

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## N. Korea frees 3 detainees ahead of summit

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea freed three American detainees on Wednesday, allowing them to leave with the visiting secretary of state and removing a potential obstacle to a planned summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Trump announced the release of the three men on Twitter, capping hours of suspense after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made his second surprise visit to Pyongyang in just over a month.

With the prisoners freed, Trump told reporters that the date and venue for the summit would be announced “within three days,” but added that the meeting would not be held in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean Peninsula.

“Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in the air and on his way back from North Korea with the 3 wonderful gentlemen that everyone is looking so forward to meeting,” he tweeted. “They seem to be in good

health.”

Trump also said Pompeo had a good meeting with the North Korean leader. “Date & Place set,” he added, without giving details.

In a second tweet, the president said the plane would land at Joint Base Andrews, Md., at 2 a.m. and he would be there to greet it.

The plane made a stop at Yokota Air Base in Japan late Wednesday. Pompeo told reporters traveling with him that the former detainees were to be transferred to another plane that was better equipped to handle medical needs.

The president has said frequently in recent weeks that he was ready to meet with Kim in what would be the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit.

The lack of a formal announcement fueled speculation that the sides were having trouble agreeing on issues related to the talks over the North’s nuclear weapons program.

Later Wednesday, Trump told South Ko-

rean President Moon Jae-in on the phone that he will soon announce the time and place, according to Moon’s office.

“President Trump said Pompeo and Kim Jong Un had very productive discussions,” the Yonhap News Agency quoted a presidential official as saying.

One major U.S. demand has been the release of the three Korean-Americans — Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim — being held by the North on accusations of anti-state activities.

The men were freed after a 90-minute meeting between Pompeo and Kim Jong Un, according to a pool report. North Korean officials reportedly said they had been granted amnesty.

Blue House spokesman Yoon Youngchan said the release “will be a positive factor for the success of the North Korea-United States summit.”

The secretary of state also discussed the summit agenda with Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the central committee of North Korea’s ruling party.

## Mattis: US, allies will work to halt Iran nuclear weapons

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis vowed Wednesday that the United States would work with its allies to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, one day after President Donald Trump pulled out of a key agreement that temporarily halted the country’s nuclear program.

“We have walked away from [the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] because we found it was inadequate for the long-term effort,” Mattis told lawmakers during testimony before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for defense. “We will work with our allies and try to bring Iran back into more responsible behavior.”

The defense secretary said the decision to pull out of the

JCPOA, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, was not made hastily.

The United States left the agreement, which was negotiated under former President Barack Obama, because it could not be fully ensured that the Iranians were living up to their end of the deal, Mattis said.

However, in April, Mattis told lawmakers the agreement included a “pretty robust” verification system that appeared to be written under the assumption the Iranians would attempt “to cheat.”

Though Mattis had previously said the agreement with Iran was less than perfect, this was the first time that he stated publicly that he supported withdrawing from it. He indicated the Trump administra-

tion would seek other avenues to curb Iran’s ability to develop nuclear weapons and address its ballistic missile program, its use of cyberattacks and its use of military vessels to disrupt commerce in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

“For over a year, we have attempted to work with allies to address the shortcomings of [the deal],” Mattis said. “I think we now have the opportunity to move forward and address those shortcomings and make it more compelling. That effort is underway already.”

The nuclear deal was struck in 2015 with the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China and Russia signing it with Iran. In exchange for sanctions relief, Iran agreed to restrictions on its nuclear program and inter-

national inspections through 2031.

American allies, including Germany, Britain and France, unsuccessfully lobbied Trump to remain in the deal before his announcement to withdraw. French President Emmanuel Macron said those nations would remain in the agreement, adding that he expected Iran to continue to abide by it.

Top Iranian officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, chastised Trump’s decision in public remarks on Wednesday, The Associated Press reported.

Trump said Tuesday that he would reimpose economic sanctions and add new ones against Iran in an effort to “pressure the regime to alter its course of malign activities across the Middle East.”

# Crashes prompt AF stand-down

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The top Air Force general has ordered a one-day stand-down for all aircraft so the service can review its safety measures and curb a drastic rise in crashes that have killed 18 airmen since October.

Gen. David Goldfein ordered the stand-down Monday for flying and maintenance units, directing commanders to convene forums to gather feedback from airmen to help them identify underlying issues that might have contributed to the increase in fatal crashes. Air Force data show that Class A mishaps — crashes resulting in more than \$2 million of damage to aircraft or fatal or permanent injury — have increased 48 percent among the service's manned aircraft since the start of fiscal year 2018, which began Oct. 1.

"We cannot afford to lose a single airman or weapons system due to a mishap that could have been prevented," Goldfein said.

The stand-down comes on the heels of a May 2 crash of an Air

Force WC-130H in Savannah, Ga., that killed all nine members of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard who were aboard the plane that was bound for decommissioning at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. It remains unclear what caused the decades-old cargo plane to go down just moments after taking off.

It was the fourth fatal crash for the service in fiscal year 2018. The Air Force had only one fatal crash the previous year, data show.

The 18 deaths in those crashes makes 2018 the deadliest aviation year in at least a decade for the Air Force. Thirteen airmen were killed in six crashes in 2008 and 10 were killed in five crashes in 2013. The service did not record double-digit fatalities in any other year since 2008, its data show.

