

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump: Mattis to leave his post Jan. 1

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced on Sunday that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis now will leave his post on Jan. 1, tweeting that deputy Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan will take over as acting secretary to cover the accelerated departure.

The move comes just three days after Mattis resigned in protest over Trump's decision to pull all U.S. troops out of Syria and delivered a blistering letter to the president that roiled Washington and reportedly angered the White House.

Mattis originally said he would stay through February to ensure an orderly transition. But U.S. officials said that the fallout of his decision to leave — including the shock and dismay expressed on Capitol Hill — annoyed Trump and likely led to Mattis' leaving earlier

than planned.

Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, a spokesman for Shanahan, said the former Boeing executive will accept the appointment as acting secretary.

"The Deputy Secretary will continue to serve as directed by the president, and the Department of Defense will remain focused on the defense of the nation," Buccino said Sunday.

While Mattis' resignation followed Trump's announcement that he soon would pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria, officials said the resignation was the result of an accumulation of disagreements.

In a stunning resignation letter, Mattis made clear he did not see eye to eye with a president who has expressed disdain for NATO and doubts about keeping troops in Asia.

Earlier Sunday, Trump's acting chief of staff said Trump had

known for "quite some time now" that he and Mattis "did not share some of the same philosophies ... have the same world view."

Mick Mulvaney told ABC's "This Week" that the president and his defense chief "just could never get on the same page" on Syria, adding that Trump had said since his presidential campaign that "he wanted to get out of Syria." Mulvaney said the president "is entitled to have a secretary of defense who is committed to that same end."

The Pentagon on Sunday would say only that Mattis serves at the pleasure of the president.

Other officials said it wasn't clear whether Mattis had spoken directly to Trump about the accelerated departure. Mattis was at work on Friday, and defense officials had insisted he was planning to stay through February, when he would attend a NATO defense ministers meeting.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined leading Republicans on foreign affairs in urging Trump to reconsider his decision to withdraw American forces from Syria.

"We believe that such action at this time is a premature and costly mistake that not only threatens the safety and security of the United States but also emboldens" Islamic State, President Bashar Assad's government, Iran and Russia, according to the letter, organized by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

They asked Trump to "not make any final decision for 90 days to allow time to adequately study the impacts of this decision on our partners, our allies and the re-emergence of ISIS and other terror groups, to ensure our nation's strategic interests are secured."

## No dismissal in court-martial of USS Fitzgerald ex-commander

BY DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A military judge has ruled that statements by the Navy's top two officers about a deadly 2017 destroyer collision constituted apparent unlawful command influence, but not enough to merit a dismissal of the case.

The court-martial of Cmdr. Bryce Benson, the USS Fitzgerald's former commanding officer, will go on.

Seven sailors were killed June 17, 2017, when the Fitzgerald and a commercial vessel, the ACX Crystal, collided in the dark of night in busy waters off the coast of Japan. Benson is accused of two counts of dereliction of duty through neglect and improper hazarding a vessel

through negligence. A further charge of negligent homicide has been dropped.

In a ruling from Thursday shared with Stars and Stripes, the judge, Capt. J.T. Stephens, found that the chief and vice chief of naval operations have stated on multiple occasions that as commanding officer, Benson was responsible for — or guilty of negligence in — the collision, and those statements "ignored the accused's presumption of innocence."

But the judge found the statements did not impact a decision by a consolidated disposition authority in January to charge Benson. The judge denied a motion by the defense to dismiss the case, saying "dismissal of the charges is not yet neces-

sary to remove the taint of apparent [unlawful command influence]."

The ruling referred to numerous statements made in the wake of the Fitzgerald collision and a second deadly collision in August 2017 that killed 10 sailors in which Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson cited negligence and poor judgment and decision-making by the commanding officer and other ship officers.

The judge chastised the CNO and VCNO, saying they knew better.

"Specific comments and/or opinions about the accused's guilt or innocence cannot be released when an accused is facing court-martial, especially when those comments are made

by the Navy's two top flag officers," Stephens wrote. "CNO and VCNO knew they should not discuss the specifics of the case yet they repeatedly did."

Stephens found that the repeated comments were "the result of a coordinated message as opposed to a single slip of the tongue," and noted that they were made before Benson was charged, while Caldwell was considering charges and after Caldwell charged Benson and others in January 2018.

He also determined that curative steps should be taken "in an effort to remove the taint of apparent UCI from this court-martial."

The court-martial, scheduled to begin Jan. 29, has been continued.

# Resignation causes US, S. Korea concerns

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The abrupt resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis injects new uncertainty at a critical time for the U.S.-South Korean alliance and nuclear talks with North Korea.

