

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Marine faces 6 years in drunken-driving death

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

*Stars and Stripes*

NAHA CITY, Okinawa — Prosecutors recommended six years in prison with hard labor for an Okinawa-based Marine who pleaded guilty Monday in the drunken-driving death of a 61-year-old Japanese man.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas James-McLean, 22, was charged with negligent driving causing death and driving under the influence of alcohol after the Nov. 19 head-on collision that took the life of Hidemasa Taira.

The Camp Kinser-based Marine, who also faces substantial fines, is scheduled to be sentenced April 11.

As he stood before the three-judge panel Monday at Naha District Court for his one-day trial, James-McLean — clad in a bright-green T-shirt and black pants and flanked by court guards — expressed remorse for his actions. He said he did not know why he

got behind the wheel that day.

“Stupidity,” he said. “It shouldn’t have happened. I know his family will never forgive me, and I will never forgive myself but all I can say is I’m sorry.”

James-McLean was “slightly injured” in the crash, which happened about 5:30 a.m. at an intersection in the Tomari section of Naha, just south of Kinser. His U.S. government-owned Isuzu Elf collided head-on with Taira’s minitruck. Taira later died at the hospital from chest wounds and bleeding.

The Marine, who was off duty at the time, had a blood-alcohol content level that was three times Japan’s legal limit of 0.03 percent when he was tested four hours after the crash, prosecutors said. They believe James-McLean’s BAC may have been as much as five times over Japan’s limit. All 50 U.S. states have set 0.08 as the legal limit for driving under the influence or driving while impaired.

During Monday’s proceedings, prosecutors recounted James-McLean’s actions that night, saying he consumed alcohol on base and at a Chatan bar before returning to Kinser after midnight. The next morning, he got into a U.S. government-owned vehicle he used for his job in the maintenance department.

“Driving a motor vehicle under such conditions is extremely dangerous and his fault is serious,” prosecutors said during the trial. “It is clear there is no fault with the victim who was on his way to work at the time.”

Prosecutors then played a video of the crash captured by another motorist. It showed James-McLean going through a red light. Taira had a green arrow and was in the process of taking a right-hand turn.

James-McLean’s attorney, Tetsu Amakata, asked the court to rule on the merits of the case and not punish his client more severely for being American.

## Active volcano could imperil US bases in Italy

By SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — The Campi Flegrei supervolcano west of Naples has become more active and unpredictable, increasing the possibility that it could erupt near a U.S. Navy base.

The massive subterranean volcano has 24 craters, covers about 90 square miles — half of it under the Bay of Naples — and abuts the town of Pozzuoli, where hundreds of Americans live. It’s about 10 miles from the Navy and NATO command hubs and 20 miles from the Navy’s main base housing.

Scientists have observed underground liquids flowing into the caldera — a giant depression that forms when a volcano collapses — causing the volcano to grow hotter since the 1980s. Those hot fluids are moving east toward Naples in-

stead of west toward the Mediterranean Sea as they had done in the past.

The flow raises concern about a potentially cataclysmic eruption closer to denser populations. It’s unusual activity for this volcano, which last erupted in the 16th century, said Luca De Siena, a geophysicist at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

“It’s becoming more dangerous because it’s becoming more unpredictable,” De Siena told Stars and Stripes.

A catastrophic eruption is not imminent and probably won’t happen for many years, said Christopher Kilburn, a volcanologist at University London College.

Still, authorities should be prepared for an emergency response, he said.

The worst-case scenario would be an explosive erup-

tion similar in scale to Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79, which destroyed Pompeii and nearby Herculaneum.

Molten magma would incinerate everything in its path for at least 5 miles, and fiery rocks, spewed from the volcano like projectiles, could damage buildings and power sources and endanger people for thousands of miles, Kilburn said.

A smaller eruption is more likely, he said, adding that it’s impossible to predict the magnitude.

The volcano would give clear signals before it blows — such as tremors or geysers forming — allowing people time to evacuate, De Siena said. Scientists at the Vesuvius Observatory keep constant watch on the Campi Flegrei, Mount Vesuvius and Ischia volcanoes. Founded in 1841, the observatory is the world’s oldest volca-

nology institute.

The Navy has established an emergency notification system to alert personnel of any danger in the region, said Lt. Pete Pagano, Naples base command spokesman.

It is not the first time the U.S. military has had to factor a volcano into its overseas operations. The 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of U.S. personnel from Clark Air Base and Naval Base Subic Bay in the Philippines, effectively ending decades of U.S. presence there after a political agreement on returning fell apart.

So far, Italian officials have not declared any areas around Pozzuoli as red zones, which would bar anyone from living there, Pagano said. Some areas near Vesuvius are red-zoned.

# Tainted drinking water found outside NC base

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The tiny Eastern North Carolina community of Atlantic has joined a growing list of military areas across the country affected by contaminated drinking water.

The Navy is providing bottled water after two private groundwater wells in Atlantic, an unincorporated area in Carteret County with a population of less than 600, tested positive for elevated levels of cancer-causing chemicals. Atlantic sits on the Core Sound, just west of the Outer Banks.

