

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy to require recruits to pass running test to enter boot camp

BY JASON BEHNKE
Stars and Stripes

The Navy will require recruits to pass a running fitness test prior to beginning basic training as of Jan. 1, the service said Wednesday.

Recruits will have to run 1.5 miles in no more than 16 minutes, 10 seconds for males and 18 minutes, 7 seconds for female recruits, the service announced Wednesday. That is about the same run time the Navy requires active-duty sailors 50 and older to meet during semiannual physical fitness tests.

The Navy is the last of the Defense Department services to require an initial fitness test. While the Air Force requires a somewhat easier run test, the Army and Marine Corps also require a basic strength test before training begins.

Navy recruits who fail to meet the requirement will have 48 hours to retest. If they fail a second time, they will be sent home. They may be able to reapply with waivers from Navy Recruiting Command.

"It is the responsibility of each recruit to work hard and maintain all Navy standards," Capt. Mike Garrick, the training command's top officer, said in a statement. "Physical fitness is one of the greatest predictors of sailor success. Before they arrive to boot camp, recruits are expected to train to meet the physical fitness standards."

Recruits who pass will be grouped on the basis of their initial fitness tests. Throughout their eight weeks of training, they will be retested and can be put in higher fitness groups. Ultimately, they must pass a much more difficult test that, in addition to a 1.5-mile run, includes push-ups and sit-ups to graduate training. Those who achieve the highest level on the fitness test will be advanced to their next pay grade.

The Navy hopes the policy will reduce the number of recruits dropping out of training due to fitness failures, according to a statement.

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NATO: Alliance will provide enough Afghanistan forces

BY ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO—NATO's chief said Wednesday he is certain the alliance will have sufficient forces to fulfill its training mission in Afghanistan after months of lobbying allies to increase troop contributions.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday that NATO will meet the requirements set out by Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander for Afghanistan, who has said he needs close to 16,000 troops to fulfill the training mission. Stoltenberg said the troop level will go from 13,000 to about 16,000.

"I'm absolutely confident that we will have sufficient forces when we move into 2018," Stoltenberg said. "We are still receiving pledges and announcements about more troop contributions from allies."

Stoltenberg said the troops won't conduct combat operations but will help to train and assist the Afghan security forces, notably to train special forces and build up the conflict-torn country's air force. He spoke ahead of his attendance at the Halifax International Security Forum this weekend.

NATO officials said this month the alliance came up short, meeting a bit more than 90 percent of the military requirements outlined by commanders. U.S. military leaders said then they were encouraged by the continuing discussions with several nations, who might eventually increase their commitments. U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, NATO's top military officer, said in Brussels the troop commitment hadn't been reached. Nicholson said a gap has contributed to the lowest level of capabilities and the "highest level of risk we faced" in the 16-year war.

"There's still a lot of violence in Afghanistan but at the same time we've seen a lot of important progress," Stoltenberg said. "The Afghans are now able to respond every time the insurgents and the Taliban attack. ... They have also been able to prevent the insurgents or Taliban from taking over any of the provincial capitals, which was a strategic goal of the Taliban this year."

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday that NATO will meet the requirements set out by Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander for Afghanistan.

NATO countries are under pressure from U.S. and NATO leaders to beef up their commitments. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis sent letters to some allies in recent weeks urging them to fill critical gaps. Stoltenberg said Qatar and the UAE will send troops.

The additional trainers are critical to reaching the stated U.S. and NATO goal of building up the Afghan forces so they can take control of their own country's security. At the same time, officials want to use the increased military pressure to force Taliban leaders to the peace table.

"We strongly believe the best way to stabilize Afghanistan is to enable Afghans to stabilize the country themselves," Stoltenberg said.

The 16,000 NATO number does not include other support missions or counterterrorism operations against the Taliban, Islamic State militants and other insurgents.

At least 15,000 U.S. forces are in Afghanistan after President Donald Trump decided to send about 3,800 troops to the country this fall to strengthen efforts to advise Afghan forces and conduct counterterrorism missions.

In its ninth year, the Halifax International Security forum attracts top defense and security officials. About 300 people gather each year. Richard Spencer, Secretary of the U.S. Navy, and Abdullah Abdullah, the chief executive of Afghanistan, are among the speakers.

"We have to pay attention to Afghanistan," Forum President Peter Van Praagh said.

16 F-35Bs now deployed in Japan

BY LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps finished deploying a squadron of state-of-the-art stealth fighters to Japan on Wednesday with the arrival of three F-35B Lighting IIs at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, which began flying its F-35Bs to the air station in January, now has a full complement of 16 aircraft.

The squadron — which five years ago became the first in the Marine Corps to receive the high-tech, single-engine, single-seat, multi-role jets — also became the first forward-deployed F-35 squadron when it moved to Iwakuni from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

The fighters bring strategic agility, operational flexibility and tactical supremacy to III Marine Expeditionary Force, a Marine Corps statement said.

The F-35B used by the Marines is a short-takeoff, vertical-landing aircraft meant to replace the F/A-18 Hornet, the AV-8B Harrier and the EA-6B Prowler. The Marines' version of the jet recently was joined in Japan by the Air Force's F-35A.