Air Force Maj. Gen. John Rauch, the service's safety chief, told reporters at the Pentagon on Tuesday that the stand-down had been discussed among senior Air Force officials before it was ordered this week. Active-duty units have until May 21 to

complete the one-day pause, he said. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units will have until June 25 to complete their stand-down.

Rauch said it was not clear whether underlying issues connect the fatal crashes. Some members of Congress have linked the uptick in such incidents in aviation among all four military services to budget cuts under sequestration in recent years.

Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington, the ranking Democrat for the House Armed Services Committee, introduced legislation Monday to create an independent National Commission on Military Aviation Safety to probe the rise in militarywide aviation crashes since 2013, the year sequestration took effect.

Goldfein has directed his wing commanders to focus their forums during the stand-downs on several areas including leadership, training, mission planning, risk management, flight-line operations, experience among their airmen, and flying and maintenance fundamentals, Rauch said.

## Second GI is convicted in Humvee loss

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

A 173rd Airborne Brigade soldier was convicted Wednesday of being responsible for the destruction of three Humvees that plummeted to earth during a 2016 training exercise, an event captured on video that became an internet sensation and an embarrassment to the Army.

Sgt. John Skipper, 29, was found guilty at court-martial in Vilseck, Germany, of destroying military property and giving a false official statement, according to a statement from the 7th Army Training Command, based in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Skipper was sentenced by a military jury to a bad-conduct discharge and reduction in grade to E-1.

Skipper, a scout who had been assigned to assist the brigade's Italy-based parachute riggers during the exercise, intentionally cut parachute straps on three Humvees included in the heavy drop during the exercise, the jury found. Skipper is assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) in Grafenwoehr. The squadron is part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy.

Skipper was criminally charged a year ago. His sentence could have been harsher. Willful destruction of government property carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Negligent destruction carries a maximum punishment of a year in prison, a bad-conduct discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

A sergeant first class heard laughing and cursing on a video of the Humvees falling from the sky was punished previously. The sergeant, an observer trainer coach assigned to the 7th ATC's Joint Multinational Readiness Center, was given an administrative letter of reprimand.

## Carrier Washington may get aerial drones

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS George Washington could be outfitted to host aerial drones and regain its position as the nation's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, according to the fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization bill.

The carrier — which was homeported at Yokosuka for seven years before being replaced by the USS Ronald Reagan in 2015 — is undergoing a four-year midlife refueling and overhaul in Virginia that began last fall.

The House Armed Services Committee chairman's mark summary of the bill requires the Navy to incorporate MQ-25A

Stingray combat drones on the George Washington "to ensure that our only forward deployed carrier is equipped with the first carrier-based [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles]."

The bill also requires "the Navy to fund the modification of [the USS George Washington] during its refueling and overhaul period in support of future MQ-25 unmanned carrier aircraft operations."

A legislative aide confirmed the George Washington "will return to Japan following its [refueling and overhaul] and that the current forward-deployed carrier, USS Ronald Reagan, will return to the U.S.," according to a U.S. Naval Institute report published last week.

A Navy spokeswoman told

Stars and Stripes such a move has not been formally decided.

"U.S. Navy long-range planners constantly evaluate whether ships, aircraft and equipment are being used effectively and efficiently," said Lt. Marycate Walsh, of the Navy Office of Information at the Pentagon. "The Navy monitors force readiness and capabilities to provide the most robust capable maritime force possible. Decisions for this and other carrier homeport assignments will be announced when appropriate."

The Boeing-designed MQ-25 is designed to provide the Navy with refueling capabilities that would extend the combat range of deployed F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler and F-35C fighters.



# Niger report urges no punishment

*Tribune Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon investigation into an ambush that killed four U.S. soldiers in Niger in October found that two officers in charge misinformed higher-ups about the danger of the mission, yet no punishment was recommended against them, according to officials familiar with the still-unreleased report on the findings.

Two Army captains — one in charge of the 12-man unit targeted in the ambush and another back at headquarters — did not disclose in paperwork before the mission that it was more than a routine reconnaissance, that the soldiers were seeking to capture the leader of an Islamic State affiliate involved in kidnapping an American aid worker, according to the officials briefed on the investigation findings.

The report recommended against taking disciplinary action against the two officers,

however, because the officers believed they had authority to carry out the capture-or-kill mission without approval, the officials said.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has reviewed the report on the investigation by Maj. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier, chief of staff of U.S. Africa Command, and is expected to accept the conclusions, officials said.

The deadly firefight was caused by an “aggressive, opportunistic enemy,” which attacked the team of U.S. and Nigerien soldiers after they stopped for water at the remote village of Tongo Tongo — not by the failure to follow proper procedure, according to Rep. Steve Russell, an Oklahoma Republican and member of the House Armed Services Committee who was briefed Monday on the findings.

The two officers “were clearly within the authorities they believed they possessed,” said Russell, a former Army officer.

“The ambush at Tongo Tongo could have happened whether they did that or not.”

Families of the deceased soldiers — Sgt. La David T. Johnson, 25, of Miami Gardens, Fla.; Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Wash.; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springboro, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Ga. — have been briefed on the report, which is expected to be made public this week.