The chemicals, perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, and perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, are used to make products more stain-resistant, waterproof and nonstick, and they appear in common household

products such as cookware, carpets, food packaging and clothes, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

They also are found in firefighting foam used by the Department of Defense beginning in the 1970s.

The Navy tested more than 250 wells near Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field Atlantic, a World War II-era field now used for helicopter training. The landing field supports training operations for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

"We are doing further testing on the airfield to see if we can detect anything on the airfield. What we want to do is find out if there's any on the airfield or if we can find a link. Are we causing it?" said Mike Barton, a Cherry Point spokesman. "It's going to take a lot more study to determine

whether the detection in the community is linked to the airfield. ... It's a hunt. It's an investigation."

North Carolina also is dealing with air and water pollution from GenX, an unregulated chemical that the company Chemours produced commercially in the Fayetteville area as a replacement for the toxic PFOA. The company spilled the chemical into the Cape Fear River for years, according to the state. The river provides drinking water for residents from Fayetteville to Wilmington.

In 2016, the EPA set stricter limits on the amount of the chemicals allowed in drinking water, citing adverse health effects such as low birth weight, accelerated puberty, cancer and liver, immune and thyroid effects from exposure to PFOS and PFOA, according to the EPA.

## Seamanship still at core of Naval Academy training

The (Annapolis, Md.) Capital

In October, the Navy published a review of "Recent Surface Force Incidents," highlighting avoidable collisions involving the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John McCain that led to the deaths of 17 sailors.

The review found that proficiency in seamanship and navigation competes for the time and attention with other duties — and gaps exist in how those skills are provided and tested.

Seamanship and navigation are the core of what officers will do when they go to sea, according to the United States Naval Academy's seamanship and navigation chair Cmdr. Chad Graham. And while the time midshipmen spend in seamanship and navigation courses has gone down since his days at the academy as other priorities, like cyberwarfare, have emerged, the 1998 graduate said the courses he is responsible for are what makes the Naval Academy naval.

Fundamentals of seamanship, basic navigation, advanced navigation and junior practicum courses are all part of the school's core curriculum.

Graham is teaching two courses this semester, one for plebes and one for seniors. For

the seniors, it's less academic rigor and more advice from an experienced sailor to a novice, he said.

"These are the things I've done to be successful. This is my advice to you on your first day aboard," he said.

He also reinforces the importance of being a capable mariner.

"I reteach them the rules of the road again to make sure they're going out fresh," he said.

Every word matters — the understanding between the meaning of "may" and "shall" is huge, he said.

"To teach them where that happens in the rules, and making sure they understand where they have to do something, and where it's just best practice to do something," he said.

Graham can teach students concepts like relative motion inside one of the school's bridge simulators, and also practice contact management — how to deal with other vessels on the water.

"We don't have signal lights out here and we don't have traffic lanes," he said.

The faux bridge is surrounded by a panoramic screen, and the horizon line moves with the

simulated vessel. It's not unheard of for people to get seasick. A quick call to a nearby control room, and Graham can change the location, weather, waves and type of vessel being simulated. The simulator was upgraded recently, he said, part of a constant process to have the best training possible.

"The more realistic I can make it in here, the better off I am," he said.

But the academy has another tool that offers a level of realism a simulator can't match — its Yard Patrol craft. The ships, moored at Naval Support Activity Annapolis, have been used at the academy for decades to support what midshipmen learn in the classroom about how to operate a vessel at sea.

The review of the collisions called for an evaluation of how Yard Patrol craft are used across officer accession programs like at the academy. Officials said the evaluation also should look at the feasibility of expanding Yard Patrol craft use and other training programs to ensure every naval officer gets the core competencies laid out in the Officer Professional Core Competencies Manual.

As Graham gave a tour of one

of the vessels recently, midshipmen were checking charts and courses, and were gathering for a navigation briefing in an on-board classroom and lounge.

Three boats, each with 30 midshipmen and a crew, were scheduled to travel to Philadelphia the first weekend in March, and the midshipmen were gathered to practice ahead of that cruise.

They were to practice basic navigation and ship-handling requirements, to work on maneuvering ships in a column and to test out crew rotations to ensure each watch team is proficient.

The academy conducts three weekend cruises per semester to ports like Baltimore, Philadelphia and Norfolk, Va., with two to four craft each.

"They're going to find out where they're not good, work through some of those faults as a team and see where they need to do a little more work before they sail over the horizon," Graham said.

Having a plan that everyone knows is key — that way if they go off course, everyone can work through the problem.

"If everyone has a piece of the plan, they can back each other up," he said.



# 2 hurt by another blast in Austin

*The Dallas Morning News*

AUSTIN, Texas — Two people were wounded in an explosion Sunday night in an Austin neighborhood that was set off by a tripwire, and police are working to determine whether the blast is connected to the recent string of deadly package bombings in the city.

The victims — two white men in their 20s — were wounded about 8:30 p.m. in the 4800 block of Dawn Song Drive, southwest of downtown Austin. The injuries were not thought to be life-threatening, Austin-Travis County EMS said.

Interim police Chief Brian Manley said during a news conference that it was “very possible” that the explosion had been set off by someone “handling, kicking or coming in contact with a trip wire.”

