

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Japan Coast Guard faults both ships in Fitzgerald collision

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Japan Coast Guard has recommended negligent homicide charges for the USS Fitzgerald's officer of the deck and the ACX Crystal's second officer after a deadly collision last year.

The guidance, announced Thursday, comes after the conclusion of an investigation that determined both officers were responsible for the June 17 incident that killed seven Fitzgerald sailors after the destroyer crashed into the cargo ship about 60 miles southwest of Yokosuka.

Charges of "Causing Death and Injury through Negligence in the Pursuit of Social Activities and Endangering Traffic through Negligence in the Pursuit of Social Activities" were recommended because both officers were responsible for steering their ships at the time of the collision, Japan Coast Guard spokesman Yoshihito Nakamura told Stars and Stripes.

He said the coast guard would not identify the ACX Crystal's second officer out of fairness, because the Navy has refused to name the Fitzgerald officer. Nakamura said the Fitzgerald crew is at fault because the Crystal was traveling on its right side in accordance with Preventing Collisions at Sea regulations. However, the ACX Crystal is also to blame because it failed to take any action to avoid the incident.

U.S. Forces Japan told Stars and Stripes in a statement Thurs-

day that it is aware of Japan's intent to pursue legal action.

"The sailors involved in the collision were performing their official duties at the time," the statement said. "Pursuant to the Status of Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, the U.S. has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction for offenses arising out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duties."

A Navy report released last year said the Fitzgerald's officer of the deck "exhibited poor seamanship by failing to maneuver as required, failing to sound the danger signal and failing to attempt to contact [the ACX Crystal] on Bridge to Bridge radio."

The unnamed sailor also "did not call the commanding officer as appropriate and prescribed by Navy procedures to allow him to exercise more senior oversight and judgment of the situation," the report said.

The officer of the deck and bridge team also "failed to comply with the International Rules of the Nautical Road," the report said, adding that the destroyer was traveling at an unsafe speed and failed to maneuver early, notify other ships of danger and take proper actions.

The Navy announced in January that Cmdr. Bryce Benson — who helmed the Fitzgerald during the incident and was injured in the crash — had been charged with dereliction of duty, hazarding a vessel and negligent homicide. Two unnamed lieutenants and one lieutenant junior grade from the ship face similar charges.

## Navy studies lack of sleep's effects on decision-making

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy is funding research into how sleep deprivation affects decision-making in a group setting, such as among a ship's bridge crew.

The Office of Naval Research Global is sponsoring groundbreaking research by professor Sean Drummond with the Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences in Australia.

Little research exists on how and to what extent lack of sleep affects a group while its members are collectively analyzing data and making decisions, the Navy said Thursday in a statement. The effects of sleep deprivation on individual performance have been extensively documented.

"From high op-tempo Navy special warfare missions, to Sailors on extended watch on ships, to long-duration flights or Marines in theater, the issue of sleep loss is critical to the performance and well-being of our warfighters," Capt. Kevin Quarderer, ONR Global commander, said in the statement. "Professor Drummond's research will play a key role in understanding and enhancing their endurance and combat effectiveness."

The Navy has more deeply scrutinized the ill effects of sleep deprivation in the wake of two separate deadly collisions by the guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain last summer in which 17 sailors died.

A Navy comprehensive review issued in October assigned some of the blame for the collisions to crew fatigue due to poor sleep patterns.

Lack of sleep has been found to profoundly affect work performance, which can decline as much as 30 percent after the first sleep-deprived night and

up to 60 percent after the second consecutive such night, the Navy review said.

Participants in Drummond's study will be monitored during waking hours by wearing eye-tracking devices that measure attention as they perform tasks, such as focusing their gaze on moving images on a computer screen while at the same time ignoring distractions, the Navy said.

Participants will also wear EEG, or electroencephalogram, headsets that measure brain activity from the cerebral cortex, the control center of memory, attention and perception, the Navy said.

"Professor Drummond's team is taking a systematic approach to studying fatigue and circadian rhythm disruption, and how it impacts decision-making in complex tasks," Dr. Jason Wong, ONR Global's science director, said in the statement. "This research will provide insight that can be applied by our Sailors and Marines, who often have to work long hours in less-than-optimal sleep environments, and we expect it will improve their cognitive and physical health."

The participants will be roused without proper sleep toward the end of the study regimen and then perform group exercises, during which their decision-making ability and processes are monitored.

"Such experiments will allow us to compare decision-making abilities after a well-rested state and after sleep disruption and circadian misalignment," Drummond said in the Navy statement. "This is important because, during military engagements, you must make fast decisions — deploying resources, reacting to the enemy — at all hours of the day, while processing information from many sources."

# Honored vet pays tribute to 'guardian angel'

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

HONOLULU — Seventy-three years ago on the island of Iwo Jima, Hershel "Woody" Williams randomly chose several fellow Marines to give him rifle cover as he made a one-man charge with his flamethrower against a network of Japanese pillboxes.

He spent four hours unleashing flames into the pillboxes that had stymied advance for days, racing back to the Marine Corps lines to refuel the flamethrower and then running again into battle — all while covered by only four riflemen.

Williams was ultimately awarded the Medal of Honor on Feb. 23, 1945, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," as the official citation describes it. He "daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire" coming out of reinforced concrete pillboxes, on which bazooka and mortar rounds had no effect.