A dozen F-35As from Utah's 34th Fighter Squadron will work out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, for six months to help "demonstrate the continuing U.S. commitment to stability and security in the region," the Air Force said in a statement.

NATO exercise seeks to display unity amid US-Turkey tensions

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and its allies are finishing a 10-day naval exercise led by NATO ally Turkey, whose relations with Washington have grown increasingly tense.

Turkey hosted the biennial exercise in the eastern Mediterranean dubbed Dogu Akdeniz, which ended Thursday.

The destroyer USS Donald Cook and a submarine-tracking P-8A Poseidon took part in the drills, designed to improve teamwork at sea between the navies of the U.S., Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Britain.

"Participating in exercises like Dogu Akdeniz helps to enhance the professional relationships between everyone involved," said ship Command Master Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Douglas. "(It) helps to improve the communication and coordination between allies and partner militaries."

The naval forces worked to mesh their skills, technology and tactics to defend against hostile submarines, aircraft and ships. Sailors also took part in live-fire training.

The Poseidon played a key role because of its ability to hunt and destroy submarines and to attack planes and ships.

The show of solidarity at sea came amid friction between Ankara and other NATO members.

Diplomatic relations between Turkey and the U.S. strained last month after Turkey arrested a U.S. consulate staffer it accused of taking part in last year's failed coup. The spat led to the U.S. and Turkey freezing nonimmigrant visas required for travel between the two countries. On Nov. 6, they both resumed

issuing a limited number of visas.

Turkey also has condemned the U.S. for arming Kurdish fighters in the war against Islamic State militants in Syria. Ankara believes the Kurds are part of a terrorist group that could threaten Turkey's southern border once ISIS is driven out.

And in September, Turkey concluded a controversial deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 anti-aircraft missiles.

Analysts say such Turkish military policies don't align with NATO's needs and show a pivot toward Russia since the aborted coup. Recent actions display "potentially problematic tendencies" that run counter to NATO's interests, said Bob Rook, a history professor at Towson University in Maryland.

Turkey's naval capability is seen as a NATO asset but also can be viewed as an instrument for a foreign policy independent of NATO, Rook said.

"Where that matters a great deal is the eastern Mediterranean," Rook said.

Turkey also has used its navy to harass research vessels from neighboring Cyprus in its dispute over offshore oil and gas exploration, Rook said.

Greek Cypriots claim drilling rights in waters around the entire island under maritime law. Turkey refuses to recognize those rights and contends that it is entitled to some of the deposits.

As the allies conduct exercises with Turkey as a NATO partner, they should think about how Turkey might use the skills it gains, Rook said.

"Turkey's regional strategic agenda should be taken into consideration," he said.

Ex-contractor admits rape in Okinawa slaying case

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

NAHA CITY, Okinawa — A former Air Force contractor admitted to some charges in the killing of a 20-year-old Okinawan woman last year. However, during the first day of his trial Thursday at Naha District Court, he pleaded not guilty to murder and insisted her death was not planned.

Kenneth Franklin Gadson, 33, is charged with murder, rape resulting in death and the illegal disposal of a body in the death of Uruma office worker Rina Shimabukuro

on the night of April 28, 2016. He is being tried under Japan's lay judge system with three judges and six jurors.

Gadson, a former Marine who was a civilian employee at a Kadena Air Base cable and internet provider at the time of his arrest, glanced at the crowd as he entered the courtroom wearing a white T-shirt, blue pants and black, plastic sandals.

Shimabukuro's family also was in attendance. They later wept as details of her killing were presented in court.

"I plead guilty to rape resulting in death and illegal disposal of the body," Gadson

said in a prepared statement when asked to speak on the charges. "I plead not guilty to the murder. I had no plans to kill her."

Shimabukuro disappeared after going out for a walk that April evening. Police suspected she was the victim of a crime or had been in an accident because she left her car and wallet behind.

Police spotted a red SUV owned by Gadson — who goes by his Japanese wife's last name, Shinzato — while checking vehicles captured by security cameras in the area.

Police say Gadson admitted to strangling Shimabukuro and led officers to her body.

Trump prods House Republicans on tax bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump urged House Republicans on Thursday to approve a near \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul as the party prepared to drive the measure through the House. Across the Capitol, Democrats pointed to new numbers showing the Senate version of the plan would boost taxes on lower and middle-income Americans.

“He told us that we have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something really bold, and he reminded us that is why we seek these offices,” Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., said of Trump’s closed-door pep rally. “And here we are on the cusp of getting

something really important done.”

House passage seemed assured for the measure cutting the 35 percent corporate tax rate to 20 percent and reducing personal tax rates while erasing and shrinking some deductions. Projected federal deficits would grow by \$1.5 trillion during the coming decade.

But a similar plan approaching approval by the Senate Finance Committee encountered its latest obstacle, this time in the form of fresh projections from Congress’ nonpartisan tax analysts.

The new numbers from Congress’ Joint Committee on Taxation showed that beginning in 2021, many families earning under \$30,000 annually would face higher taxes

under the Senate package. By 2027, families making less than \$75,000 would face tax boosts while those making more would enjoy lower levies.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, top Democrat on the finance panel, said the new projections showed the tax bill was “just shameful” because middle-class families would “get hammered.”