“We now need to have an extra level of vigilance and pay attention to any suspicious device, whether it be a package, a bag, a backpack — anything that looks out of place — and please do not approach it.”

Manley said that the device involved in Sunday night’s blast

was left alongside the road. The victims were on bicycles, or pushing them, when the device exploded, he said.

On “Good Morning America” later Monday morning, Manley confirmed the explosive was set off by a trip wire and said the device showed “a different level of skill.”

Manley said it likely would be daylight before officials could declare the area safe.

Late Sunday and into Monday morning, law enforcement officials worked to sweep the community. They cleared a suspicious backpack found in the area of the explosion.

Before dawn, police sent out a cellphone alert asking residents to remain indoors. Austin ISD said it would not be sending school buses into the neighborhood and that absences and tardies would be excused.

In the three bombings earlier this month, which killed two people and injured two others, a box or package was left on or near the front porch of the victims’ homes, according to law enforcement.

On March 2, Anthony

Stephan House, 39, was killed at his home in the 1100 block of Haverford Drive.

Ten days later, Draylen Mason, 17, was killed and his 41-year-old mother was injured when she opened a package left on the front porch of her home in the 4800 block of Oldfort Hill Drive.

Later that morning, a 75-year-old woman was injured when she handled a package near her home in the 6700 block of Galindo Street.

The names of the two injured women have not been released. Authorities think the three incidents are related.

A \$115,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible.

On Saturday, a 26-year-old man was arrested after a bomb threat was emailed to South by Southwest festival organizers. That threat led to the cancellation of a concert by the Roots on Saturday night.

Police searched the area and said they found no danger to the public.

## University reopens after bridge collapse

*Miami Herald*

MIAMI — The beginnings of a memorial to the six people who died in the collapse of a bridge at Florida International University appeared Sunday — a single bouquet of flowers and six small wooden crosses on cords hung from a wall and held in place by pieces of rubble.

The impromptu memorial is sure to grow as FIU students return to school from spring break Monday, the first day of classes since the bridge crashed down Thursday. Members of the college community and of the public will be asked to pause at 1:47 p.m. to mark the moment the pedestrian bridge collapsed last week, killing six people and injuring at least nine more.

“It’s going to take time for us and our community to heal,” President Mark Rosenberg said in a video shared Sunday afternoon. “Please join us wherever you are and keep the victims and the families in your thoughts.”

A vigil is scheduled Wednesday on campus.

Also on Sunday, the final victim, Brandon Brownfield, was identified, hours after the last body was removed from under the bridge. Previously, authorities identified the five other people who were killed when the bridge fell on top of cars stopped at a red light: Alexa Duran, the only FIU student who was killed; Navaro Brown, a bridge worker; Osvaldo (Ozzie) Gonzalez; Alberto Arias; and Rolando Fraga.

By Sunday afternoon, most of the rubble had been cleared from the south side of Southwest 8th Street. The north end of the bridge remained in the street, a pickup crushed beneath it, the bodies already removed.

The Florida Highway Patrol said that for now the street will remain closed but a meeting was scheduled for Monday to discuss when it might reopen.

## Acrobat dies after falling during live show

*The Washington Post*

An experienced Cirque du Soleil acrobat performing an intricate aerial routine for the first time on stage plummeted to his death in front of a live audience in Tampa on Saturday night.

The company identified the cast member as Yann Arnaud, 38, a Frenchman who had worked with Cirque du Soleil for 15 years. He died at a Florida hospital just a few hours after posting on Instagram about finally attempting the new, high-flying routine.

His horrifying midperformance fall brought an abrupt end to the show, “Volta,” which was staged under a big-top tent in Tampa. Audience members were at first told the show would be briefly interrupted, then learned that it was canceled.

The rest of the weekend’s shows in Tampa were also canceled following the second onstage death in Cirque du Soleil’s history.

“The entire Cirque du Soleil family is in shock and devastated by this tragedy,” Daniel Lamarre, president and chief executive of Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group, said in a statement. “Yann had been with us for over 15 years and was loved by all who had the chance to know him. Over the coming days and weeks, our focus will be on sup-

porting Yann’s family and our employees, especially the VOLTA team, as we go through these difficult times together.”

The statement said the company is gathering more information about Arnaud’s fall and cooperating with investigating authorities.

Arnaud was one of a group of acrobats performing a straps number Saturday night.

A video of the performance reviewed by The Washington Post showed the aerialists on a circular stage, flanked by drummers.

During the performance, Arnaud and another cast member — identified on Arnaud’s Instagram feed as Pawel Walczewski — performed a duet of sorts.

Each man clutched a red strap and performed flips and spins, suspended only by a hand gripping the straps of intertwined ropes.

As the straps were pulled higher, the men linked their free arms and performed interwoven acrobatics as they spun high above the stage. They separated, flying off in different directions over the crowd, and Arnaud briefly went out of the camera’s frame. When he was visible again, the video showed him losing his grip and dropping to the stage.

# EU condemns Turkish campaign in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The European Union's top diplomat criticized Turkey on Monday over its military offensive in a northern Syrian town, calling on Ankara to ensure that fighting eases in the conflict-torn country.