At one point, Williams mounted a pillbox, stuck the flamethrower's nozzle through an air vent and killed the enemy within it.

Two of the Marines covering Williams died that day, but he never knew their names and never knew where their

remains rested until just a few months ago.

On Saturday, Williams, with the Medal of Honor hanging around his neck, stood over the Hawaii grave of Charles G. Fischer, one of those "guardian angels" who helped him survive that day and is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, nicknamed the Punchbowl.

He saluted the Marine, who died a private first class that day, and then slowly bent down and placed a purple lei upon his headstone.

"I have always said I'm just the caretaker of it," Williams said later of the Medal of Honor. "It belongs to them. They sacrificed for it. I didn't."

Williams was in Hawaii to dedicate a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. The monument was initiated by Williams through the organization he founded, the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. This is the foundation's 33rd monument to be dedicated; they recognize the sacrifices made by families who have lost loved ones in the service of their country.

After the Saturday morning dedication, Williams, 94, visited the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, where the remains of hundreds of servicemembers who died during World War II

are interred.

Patrick O'Leary, a foundation board member whom Williams has dubbed his "research guru," sleuthed the identity of Fischer by poring through hundreds of military documents concerning the Iwo Jima campaign waged in February and March 1945. Using five witness statements that had been given in the course of recommending Williams for the Medal of Honor, O'Leary was able to reliably pinpoint the company the riflemen were in and found that only a corporal and a private first class had been killed that day.

Last fall he tracked down Fischer's gravesite in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The other Marine is buried in Long Island, N.Y.

Williams also visited for the first time the grave of Vernon Waters, a fellow Marine and close friend who died on Iwo Jima. They had become very close in the lead-up to the Iwo Jima campaign, fostering a feeling of devotion in Williams so strong that he ultimately risked court-martial.

While on the island of Guam, Waters and Williams had made a pact that should either of them be killed, the other would return their rings to family members.

William's girlfriend had given him a ring with a "wee, tiny little ruby" in it before he left for

the Marine Corps.

Waters' father had given him a ring that he wore on his index finger because his ring and middle fingers were congenitally fused, Williams said.

The two Marines shook hands and agreed to the mutual return.

Waters was killed by mortar fire on Iwo Jima, and Williams found his body "stretched out on the ground," he said.

"And there's that ring," he said. "I have to get that ring."

"We'd been told over and over by the Marine Corps leaders, you never, ever take anything off a dead Marine's body. That's a court-martial offense. You do not do that."

But there was that bond, he said, and so he worked the ring off his friend's battle-stained hands.

In late 1945, he was back in the States without a job, no car, very little money and a new wife: Ruby. But getting that ring to Waters' parents in Montana was "the first thing on my list," he said, and with a borrowed car rolling on bald tires, the newlyweds made the car trip to Montana.

"It was quite emotional," he said of handing over the ring. "I've said many times, it was almost like delivering the most precious thing in the world."

## Navy IDs 2 killed in Fla. Super Hornet crash

BY KAT BOUZA  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy has identified the two pilots killed when their F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed into the sea near Key West, Fla., on Wednesday afternoon.

Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson and Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King — both assigned to the "Blacklions" of Strike Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana — died after the aircraft went down on final approach to Naval Air Sta-

tion Key West about 4:30 p.m. The squadron was conducting training in the area at the time of the crash.

"The entire Blacklion Family is grieving the loss of two great Americans," Cmdr. Kevin Robb, the unit's commander, said in a Navy statement. "Lt. Cmdr. Johnson and Lt. King were phenomenal young men, exceptional naval aviators, and were living models of what honor, courage and commitment really mean."

Johnson was piloting the Super Hornet at the time of the incident, while King was serving as weapons systems operator, the Navy said. Both men had ejected from the aircraft.

The Super Hornet appeared to suffer from a mechanical failure, witnesses said.

"It looked like it was going to land on the runway, and then the whole plane went sideways," local resident Barbie Wilson told The Associated Press. "And then I saw fire, and

it dropped out of the sky."

The wreckage remains in the water as the Navy's Mishap Investigation Board prepares to launch a probe into the cause of the crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and squadron mates of these two aviators," Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic, said in a statement. "A full investigation will be conducted to discover the cause of this mishap."



## All victims in Iraq helo crash ID'd

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The seven U.S. servicemembers killed Thursday night in a helicopter crash in western Iraq near the Syrian border have been identified.

The Department of Defense statement confirmed some of the casualties were members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, based in Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

The airmen were identified as Capt. Mark K. Weber, 29, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Capt. Andreas B. O'Keeffe, 37, of Center Moriches, N.Y.; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetis, 37, of Long Island City, N.Y.; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Dashan J. Briggs, 30, of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.; Master Sgt. William R. Posch, 36, of Indialantic, Fla.; and Staff Sgt. Carl P. Enis, 31, of Tallahassee, Fla.

Weber was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Posch and Enis were assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., according to the official statement.

New York City Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said Raguso and Zanetis "bravely wore two uniforms in their extraordinary lives of service" with the fire department and the U.S. armed forces.

The HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crash did not appear to be the result of enemy activity, according to a statement from the U.S.-led operation battling Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Used by the Air Force for combat search and rescue, the Pave Hawk was on a routine transit flight when it went down near the town of Qaim, in Anbar province, officials said.

A second helicopter accompanying it immediately reported the crash, and a quick-reaction force of Iraqi and coalition forces secured the scene, officials said.

# Retired Navy captain named to overhaul agency in Hawaii

*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — Hawaii on Friday appointed a retired Navy captain to lead an overhaul of the state Emergency Management Agency two months after an employee mistakenly sent an alert warning of a ballistic missile attack.

Thomas Travis has commanded a submarine squadron and was deputy commander of an aircraft carrier strike group. Travis served as the studies director of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis, where he helped prepare a report on the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The false missile alert sent to cellphones and airwaves in January triggered widespread panic and led to the ouster of the agency's senior leadership.

Travis declined to comment

on what went wrong with the missile alert, telling reporters he has read the reports on the incident but hasn't investigated the issue himself. He said he would first aim to get to know agency staff and work with them to solve problems "and make sure we can do things right on a day-to-day basis."

He declined to comment on whether the federal government, as U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, has suggested, should be in charge of sending warnings about ballistic missile attacks.

Travis has some personal experience with disasters in Hawaii. He spoke of living through Tropical Storm Iselle, which toppled trees and knocked out power in the Big Island's Puna district in 2014. Travis was living in Kapoho at the time. He shared memories of using a

chainsaw to cut trees and clear roads.

He said he didn't lose power because he and his wife lived off the grid with solar panels and batteries.

"I really have always loved Hawaii. It's given a lot to me, and I hope to be able to give back," Travis said when asked why he took the job.

The agency's previous director, Vern Miyagi, resigned after the alert mishap. The employee who sent the alert was fired. A second worker quit before disciplinary action was taken, and another was suspended without pay.

The agency said the alert was sent during a routine exercise. The employee who sent the alert said he didn't hear the word "exercise" being spoken and he believed the threat was real.

## Turkey says Afrin town center captured

*Associated Press*

ISTANBUL — Turkey's president said Sunday that the Turkish military and allied Syrian forces have taken "total" control of the town center of Afrin, a major development in the nearly two-month offensive against a Syrian Kurdish militia that controls the area.

The Kurdish militia called the assault on Afrin an "occupation" and vowed a "new phase" of guerrilla tactics against Turkish troops and its allied Syrian fighters.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Turkish flag and the flag of the Syrian opposition fighters have been raised in the town, previously controlled by the Kurdish militia known as the People's Defense Units, or YPG.

"Many of the terrorists had turned tail and run away already," Erdogan said in a speech

in western Turkey. "In Afrin's center, it is no longer the rags of the terror organization that are waving but rather the symbols of peace and security."

It is not clear what Turkey will do after the capture of Afrin. Turkey views the Kurdish forces in the Afrin enclave along the border as terrorists linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decadeslong insurgency within Turkey's borders.

Erdogan has repeatedly said Turkey will not allow a "terror corridor" along its border and has vowed to push east after Afrin. Erdogan threatened to move on to Manbij, a Kurdish-run town to the east where U.S. troops have also maintained a presence after it was cleared of Islamic State militants in 2016.

Washington's support for the YPG, including arming the militia and relying on it to battle

ISIS militants in eastern Syria, has strained relations between Turkey and the U.S. A push east could further inflame tensions.

In an attempt to prevent such a move east, Washington began discussions to address Turkey's concerns about the Kurdish militia's presence in Manbij. Turkey wants the YPG to pull out of the town.

Meanwhile, U.S. and Kurdish officials said Turkey's fight with the YPG has distracted from fighting ISIS. A Kurdish official Sunday said the fight against ISIS in northeastern Deir el-Zour province, where remnants of ISIS have remained, was put on hold as the battle for Afrin unfolded.

On Sunday, Kurdish officials said they had evacuated Afrin of civilians. Footage of long lines of vehicles leaving the town was aired on Syrian state-run TV. Other residents got out on foot or on motorcycles.



# Trump rails against Mueller probe, McCabe

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump fired off angry tweets Sunday morning railing against the Justice Department special counsel's Russia investigation and attacking the integrity of former FBI Director James Comey and his former deputy, Andrew McCabe, charging that their notes from conversations with him were "Fake Memos."

For the second straight day, Trump was unrestrained in his commentary about Robert Mueller's expanding investigation, which is probing not only Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and

possible links to his campaign, but also whether the president has sought to obstruct justice.

In one of his tweets, Trump protested, "Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans? Another Dem recently added ... does anyone think this is fair? And yet, there is NO COLLUSION!"

The tweet overstates the partisan makeup of the special counsel's team and falsely asserts that no Republicans are on it.

Mueller is a longtime Republican. He was nominated as FBI director in 2001 by a Republican president, George W. Bush,

and was appointed special counsel by the Republican Trump picked to be deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein.

At least seven of the 17 lawyers brought on by Mueller—including James Quarles, Jeannie Rhee and Andrew Weissman—have donated to Democratic political candidates, five of them to Hillary Clinton.

On Saturday night, Trump for the first time tweeted the name of the special counsel.