The apparent reason for his departure — President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria and Afghanistan — also underscored an unpredictability of U.S. foreign policy that could extend to the divided peninsula.

Trump has said in the past that he wants to pull Americans from South Korea to save money despite the threat from the North. Critics said the abrupt pullout from Syria raised concern for allies in Seoul and elsewhere.

"It has rattled the world," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said as he called on Trump to reverse the decision. "You see North Korea flexing their muscle now: 'Why don't you leave South Korea before we do a

deal?'"

Mattis, a retired Marine general who is widely respected in the South, planned to leave his post by the end of February, but Trump tweeted on Sunday that Mattis' last day would be Jan. 1 and that deputy defense secretary Patrick Shanahan would take over in the interim.

Mattis' two years as defense chief included many disagreements with Trump.

The former four-star general didn't spell out those issues in his two-page resignation letter that he hand-delivered to Trump on Thursday, but his decision was widely seen as a rejection of Trump's "America First" foreign policy that has led to disputes with longtime allies.

His departure also will deprive officials in Seoul of somebody they considered a voice of reason in the Trump administration. "It's certainly going to cause concern, I think, in South Korea," said Jenny Town, a Korea specialist at the Washington-based Stimson Center. "Mattis is one of the few people

they looked to for direction and reason in an administration where it has been often difficult to decipher what our policy is and where our relationship is going."

Mattis was seen as a steady factor last year when Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traded threats of war as Pyongyang conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests before diplomatic efforts reversed tensions earlier this year.

"It's hard to see where this goes until we have a better sense of who's coming next, but it's also hard to see that this move is going to improve relations both with our friends or our adversaries at this point," Town said.

Town and others speculated that the president will choose a staunch supporter who won't push back on defense issues. "Mattis was always resolutely against any kind of military action in North Korea," Town said, adding that appointing somebody who refuses to disagree with Trump raised the

danger of allowing "callous and brash moves."

Seoul and Washington insist their alliance, which has lasted since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty, remains ironclad. But they have disagreed over the approach to North Korea as talks aimed at persuading it to give up nuclear weapons have stalled.

The two sides also have been unable to reach a new agreement on sharing the cost of stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops in the South. Trump has demanded that the South sharply increase its contribution. The current contract is set to expire at the end of the year, although the sides said talks are ongoing.

Mattis resigned days after Trump announced he was pulling all U.S. troops out of Syria and ordered more than 7,000 withdrawn from Afghanistan. The decisions stunned allies and partners who are fighting with the Americans.

## Stennis first US carrier in Persian Gulf after long absence

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

The USS John C. Stennis will spend Christmas in the Persian Gulf after the carrier strike group sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Friday, arriving during a time of increased threats from Iran and ending an eight-month carrier absence in the region.

The long absence of a U.S. carrier in the gulf broke the regular flow of carriers to the region since 9/11 and could be the new norm under departing Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' dynamic force employment policy, meant to show more unpredictability to U.S. adversaries.

"We're switching it up because our adversaries are watching closely," said U.S. 5th Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Chloe

Morgan, according to The Associated Press.

"We want to be operationally unpredictable to our enemies but strategically predictable to our partners."

Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Anderson, a USS Stennis spokeswoman, told Stars and Stripes that the carrier group plans to operate in the Gulf throughout the holidays and celebrate with holiday meals, religious services and individual celebrations.

Anderson said all sailors on the Stennis can communicate with loved ones back home, and the crew will enjoy some rest and recuperation while in the Gulf at an undisclosed time and location.

Despite working through Christmas, the crew appears to be in good spirits, posting cheer-

ful messages on Facebook.

"Merry Christmas Mommy, Gracie, Ally and James. I miss you all very much, and I wish you a most happy Christmas," said an aviator in a Santa hat.

"Happy Holidays to everybody on the John C Stennis, everybody in Maryland and my whole family," said a food service assistant.

Anderson emphasized that the Stennis will maintain flexibility and rapid redeployment readiness amid the Christmas celebrations.

"The John C. Stennis team is thankful for all of the support from loved ones back home," Anderson added.

"We are proud to be a mission-ready platform, fulfilling the nation's tasking."

The Stennis has not had any

"unsafe" interactions with Iran or any maritime force since arriving in the 5th Fleet area, Anderson said, although the AP reported Friday that Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels trailed the Stennis and even filmed the ship using a drone.

Iranian officials are threatening to close off the Strait.