The appeal came as looting was widely reported in the town captured a day earlier by Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters, according to residents and monitors. Meanwhile, Turkey's state-run news agency said 11 people — seven civilians and four Turkish-backed Syrian fighters — were killed in an explosion in a building in Afrin town center as it was being cleared of booby traps. Anadolu News agency said the bomb was reportedly left by Syrian Kurdish fighters.

On Sunday, Turkish troops and Syrian opposition fighters allied with Ankara marched into Afrin, nearly two months after Turkey began its offensive on the enclave. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish militia in Afrin a "terrorist" group and an extension of its own Kurdish insurgency within Turkey.

"I am worried about this," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told reporters in Brussels on Monday, in reference to Turkey's offensive in Afrin. She said that international efforts in Syria are supposed to be "aiming at de-escalating the military activities and not escalating them."

Turkey views the local Kurd-

## Assad visits his troops on front line in Ghouta

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian President Bashar Assad visited troops Sunday on the front line in the newly captured areas of eastern Ghouta, near the capital, Damascus, hailing their recent advances as a part of a larger battle against global terrorism.

Standing in a neighborhood street, Assad congratulated his troops during the visit broadcast on state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV. "We are proud of you," he said.

He told the soldiers that they are not only fighting for the region but also to rid the world of terrorism.

"With every bullet you fire at a terrorist, you change the balance in the world," Assad said. Syria's government views all its opposition as terrorists.

Assad's visit comes on the week the war enters its eighth year, a war that has

devastated large parts of Syria and displaced nearly half of the population. What started as peaceful protests against his family's long rule turned into a civil war after a heavy crackdown. The government fought the opposition for years, using its air force and artillery and solicited help from its Russian and Iranian allies, who threw their weight behind Assad.

Recapturing eastern Ghouta, a short drive away from the Syrian capital, would mark the biggest victory yet for Assad in the country's civil war. The area has been under rebel control since 2012. It would also be the worst setback for rebels since the opposition was ousted from eastern Aleppo in late 2016 after a similar siege and bombing campaign.

ish militia, the People's Defense Units or YPG, as a threat to its national security and has vowed to push it out of the district and away from its borders. The YPG retreated amid the swift Turk-

ish offensive on Afrin's town center and vowed to start a "new phase" of fighting against the Turkish troops and allied fighters.

Meanwhile, Afrin residents

and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported widespread looting and pillaging soon after Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters marched into the town center. The Observatory said the pillaging began on Sunday.

Images have emerged of torched stores, men in uniforms and others in civilian clothes walking out of homes with full loads of bales, while others were seen driving away with tractors and agriculture supplies.

A Syrian commander with the Free Syrian Army, which captured the district along with Turkish forces, blamed "thieves" for the looting. Moataz Raslan, a commander with the FSA, said a unit for protection of property has been formed to prevent further theft.

Thousands of Afrin residents, many of whom had earlier fled from the villages near the border with Turkey to the town center, streamed out of Afrin before the Turkish troops entered. Lines of vehicles and civilians on foot headed toward Syrian government-controlled areas to the south or other Kurdish-controlled areas.

Jiwan Mohamed, a doctor who worked at Afrin hospital, said the news from inside Afrin and images of looting were disturbing. The central Afrin hospital was bombed before the town center was captured, he said. The doctor said he learned from contacts with those still inside Afrin that more buildings were being burned.

# US, Japan, S. Korea discuss denuclearization, summits

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Top U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials discussed how to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during weekend talks ahead of upcoming inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korean summits, Seoul said Monday.

South Korean officials who visited Pyongyang recently say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to hold talks with

South Korean President Moon Jae-in in late April. Seoul says Kim also proposed meeting with President Donald Trump.

Trump then agreed to meet Kim by the end of May, but North Korea has yet to confirm talks with the U.S.

The developments have raised hopes for a potential breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear crisis. But many experts say tensions would flare again if the summits fail to make any progress and would

leave the nuclear issue with few diplomatic options.

U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster met his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Chung Eui-yong and Shota Yachi, in San Francisco for talks during the weekend on denuclearization and the summits, South Korea's presidential office said in a statement.

They agreed to maintain close trilateral cooperation in the next several weeks and shared a view that it's important not to

repeat past mistakes, the statement said. It didn't elaborate but likely refers to criticism that North Korea previously used disarmament negotiations as a way to ease outside pressure and to win aid while all along secretly pressing its weapons development.

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation" aired Sunday, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Kim had "given his word" that he was committed to denuclearization.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Meteorite stolen from science museum

**VA** RICHMOND — A small meteorite has been stolen from the Science Museum of Virginia, but museum officials say the thieves may not have pulled off the major caper they had in mind.

While some rare meteorites are valued in the millions of dollars, the one on display in Richmond is of a type that is relatively common, about the size of a tennis ball and worth about \$1,500.

Police told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that the iron-nickel meteorite was taken Thursday.

## Store owner: Thieves swiped pricey birds

**CA** MENIFEE — A business owner said thieves smashed a window of a Southern California pet store and made off with six birds worth thousands of dollars.