"The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime," Trump wrote. "It was based on fraudulent activities and a Fake Dossier paid for by Crooked Hillary and

the DNC, and improperly used in FISA COURT for surveillance of my campaign. WITCH HUNT!"

The president's attack comes after his attorney, John Dowd, on Saturday called for an end to the Mueller investigation.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, warned Trump that any interference in the Mueller probe would result in "a very, very long, bad 2018."

"If you have an innocent client, Mr. Dowd, act like it," Gowdy said on "Fox News Sunday." "Russia attacked our country. Let special counsel Mueller figure that out."

## Putin elected to 4th term

*Associated Press*

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — An exit poll and early returns suggest that Vladimir Putin has easily won a fourth term, keeping him as Russia's president for six more years.

The nationwide exit poll conducted by the All-Russia Opinion Research Center showed that Putin won 73.9 percent of Sunday's presidential vote.

The exit poll findings looked similar to early results from Russia's Far East, where the presidential vote ended eight hours ago. The Central Election Commission said with 21 percent of all precincts counted, Putin was leading the race with 71.9 percent of the vote.

The vote Sunday was tainted by widespread reports of ballot-box stuffing and forced voting, but the complaints will likely do little to undermine Putin.

He faced seven minor candidates on the ballot. Putin's most vehement and visible foe, anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny, was rejected as a candidate because he was convicted of fraud in a case widely regarded as politically motivated.

Casting his ballot in Moscow, Putin seemed confident of victory, saying he would consider any percentage of votes a success.

Given the lack of real competi-

tion, authorities were struggling against voter apathy — and put many of Russia's nearly 111 million voters under intense pressure to cast ballots.

Election monitors were reporting irregularities at voting stations across Russia, even though election authorities were under orders to ensure voting was free and fair after violations marred Putin's last election in 2012.

Many voters said they were under pressure from their employers to vote.

Yevgeny Roizman, the mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city, Yekaterinburg, told The Associated Press that local officials and state employees have all received orders "from higher up" to make sure the presidential vote turnout is over 60 percent.

A doctor at one of the city's hospitals told the AP how one kind of voting pressure works.

The doctor, who gave her name only as Yekaterina because of fears about repercussions, said she and her co-workers were told to fill out forms detailing not only where they would cast their ballots, but giving the names and details of two "allies" whom they promised to persuade to go vote.

"People were indignant at first, said: 'They're violating our rights' ... but what can you do?" she said at a cafe Saturday.

## All victims of Florida bridge collapse found

*The Washington Post*

Five bodies were extricated from the wreckage of a collapsed pedestrian bridge near Miami on Saturday. With a sixth person who died at a hospital, authorities said Saturday night that they thought they had accounted for all those killed in the collapse.

The first two vehicles extracted Saturday were flattened and had a total of three bodies inside. Work continued, and two more bodies were found Saturday night.

Although authorities had said at one point that the number of fatalities could rise beyond six, they said at a 10 p.m. briefing that they thought they had accounted for all of the dead.

Of the eight vehicles caught beneath the 950-ton span, six had been trapped entirely, with four "very difficult to extract," said Maurice Kemp, deputy mayor of Miami-Dade County.

The recovery effort was "very difficult," said Juan Perez, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, but it appeared crews had "finally got the last victim out." He said another search through the wreck-

age would be made, but he was "confident that there was no one left."

Police are reviewing reports construction workers said they heard a loud cracking sound come from the structure around 8 a.m. Thursday.

On Saturday, investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board identified pieces of the bridge structure to collect as evidence to "understand the collapse sequence and what caused it," said NTSB spokesman Christopher O'Neil.

The NTSB's lead investigator in the collapse, Robert Accetta, has said crews were working at the north end of the span when it fell. They were applying force "designed to strengthen" one of 10 diagonal elements connecting the walkway and an overhead section. Those diagonal pieces, known as members, are "integral parts" of the structure, Accetta said.

Police identified four victims as Oswald Gonzalez, 57; Alberto Arias, 53; Navarro Brown; and Rolando Fraga Hernandez.

Relatives also have confirmed the death of Alexa Duran, 18, according to media accounts.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Coyote captured after standoff outside jail

**VA** ROANOKE — Authorities in Virginia engaged in a two-hour standoff outside a city jail. Their foe? A coyote.

Ricky Clemons, with Roanoke's Solid Waste Management department, said he encountered the full-grown coyote crouched near a recycling bin in the shade of the jail and state courthouse buildings Friday morning. He said the coyote snarled but didn't run.

Authorities eventually used a tranquilizer dart to take the animal from the scene. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Conservation Police Officer Shannon Smith said the animal showed signs of being sick and would be euthanized.

## Woman accused of threat to son's school

**NC** HIDDENITE — Authorities said a North Carolina woman threatened to bomb her son's school because she was upset that he was being punished.

Alexander County Sheriff Chris Bowman told WBTV-TV that Barbara Elizabeth Sherrill, 29, made threats about placing bombs at East Alexander Middle School. Sherrill's son reportedly got into an altercation and was being disciplined by school officials.

A statement from authorities says no threats were found after the school was searched.

The Lenoir woman was charged with felony false report of mass violence on education property.

## Police: Man took taxi to, from bank robbery

**IN** EVANSVILLE — Police say a 19-year-old Indiana man took a cab to and

from a bank robbery and that he paid the driver with some of his stolen cash.