Republicans attributed the new figures to two Senate provisions. One would end the measure’s personal tax cuts starting in 2026, a step GOP leaders took to contain the measure’s costs.

The other would abolish the Affordable Care Act requirement that people buy health coverage or pay tax penalties.

Zimbabwe calm as Mugabe is urged to quit

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabweans faced another day of uncertainty amid quiet talks to resolve the country’s turmoil and the likely end of President Robert Mugabe’s decadeslong rule. Seizing on the political limbo to speak out, a range of voices on Thursday urged Mugabe to step aside and for the country to transition into free, fair elections.

Mugabe, 93, has been in military custody, reportedly with his wife, and there was no sign of the recently fired deputy Emmerson Mnangagwa, who

fled the country last week. Witnesses confirmed a sighting of Mugabe’s motorcade moving through the capital, its destination unknown.

The military remained in the streets of Harare. Southern African regional officials were meeting on the crisis in neighboring Botswana, and South African ministers had arrived in Harare for talks with the military and Mugabe.

South African President Jacob Zuma, speaking in parliament, said it was too early to take any “firm decision” on Zimbabwe and that the politi-

cal situation “very shortly will be becoming clear.”

A joint statement by more than 100 civil society groups urged Mugabe, the world’s oldest head of state, to peacefully step aside and asked the military to restore order quickly and to respect the constitution. A joint statement by churches also appealed for calm.

A Zimbabwean vice president who was fired in 2014, Joice Mujuru, called for “free, fair and credible elections” following a transition arrangement that draws from a range of communities. She told re-

porters she was heartened by assurances given so far that condemn violence and encourage peace. She said she has not been contacted by the military or by Mnangagwa’s people.

The Zimbabwean pastor whose #ThisFlag social media campaign last year led to the largest anti-government protests in a decade called on citizens to “stand up for peace.”

“Should we just sit and wait or shall we at least be part of this transition process?” Evan Mawarire asked, urging that citizens not wait for regional leaders to broker the next phase.

GOP bracing for extended clash in Ala. over Moore

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With President Donald Trump standing on the sidelines, Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore and his allies on the ground in Alabama are bracing for an extended conflict — not with Democrats, but with their own party in Washington.

The divide between the state and national GOP reached new depths late Wednesday as more allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against Moore, an outspoken Christian conservative. Already, the Republican National

Committee, the Senate GOP campaign committee and the party’s leading voices in Congress have called on the 70-year-old former judge to quit the race.

Ever defiant, Moore offered fighting words in a tweet addressed to the top Senate Republican: “Dear Mitch McConnell, Bring. It. On.”

Chris Hansen, executive director of the national GOP’s Senate campaign committee, fired back, “‘Bring It On’ is a movie about cheerleaders.”

At least three new allegations of misconduct were reported on Wednesday, including one by

Tina Johnson, who told AL.com that Moore groped her during a 1991 meeting in his law office. Two others told The Washington Post they were young women when Moore courted them as a district attorney in his 30s.

Three other women told the newspaper last week that they were teens when Moore tried to initiate romantic relationships. One said she was 14 when Moore touched her over her bra and underwear.

“There’s a special place in hell for people who prey on children,” Ivanka Trump told The Associated Press. “I’ve yet to see a valid

explanation and I have no reason to doubt the victims’ accounts.”

Her father, however, dodged questions about the turmoil in the Alabama Senate race on Wednesday. President Donald Trump, who withstood allegations of sexual assault weeks before his own election, was uncharacteristically silent when faced with questions about the scandal.

Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway addressed the situation briefly Thursday on “Fox & Friends.” “The president will make a statement when he wants to make a statement,” she said.

Marine vet, Harrier star in air show business

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Military retirees get involved in some relatively interesting hobbies. Hunting is popular among former servicemembers, along with fishing, hiking, camping, gaming and even historic battle re-enactments.

Less common is casually flying around in a multimillion-dollar war machine. Leave it to a Marine — retired pilot Art Nalls — to change the definition of “retiree hobby.”

Nalls, 65, is the proud owner of several aircraft. He and his crew at Nalls Aviation own and maintain a tiny BD-5J, a Piper Cub Mk-104 and a Czech-made L-39C Albatros jet trainer.

Impressive machines, to be sure. But the pride and joy of Nalls’ fleet are two British Sea Harrier jets — a single-seat FA.2 and a much rarer two-seater TMk 8. According to Nalls, his is one of 46 of the vertical take-off and landing craft ever made, and it’s the only one left flying.

“I’ve flown lots of different aircraft,” he said. “But the Harrier has been my absolute favorite airplane.”

Nalls, a Naval Academy graduate, received his pilot’s wings in 1979. He was assigned to the Marine air station at Cherry Point, N.C., where he became part of the team of pilots training on the relatively new Harrier jet.

“At that time — the late ’70s — the Harrier didn’t have a very good reputation,” he said, referring to its record for crashing. “In fact, when they read my orders out loud, a lot of the other pilots that were going to A-4s and various other fleet airplanes started making ‘dead bug’ jokes about it.”

Harrier AV-8A squadrons were put into action by the Marine Corps in early 1971. The VTOL capabilities made the craft a natural addition to air wings and it remains in action to this day, although its days are

numbered, thanks to the introduction of the F-35.