Birds-N-Paradise co-owner Erik Schreiner told the Press-Enterprise newspaper in Riverside that surveillance footage shows at least one shadowy figure stealing the birds early Friday.

He said the thieves took three Patagonian conures worth \$950 each, a caique parrot worth \$1,400, a rose-breasted cockatoo worth \$2,200 and a yellow nape Amazon parrot worth \$2,500.

## Firefighters pluck baby foxes from drain

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — Firefighters in Colorado plucked eight animals they thought were puppies from a storm drain only to find out later they were young red foxes.

Video of the rescue showed a Colorado Springs firefighter

lifting the squirming foxes one by one from the storm drain and placing them onto a sheet. The animals were turned over to The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, where a vet determined they were not dogs but foxes.

State wildlife manager Travis Sauder said the baby foxes would be returned to where they were found in hopes their mother was still around.

## Infant left in car that was stolen found safe

**TN** MEMPHIS — A 10-month-old girl who went missing when her mother's car was stolen in Memphis was found safe a day later.

Zoe Jordan was found safe Saturday morning, hours after an Amber Alert was triggered.

The Commercial Appeal reported the baby apparently spent the night in the car and was found by a resident.

Police said the car was taken when the girl's mother went into a restaurant to pick up an order and left her car running. Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings said charges against the mother are being considered.

Police said James Williams, 18, was charged Sunday with kidnapping and theft of property.

## Gunshots at school came from officer

**MT** MISSOULA — Gunshots fired in a Montana high school parking lot came from the gun of the school's resource officer, who fired at the fleeing car of a student suspected of attempting to run him over.

Those findings were reported by the Missoulian based on an initial investigation of the altercation released Saturday by

the Montana Department of Justice.

Investigators said a 17-year-old student at Missoula's Big Sky High School was being questioned Friday about a report of a gun at the school. They said the student ran into the parking lot, got into his car and attempted to run over the officer.

The incident ended after the student crashed his car in the parking lot of a nearby auto dealership.

## Pipe bomb found in home of blast suspect

**DE** ELSMERE — Another pipe bomb has been removed from the home of a Delaware man arrested earlier this month for detonating a similar device outside a nearby home.

Media outlets reported that family members cleaning the home of Mark Consiglio, 48, found the bomb Saturday and called police. Residents within a two-block radius were evacuated from about 5 to 11:30 p.m. The device was destroyed safely.

Consiglio was charged March 12 with manufacturing, possessing and using an explosive device over the detonation of a bomb outside the home of his estranged wife's family. The explosion broke a window, but no one was injured.

## Fire at chemical plant being allowed to burn

**TX** CRESSON — A fire at a Texas chemical plant following an explosion last week is being allowed to burn itself out before authorities search for a missing worker who's presumed dead.

Cresson Mayor and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Cornett said Sunday that conditions at the 15,000-square-foot Tri-Chem

Industries plant are "just too hot" and "just too dangerous." He said rains Saturday night aggravated chemicals at the site about 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

The missing worker is identified as Dylan Mitchell, 27. Two other workers were injured in Thursday's explosion.

## School sweethearts wed at alma mater

**NJ** CLIFTON — Two high school sweethearts in New Jersey returned to the high school hallway where they first met nearly three decades ago for their wedding this month.

Chris Gash and Jenn Sudol, who first met when they were freshmen at Clifton High School in 1989, were married March 10 at their old high school. The ceremony was small, with just family members, and officiated by Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi, who said he came out of retirement for the ceremony after retiring from wedding officiating a few years ago.

## School district needs \$1 to fund its budget

**RI** TIVERTON — A Rhode Island school district is asking local taxpayers to dig deeper into their pockets to fund next year's school budget.

But don't expect outrage in Tiverton. The school committee wants a total of \$1.

The committee is proposing increasing the next fiscal year's school budget by \$800,000 over last year, but noted that it is getting an expected \$340,000 in state aid and will withdraw almost \$460,000 from its reserve fund.

That leaves the town on the hook for \$1, a minimum amount required by state law.

From wire reports

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# Seminoles oust No. 1 Xavier

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Florida State senior Phil Cofer knows the biggest key to making any comeback, especially in the NCAA Tournament.

Don't get rattled.

Now the Florida State Seminoles are on their way to the NCAA Tournament's round of 16 for the first time since 2011 after upsetting top-seeded Xavier with a furious rally.

PJ Savoy made a three-point shot with 1:08 left to give Florida State its first lead of the second half, and the Seminoles rallied from a 12-point deficit to beat

the Musketeers 75-70 on Sunday night in the second round of the West Region.

"Everybody kept their composure, and that's what you got to do in March Madness," Cofer said. "And I think we did it."

The Seminoles did just that when trailing by 12 with 10:42 left and outscored Xavier 31-14 down the stretch, including the final seven points of the game.

"We were much better than Xavier in the last two and a half minutes of the game," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said. "Sometimes when the games are close, that's all that's important."

They made Xavier the second No. 1 seed ousted in tournament's first weekend, sending the Musketeers (29-6) out along with Virginia. It's a painful ending for a team that returned four starters from a team that lost in the Elite Eight last year — to Gonzaga, the team Florida State (22-11) will play Thursday night in Los Angeles.