Johnson initially was unaccounted for, and his body wasn’t found until after a two-day search, and then by Nigerien villagers.

The ambush raised questions about whether U.S. forces in Saharan Africa were adequately equipped to operate in the vast areas where they were at a time when Islamic militants had become increasingly aggressive near Niger’s border with Mali.

Before leaving their base near the Nigerien capital of

Niamey on Oct. 3, the dozen-man special operations team had reported that they would be conducting reconnaissance and meeting with tribal leaders.

Their real mission, aided by 30 Nigerien soldiers who joined the convoy of unarmored vehicles, was to search for Doundou Chefou, the leader of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, the officials said.

While the mission was underway, the team was ordered by superiors to assist a separate U.S. team sent to search for Chefou by helicopter. Both groups of soldiers — one in the air and one on the ground — were supposed to converge on a site in northern Niger where Chefou had been reported.

Bad weather forced cancellation of the team moving by helicopter, leaving only the team from Niamey to pursue Chefou. They found the site deserted, according to Russell. The ambush occurred hours later as the unit drove back to Niamey.

## USS Fitzgerald officer loses some pay, is reprimanded

BY DIANNA CAHN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The junior lieutenant in charge of navigating the destroyer USS Fitzgerald when it collided with the container ship MV ACX Crystal last year was sentenced Tuesday to loss of a portion of her pay and a letter of reprimand.

Earlier, Lt. j.g. Sarah Coppock had pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and acknowledged her role in the deaths of seven sailors in the collision.

Coppock cried during her court-martial at the Washington Navy Yard. She was sentenced to forfeit half of her pay for three months — an additional month on top of the two she forfeited as her nonjudicial punishment. She also received a letter of reprimand.

“Not a day goes by where I haven’t thought about what I could have done different-

ly,” she said. “There is nothing I can do now but take responsibility.”

Coppock said her success as an officer of the Navy was through the support of her squadrons. “And then, when it mattered, I failed them,” she said through tears. “I made some tremendously bad decisions and they had to pay the price for them.”

Coppock’s unsworn statement followed the testimony of family members of sailors who died when the Fitzgerald struck the civilian commercial vessel off the coast of Japan on June 17.

“I am sad all the time,” said Terri Rigsby, whose son Dakota Rigsby was among the sailors killed. “I have persistent images in my mind of him drowning, and struggling to get out of his compartment. I am terrified he was scared and he suffered.”

Coppock was among 18 sail-

ors who faced nonjudicial punishment in the wake of separate collisions involving two Japan-based Navy destroyers in 2017. Ten sailors died when the USS John S. McCain collided with a commercial tanker in August, just two months after the Fitzgerald collision.

Coppock was charged for failing to “communicate and coordinate with the Combat Information Center, report ship specified contacts to the commanding officer, operate safely in a high-density traffic condition and alert crew of imminent collision,” according to the charge sheet.

As officer of the deck on June 17, Coppock was responsible for the safe navigation of the ship after the commanding officer went to his quarters that evening. The ship had been conducting evolutions all day, and the crew was tired.

Coppock testified that she had been instructed by the

commanding officer to maintain 20 knots even as the ship traversed heavily trafficked waters and its main navigation radar stopped working fully about an hour before the collision. Meanwhile, she said the “low confidence” she had in some of her fellow watch standers played into her decision not to be in closer communication with sailors in the Combat Information Center. Below deck, they are supposed to gather and communicate information to the bridge.

Coppock described an unspoken culture on the ship not to follow the standing orders to contact the commanding officer when the ship is within 6,000 yards of another ship “especially in that specific area.”

“We would have called him every five minutes,” she said.

She acknowledged losing situational awareness and not sounding the alarm to alert the crew ahead of the collision.

## Lawmakers seek a review of military child-on-child abuse

Associated Press

Congress has asked its watchdog agency to investigate the Pentagon's handling of child-on-child sex assaults on U.S. military bases following reporting by The Associated Press that detailed how failures of justice leave victims with little support and offenders little consequence.

The AP's investigation, which documented nearly 700 cases worldwide over 10 years, has prompted legislation and demands for answers by members of Congress. The recent request that the Government Accountability Office get involved means a more transparent review of an opaque system is likely.

The top Republican and a top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee asked the GAO to review the handling of child-on-child sexual assault reports at Pentagon-run schools that educate about 70,000 military kids, as well as how military investigators and lawyers seek justice for cases they cannot prosecute.

Reps. Mac Thornberry, of Texas, and Jackie Speier, of California, wrote in an April 25 letter that they worried "the investigation and adjudication" of student sex assaults at Pentagon-run schools "may not be consistent across the department."

The AP found that even though students at Pentagon schools have fewer legal protections than their public school peers, the system hasn't had a specific policy for responding to child-on-child sexual violence and hasn't accurately tracked incidents.

House committee members are considering requiring that the Pentagon's school system improve its tracking of juvenile misconduct as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which the committee is scheduled to revise Wednesday. Their Senate counterparts are drafting more expansive legislation.