Derrick Faria was arrested less than an hour after Thursday's robbery of a Fifth Third Bank branch in Evansville. The Evansville Courier & Press reported that Faria reportedly passed a teller a note demanding money, but that he didn't show a weapon.

Faria was being held on preliminary charges of robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## More dogs found with animal cruelty suspect

**MI** ROME TOWNSHIP — A woman accused of animal cruelty after more than 200 animals were removed from her southern Michigan property was arrested after authorities say they found additional neglected animals.

Sharon Kay Evans, of Lenawee County's Rome Township, was arrested Friday on suspicion of violating an order not to possess animals. Sheriff's officials said they acted on tips that Evans had dogs and recovered more than a dozen after obtaining a search warrant.

Earlier this year, authorities removed roughly 200 dogs, 32 horses, five cats, two peacocks and a donkey from the property. A not guilty plea was entered for her in January on a charge of felony animal cruelty.

## Man barred from farm where goat was killed

**ME** SCARBOROUGH — A man questioned in the death of a pregnant goat killed with a crossbow has been barred from the Maine farm where the animal was found.

The Portland Press Herald reported that a judge issued a protective order for the owner

of Smiling Hill Farm against Daniel Arnold, 40.

Police investigating the goat's death arrested Arnold last month on suspicion of possessing a crossbow in violation of a previous probation order. He has not been charged with killing the animal.

## Teddy bear with toy gun sparks anxiety

**NM** SOCORRO — A giant stuffed teddy bear sitting on a park bench holding a toy gun near an elementary school sparked anxiety in one New Mexico town.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported the teddy bear was spotted Tuesday in Socorro, but police said no laws were broken.

Socorro Police Chief Mike Winders said police investigated the matter and there was no specific threat attached.

No arrests were made.

## Veteran inaccurately declared deceased

**NC** FAYETTEVILLE — Federal officials have discovered a North Carolina veteran isn't dead yet.

The Fayetteville Observer reported that Charles Covell, 81, of Fayetteville, was surprised to learn that he had been declared dead by the Veterans Affairs Department last month.

Covell's wife realized something was wrong when a monthly disability payment was not deposited into their account. They learned a death certificate for a Charles Covell was filed in January.

Covell spent 12 years in the Army, serving with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg.

A spokeswoman from U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson's office

said Tuesday the VA said the mistake had been corrected.

## Warrant: Man says carjacking gun a toy

**LA** NEWORLEANS — An 18-year-old man who is accused of using a toy gun in several armed carjackings in Louisiana has been arrested.

NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported that New Orleans police arrested Don Johnson on March 8 after officers said they saw him driving a car that was stolen three days earlier in an armed carjacking.

Johnson's arrest warrant states that he confessed to three armed carjackings along with other robberies.

According to the arrest warrant, Johnson said he did not use a real gun in any of the robberies, but rather a toy gun that he'd painted black to appear real. Johnson was booked on several charges that include armed robbery and carjacking.

## Police say woman hit husband with cans

**OR** LAKESIDE — Authorities arrested an Oregon woman accused of assaulting her husband with canned goods.

The Coos Bay World reported that sheriff's deputies responding to a report of domestic violence found evidence that Katherine Lavigne, 53, of Lakeside beat her husband with a can of tomato sauce and threw other cans at him.

Lavigne was booked into jail on an assault charge. The Coos County Sheriff's Office says deputies also found methamphetamine in her possession, and a drug charge is pending.

From wire reports

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# Loyola-Chicago moves on with late three

Associated Press

DALLAS — Loyola-Chicago's Sweet 16 dreams bounced on the front of the rim, lightly touched the backboard and rattled a couple times before slipping through the net.

Another prayer answered in the waning seconds, and now Sister Jean's Ramblers are heading to Atlanta.

Clayton Custer's jumper got that friendly bounce with 3.6 seconds left, and 11th-seeded Loyola beat Tennessee 63-62 in a South Regional second-round game Saturday night.

Custer's winner came two days after Donte Ingram's buzzer-beating three from the March Madness logo against Miami, surely to the delight of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the team chaplain and occasional coach, watching from her wheelchair on a platform near the main TV cameras.

"The only thing I can say, glory to God for that one," Custer said. "The ball bounced on the rim and I got a good bounce."

The Ramblers were the long-shot story of the first round — until 16th-seed UMBC beat No. 1 Virginia to pull off the biggest upset in NCAA Tournament history. That'll be hard for the Ramblers (30-5) to top, but they're working on it.

The Missouri Valley champions broke the school record for wins set by the 1963 NCAA

championship team. The small Catholic college in the heart of Chicago will play the Cincinnati-Nevada winner in the regional semifinals Thursday in Atlanta.

"Of course," Schmidt said when asked if she'll be with the team.

No. 3 seed Tennessee (26-7) took its only lead of the second half on a three-point play by Grant Williams with 20 seconds left.

After Loyola almost lost the ball on an out-of-bounds call confirmed on replay, Custer took the inbounds pass with 10 seconds left, dribbled left and then right, pulled up and let go of the winner.

The Vols' Jordan Bone got a decent look at last-gasp three, but it bounced away, and Custer threw the ball off the scoreboard high above the court as he was mobbed by teammates in the same spot that the Ramblers celebrated Ingram's dramatic winner.