This was sweet payback for Florida State after then-No. 11 seed Xavier routed the Seminoles 91-66 a year ago in the very same round in the same region.

# Haas sits as Purdue tops Butler

Associated Press

DETROIT — Without Isaac Haas, Purdue played fine for the most part.

Until the last few minutes, when the Boilermakers' season nearly slipped away.

"We lost our poise there, but then we also regained it," coach Matt Painter said. "And Dakota Mathias made a huge shot."

Mathias sank a three-point shot with 14.2 seconds left, and second-seeded Purdue held off 10th-seeded Butler 76-73 on Sunday to reach the Sweet 16 for the second consecutive year. Haas, the 7-foot-2 center who broke his elbow in Friday's win over Cal State Fullerton, did not play, but the Boilermakers prevailed anyway despite a late push by their in-state rivals.

# Texas A&M stuns North Carolina

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Texas A&M had its big men relentlessly snatching down loose rebounds, its wing players knocking down shots and an entire roster full of guys playing with aggressive confidence.

Stunningly, reigning national champion North Carolina found no match for any of it.

And just as shockingly, the Tar Heels are heading home with the most-lopsided NCAA Tournament loss of Roy Williams' Hall of Fame career.

The seventh-seeded Aggies manhandled the Tar Heels 86-65 Sunday in the second round

of the West Region, marking the second straight year the titleholder has been bounced from March Madness before the Sweet 16. They dominated the glass. They used their size to control the paint and block shots. And they pounced when UNC's small-ball lineup couldn't make an outside shot.

The Aggies are moving on to the round of 16 for the second time in three seasons.

"We had a certain togetherness today," said the 6-foot-10 Tyler Davis, who had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Aggies. "We didn't have the fastest start, but we were together the whole time."

It was a big upset based on the seeding, North Carolina's tournament tradition and the fact the Tar Heels have long been practically unbeatable in NCAA games played in their home state. Yet Texas A&M — a team that peaked at No. 5 in the AP Top 25 in December before going on a wild ride due to midseason injuries and suspensions — sure made it all look, well, routine.

As for the second-seeded Tar Heels (26-11), any dream of making a third straight Final Four or repeating as champ was all but gone barely 90 seconds into the second half as the Aggies (22-12) went up 20.

# WVU routs Marshall

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two in-state foes being forced back together on the court by the NCAA Tournament thousands of miles from home became a one-sided celebration for West Virginia.

Jevon Carter was the one leading the way.

Carter scored 28 points, Lamont West added 18 off the bench and West Virginia overwhelmed its in-state rival beating Marshall 94-71 on Sunday night in the second-round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Mountain State show-down out on the West Coast was all about the fifth-seeded Mountaineers. Bigger, more physical and making fewer mistakes, West Virginia (26-10) took control with a 19-0 first-half run.

The Mountaineers will face top-seeded Villanova next Friday.

# Clemson blasts Auburn to make Sweet 16

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Clemson isn't all about football.

The Tigers are pretty good at basketball, too, and are going to the Sweet 16 for the first time in 21 years.

Gabe DeVoe scored 22 points and Elijah Thomas had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Clemson, which closed the first half with a 25-4 run that helped it beat cold-shooting Auburn 84-53 on Sunday and advance to the Midwest Region semifinal.

"I think it's a statement game," Clemson guard Marc-Quise Reed said.

The blowout win put No. 5 Clemson (25-9) into the Sweet 16 for the fourth time overall and the first since 1997, earning it a spot against Kansas in the regional semifinal.

It was a humbling end for No. 4 Auburn (26-8), which played this season under the cloud of a federal investigation into corruption in college basketball.

The final 10½ minutes of the

first half were a nightmare for Auburn, which made only 6 of 33 shots (18.2 percent) in the first half and 17 of 66 overall (25.8 percent).

"I really don't know where we lost our focus," Auburn's Bryce Brown said. "All I can really honestly remember is they had a few stretches where they came down and knocked down shots and we had a few stretches where we came down and took kind of bad shots at times and that led to easy fast breaks."



# Nevada rallies to upset of Cincinnati

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nevada's Jordan Caroline sat in the Wolf Pack's locker room and shouted the three words that were being repeated in households across the country.

"What just happened?!"

Only a comeback that matched the second-largest in NCAA Tournament history.

Nevada rallied from 22 points down in the final 11 minutes Sunday to stun No. 2 seed Cincinnati 75-73 and earn its second Sweet 16 appearance ever. Josh Hall converted an offensive rebound with 9.1 seconds left to make the tiebreaking basket and give Nevada its only lead of the night.

"It's such an unimaginable feeling," Caroline said.

The seventh-seeded Wolf Pack (28-7) move on to an all-upstart South Regional semifinal matchup with 11th-seeded Loyola-Chicago (30-5) on Thursday night. Nevada's only previous regional semifinal appearance came in 2004.

Nevada earned its trip to Atlanta because Cody Martin (25 points, six rebounds, seven assists) led a comeback for the ages. The only bigger comeback in NCAA history came in 2012, when BYU beat Iona after trailing by 25 points. Nevada's rally is tied for second place with Duke, which erased a 22-point deficit to beat Maryland in the 2001 Final Four.