The House letter also requested information about how the military handles reports of other types of child abuse. The accountability office is not required to accept requests and is still reviewing this one, but spokesman Chuck Young wrote in an email Tuesday it was "likely" the GAO would take it up. Thornberry and Speier requested a preliminary briefing by Feb. 1.

With at least four potential legislative fixes being drafted, military officials who have briefed members of Congress and their staffs in recent weeks have made clear that they want to handle the issue on their own and do not desire any new legislation. The Pentagon has not responded to repeated questions from the AP asking whether its schools, criminal investigators or lawyers have made any changes since AP's investigation published in March.

## Trump declares GOP had 'great night' in primaries

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Republican voters rejected ex-convict Don Blankenship in a West Virginia Senate primary in which he sold himself as "Trumpier than Trump" but was vigorously opposed by President Donald Trump. GOP voters in Indiana, meanwhile, chose wealthy businessman Mike Braun over two sitting congressmen to lead the party's charge against a vulnerable Democratic senator in the fall.

Trump and his allies cheered the West Virginia result, which helped avert a potential political disaster for a GOP already bracing for major losses in the November midterm elections. Trump said on Twitter on Wednesday that Republicans "had a great night." He added, "Tremendous voter energy and excitement, and all candidates are those who have a great chance of winning in November."

In both cases, Trump's party appears

to have avoided the missteps that doomed candidates in high-profile Senate races in the past. Clinging to a two-seat Senate majority, Republicans are well-positioned to challenge at least two Senate Democrats this fall — West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Indiana's Joe Donnelly — who are facing re-election in the heart of Trump country.

State Attorney General Patrick Morrisey claimed the GOP nomination in West Virginia, promoting his record of challenging policies of the administration of former President Barack Obama.

In a possible sign of party unrest, however, Rep. Robert Pittenger lost in North Carolina to the Rev. Mark Harris, a Baptist pastor he narrowly beat two years ago. Pittenger is the first incumbent to lose his seat this primary season. In Ohio's high-profile governor's race, Democrats nominated Obama-era consumer watchdog Richard Cordray while Republicans selected state Attorney General Mike DeWine.

## Stormy Daniels' lawyer says Trump attorney got \$500K from Russian

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stormy Daniels' lawyer said Tuesday he has information showing that Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney, received \$500,000 from a company associated with a Russian billionaire within months of paying hush money to Daniels, a porn star who claims she had an affair with Trump.

Lawyer Michael Avenatti also said hundreds of thousands of dollars streamed into Cohen's account from companies, including pharmaceutical giant Novartis, AT&T and Korea Aerospace, with U.S. government business interests. AT&T confirmed its connection Tuesday evening.

Avenatti did not reveal the source of his information or release documentation. But in a seven-page memo, Avenatti detailed what he said were wire transfers going into and out of the account Cohen used to pay Daniels \$130,000 in October 2016 to stay silent about her alleged affair with the soon-to-be president. Trump denies having an affair with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

Financial documents reviewed Tuesday by The Associated Press appeared to back

up Avenatti's report.

The memo, containing highly specific dates and amounts, stated that Viktor Vekselberg, a Russian billionaire, and his cousin "routed" eight payments totaling approximately \$500,000 to Cohen's company, Essential Consultants, between January and August 2017. The reason for the payment was not known.

Avenatti's memo said the deposits into the account controlled by Cohen were made by Columbus Nova, an American investment company headed by Vekselberg's cousin Andrew Intrater and affiliated with the Renova Group, which is controlled by Vekselberg.

A spokesman for Vekselberg and the Renova Group said in a statement that "neither Victor Vekselberg nor Renova has ever had any contractual relationship with Mr. Cohen or Essential Consultants."

Columbus Nova's attorney, Richard Owens, stressed in a statement that the company is "solely owned and controlled by Americans" and said that, after Trump's inauguration, the firm hired Cohen as a business consultant "regarding potential sources of capital and potential investments in real estate and other ventures" but that it had nothing to do with Vekselberg.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man kills pets, burns home due to mites

**PA** SIMPSON — Authorities said a man told police he set fire to his house after stabbing and strangling more than a dozen pets because he believed the residence was infested with mites.

Carbondale police said the 41-year-old man was seen walking away from the burning Fell Township home Friday.

Officials said he was found Saturday and that he killed 13 to 14 cats and two dogs, piled brush and branches in the basement, poured gas and set the home ablaze.

Chief Brian Bognatz said the man, who has a history of mental illness, said he believed the house was infested with mites and that burning it down would solve the problem.

### Child in car seat falls out of moving vehicle

**MA** NORTHAMPTON — Authorities said a child in a car seat tumbled out of a moving car on a Massachusetts roadway but did not suffer any serious injuries.

Police said the 2-year-old managed to open the door and fell out of the vehicle as it was turning on a street in Northampton on Monday. Investigators said the car seat was not properly secured.

The driver was cited for an improper restraint violation.

### Mom sues zoo where kangaroo bit child

**AL** HUNTSVILLE — A woman is suing the owners of an Alabama zoo where her 9-year-old daughter was bitten by a kangaroo.

News outlets reported that a lawsuit filed Friday by Jennifer White accuses Harmony Park

Safari owners William Keith Allen and Shannon Allen of negligence and wantonness in connection with the May 2017 attack. According to video footage, a kangaroo named Erwin reached through the fence to grab the girl and bite her ear.