Nalls spent five years flying the Harrier in conditions ranging from the austere to what passes as everyday for a fighter pilot. He said he has landed the jet on everything from grass to roadways to ships.

He became a test pilot in 1985, working as a Marine pilot for the Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He flew 63 aircraft over a year, everything from bombers to cargo planes. When his tour of duty was up, he was assigned to be part of the initial cadre for the new AV-8B Harrier II.

“As a young test pilot, being thrown into that environment, I couldn’t have asked for anything better,” Nalls said. “I thoroughly enjoyed that work.”

It came to an abrupt end when one morning he woke up with a medical condition that kept him from flying. He said he preferred to keep that condition private, but it was a real blow to a man who had spent his entire career among the clouds.

“My entire life had been as a Marine pilot, and now, in the blink of an eye, I’m grounded,” he said. Nalls spent the remainder of career in different jobs, including one working out a protocol to standardize investigation into Gulf War Syndrome.

But his heart was in flying. “Obviously, I wasn’t flying at that time and that was the real love of my life,” Nalls said.

He retired as a lieutenant colonel and soon found his way back into a cockpit.

“I went to an air show and saw people flying and thought, ‘Well, I can do that,’” he said.

The medical condition that kept him from flying was cleared up by a civilian surgeon.

“After I healed, the problems were gone, and I was able to pass a FAA flight physical and began flying again,” he said. “So now I’m a student with a couple thousand hours in different types of airplanes and I’ve en-

joyed that ever since.”

Nalls, with his extensive flight time, moved into the air show business. Eventually, he was able to purchase his own aircraft, the first being a Russian-made YAK-3. The problem was that producers of the shows weren’t too keen on having a Russian aircraft at American events. That wasn’t as much of a problem for his next craft, the L-39, he said. That had dual controls, meaning he could take others up in the craft.

That was more attractive to air show runners, but still not as popular as the craft he spent years flying for the Marine Corps. The Harrier was extremely popular.

“It steals the show,” Nalls said. “Everybody remembers where they were the first time they saw a Harrier come to a stop at about 100 feet, back up, turn around and either take off or land.”

So, he went on the search for a Harrier of his own. Nalls got a hit in 2006. The British military was selling off surplus Sea Harriers at the time. Nalls went to what was then RAF Bentwaters, near Suffolk, England. He signed a one-page contract and was soon on his way back to the states with a mostly intact Harrier jet. He and his team of volunteer crewmembers spent thousands of hours — one estimate puts it at 5,000 hours — getting it into working order.

Nalls has a team of five other pilots and mechanics who volunteer to help with his air show business. Nalls Aviation and Team SHAR — British shorthand for Sea Harrier — perform at air shows across the U.S.

He’s a popular guy. AARP recently released the first episode of an ongoing documentary on Nalls and his crew. YouTube is full of clips of him wowing audiences with what he says is the only civilian-owned Harrier. He said he plans on flying for as long as he can.

Not a bad way to spend a retirement.

General: Reporting crimes ‘a problem’ in all services

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army’s top general said Wednesday his service has failed in a “significant amount” of cases to alert the FBI to soldiers’ criminal histories.

The statement by Gen. Mark Milley, the Army chief of staff, was the most concrete indication that the problem is not confined to the Air Force. That military branch acknowledged last week that it had failed to tell the FBI about the assault conviction of Devin Patrick Kelley, a former airman who killed 26 people in a Texas church on Nov. 5. That failure made it possible for

Kelley to acquire weapons that federal law prohibited him from buying or possessing after his 2012 conviction.

“There are gaps and failures on our part to report in to the FBI,” Milley said in an exchange with reporters at the Pentagon.

“We have a significant amount of omissions,” he added. “It clearly tells us that we need to tighten up.”

Milley was not specific about the kinds or number of cases that have not been reported to the FBI as required. At one point he said the Army’s problem is “not too bad,” but he also said “the percentage is too high” and it needs to be addressed.

“It’s probably in the 10 to 20 percent” range, he said, adding he would provide a firmer, more specific number when it’s available.

“It’s not just an Air Force problem,” he said. “This is a problem across all the services where we have gaps in reporting criminal activity of people in service.”

The day after the Texas church shooting, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis ordered the Pentagon’s inspector general to review the handling of criminal records in the Kelley case. The airman was convicted of assaulting his then-wife and stepson. H

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fire chief nixes plans for hot 2018 calendar

NE OMAHA — There will be no smoldering firefighter calendar coming from the Omaha Fire Department next year.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that the department's fire chief nixed plans for a sizzling 2018 charity calendar.

Omaha Fire Chief Dan Olsen said the calendar is not in keeping with the department's mission statement that calls for its members to act with integrity, professionalism and compassion.

The department's calendar for this year — which featured bare-chested firefighters holding shelter puppies — raised enough funds to help the department buy an advanced thermal imaging camera costing several thousand dollars.

Boy banned from dance competition

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Attorneys for a Wisconsin boy who wants to compete with his high school dance team have filed a federal civil rights complaint after the Minnesota State High School League barred him from championship competition.

Kaiden Johnson, 15, attends Superior High School in Wisconsin. The school allows him to dance with the team.