## UMBC's underdog run ends

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The ultimate underdog story is over, but this NCAA Tournament will always be remembered for the sweetest No. 16 in college basketball history.

UMBC's brief, but historic run ended with a 50-43 loss to ninth seeded Kansas State on Sunday night.

UMBC became the first 16 seed to beat a No. 1, destroy-

ing top-ranked Virginia 74-54 on Friday night. After pulling off an all-time sports stunner, the Retrievers ran out of magic against the Wildcats.

"I'm proud of my guys, man," said UMBC's Jourdan Grant. "We made history. Can't be mad at that. I wouldn't want to go out with another set of guys, man. I love these guys to the moon and back. This season, we'll remember it for the rest of our lives."

## Orange in zone against Spartans

Associated Press

DETROIT — Syracuse barely got into the NCAA Tournament, getting the 68th and final spot.

The Orange have earned the right to keep playing in college basketball's showcase. And, no one will be excited about facing that zone defense.

Tyus Battle had 17 points, Oshae Brissett scored 15, and 11th-seeded Syracuse zoned Michigan State out of the tour-

namment, 55-53 on Sunday to advance to the Sweet 16.

"No one plays zone like we do," Brissett said. "We're always moving — and we challenge every shot — so teams never get easy looks against us. That's why nothing surprises me with our defense."

Syracuse (23-13) will face second-seeded Duke (28-7) on Friday in the Midwest Region semifinals.

## Women's NCAA Tournament

# Lady Vols lose at home for 1st time

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tennessee's streak is over, N.C. State is headed to the Sweet 16 for the first time in 11 years and Texas A&M pulled off another record comeback.

It was an eventful start to the second round.

The Lady Vols had been 57-0 at home in the women's NCAA Tournament before Sunday. Sixth-seeded Oregon State ended that run with a 66-59 victory.

## Lexington Regional

**No. 6 Oregon State 66, No. 3 Tennessee 59:** At Knoxville, Tenn., senior Marie Gulich had 14 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Beavers to their third straight regional semifinal appearance.

It's the second straight season that Tennessee lost in the second round of the NAAs and will miss the Sweet 16 in back-to-back seasons.

**No. 1 Louisville 90, No. 8 Marquette 72:** Myisha Hines-Allen had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Asia Durr scored 19 points and host Louisville quickly pounced on Marquette on the way to a victory.

The Cardinals (34-2) advanced to their second consecutive Sweet 16 and will play 80 miles east in Lexington, Ky.

**No. 2 Baylor 80, No. 7 Michigan 58:** At Waco, Texas, Lauren Cox had 18 points with 16 rebounds, and the Lady Bears are going to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the 10th year in a row.

Baylor, the No. 2 seed, takes a 30-game winning streak into its regional semifinal game Friday against Oregon State.

## Spokane Regional

**No. 1 Notre Dame 98, No. 9 Villanova 72:** With the top-seeded Irish struggling to a halftime tie at home against Villanova, a visibly angry Muffet McGraw had seen enough.

When the Irish returned

from the locker room, Kathryn Westbeld, who sat out the first half with a left ankle sprain, entered the game and Notre Dame found its way to the regional semifinals for the ninth straight season.

Using the juice provided by Westbeld's return, the Irish started the third quarter with a 12-3 run and outscored the Wildcats (23-9) by a 28-8 margin.

**No. 2 Oregon 101, No. 10 Minnesota 73:** Sabrina Ionescu had 29 points, nine assists and seven rebounds and the host Ducks earned their 11th straight victory and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the second straight season. Last year they went to the Elite Eight for the first time in program history.

**No. 4 Texas A&M 80, No. 5 DePaul 79:** At College Station, Texas, freshman Chennedy Carter hit a three with 3.2 seconds left, capping a 37-point performance, to help the Aggies rally from a 17-point second-half deficit.

Carter had 32 of her points after halftime and the fourth-seeded Aggies (26-9) pulled off another stunning second-half comeback for the second consecutive year.

## Kansas City Regional

**No. 4 North Carolina State 74, No. 5 Maryland 60:** At Raleigh, N.C., Kiara Leslie had 21 points and 11 rebounds against her former team, and the fourth-seeded Wolfpack (26-8) earned their first Sweet 16 appearance since the late Kay Yow led an inspirational run in 2007.

## Albany Regional

**No. 2 South Carolina 66, No. 10 Virginia 56:** A'ja Wilson had 25 points and 11 rebounds in her last-ever college home game to lead South Carolina to its fifth consecutive trip to the Sweet 16 with a victory over Virginia.



## McIlroy holds off Woods for Bay Hill win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The connection Rory McIlroy had with Arnold Palmer was strong even before he delivered a Sunday charge that would have made the King proud.

McIlroy first played the Arnold Palmer Invitational three years ago, and Palmer teared up at dinner when he asked McIlroy if there was anything he needed and received this reply: “Mr. Palmer, thanks to you, I have everything I could ever need in my life.”

McIlroy’s last victory was at the Tour Championship on Sept. 25, 2016, the day Palmer died.

Sunday was special for so many reasons.