The girl was hospitalized and received 14 stitches. The lawsuit says the girl also suffered mental damage.

### Police: Man stole \$20 in gas for stolen car

**NJ** LYNDHURST — Police in New Jersey said the driver of a pickup truck later identified as stolen sped away from a gas station without paying for a tank of gas.

Lyndhurst police Capt. John Valente said the driver of the 2012 Dodge Ram truck sped out of a local gas station after refueling with \$20 worth of gas early Monday. The Record reported that the gas station attendant recorded the license plate.

When authorities ran the registration, it showed that the car was stolen out of Westfield on Sunday. Valente said police were unable to find the suspect.

### Man charged with samurai sword killing

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis man is charged with killing another man with a samurai sword and then stealing the victim's cellphone and sport utility vehicle.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Seth Herter, 29, is jailed on \$1 million bond on a charge of first-degree murder in the fatal stabbing of Christopher McCarthy, 55, who lived near the suburb of Fenton. McCarthy was found dead May 3 in Herter's apartment.

Police later found Herter with "blood all over his clothing." Police said Herter admit-

ted killing McCarthy with a sword and told police he was traveling to Mexico.

Herter also was charged Saturday with armed criminal action, stealing a motor vehicle and theft of a cellphone.

### Man sentenced for theft from mom, 90

**SD** ALEXANDRIA — An Alexandria man has been sentenced to serve 10 years in prison for stealing from his ailing 90-year-old mother.

A jury in March found Kenneth Hauge guilty of theft by exploitation for stealing more than \$30,000 from his mother's financial assets while she was at a nursing home in Mitchell. Hauge had been given his mother's power of attorney.

The Daily Republic reported that Hauge was on parole for a previous felony drug conviction when he was arrested for stealing from his mother. That meant he was classified as a habitual offender.

He was ordered to pay nearly \$32,000 in restitution and to have no contact with his mother.

### Man lying on road hit, killed by vehicle

**SC** SHILOH — Officials said they're trying to figure out why a man was lying on a South Carolina highway before being hit by a car and killed.

The State newspaper, of Columbia, reported the pedestrian was struck early Sunday morning on a Sumter County highway. South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Matt Southern said the pedestrian was lying in the northbound lane of SC-53 and was wearing dark clothing that made him almost invisible to the motorist.

WIS-TV reported that the county coroner identified the victim as Reggie Fulwood, 51,

of Lynchburg.

### Police: Obits used to find burglary targets

**NY** GREENBURGH — Police in the suburbs of New York City said a woman was using local obituaries to choose victims to rob while they were attending funerals.

Greenburgh police said Saturday that a 26-year-old Bronx woman was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and other charges.

Investigators said they noticed a pattern in the robberies: All of the people targeted were recently featured in obituaries as next of kin. The obituaries offered detailed funeral arrangements.

Police said the woman robbed the families while they were at funeral services. Police said they found stolen property from a February burglary during the arrest.

### Cop's mom shoots, wounds home intruder

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Authorities said the mother of a police officer shot and wounded an intruder who broke into her Philadelphia home.

Maxine Thompson told WPVI-TV that she had never used her gun before Saturday, when she heard someone trying to get inside her house. She said she fired at the intruder when he got to her bedroom door and then chased him out of the building the same way he came in.

Investigators said the intruder went to a nearby car wash and called police. When officers arrived, they found him suffering from a graze wound to the arm. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Charges have not been announced.

From wire reports

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# Paxton's no-hitter a 1st by a Canadian

Associated Press

TORONTO— James Paxton looked up at the 20,000 Canadian fans cheering for him and pointed to the giant maple leaf tattoo on his right forearm.

The Big Maple picked the perfect place for the game of his life.

Paxton became the first Canadian to throw a no-hitter in his home country, pitching the Seattle Mariners over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-0 Tuesday night.

"You couldn't write this stuff," Paxton said. "Pretty amazing to have it happen against the Blue Jays, at home in Canada."

Not bad, eh?

The 29-year-old lefty from British Columbia got a standing ovation at Rogers Centre. The crowd rooted for him in the late innings, realizing he was one of their own — his tattoo of Canada's national symbol includes an image of a family home near Vancouver.

"The fans were great," he said. "They were giving me some trouble in the seventh inning, but once I got past that, they started kind of cheering me on. It was cool."

Paxton joined Dick Fowler of the 1945 Philadelphia Athletics as the only Canadians to throw a no-hitter.

Paxton threw the third no-

hitter in the majors this year — all three have come in different countries.

Oakland's Sean Manaea pitched one against Boston on April 21 in California. Four Los Angeles Dodgers combined to no-hit San Diego in Mexico last Friday.

Coming off a career-high 16 strikeouts in his last start, Paxton (2-1) was electric once again, hitting 100 mph with his fastball while retiring Josh Donaldson on a grounder to end it.

Paxton struck out seven, walked three, threw 99 pitches and benefited from an outstanding play by third baseman Kyle Seager. With two outs in the seventh, the former Gold Glover made a full-length diving stop on speedy Kevin Pillar's grounder down the line, then slung an off-balance throw that first baseman Ryon Healy snagged on one hop.