"I've seen him make one, two dribble, one-two pull-up probably a million times," said Ben Richardson, who won two high school state championships with Custer in Kansas and has been his teammate since third grade. "He makes it like a 98 percent clip."

The Ramblers fell behind 15-6 in less than 5 minutes before the Volunteers missed their next nine shots and fell behind for the first time on Custer's three-pointer with 6 minutes left in the first half.

Admiral Schofield scored 11 of those first 15 Tennessee points but didn't score again until a three nearly 32 minutes later that started a rally from a 10-point deficit in the final 4 minutes by the SEC regular-season co-champions.

Tennessee coach Rick Barnes lost at American Airlines Center, home of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, for the first time in six NCAA games. The first four wins were during his 17 seasons leading the Texas Longhorns.

"It's always a tough way to lose a basketball game, buzzer-beaters," Barnes said. "Had the ball with a chance to tie or go ahead and we did it. They had the ball with a chance to win, and they did it."

Schmidt, a high school basketball player in San Francisco in the 1930s who leads the pregame prayer and gives the players feedback after, wasn't the only one pulling hard for Loyola.

Late-arriving fans waiting for crowd favorite Texas Tech in the late game joined the raucous Ramblers supporters.

"It's great to get some exposure for our school and our fans," Richardson said. "And on the national stage, we know there's so many loyal fans that have come up to us, that have been fans since '63, the national championship team, and they're so proud of us."

## Poole lifts Michigan over Houston

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The unflappable freshman with swag to spare let loose a long three-pointer just as the buzzer sounded, watched it splash through the net and took off on a dead sprint around the arena.

"I saw everybody celebrating," Michigan's Jordan Poole said later, "and I always thought if I hit a shot like that, I didn't want to get tackled. So I tried to avoid everybody."

He finally gave up, allowing the sweetest of parties to truly begin.

Poole's buzzer-beater, which came after Houston squandered a chance to lock up a spot in the Midwest Region semifinals, lifted the third-seeded Wolverines to a 64-63 victory Saturday — and left longtime coach John Beilein struggling to find the right words.

Dramatic? That's a good

place to start.

"I'm just trying to appreciate the moment of what just happened," Beilein said. "When he makes that shot, I'm making sure the shot got off. I'm managing my team. I can't even look at the celebration."

"We did not play well, and credit Houston for that," he said. "Sometimes you feel, well, geez, why did we win? But I've been on the other end of those many, many times. We got a fortunate break."

That came when Devin Davis had a chance to seal the win, and the Cougars' gritty forward missed a pair of foul shots with 3.6 seconds left. The Wolverines (30-7) called their final play, and Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman found Poole on the wing.

The youngster's shot hit nothing but net.

"Sports is a great metaphor

for life sometimes. It's not always fair," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "I thought our team deserved to win that game. For 39 minutes, 57 seconds, I thought we were the better team. Credit their kid for hitting a big shot. It was a big, big shot he hit."

**No. 4 Gonzaga 90, No. 5 Ohio St. 84:** At Boise, Idaho, Zach Norvell Jr. had 28 points, Rui Hachimura added 25 and Gonzaga is headed back to the Sweet 16.

Norvell hit the late tiebreaking three-pointer against UNC-Greensboro in the opening round to help the Zags advance. The confident freshman made six of 11 from the arc against Ohio State to lead Gonzaga (32-4) to the Sweet 16 for the fourth straight season.

Keita Bates-Diop had 28 points and Kam Williams 19 for Ohio State.

## Kentucky tops Buffalo

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Kentucky put an end to any upset talk on its watch Saturday, getting 27 points and a near-perfect shooting game from Shai Gilgeous-Alexander in a 95-75 pullaway from 13th-seeded Buffalo.

Gilgeous-Alexander went 10-for-12 and made both of his three-point attempts to send fifth-seeded Kentucky (26-10) to the Sweet 16 for the second straight season.

Buffalo (27-9), which got here with a 21-point blowout over Arizona, twice trimmed a double-digit lead to five midway through the second half.

Gilgeous-Alexander answered both times — once with a three-pointer to extend the lead to eight, then again a few minutes later with a three-point play that started a 12-2 run.



## Women's NCAA Tournament

# UConn sets records in 140-52 victory

Associated Press

It was a record day for the UConn Huskies and a banner opening round for double-digit seeds.

The top-seeded Huskies rolled to a half-dozen new records in the 140-52 win over Saint Francis (Pa.) that got the second day of the opening round started. UConn set a record for points in a tournament game and all-time NCAA records for points in a period (55 in the first) and a half (94 in the first). And UConn's 88-point margin of victory was the second-biggest in tournament history. Baylor beat Texas Southern by 89 in the 2017 tournament.

While the NEC representative fell, six double-digit seeds advance to the second round for the first time since 2000. Only one of those teams that year made it to the Sweet 16.

### Albany Regional

**No. 1 UConn 140, No. 16 Saint Francis (Pa.) 52:** At Storrs, Conn., Azura Stevens scored 26 points to lead six Huskies in double figures.

**No. 3 Florida State 91, No. 14 Little Rock 49:** Shakayla

Thomas scored 26 points for host Florida State.