Johnson was told he couldn't compete with his team in Minnesota because that state doesn't allow boys on high school dance teams.

Thief steals donation kettle from bell ringer

GA SAVANNAH — Police are looking for a thief who swiped a kettle filled with

Salvation Army donations from an unsuspecting bell ringer in Georgia.

The theft of holiday charity cash happened Tuesday night outside a Savannah supermarket. Security video released by Savannah-Chatham County police shows the culprit lurking near the entrance for about a minute before the snatch.

A security camera filmed the thief sneaking up to the kettle when the Salvation Army bell ringer turned his back.

The thief unhooked the red kettle from the chain tethering it to a tripod stand, then ran off with the cash container.

Pay phone at ranger station reinstalled

WA VERLOT — A pay phone described as vital in emergency situations has been reinstalled at a ranger station northeast of Everett.

The Daily Herald reported that Frontier Communications on Tuesday confirmed it had removed and reinstalled the phone at the U.S. Forest Service Verlot Public Service Center.

The phone was brought back after a Sunday story in the newspaper reported authorities' concerns about the phone being gone.

The phone, 11 miles east of Granite Falls, is often the best option for reaching 911 from the Mountain Loop Highway, which has little to no cellphone coverage.

Police stop driver for pizza box license plate

MA HOPKINTON — Police officers in a Massachusetts town jokingly recommend drivers get a little more creative if they make their own illegal license plates.

The Hopkinton Police Department said in a Facebook

post Sunday a driver was stopped with a license plate made from a pizza box.

The department discourages people from making their own plates.

But if he or she does, the department said not to use a cardboard box and felt tip pens.

Hopkinton police said the driver faces charges that include operating an uninsured and unregistered vehicle and attaching "fake homemade" plates.

2nd woman in state wins lottery twice

NC GRANITE FALLS — A North Carolina woman hit the jackpot with two scratch-off lottery tickets, marking the second such instance in three weeks.

The Charlotte Observer reported Michelle Shuffler, of Granite Falls, won \$10,000 with one scratch-off ticket and \$1 million with another on Sunday.

Shuffler said in a statement that she and her husband purchased the winning \$10,000 ticket in Lenoir and then, feeling lucky, decided to buy another one 22 miles away in Granite Falls.

Kimberly Morris, of Wake Forest, also won the lottery twice at the end of October.

Catholic university building first dorm

LA NEW ORLEANS — The University of Holy Cross, a 101-year-old Catholic university in New Orleans, is building its first residence hall.

It will be the first college dorm ever built in the section of New Orleans on the Mississippi River's west bank.

It will include singles and two- and four-bedroom suites.

Experts: Billy the Kid photo is real deal

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Experts now believe a photo purchased at a flea market shows Billy the Kid with the lawman who killed him.

A North Carolina man told Albuquerque's KRQE-TV that experts in forensics and facial recognition have verified the picture after several months of examination.

Frank Abrams, of Ashville, said he first noticed two years ago that two men in the group photo looked like Billy the Kid and Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett, who fatally shot the Kid in Fort Sumner in 1881.

Abrams, a self-described history buff, bought the photo for \$10.

A photo of Billy the Kid discovered in 2015 was estimated to be worth \$5 million.

Police probe theft of artwork from home

NY NEW YORK — The co-founder of a New York-based publishing house said police are investigating the theft of \$1 million in artwork during a party at his Manhattan apartment.

Alexis Gregory told the New York Post and Daily News that he had invited more than two dozen people to his Upper East Side home last Friday for a piano recital and art exhibit.

After the guests left, a member of his household staff discovered that several gold figurines dating to the 16th century and other valuable items were missing.

Gregory, 81, is an art collector and founder of Vendome Press, a publisher of books on interior design, fine arts, French culture and jewelry.

From wire reports

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Scherzer, Kluber win Cy Young Awards

Associated Press

Max Scherzer heard his name and thrust his arms in the air, shouting and smiling big before turning to kiss his wife.

Corey Kluber, on the other hand, gulped once and blinked.

Two aces, two different styles — and now another Cy Young Award for each.

The animated Scherzer of the Washington Nationals coasted to his third Cy Young, winning Wednesday for the second straight year in the National League. He breezed past Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, drawing 27 of the 30 first-place votes in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Kluber's win was even more of a run-away. The Cleveland Indians ace took 28 first-place votes, easily outpacing Chris Sale of the Boston Red Sox for his second AL Cy Young.

Scherzer yelled "yes!" when his award was announced on MLB Network, a reaction in keeping with his expressive reputation. with his expressive reputation. He showed that intensity often this year, whether he was cursing under his breath like a madman during his delivery or demanding — also with expletives — that manager Dusty Baker leave him in the game.

Just a little different than the pitcher they call "Klubot." Kluber was stoic as ever when announced as the AL winner. He swallowed hard but otherwise didn't react, only showing the hint of a smile moments later when answering questions.

Not that he wasn't thrilled.

"Winning a second one maybe, for me personally, kind of validates the first one," Kluber said.

Scherzer's win moves him into rare company. He's the 10th pitcher with at least

three Cy Youngs.

Scherzer earned the NL honor last year with Washington and the 2013 AL prize with Detroit.