"If that ball gets by you, it's going to be hard to get any sleep tonight," Seager said. "It may be hard anyway."

Russell Martin led off the Toronto eighth with a long drive that left fielder Ben Gamel caught near the wall.

"What a defense tonight. That was amazing. Those guys were making every play," Paxton said.

Anthony Alford fouled out on the first pitch to begin the ninth

and Teoscar Hernandez struck out swinging. Donaldson ended it with a hard one-hopper to Seager.

Healy pumped his fist after catching Seager's throw, and the Mariners streamed out of the dugout, dousing their pitcher with a cooler as the crowd of 20,513 cheered.

After his teammates had left the field, Paxton came back out and waved to the fans.

"Just showing my respect to the Canadian fans," Paxton said. "I really appreciate their cheers after the game, supporting me being Canadian. That was very special. I just wanted to show them that I heard them and that I was very grateful for their support."

Paxton said his tattoo also includes a mural of Bowyer Island, north of Vancouver, where his family owns a summer cabin.

"It's kind of a special thing for me, having not lived in Canada for the past 10 years or so," he said. "It just reminds me of home."

Paxton was a first-round draft pick by Toronto in 2009 out of the University of Kentucky, but didn't sign. He instead played in an independent league, was drafted by the Mariners in the fourth round the next year and joined them.

Seattle fans certainly appreciate him, too, especially the

ones sitting in Maple Grove. Rather than K cards to mark his strikeouts, they hold up "Eh" signs in a playful nod to his heritage.

This outing was a lot better than his first game in Canada. He allowed nine runs, six walks and seven hits in 2 2-3 innings in a September 2014 loss to the Blue Jays.

"We've come a long way from that," he said.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said he started to think early about what could happen.

"Probably about the fourth inning I looked up and realized his pitch count was in such good shape that if he got a few breaks along the way we might be looking at something special," Servais said. "It certainly was special tonight."

Paxton's season has taken off since a bald eagle mistakenly landed on his shoulder before a start last month. He's 2-0 with a 2.51 ERA over seven starts since the bird stuck its talons into his back before the Minnesota Twins' home opener.

Fowler threw his no-hitter on Sept. 9, 1945, against the St. Louis Browns. He had recently returned from serving in the Canadian military during World War II, missing two full seasons, and pitched his gem in his first start of the year.

## Stars align: Mets trade Harvey to Reds for Mesoraco

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Matt Harvey is getting another chance, this time with a historically bad team in a city that will have far fewer late-night temptations than the Big Apple. The Mets are getting a catcher who can help at their most unsettled position.

The Reds acquired the former New York ace for catcher Devin Mesoraco on Tuesday, shortly before Cincinnati pulled away to a 7-2 victory at Great American Ball Park.

The deal provided a fresh start for two former All-Stars whose careers have been sidetracked by injuries.

Mesoraco merely had to walk to the visiting clubhouse and was on the bench for the first pitch by Luis Castillo, which Me-

soraco originally supposed to catch. He was still wearing his Reds socks when he headed for the New York clubhouse, where attendants were sewing his name on the back of a Mets uniform.

"Just kind of surreal," Mesoraco said. "A whirlwind. A lot happened in 15 minutes."

He pinch hit in the ninth and took a called third strike as New York lost for the seventh time in eight games.

The Mets created a spot for him to play immediately when they put third baseman Todd Frazier on the 10-day disabled list with a strained left hamstring. Harvey is in Los Angeles working out and will join the team for the start of a series there against the Dodgers on Thursday.

The Mets lost starting catcher Travis d'Arnaud to season-ending Tommy John surgery last month, so Mesoraco gives them another option.

The Reds agreed to pay the Mets \$5,788,978 as part of the trade, which made the deal come out nearly even financially. Harvey is making \$5,625,000 on a one-year contract. Mesoraco gets \$13 million in the final season on a four-year, \$28 million deal.

The 29-year-old Harvey was designated for assignment on Saturday, giving the Mets seven days to trade or release him when he refused a demotion to the minors. Harvey was 0-2 with a 7.00 ERA this season.



# Stanton, Judge lift Yanks over BoSox

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As soon as Joe Kelly emerged from the bullpen, fired-up fans at Yankee Stadium let him have it.

Moments later, so did Aaron Judge.

Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, including a laser shot to left field, and Judge hit a tiebreaking single off New York's latest public enemy as the Yankees edged the rival Boston Red Sox 3-2 on Tuesday night for their 16th victory in 17 games.

"It's a lot of fun to play in these games, I'm not going to lie," rookie manager Aaron Boone said.

In the opener of a three-game showdown between baseball's top two teams, Luis Severino struck out 11 during a taut pitching duel with Red Sox lefty Drew Pomeranz.

Judge cut down a runner at second base with a pinpoint throw from right field, and the steamrolling Yankees — on their best 17-game run in 65 years — won their seventh straight to tie Boston for first place in

the AL East at 25-10.

"We're right there where we need to be," Stanton said after his 31st career multi-homer game and third this season.

It was the first time the storied rivals squared off with the two best records in the majors since June 2, 2002, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. And after their bench-clearing brawl at Fenway Park last month, touched off when Kelly drilled Tyler Austin with a pitch, a revved-up crowd of 45,773 packed the big ballpark in the Bronx to see old foes go at it again.