Tiger Woods brought Bay Hill to life when he pulled within one shot of the lead, only for McIlroy to respond to the endless cheers and chants for Woods by running off five birdies over the last six holes to pull away. McIlroy closed with a 64, just like the last time he won. And he ended his longest drought in eight years by winning on the course and tournament that Palmer built.

Bay Hill was rocking all afternoon, mostly for that red shirt. Woods, who started the final round five shot behind, made three birdies in a four-hole stretch to start the back nine and was within shot of the lead as everyone behind him on the course appeared to stall.

One shot changed everything.

Woods couldn’t commit to a swing with his driver on the par-5 16th hole and sent it far and left — way left — over a fence and out-of-bounds, sending him to a bogey when he couldn’t afford anything less than birdie.

He finished bogey-bogey-par for a 3-under 69 and tumbled down the leaderboard into a tie for fifth with Ryan Moore (71), and now heads to the Masters with plenty of momentum — just not a victory.

## NHL roundup

# Kucherov scores two as Lightning pad lead

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Nikita Kucherov helped the Tampa Bay Lightning quickly bounce back from a rare shutout loss.

Kucherov scored twice to lead the Lightning to a 3-1 victory against the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday. Tampa Bay extended its lead to four points over Boston for the top overall spot in the Eastern Conference less than 24 hours after a shutout loss at home to the Bruins.

Kucherov’s fourth multi-goal game of the season extended his lead to four points in the race for the Art Ross Trophy over Edmonton’s Connor McDavid, who was held off the scoresheet. McDavid scored four goals against Tampa Bay earlier this season.

**Jets 4, Stars 2:** Patrik Laine scored twice to extend his point streak to 15 games and tie Alex Ovechkin for the NHL goal lead, and host Winnipeg beat Dallas to match the franchise wins record at 43.

**Golden Knights 4, Flames**

**0:** William Karlsson scored a natural hat trick to lead host Vegas over Calgary.

**Blues 5, Blackhawks 4 (OT):** Patrik Berglund scored 3:31 into overtime, and visiting St. Louis came from behind for a big victory over lowly Chicago.

**Flyers 6, Capitals 3:** Wayne Simmonds scored two goals to help lift host Philadelphia past Washington.

**Avalanche 5, Red Wings 1:** Nathan MacKinnon kept up his torrid scoring with two goals and an assist, Semyon Varlamov was sharp in making 37 saves and host Colorado extended Detroit’s skid to 10 games.

**Ducks 4, Devils 2:** Brandon Montour scored a power-play goal, helping lift host Anaheim into third place in the Pacific Division with a win over New Jersey.

**Hurricanes 4, Islanders 3:** Trevor van Riemsdyk scored the go-ahead goal late in the third period and Scott Darling made 26 saves as visiting Carolina beat New York.

## NBA roundup

# Blazers win 13th straight

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Damian Lillard scored 23 points and CJ McCollum added 21 to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to their 13th straight victory, 122-109 over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday night.

Portland’s dynamic guard duo led five Blazers players in double-figures.

Los Angeles lost its third straight and fell two games back of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with 13 games remaining.

**Thunder 132, Raptors**

**125:** Russell Westbrook had 37 points, 14 assists and 13 rebounds for his fifth straight triple-double, Steven Adams scored 25 points and visiting Oklahoma City snapped Toronto’s 11-game winning streak.

**Rockets 129, Timberwolves 120:** James Harden had 34 points and 12 assists, and visiting Houston held off a fourth-quarter rally to beat Minnesota for the Rockets’ 26th win in 28 games.

**Pelicans 108, Celtics 89:** Anthony Davis had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and host New Orleans beat Boston.

## Truex takes 1st checkered flag of season

Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — Martin Truex Jr. saw nothing but clean air and green flags down the stretch in his first victory of the new NASCAR Cup season.

Truex didn’t get much of a look at Kevin Harvick, whose bid for four straight wins was ruined by an early crash at Fontana.

So even while Truex’s Furniture Row Racing Toyota team celebrated, it was a wee bit disappointed not to get a duel with the early-season king.

“I think we would have had something for him today,” team owner Barney Visser said.

Truex roared to victory at Fontana on Sunday, beating Kyle Larson by 11 seconds to claim the first win of the season for last year’s series champion.

Truex won both stages before rolling to the checkered flag on his 16th career victory and his first since that glorious championship day at Homestead last November. His first career victory at Fontana even moved Truex into the overall points lead, thanks to Harvick’s woes.

Harvick dragged his damaged car to a 35th-place finish after early contact with Larson ruined his day. But after dominating at Auto Club Speedway, Truex’s team was no longer certain Harvick has the fastest ride in the field.

“It just feels good to win,” said Truex, who became the third driver to win from the pole at Fontana. “I don’t really worry about who else is fast. Obviously [Harvick] has been quick. They’ve got a great team, and Kevin is an awesome driver. But as we’ve seen today, we can put together a run as well.”

Truex took the lead for good with 32 laps left by getting past Kyle Busch, who finished third. Brad Keselowski was fourth.

“People kept asking, ‘When are you going to win again?’” said Truex, who led 125 laps overall. “When are you going to win any stages? Well, here you go.”