Scherzer was 16-6 with a career-best 2.51 ERA this year. The 33-year-old righty struck out a league-leading 268 for the NL East champion Nationals, and in an era noted for declining pitcher durability, he eclipsed 200 innings for the fifth straight season.

Kluber missed a month of the season with back pain and still easily won the AL award over Sale and third-place finisher Luis Severino of the New York Yankees. Kluber led the majors with a 2.25 ERA, and his 18 wins tied for the most in baseball. He added to the Cy Young he won with the Indians in 2014 and is the 19th pitcher to win multiple times.

Nationals get the max from animated ace

The Washington Post

Max Scherzer, who won his third Cy Young Award on Wednesday, may have the most apt first name in baseball. Scherzer goes to the maximum in everything.

He's max effort with every delivery, giving extra spin and speed to his pitches with a last-instant downward snap of the neck to yank the most torque out of his arm. He's max emotion, stalking the mound, glaring in, so wrought up that "punching out the hitter" can seem like more than just a metaphor. He's also fanatic about conditioning and a max-out student of advanced stats.

Now, Scherzer has maximized something else that he prizes: His chances of finding his proper place in baseball history someday.

With three-or-more "Cys," you'll never be left out of any discussion. Mad Max is now the 10th name on that list, joining Sandy Koufax, Tom Seaver, Jim Palmer, Steve Carlton, Roger Clemens, Greg Maddux, Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson and Clayton Kershaw. Those names may constitute a majority of the greatest pitch-

ers of the past 60 years since the Cy Young Award was created. If not, it's close.

What's becoming clear is that Scherzer may eventually be paired with Kershaw, who also has three Cy Young Awards, as one of the two best pitchers of the 2010s.

So far this decade, Scherzer leads MLB in wins (132, one more than Kershaw), starts and strikeouts (1909). Only Kershaw, with 1,835 strikeouts, is within 239 of Scherzer's total. That's dominance. "My goal is not 'weak contact;' it is always a strikeout," Scherzer said this spring. Kershaw leads the decade in ERA and Wins Above Replacement with 52.1 to Scherzer's second-place WAR total of 39.7.

If Scherzer, 32, ages well, then his Cy Young Awards, along with three seasons leading his league in wins, plus National League strikeout titles the past two years with the Nationals, may be the centerpiece for a Hall of Fame candidacy. And Scherzer probably knows it.

One of the key elements considered for the Hall of Fame is raw dominance of your era during your six to eight peak

seasons. In his Nat years, with two no-hitters and a 20-strikeout game (one of just six in history), as well as back-to-back Cy Youngs, that period of Max domination has come into clear focus.

Once you have built an athletic career and a superstar identity, it's hard to change your methods or your manner until age or injury eventually forces your hand. When you are also in the third year of a seven-year \$210-million contract there is also a sense of internal responsibility to justify your salary and status.

Scherzer is almost certainly in the early stage of this tussle with baseball mortality, weighing the wisdom of pushing, always pushing to construct historic seasons against the need to be in peak form for the October postseason.

More than any of his other years, this season may epitomize Scherzer's willpower, tolerance for pain and willingness to accept, even embrace, risk.

"When you pitch, you're always right at the edge of your physical limits. You're like a racecar driver going 200 miles an hour into a banked turn," Scherzer told me this spring.

"You have to push, push, push. But if you push just a little too hard, you crash. You spend your career finding that balance."

Scherzer has never run as close to that edge as he did this year. The whole season seemed like one continuous Scherzer injury scare, yet he ended up with the best ERA (2.51) of his career. Most remarkable, the league batting average against him of .178 was one of the five best in 50 years.

In hindsight, Scherzer's durability and toughness probably gave him the 200¹/₃ innings — more than the 175 of Kershaw and teammate Stephen Strasburg — to mount up additional high performance to beat them for the Cy Young Award.

Over the next four seasons, Scherzer and his Mad Max will power, his lust never to miss a turn or flinch from a challenge, may need some re-examination and slight revision, some compromise with advancing baseball age.

Or not. Perhaps that's just the man himself. Maybe, as we'd probably have done with those other nine names on the Most Cy Young Awards list, we should just let him do it his way: always Max-ed out.

Irish turn their focus to Navy

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Suddenly, Notre Dame's "33Trucking.com" is in need of repairs.

The "33 Trucking" campaign was intended to tout a Heisman Trophy candidacy for Fighting Irish running back Josh Adams and postseason honors for standout offensive linemen Mike McGlinchey and Quenton Nelson, among others? The campaign has been muted now that ninth-ranked Notre Dame (8-2) is coming off a 41-8 loss at Miami.

Coach Brian Kelly, whose team plays its final home game this Saturday against Navy (6-3), doesn't want to be reminded of the humbling loss. Asked Tuesday why Notre Dame punted on its first possession against the Hurricanes, Kelly was quick to reply, "I'd have to watch the film again, and I'm not interested in watching it

again."

Kelly is more interested in getting Adams and fellow running back Dexter Williams healthy again for Notre Dame's 91st consecutive meeting with the Midshipmen, who beat the Irish last season 28-27.