"Actually, I thought it was going to be worse," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "It was a good baseball game. Like I've been telling you guys, this place is alive. I lived it last year during the playoffs (with Houston)."

There was no trouble on the field this time as New York won its 10th consecutive home game, its longest streak since July 2008 at the original Yankee Stadium.

"That's done. That's in the past. Our

focus is about winning baseball games, not fighting," Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez said through a translator.

Neil Walker got the winning rally started in the seventh inning with a pinch-hit double off Heath Hembree (2-1), who walked the next two batters sandwiched around a balk.

That's when Kelly came out of the bullpen and was greeted by loud boos.

"I was inside getting ready, to be honest, but I could hear it through the door," Stanton said.

Judge laced a bases-loaded single that scored Walker to put New York ahead. Left fielder Andrew Benintendi threw out Gleyber Torres at the plate on the play.

David Robertson (3-1) gave up a tying triple to Mookie Betts in the seventh, but got three outs for the win. Aroldis Chapman earned his eighth save in nine chances.

"It was probably more like a playoff atmosphere," Kelly said. "It was fun."

## MLB roundup

# Royals pound O's historically bad Bundy

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Dylan Bundy had a difficult time on the mound and an easy explanation for his horrid, record-setting performance.

"I was leaving pitches right down the middle and they were hitting them over the fence," the right-hander said, matter-of-factly.

Bundy yielded four homers and left without getting an out, part of a 10-run first inning that propelled the Kansas City Royals past the hapless Baltimore Orioles 15-7 Tuesday night.

Bundy (1-5) was lifted after allowing five hits and two walks to the only seven batters he faced. That was more than enough damage to send the Orioles to their season-high seventh straight defeat and 19th in 22 games.

Jon Jay started the onslaught with a leadoff single before Jorge Soler, Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez homered in succession.

Two walks and a home run by Alex Gordon followed, end-

ing Bundy's night after just 28 pitches. It marked the first time in the current era (1908-present) that a pitcher gave up four home runs during an outing in which he did not retire a batter, according to baseball-reference.com.

After compiling a 1.42 ERA in his first five starts, Bundy has given up 19 earned runs in his past three games to inflate his ERA to 5.31.

"Physically, I'm fine," he insisted. "I'm just not executing the pitches I need to right now."

Following Bundy's departure, the Royals did not let up.

Alcides Escobar greeted Mike Wright with a single, the eighth straight batter to reach base. After No. 9 hitter Ryan Goins grounded out, many disgruntled fans in the crowd of 10,863 mustered a mock cheer. Minutes later, however, Moustakas singled in two runs and Perez capped the uprising with a sacrifice fly.

**Nationals 4, Padres 0:** Jeremy Hellickson was perfect until Travis Jankowski's single leading off the seventh inning

and led Washington over host San Diego.

**Astros 4, Athletics 2:** George Springer kept up his hitting surge with two hits and two RBIs as Houston beat Sean Manaea and the host A's.

**Braves 1, Rays 0:** Ronald Acuna Jr. became the youngest player to homer in a 1-0 game since 1935, lifting visiting Atlanta.

**Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5 (12):** David Descalso hit a tiebreaking, pinch-hit three-run homer in the 12th inning to lift visiting Arizona to its third straight win.

**Cubs 4, Marlins 3:** Kris Bryant slid home safely with the go-ahead run on Victor Caratini's grounder to the right side in the eighth inning as host Chicago beat Miami.

**Brewers 3, Indians 2:** Reliever Brent Suter homered off AL Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber and threw 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings of two-run ball to lead host Milwaukee.

**Reds 7, Mets 2:** Catcher Devin Mesoraco made the short walk between clubhouses

shortly before the first pitch as New York dealt for help at its neediest position, and he watched the visiting Mets lose.

**Twins 7, Cardinals 1:** Jake Odorizzi pitched five strong innings and Eduardo Escobar had a two-run homer as visiting Minnesota won its season-high fifth straight game.

**Phillies 4, Giants 2:** Aaron Nola struck out a career-high 12 in seven stellar innings and Odubel Herrera had two hits to extend his career-best on-base streak to 37 games for host Philadelphia.

**Pirates 10, White Sox 6:** Colin Moran hit a key two-run double, Jordy Mercer also had two RBIs and visiting Pittsburgh cleaned up in inter-league play once again, beating the White Sox.

**Tigers 7, Rangers 4:** Victor Martinez, Jeimer Candelario and Jose Iglesias homered for victorious visiting Detroit.

**Rockies 4, Angels 2:** Jon Gray continued Colorado's strong stretch of starts with seven scoreless innings, and the host Rockies won.

# Warriors advance to West final again

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After a Game 3 flop in New Orleans, similar to that lone first-round loss against San Antonio last month, coach Steve Kerr provided a quick reminder to the Golden State Warriors:

It's not supposed to be easy at this stage — especially for the defending champions.

There's no way this post-season can go as brilliantly as the last one. That remarkable, record-setting 16-1 run to the title, well, it's not going to happen often, or maybe ever again.