The Stennis arrived in the 5th Fleet theater in December to conduct operations with the USS Essex and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit for Operation Freedom's Sentinel, an anti-terrorism exercise that provided armed support to Afghan security forces.

It also teamed up with the USS Stockdale and Spruance and the French and Australian navies in an anti-submarine exercise.

# Marines grab training by the bulls' horns

By MARTIN EGNASH  
*Stars and Stripes*

BARBATE, Spain — Watching out for “cow pies” on patrol, adjusting fire to account for free-range cattle and sleeping while bulls with foot-long horns walk past their tents are some of the things U.S. Marines are getting used to in Spain.

Marines deployed here train frequently on Spanish military bases, where local farmers let herds of cattle graze the land. They make for interesting — albeit intimidating — companions as the troops live and work in proximity to roaming bulls on the training areas.

The Marines are part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crises Response Africa, the unit created after the 2012 Benghazi attacks in Libya to respond to any emergencies in North Africa.

Working around cattle is just part of the experience, the Marines say, and “when in

Spain” has become a catchphrase among the Americans whenever they experience cow-related activity, like having to maneuver Humvees around passing heifers.

For Sgt. Stephen Michaels, an infantry squad leader who grew up on a cattle farm before joining the Marines, the sight of cows brings back memories of home.

Michaels said he has had to educate his fellow Marines on cow behavior.

“Most Marines are freaked out when the cows get really close to you, or start running when we’re walking by,” Michaels said. “You don’t have to be afraid of them.”

The Marines often come close enough to the bulls to touch them.

“If you’re not afraid of them and they’re friendly, there’s no reason why you can’t pet one,” said Michaels, whose unit began its nine-month deployment to Spain in October.

“They’re just not used to seeing animals this big up close. But they’re actually real-

ly friendly. You just don’t want to mess with one when he’s defending his territory,” said Michaels, who has become known as the “Cow Whisperer.”

Friendly or not, the cows and bulls walking by at night still freak out some of the Marines, Michaels said.

“They will walk right up to our sleeping bags and check us out. They’re very curious,” Michaels said.

While out on patrols, Marines have to be wary of stepping in cow pies, which can sometimes be hard to notice with all the mud they are trudging through.

Even with the cows leaving behind homemade “area denial weapons,” many of the Marines have come to look at these bovine beasts fondly and take steps to ensure cows don’t get hurt, including making sure they don’t wander into a live-fire area.

“They’re like big dogs, keeping us company while we’re training,” Michaels said.

## Navy joins Japan, UK for sub-hunting drill

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. sailors joined forces with Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force and the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy for the first time during a submarine-hunting exercise in the Philippine Sea.

The opportunity for the two-day trilateral exercise, which was to wrap up Saturday, surfaced following the completion of a nine-month deployment by the Royal Navy’s oldest serving frigate, the HMS Argyll, according to a Navy statement Thursday.

Alongside the Argyll, the JMSDF helicopter destroyer JS Izumo and a Navy submarine were also taking part in the anti-submarine warfare exercise Submarine Group 7 commander Rear Adm. James Pitts said in the statement.

A Navy P-8A maritime patrol aircraft from the Florida-based Patrol Squadron 16 also participated in the drills.

Chinese activity in the South and East China seas has long been an issue for nations in

the region. Tokyo protested to Beijing early this year after a submarine, presumed to be Chinese, was detected near Okinawa and the disputed Senkaku Islands — an uninhabited chain surrounded by resource-rich waters between Okinawa and Taiwan — that is claimed by both countries but is administered by Japan.

While each maritime service is accustomed to operating together in multilateral exercises like Rim of the Pacific, this is the first trilateral exercise in the 7th Fleet’s operating area, according to the statement.

The commitment by each force to improve maritime cooperation and cohesion spurs from a 2016 trilateral summit at the Pentagon attended by each service chief, said Capt. Katsuyoshi Motoyama, commander of the JS Izumo.

“Given the increase in maritime traffic worldwide and current events, the importance of increased collaboration and cooperation between our three highly capable and like-minded services can’t be overstated,” he said.

## Coast Guard’s new cutter will homeport in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The first of the Coast Guard’s combat-capable, Legend-class ships to be homeported in Hawaii, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Kimball, arrived in Honolulu on Saturday.

Arriving from Pascagoula, Miss., where it was built, the Kimball is the seventh of the Coast Guard’s new breed of national security cutters to enter the fleet since 2008, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

A second Legend-class ship is expected to homeport in Hawaii next year, the statement said.

They are “designed to be the flagships of the Coast Guard’s fleet, capable of executing the most challenging national security missions, including support to U.S. combatant commanders,” the statement said.