The Seminoles (26-6), who were 35-for-60 from the field, put the game out of reach by going on a 23-0 run during an 8-minute span in the second and third quarters.

**No. 4 Georgia 68, No. 13 Mercer 63:** Caliya Robinson had 23 points and 16 rebounds, Mackenzie Ingram added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and host Georgia held off Mercer.

**No. 5 Duke 72, No. 12 Belmont 58:** At Athens, Ga., Leaonna Odom scored a career-high 25 points, including nine in Duke's dominant third period.

**No. 11 Buffalo 102, No. 6 South Florida 79:** Cierra Dillard scored a career-high 36 points and Buffalo got its first NCAA Tournament victory, and it is the first time that a Mid-American Conference team scored more than 100 points in an NCAA Tournament game.

**No. 9 Quinnipiac 86, No. 8 Miami 72:** At Storrs, Conn., Jen Fay led a balanced offense with 19 points and the Bobcats eliminated the Hurricanes from the tournament for a second consecutive season.

### Spokane Regional

**No. 3 Ohio State 87, No. 14 George Washington 45:** Stephanie Mavunga scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the host Buckeyes rolled.

Alexa Hart had 12 points and Kelsey Mitchell added 11 points and seven rebounds as Ohio State (28-6) never trailed.

**No. 11 Central Michigan 78, No. 6 LSU 69:** Tinara Moore scored 25 points to help Central Michigan get its first women's NCAA Tournament win, beating LSU.

### Kansas City Regional

**No. 1 Mississippi State 95, No. 16 Nicholls 50:** Victoria Vivians scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead host Mississippi State past Nicholls.

**No. 2 Texas 83, No. 15 Maine 54:** Jatarie White scored 17 points and the host Longhorns used an overwhelming first half to romp to a win over Maine.

**No. 3 UCLA 71, No. 14 American 60:** At Los Angeles, Monique Billings scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds, Kennedy Burke added 15 points

to lead the Bruins (25-7).

**No. 11 Creighton 76, No. 6 Iowa 70:** At Los Angeles, Jaylyn Agnew scored 24 points and Sydney Lamberty added 20 to lead the Bluejays (19-12) to an upset.

**No. 7 Arizona State 73, No. 10 Nebraska 62:** At Austin, Texas, Robbi Ryan scored 16 points and Kianna Ibis added 14 to lead the Sun Devils.

**No. 9 Oklahoma State 84, No. 8 Syracuse 57:** At Starkville, Miss., freshman Jaden Hobbs scored a career-high 27 points, Loryn Goodwin and Kaylee Jensen added 19 for the Cowgirls.

### Lexington Regional

**No. 4 Stanford 82, No. 13 Gonzaga 68:** Alanna Smith scored 20 points, freshman Kiana Williams made a sensational NCAA Tournament debut, and the host Cardinal beat cold-shooting Gonzaga.

**No. 12 Florida Gulf Coast 80, No. 5 Missouri 70:** At Stanford, Calif., China Dow scored 21 points and played stingy defense in the paint against Missouri star Sophie Cunningham, and Florida Gulf Coast pulled off an upset.

## Men's NCAA Tournament roundup

# No. 1 Villanova cruises past No. 9 Alabama

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jay Wright had some late-night restlessness because he could not turn off the TV as long as Virginia and UMBC were still playing. He met his Villanova team in the morning and the players at the breakfast tables were buzzing over basketball's biggest upset.

The reverberation from the 16-over-1 stunner was felt by another tourney top seed.

"There was a lot of attention with that," guard Donte DiVincenzo said. "We're a 1 seed so it was more attention for us."

In the March spotlight, Villanova showed how a No. 1 seed takes cares of business.

Mikal Bridges hit five threes, scored 23

points and helped Villanova put the field on notice that it's the team to beat with an 81-58 win over ninth-seeded Alabama on Saturday.

The Wildcats (32-4) are in the Sweet 16 for the first time since they won the 2016 national championship. Bridges, Jalen Brunson, Phil Booth — and yes, The Big Ragu — look every bit the favorite to make it two in three years.

Villanova plays Friday in Boston against the Marshall-West Virginia winner.

"My good vibes are coming from how this team's playing, how unselfishly they play," Wright said.

**No. 2 Duke 87, No. 7 Rhode Island 62:** Atlantic Coast Conference Player of

the Year Marvin Bagley scored 22 points to go with nine rebounds, fellow freshman big man Wendell Carter Jr. added 13 points to earn the program's 26th trip to the Sweet 16. Freshmen guards Gary Trent Jr. and Trevon Duval combined for 29 points and 11 assists for the Blue Devils.

**No. 3 Texas Tech 69, No. 6 Florida 66:** Keenan Evans scored 22 points and hit a tiebreaking three-pointer with 2½ minutes left.

**No. 1 Kansas 83, No. 8 Seton Hall 79:** Malik Newman scored 28 points, Udoka Azubuike stood toe-to-toe with Seton Hall's bruising Angel Delgado, and Kansas held off the plucky Pirates to send the Jayhawks to their third consecutive Sweet 16.

