**Atlanta**  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Virginia-UMBC—Creighton-Kansas State winner vs. Arizona-Buffalo—Kentucky-Davidson winner  
Cincinnati-Georgia State—Nevada-Texas winner vs. Tennessee-Wright State—Miami-Loyola of Chicago winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
Semifinal winners  
**MIDWEST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At PPG Paints Arena**  
**Pittsburgh**  
Rhode Island (25-7) vs. Oklahoma (18-13)  
Duke (26-7) vs. Iona (20-13)  
**At INTRUST Bank Arena**  
**Wichita, Kan.**  
Kansas (27-7) vs. Pennsylvania (24-8)  
Seton Hall (21-11) vs. N.C. State (21-11)  
**Friday, March 16**  
**At Little Caesars Arena**  
**Detroit**  
Michigan State (29-4) vs. Bucknell (25-9)  
TCU (21-11) vs. Arizona State-Syracuse winner  
**At Viejas Arena**  
**San Diego**  
Auburn (25-7) vs. College of Charleston (26-7)  
Clemson (23-9) vs. New Mexico State (28-5)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At PPG Paints Arena**  
**Pittsburgh**  
Duke-Iona winner vs. Rhode Island-Oklahoma winner  
**At INTRUST Bank Arena**  
**Wichita, Kan.**  
Kansas-Pennsylvania winner vs. Seton Hall-N.C. State winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Little Caesars Arena**  
**Detroit**  
Michigan State-Bucknell winner vs. TCU—Arizona State-Syracuse winner  
**At Viejas Arena**  
**San Diego**  
Auburn-College of Charleston winner vs. Clemson-New Mexico State winner

**At CenturyLink Center Omaha**  
**Omaha, Neb.**  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 23**  
Kansas-Pennsylvania—Seton Hall-N.C. State winner vs. Auburn-College of Charleston—Clemson-New Mexico State winner  
Duke-Iona—Rhode Island-Oklahoma winner vs. Michigan State-Bucknell—TCU-Arizona State-Syracuse winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 25**  
Semifinal winners  
**WEST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At INTRUST Bank Arena**  
**Wichita, Kan.**  
Houston (26-7) vs. San Diego State (22-10)  
Michigan (28-7) vs. Montana (26-7)  
**At Taco Bell Arena**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
Gonzaga (30-4) vs. UNC Greensboro (27-7)  
Ohio State (24-8) vs. South Dakota State (28-6)  
**Friday, March 16**  
**At Spectrum Center**  
**Charlotte, N.C.**  
Texas A&M (20-12) vs. Providence (21-13)  
North Carolina (25-10) vs. Lipscomb (23-9)  
**At Bridgestone Arena**  
**Nashville, Tenn.**  
Xavier (28-5) vs. N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner  
Missouri (20-12) vs. Florida State (20-11)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At INTRUST Bank Arena**  
**Wichita, Kan.**  
Michigan-Montana winner vs. Houston-San Diego State winner  
**At Taco Bell Arena**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
Gonzaga-UNC Greensboro winner vs. Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Spectrum Center**  
**Charlotte, N.C.**  
North Carolina-Lipscomb winner vs. Texas A&M-Providence winner  
**At Bridgestone Arena**  
**Nashville, Tenn.**  
Xavier—N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner vs. Missouri-Florida State winner  
**At STAPLES Center**  
**Los Angeles**  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Xavier-N.C. Central-Texas Southern—Missouri-Florida State winner vs. Gonzaga-UNC Greensboro—Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
North Carolina-Lipscomb—Texas A&M-Providence winner vs. Michigan-Montana—Houston-San Diego State winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
Semifinal winners  
**FINAL FOUR**  
**At The Alamodome**  
**San Antonio**  
**National Semifinals**  
**Saturday, March 31**  
South champion vs. West champion  
East champion vs. Midwest champion  
**National Championship**  
**Monday, April 2**  
Semifinal winners



## NCAA TOURNAMENT REGIONAL PREVIEWS

### South

#### Best team

**Virginia:** The Cavaliers were selected to be the top overall seed for good reason. They are the unanimous No.1-ranked team in the country, Virginia allows the fewest points (53.4 per game) and makes the fewest mistakes (8.6 turnovers). Play-makers Ty Jerome and Devon Hall have an aggregate 3-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio and go-to scorer Kyle Guy makes 40 percent on three-pointers. It's a team that knows itself and its strengths.