Having the two backs healthy should help an offense that saw its five-game streak of 318 or more rushing yards end as the Hurricanes limited the Irish to 109 on the ground. They also forced four turnovers, three by quarterback Brandon Wimbush.

The junior lost a fumble and had two passes intercepted by the Hurricanes, who also intercepted backup Ian Book and turned the four miscues into 24 points. Kelly said he thinks Wimbush, who finished 10-for-21 passing for 119 yards and one TD, will mentally respond.

"Well, he's a competitor and a competitor wants to be at his

best when his best is needed, and he wasn't (against Miami)," Kelly said. "So he wants to re-dedicate himself this week to his preparation, and he wants to go out there and be the best version of Brandon Wimbush."

The injury report on Adams and Williams was encouraging.

"Josh shows no ill effects from an ankle, a head or neck," Kelly said of the injuries that have limited Adams, who had 1,169 rushing yards prior to the games with Wake Forest (22 yards on five carries) and Miami (40 on 16). "Dexter had the quad contusion, which was limiting, and it was the best he's felt."

In limited action against Wake Forest and Miami, Williams had 56 yards on six carries.

"It's just a matter of executing better in all fronts," Kelly said.

Anisimov hat trick leads NY

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Artem Anisimov scored three times in the third period against his former team, Nick Schmaltz had three assists and the Chicago Blackhawks cooled off the New York Rangers with a 6-3 victory Wednesday night.

Alex DeBrincat, John Hayden and Jonathan Toews also scored for Chicago, which had dropped three of four. Duncan Keith had two assists and Corey Crawford made 25 saves, helping the Blackhawks bounce back from an ugly 7-5 loss to New Jersey on Sunday.

New York had won six in a row — the longest winning streak in the NHL this season — and it carried a 1-0 lead into the final minute of the second period. But the Blackhawks grabbed control with four goals in 6 minutes, 6 seconds, capped by Anisimov's power-play slam through Henrik Lundqvist's legs at 5:14 of the third.

Rick Nash had a goal and an assist for the Rangers, who have scored at least three times in 11 of their last 13 games.

Red Wings 8, Flames 2: Anthony Mantha and Andreas Athanasiou each scored twice and host Detroit routed Calgary.

Gustav Nyquist, Dylan Larkin, Justin Abdelkader and Luke Glendening also scored for the Red Wings. They raced out to a 4-1 lead in the first period.

Ducks 4, Bruins 2: Nick Ritchie and Josh Manson had a goal and an assist apiece, and Kevin Roy scored his first NHL goal in host Anaheim's victory over slumping Boston.

John Gibson made 39 saves and Antoine Vermette had an assist in his 1,000th NHL appearance as the Ducks won for just the second time in seven games. Derek Grant also scored in Anaheim's eighth consecutive win over the Bruins.

Barkley patient despite slow run game

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — When Saquon Barkley walked into the media room after No. 13 Penn State's win on Saturday, a line of 20 to 25 reporters had already assembled at the front of the room, huddled around the running back's usual spot.

Barkley had to wait for a path to clear before making his way over, so he stood and looked at the crowd waiting for him. When he sat down, the first questions were about the crowds that have made his job a lot tougher in the latter half of the season.

Barkley let out a sigh, his shoulders slumped and his eyes lowered to meet the deep blue desk top as he considered the numbers being revealed to him. The Heisman Trophy candidate has been held to 63 or fewer yards on the ground in each of his team's last three games.

"I didn't know that," Barkley said. "But the way to get past it is continue to play the games and trust your teammates and have complete trust that your teammates are going to make plays. And when your play, your opportunity comes, you've got to be ready for it."

It's not that Barkley's not getting those opportunities.

He has 57 total offensive touches over the last three games where Penn State's gone 1-2 and beat Rutgers 35-6 on Saturday. But 38 percent (22) of them have gone for no more than a yard and Bar-

kley has lost yardage on 14 of those touches.

It's nothing new for Barkley, who experienced similar opposition at — and behind — the line of scrimmage last season.

Then, 19 percent or 33 of Barkley's 177 carries in Big Ten games ended before he got back to the line. But that number is up to 22 percent (28 of 128 carries) through seven conference games so far and history doesn't suggest it will get easier for Penn State's offensive line to generate more push for a dynamic back who gets the most of his touches after quarterback Trace McSorley takes time to read the defense before deciding to hand it to him.

Penn State's offensive line was down both starting tackles late last season and in the final three games, Barkley was dropped for losses 15 times. His numbers were further dogged when he was shaken up following a gang tackle and forced out of the regular-season finale.

The line hasn't been as good this season with starting left tackle Ryan Bates hurt and his return doesn't seem imminent.

Still, Barkley will remain patient. He's always had the ability to do so and hasn't, to head coach James Franklin's knowledge, ever shown a hint of frustration on the field or in the locker room when he's had slow games. Barkley has attributed his focus to being brought up in a boxing family. His father Alibay was a Golden Gloves fighter and his great uncle Iran Barkley held championships in three weight classes.

NBA roundup

Embiid scores 46 points to lift Sixers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a matchup of teams with rising young stars, Joel Embiid stood out above the rest.

The 7-foot center scored a career-high 46 points — the most by a Philadelphia player in 11 years — and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the 76ers past the Los Angeles Lakers 115-109 on Wednesday night.