## Briefly

## Nickal's pin clinches for Penn State

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Bo Nickal reversed an early attack from Ohio State's Myles Martin and spun him on his back for a first-period pin that clinched Penn State's seventh team title in eight years at the NCAA Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

Nickal won his second-straight title at 184 pounds and joined Zain Retherford (149 pounds) Jason Nolf (157), Vincenzo Joseph (165) as repeat champions for the Nittany Lions, who pulled away to beat the Buckeyes 141.5-133.5.

Iowa finished third with 97 points while Michigan and NC State tied for fourth with 80 points.

## Logano cruises to Xfinity win at Fontana

FONTANA, Calif. — Joey Logano cruised to his first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season Saturday, outpacing Justin Allgaier at Fontana.

Logano pushed his Team Penske Ford to his 29th career Xfinity victory and his third at Auto Club Speedway. The dominant win also was the first Xfinity victory at Auto Club Speedway for the team backed by Roger Penske, who spearheaded the construction of this 21-year-old track east of Los Angeles.

## Stenson takes 1-shot lead; Woods 5 back

ORLANDO, Fla. — Henrik Stenson did just enough right for a 1-under 71 to take the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Stenson mixed birdies and bogeys on a warm afternoon and goes into the final round with a one-shot lead for the second time in four years at Bay Hill, where he has never won.

Tiger Woods goes into Sunday with another shot at winning. He was five back.

## NHL roundup

## Bruins hand Lightning rare shutout

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tuukka Rask stopped 23 shots to hand Tampa Bay its first shutout of the season and lifting the Boston Bruins over the Lightning 3-0 on Saturday night.

It was Rask's third shutout of the season and 41st of his career. It was also the first time the Lightning failed to score a goal since a 4-0 loss at Boston last April 4 — also against Rask.

David Pastrnak, David Backes and Riley Nash all scored for Boston, which moved within two points of the Lightning for the top spot in the Eastern Conference with one game in hand. Torey Krug assisted on all three of the Bruins' goals.

Tampa Bay has lost consecutive games for the first time since going 9-0-1 in the previ-

ous 10 games.

**Flyers 4, Hurricanes 2:** Valterri Filppula scored the tiebreaking goal with 5:49 left, and Philadelphia scored four times in the third period to beat host Carolina.

**Devils 3, Kings 0:** Keith Kinkaid stopped 38 shots for his first shutout of the season to lead New Jersey past host Los Angeles.

**Blue Jackets 2, Senators 1:** Markus Nutivaara scored a power-play goal in the second period, Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 22 shots, and host Columbus beat Ottawa.

**Oilers 4, Panthers 2:** Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists in the third period and Edmonton rallied past host Florida.

**Sabres 5, Blackhawks 3:** Nicholas Baptiste scored two goals in the third period to lead

host Buffalo past Chicago.

**Maple Leafs 4, Canadiens 0:** Curtis McElhinney made 33 saves for his third shutout of the season and host Toronto extended its club-record home winning streak to 12 straight games.

**Blues 4, Rangers 3 (OT):** Brayden Schenn scored 1:02 into overtime, Alex Pietrangolo had two goals in regulation and host St. Louis rallied to its third win in four games.

**Wild 3, Coyotes 1:** Marcus Foligno scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period, helping visiting Minnesota to its fifth win in seven games.

**Sharks 5, Canucks 3:** Timo Meier's second goal of the game snapped a third-period tie and San Jose beat host Vancouver for its fourth consecutive victory.

## NBA roundup

## Wizards pull into tie with Pacers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal and the Washington Wizards delivered in a big game in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Beal scored 19 points, Marcin Gortat had 18 and the Wizards beat the Pacers 109-102 on Saturday night in a possible postseason preview.

Washington (40-30) earned its second straight win to move into a tie with Indiana for fourth in the conference standings. The Wizards also claimed the first tiebreaker with the Pacers by taking two of three in the season series.

**Cavaliers 114, Bulls 109:** LeBron James scored 33 points as part of a triple-double, Jordan Clarkson had a tiebreaking four-point play with 1:27 left and visiting Cleveland beat Chicago.

**Warriors 124, Suns 109:** Quinn Cook scored 16 of his career-high 28 points in a dominant third quarter as severely depleted Golden State handed host Phoenix its eighth straight loss and 23rd in 25 games.

**Rockets 107, Pelicans 101:** James Harden had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Houston won for the 21st time in 22 games by beating New Orleans.

**Spurs 117, Timberwolves 101:** LaMarcus Aldridge had 39 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio overcame a sluggish start at home to beat Minnesota.

**Trail Blazers 100, Pistons 87:** Damian Lillard had 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Portland beat visiting Detroit for its 12th straight victory.

**Bucks 122, Hawks 117:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Khris

Middleton added 23 points and host Milwaukee held on for a win over Atlanta.

**Jazz 103, Kings 97:** Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points, and Utah beat visiting Sacramento for its ninth straight victory.

**Knicks 124, Hornets 101:** Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 points and host New York snapped a nine-game losing streak with a win over Charlotte.

**Nets 114, Mavericks 106:** Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 23 points, D'Angelo Russell had 22 and Brooklyn recovered after blowing a double-digit lead to beat visiting Dallas.

**Grizzlies 101, Nuggets 94:** Dillon Brooks scored 24 points, Tyreke Evans added 20 and host Memphis snapped a 19-game losing streak with a victory over Denver.