"I told our team actually after Game 3 the day we practiced, I said, 'What we did last year was the first time and only time anybody has ever accomplished that in the playoffs, gone 16-1,'" Kerr said. "I know the Lakers went 15-1, they had a similar kind of joy ride where very little adversity, but that's the extreme exception. Year after year, the NBA champion has to go through so much to get there. And that's why you pour champagne on each other, because it's really hard, and it's sup-

posed to be hard. The fact that it is so difficult brings out the best in you because you have to be on edge and on guard."

Now comes the next and most daunting test in this quest for a repeat.

The Warriors eliminated the Pelicans with a 113-104 win Tuesday night and are on to the Western Conference finals to face the top-seeded Houston Rockets, who closed out the Jazz earlier Tuesday in their own Game 5. This is the matchup so many have looked to for months.

"You can't believe the hype," Klay Thompson guarded before the Warriors played. "Everybody is already talking about Warriors-Rockets."

And for good reason. It might just have a Finals feel with so much talent and scoring on both teams.

"I think it will be very entertaining," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said.

Golden State has succeeded playing big and small. It has pushed the pace and dealt with San Antonio slowing things way

down. The Warriors have endured a couple of blips this time around, and that hasn't necessarily been a bad thing.

"Every series you play gets harder and harder and harder," Stephen Curry said, referencing Kerr's remarks.

Kerr didn't have to say anything to his players on the urgency of closing out the Pelicans in Game 5 at Oracle Arena, where the Warriors won a franchise-record 15th straight home playoff game to match the Bulls' NBA record.

"I dial people on my rotary phone. Nobody seems to answer, though," Kerr quipped. "Nobody answers a home phone anymore. No texts necessary."

Curry has his swagger and stroke back now that he has played four games following nearly six weeks on the sidelines with a sprained left knee. He played 37 minutes in the clincher and the entire fourth quarter.

When Gentry was asked about the Warriors' "Hampsons Five" starting lineup of Curry, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, Andre Iguodala and Thompson — all of the guys

who were together working on getting Durant to sign in July 2016 — he had some fun.

"You can call them any kind of five, they're really good," Gentry said. "You can call them the Jackson Five. ... They've got 2½ Michaels."

Yet there was a stretch late in the regular season when Kerr wasn't sure the Warriors would bounce back defensively and return to their dominant form. Scoring has never been a problem.

"Our defense was so bad in Indiana and in Utah, there was absolutely a part of me that thought, 'I don't know if we can get our defense together, I know we'll get our offense together,'" Kerr said. "Defense requires a mentality and a spirit and a unity and sense of purpose from the five guys on the floor. We were just a shell of ourselves that last week."

The Warriors weren't playing for anything then, assured of the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference. They have learned over recent seasons how to elevate the level when the playoffs arrive.

## Paul scores 41, makes first conference final

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Chris Paul is an ultra-intense competitor, often the most passionate player on the court.

But even for his Houston Rockets teammates, what they saw from him Tuesday night was on another level.

Paul scored a playoff career-high 41 points with eight three-pointers to finally reach the conference finals, helping the Rockets eliminate the Utah Jazz 112-102 in Game 5.

"He said you get out of the way ... I'm going to put us on my back," James Harden said. "You could see it in his eyes. He had that look in his eyes. If he has that look in his eyes ... he's a problem."

The Rockets will meet Golden State after the Warriors closed out their series against the New Orleans Pelicans later Tuesday night. Top-seeded Houston will host the series opener Monday night.

It will be Houston's second trip to the Western Conference finals in four years and the first ever for Paul. The point guard has been panned for failing to get past the

second round in his nine previous trips to the postseason.

"He's been under a lot of unfair scrutiny throughout the playoffs and tonight he showed that he wanted it," Utah star rookie Donovan Mitchell, who is close with Paul, said. "He does it every night, but taking over the way he did was very impressive."

Mitchell had 22 of his 24 points for Utah in the third quarter before leaving with about seven minutes left with an apparent left leg injury. The team didn't provide an update on his condition after the game, but he was wearing a walking boot on his left foot.

Paul, a nine-time All-Star in his first season with Houston after an offseason trade from the Los Angeles Clippers, also had 10 assists and seven rebounds. His previous career-best in the playoffs was 35 points, which he accomplished three times.

The 33-year-old scored 20 points in the fourth quarter, answering everything the Jazz tried to do in order to close out the game and series.

"He was playing with a chip on his

shoulder," Luc Mbah a Moute said. "In that fourth quarter, he just took over."

Paul had been in the conference semifinals four other times before finally getting over the hump this season. He lost to the Spurs 4-3 in 2008 while with New Orleans and was swept by San Antonio in 2012 with the Clippers. He also lost 4-2 to the Thunder while with Los Angeles, and his Clippers had a 3-1 lead in 2015 before Houston won the next three games.

While he wouldn't talk about finally getting over the second-round hump, he had no problem discussing how much he's enjoying this season.

"It's just fun," he said. "It's not about the points or anything like that. It's about the process."

The Rockets were able to close out the series despite Harden, the front-runner for MVP, being under the weather. Coach Mike D'Antoni disclosed that Harden wasn't feeling well Tuesday, and he looked a little worn down postgame. But when asked what was wrong with him, Harden said he was fine.