And that was only part of his night. Embiid also had seven assists and seven blocked shots, making him the first NBA player with 40 points, seven assists and seven blocks in a game since Julius Erving did it for the 76ers against Detroit in 1982, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

"Tonight we realized we had Joel Embiid, and he was just dominant," said Sixers coach Brett Brown.

Philadelphia also got an outstanding game from rookie

guard Ben Simmons, who barely missed a triple-double with 18 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

Yet it was Embiid who was simply unstoppable. The Lakers tried three different defenders on him to no avail, but seldom double-teamed him.

"I was just playing basketball and being aggressive, just like I was against the Clippers," said Embiid, who played 31 games last season and averaged 20.2 points in his NBA debut.

The 23-year-old Embiid, who missed his first two seasons due to injury, set a career high with 16 rebounds against the Los Angeles Clippers in the same building Sunday, when he had 32 points in a 109-105 victory.

"I love LA," Embiid said. "I love the Staples Center. I wanted to come out here and put on a show."

Hawks 126, Kings 80: DeWayne Dedmon scored a career-high 20 points and had

14 rebounds, and host Atlanta rode a dominant first half to the most lopsided win in franchise history. Atlanta's 46-point margin of victory was two points better than its previous best, a 141-97 win over Detroit on Feb. 7, 1994.

Cavaliers 115, Hornets 107: LeBron James scored 31 points, Kevin Love had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Cleveland continued its dominance against host Charlotte.

Thunder 92, Bulls 79: Russell Westbrook had 21 points and seven assists and host Oklahoma City beat Chicago for its third straight victory.

Timberwolves 98, Spurs 86: Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 16 rebounds on his 22nd birthday, and host Minnesota stopped a 12-game losing streak to San Antonio.

Raptors 125, Pelicans 116: DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points and the Toronto Raptors kept hitting threes to beat host

New Orleans. The Raptors shot 16-for-34 on three-pointers, with C.J. Miles going 5-for-9.

Knicks 106, Jazz 101: Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 26 points, including a key three-pointer with 32.9 seconds left, to help host New York beat Utah.

Wizards 102, Heat 93: John Wall scored 27 points, Bradley Beal had 26 and Washington overcame a dreadful third quarter to beat host Miami.

Bucks 99, Pistons 95: Khriston Middleton scored 27 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 and host Milwaukee beat Detroit for its fourth straight victory.

Trail Blazers 99, Magic 94: Damian Lillard had 26 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and host Portland handed Orlando its third straight loss.

Pacers 116, Grizzlies 113: Darren Collison scored a season-high 30 points, Victor Oladipo had 21 and Indiana held off host Memphis.

College basketball roundup

Tar Heels jump out to early lead, hold off Bucknell

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina's Joel Berry came back. So did Bucknell.

The ninth-ranked Tar Heels held on to beat the feisty Bison 93-81 on Wednesday night, giving coach Roy Williams his 400th victory at his alma mater.

Luke Maye scored 20 points and hit an important three-pointer down the stretch and Theo Pinson added a career-high 19 points for North Carolina (2-0) in the on-campus round of the PK80.

The Tar Heels shot 47 percent and welcomed back Berry — the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player — on the same day graduate transfer Cameron Johnson was lost for 4-6 weeks

following knee surgery.

"That's kind of like what we've always went through — we start off the season, I wouldn't say slow, but not as good as we'll be later in the season," Berry said.

North Carolina blew most of an early 16-point lead but scored nine straight points after the Bison cut the lead to 71-67 on Nate Sestina's layup with 6½ minutes remaining. Pinson started the decisive burst with two free throws, and Maye pushed it back to double figures with his three-pointer with 4½ minutes remaining that made it 78-67.

"I finally made one decent call from the sideline, and Luke made a three from the top of the key," Williams said.

Nana Foulland and Zack Thomas scored 21 points apiece for Bucknell (0-3). The Patriot League favorites shot 46 percent and were 11-for-28 from three-point range to offset a serious disadvantage inside.

Sterling Manley had 16 points and 13 rebounds and Garrison Brooks and Kenny Williams had 10 points apiece for North Carolina, which held a 47-28 rebounding advantage.

No. 14 Minnesota 107, Niagara 81: Amir Coffey, Reggie Lynch and Jordan Murphy all scored 18 points for the host Golden Gophers (3-0).

Creighton 92, No. 20 Northwestern 88: Khyri Thomas had a career-high 24 points, 11 rebounds and five assists, Martin Krampelj added a career-

high 17 points for the visiting Bluejays (3-0) in a Gavitt Tipoff Games matchup.

No. 21 Saint Mary's 76, Cal State Fullerton 57: Calvin Hermanson scored 22 points, Emmett Naar had 11 points and nine assists for the host Gaels (3-0).

No. 23 UCLA 106, Central Arkansas 101 (OT): Kris Wilkes scored 20 points, including five straight in overtime, and the host Bruins (2-0) rallied for the win hours after three of their freshmen confessed to shoplifting in China and were indefinitely suspended.

No. 24 West Virginia 98, American 64: Jevon Carter and Daxter Miles scored 20 points each to lead the host Mountaineers (1-1).