#### Top potential matchup

**Virginia vs. Cincinnati:** The South Regional final in Atlanta could bring top-seeded Virginia and second-seeded Cincinnati together for an all-time defensive battle. The Cavaliers allow a national-best 53.4 points per game. The Bearcats rank second, allowing 55.4 points per game. If they both arrive, Virginia will have 34 wins and Cincinnati 33. The Bearcats average more than 10 points better on offense this season, but haven't been tested as often as the Cavs.

#### Best bet for an upset

**Loyola-Chicago:** The 11th-seeded Ramblers (28-5) are an interesting study because they are strong on both ends of the court. When they have the ball, they make 50.7 percent of their shots, which ranks third in the country. On defense they allow a meager 62.2 points, which ranks fifth in the nation. Plus they are laden with upper classmen and balanced with five players averaging double figures in scoring. More to the point in its first-round matchup with No. 6 Miami, Loyola is exactly where a mid-major entering the tournament wants to be: playing its best basketball of the season. They roll in having won 17 of 18 and 10 straight where they've shot an aggregate 54 percent from the floor. Miami is playing the worst it has played this season, having split its last eight including losses to Boston College and Syracuse.

### East

#### Best team

**Villanova:** The Wildcats are once again the team where the overall value is better than the sum of its parts. Jay Wright is one of the nation's top coaches and he might have the best all-around player running things on the floor in Jalen Brunson. Villanova has the top scoring team in the country at 87.1 points per game and has six players who average 10.3 points or more: Brunson, Mikal Bridges, Donte DiVincenzo, Omari Spellman, Phil Booth and Eric Paschall. It ranks in the top five in shooting at 50.4 percent and is deadly on the 3-point arc where it makes 40 percent. Moreover, there is a deep level of experience, including players who were on the 2016 national championship team and a toughness that seems to always prevail in tight spots.

#### Top potential matchup

**West Virginia vs. Wichita State:** Coach Gregg Marshall's Shockers play of style is the well-maintained engine — everything working together to become a force. Coach Bob Huggins' Mountaineers are the ultimate disruptors, ranking 11th in the country in steals and 10th in the country in blocked shots. Something will have to give.

#### Best bet for an upset

**Butler:** The Butler way never seems to let up. This season LaVall Jordan took the reins after Chris Holtmann left for Ohio State and the program didn't miss a beat as it reached the NCAAs for the fourth straight year. The No. 10 Bulldogs (20-13) have shown a bit of a penchant for pulling the upset this season, scoring wins over Duke and Ohio State. First-round opponent No. 7 Arkansas (23-11) needs to play a fast-paced game to succeed. Butler has a way of controlling the tempo behind guards Kelan Martin and Aaron Thompson and could be dangerous.

### Midwest

#### Best team

**Duke:** Duke and Michigan State are the only two teams in the country with adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency ratings in Kenpom.com's top 10. The Blue Devils edge the Spartans in both categories (No. 3 in offense and No. 7 in defense to MSU's No. 9 in each). Say what you want about Grayson Allen, but he provides a veteran presence the Spartans lack. And Duke defeated Michigan State 88-81 in November despite losing Marvin Bagley III to an injury in the first half.

#### Top potential matchup

**Rhode Island vs. Arizona State:** The odds on Dan Hurley vs. Bobby Hurley happening are slim, with Rhode Island as a No. 7 seed and Arizona State as a No. 11 that first needs to escape Dayton, but this fraternal matchup would double as an entertaining game and one of the NCAA Tournament's best storylines in recent memory.

#### Best bet for an upset

**New Mexico State:** The Aggies don't shoot well from the outside or the foul line — two typically key areas for a mid-major hopeful of an upset — but they defend just about as well as anyone in the country. Only five teams held opponents to a worse effective field-goal percentage than New Mexico State's 45.5 percent. The Aggies also fared well against NCAA Tournament teams, defeating Miami (FL) and Davidson on neutral courts during the regular season. They also have 25-year-old Zach Lofton, who has enrolled at five schools in six years. The 6-4 guard won the SWAC Player of the Year for Texas Southern last season, but he saved his best campaign for his last year of eligibility. Lofton averaged 19.8 points and 5.1 rebounds per game, improving his shooting to career-bests of 45.4 percent from the field and 38.2 percent from long range.

### West

#### Best team

**UNC:** The West's top five seeds all appear in advanced stats site Kenpom.com's top 15, making it the deepest region at the top. In fact, all five rank between No. 7 (UNC) and No. 15 (Ohio State). Xavier, the No. 1 seed, ranks 14th. The Tar Heels have the edge over the rest. It's hard to believe that Wofford visited Chapel Hill and beat this team in December, but the Tar Heels collected themselves and have hit their stride, especially since the beginning of February. Having several key players back from last year's national championship winner also gives UNC an advantage over the rest of the region.

#### Top potential matchup

**UNC VS. Gonzaga:** The rematch of last year's national championship would come in the regional final, which would make for several intriguing storylines and what should be an exciting game. The Tar Heels would be seeking their third straight championship appearance. Gonzaga, on the other hand, would be after revenge.

#### Best bet for an upset

**San Diego State:** The Aztecs came out of nowhere to claim the Mountain West's automatic bid, winning their last nine games and jumping from No. 79 in Kenpom.com's rankings to No. 50 in that stretch. They upset Gonzaga - albeit at home - in December, and they recently notched two wins over Nevada, including Friday's 90-73 rout. Like they were under Steve Fisher, Brian Dutcher's squad has one of the better defenses in the country. This group is also slightly more efficient offensively than several of Fisher's NCAA Tournament teams. The Aztecs are better than Houston at guarding without fouling, which could be a key in what should be a grind-it-out, defensive battle.

— By Roger Rubin and Ari Kramer, Newsday

## NBA roundup

## Surging Lakers roll by Cavs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Julius Randle had a career-high 36 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers auditioned for LeBron James' favor in free agency with a 127-113 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points, nine assists and five rebounds against his former teammates as the Lakers emphatically snapped a seven-game losing streak against Cleveland.

James had 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Cavs, who have lost four of six after getting swept at Staples Center by the Clippers and Lakers.

**Raptors 132, Knicks 106:** Jonas Valanciunas scored 17 points, Kyle Lowry had 16 and visiting Toronto kept right on rolling after a big win two nights

earlier, beating the Knicks for its season-high eighth straight victory.

**Pacers 99, Celtics 97:** Victor Oladipo scored 27 points, then committed a dead-ball offensive foul with 1.5 seconds left that gave host Boston a shot to win the game at the buzzer, but Indiana held on to beat the depleted Celtics.

**Timberwolves 109, Warriors 103:** Karl-Anthony Towns helped Minnesota stop a season-longest three-game losing streak with 31 points and 16 rebounds, and the Timberwolves powered their way past visiting Golden State down the stretch to hand the Warriors their second straight defeat without Stephen Curry.

**Rockets 105, Mavericks 82:** Eric Gordon scored 26 points and Chris Paul had 24 points and 12 assists as Houston, playing without James

Harden, beat host Dallas.

**Nuggets 130, Kings 104:** Nikola Jokic had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his seventh triple-double of the season, Gary Harris added 21 points and Denver cruised past visiting Sacramento.

**Bulls 129, Hawks 122:** Zach LaVine scored 21 points, including four free throws in the final 17 seconds to stop host Atlanta's comeback, and Chicago beat the injury-depleted Hawks.

**Jazz 116, Pelicans 99:** Ricky Rubio had 30 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and visiting Utah overcame Anthony Davis' first career triple-double for a victory over New Orleans that extended the Jazz's winning streak to six.

**76ers 120, Nets 97:** Joel Embiid scored 21 points, Robert Covington added 19, and Philadelphia routed host Brooklyn.

## NHL roundup

## Oleksiak helps Pens top ex-team

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jamie Oleksiak scored a goal against his former team to help the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Dallas Stars 3-1 on Sunday night.

Oleksiak scored his fifth of the season, while Evgeni Malkin got his 39th and added an assist. Patric Hornqvist scored a power-play goal, his 20th, to help the Penguins win for the fourth time in five games.

Malkin, now with 919 points, moved past Pavel Datsyuk for fifth on the NHL's all-time points list among Russian-born players. He also equaled a season-high six-game points streak.

Pittsburgh, which rebounded from a 5-2 loss at Toronto one night earlier, jumped past Washington for first place in a tight Metropolitan Division. The Penguins, who lost six of their previous seven against Dallas, have won 14 of their last 15 overall at home.

Casey DeSmith made 17 saves for the Penguins with starter Matt Murray out for his seventh game with a concussion.

**Blackhawks 3, Bruins 1:** Patrick Kane scored a tiebreaking power-play goal with 3:16 left in the third period and had an assist to lead host Chicago.

Kane scored on a screened shot from just inside the left point to put Chicago ahead 2-1 with Boston's Zdeno Chara off for high-sticking Brandon Saad, getting a double-minor for drawing blood.

**Islanders 5, Flames 2:** Rookie goalie Christopher Gibson made 50 saves as visiting New York snapped an eight-game losing streak.

**Coyotes 1, Canucks 0:** Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored on a power play, Darcy Kuemper got a shutout in just his fifth start for host Arizona and the Coyotes beat Vancouver for the second time four days.

## Harvick channels rage into win

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kevin Harvick knows how to get around ISM Raceway — and channel his anger.

He needed both skills Sunday to drive away with his third straight NASCAR Cup Series victory and record-extending ninth at the mile oval southwest of the Phoenix.

"I'm 42, done this for a long time," Harvick said. "Any time you can reach out and grab motivation, for me, that's just a piece of the puzzle."

The California driver sarcastically tagged "Happy" is at his best when he's mad, so much so that former crew chief Gil Martin used to try to rile him during races.

Current crew chief Rodney Childers didn't have to say anything. Not after Harvick and the Stewart-Haas Racing team were penalized Wednesday for technical violations last week

at Las Vegas on the No. 4 Ford.

"Everybody just came here mad, chip on their shoulder, wanting to do exactly what we did today," Harvick said. "That's the type of determination and grit that you want in a race team. There's nothing better to be a part of than something like that."

"Actions speak a whole lot louder than all the words I can say this week, tweets that you can send out. Parking that thing in victory lane is the most powerful thing, most powerful message you can send, and says the most about our organization and our team."

After saying Friday he would jump up and down on the back of the car if he won, Harvick completed his burnouts and pulled over next to his crew to celebrate. He playfully patted the back window and pointed at it in a nod to social media photos of his buckled rear window

in Las Vegas.

"I made it very clear to pat my window and thank it for doing its job," he said.

Harvick got in front of Kyle Busch on the last series of pit stops in the 312-lap race. Busch's team dropped the jack and had trouble with the right rear tire on the stop with 53 laps left, allowing Harvick — who pitted three laps earlier — to slip ahead.

Harvick got around Chase Elliott — the first car with four fresh tires after the pit stops — and took the lead with 22 laps left when Ryan Newman finally made his last stop.

Busch didn't seriously challenge Harvick after that, finishing 0.774 seconds back. The two had a series of entertaining battles, with Harvick also dueling Elliott and Denny Hamlin.

Elliott was third, followed by Hamlin and pole-sitter Martin Truex Jr.