The new generation of cutters is the replacement for the 378-foot, high-endurance Hamilton-class cutters that have been in the Coast Guard fleet for more than 50 years.

National security cutters are

significantly longer, at 418 feet. They have a top speed of more than 28 knots — about 32 mph — and a range of 13,800 miles. They can hold a crew of up to 160 and stay at sea for three months if need be.

Legend-class ships are armed with a 57-millimeter gun, which can fire more than 200 rounds a minute and can be used effectively against a high-speed, maneuvering surface target. Other arms include a 20-millimeter gun and four .50-caliber machine guns.

In addition to its combat capability, the beefed-up cutter has familiar Coast Guard missions: interrupting illegal immigration and the flow of illicit drugs, protecting domestic fisheries, and search and rescue, the statement said.

The cutter is named for Sumner Kimball, who was the superintendent of the Life-Saving Service, which was a predecessor to the modern-day Coast Guard, the statement said.

Kimball established a training school for young officers that morphed into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

# 'Fort Trump' talks on in Poland

*The Washington Post*

BERLIN — U.S. relations with its key allies were thrown into turmoil last week by multiple parallel Trump administration decisions, including a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and the abandonment of the Syrian Kurds and other groups. A short time later, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced his resignation in a letter that left no doubts about his disdain for the U.S. president's treatment of allies abroad.

But there are U.S. allies, and then there are allies of President Donald Trump.

The Polish government has in recent months tried to position itself in both categories, with efforts that culminated in a special offer in September. If you move troops to Poland permanently, Polish President Andrzej Duda told Trump at a news conference at the White House, we'll name it after you: "Fort Trump" — designed for a unique era in U.S. relations with the world.

The Polish government offered Trump money, fame and an opportunity to portray himself as an ally against Russia. Months later, those efforts are now starting to become a case study on how far allies are willing to go in luring Trump into

smaller concessions, even when he so vehemently acts against their broader interests.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is a clear winner of Trump's tumultuous decisions last week. Amid the U.S. withdrawal, he is set to become the "undisputed international power broker in the war-torn country and win an opportunity to consolidate a countrywide victory for its ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad," according to Washington Post reporters. Putin didn't make a secret out of his approval, calling Trump's decision "correct."

Separately, the Russian leader is also interested in weakening NATO, and Trump's decision to withdraw about half of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan does just that, European commentators warned on Friday.

Yet, somewhat curiously, talks about a permanent U.S. presence on Polish soil with the aim of deterring Russia appear to be moving ahead even as Trump is raising questions over the future of NATO, according to recent interviews with government representatives. Last month, Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak told Polish radio that it was not a question of whether but of how the base would be constructed. Top officials repeated those claims last

week.

The discussions appear to have moved on from the idea of one or several major bases — as is the case in neighboring Germany — to a more hybrid approach that could result in U.S. personnel being based in existing buildings across the country.

The Polish president's naming proposal for a major base always appeared to have been in jest, and Polish officials have lately refrained from referring to the planned base as such, much to the dismay of the Polish media.

Poland still has some of the highest approval ratings for Trump in any foreign country, which has allowed the right-wing government to publicly and repeatedly praise Trump in ways that would have triggered an immediate backlash elsewhere.

To the Polish government, the potential security benefits of a permanent U.S. presence on its soil so far appear to outweigh the risk of domestic embarrassment. Poland is located right next to Russia, and given Russia's long history of foreign occupation, concerns over Russian military activity have long been more pressing here than in neighboring Germany, for instance.

# Turkey sends troops to town in north Syria

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — Turkey is massing troops near a town in northern Syria held by a U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led force, a war monitor said as Turkish media reported Sunday new reinforcement crossing the borders.

The Turkish buildup comes even though Turkey said it would delay a promised offensive in eastern Syria in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to last week withdraw U.S. troops.

The Turkish IHA news agency reported that a convoy of Turkish troops — a commando unit — had been sent into Syria overnight.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the reinforcements were sent to the front line with Manbij, where U.S. troops have been based. The Observatory said 50 vehicles crossed into Syria carrying troops and equipment.

The spokesman for the Kurdish-led Manbij Military Council, Sharfan Darwish, said Turkish reinforcements have arrived in the area. "We are taking necessary measures to defend ourselves if we are attacked," he said without elaborating.

# Deadly tsunami in Indonesia kills at least 222 people

*Associated Press*

CARITA BEACH, Indonesia — An eruption of one of the world's most infamous volcanic islands is believed to have triggered a tsunami that killed at least 222 people in Indonesia during a busy holiday weekend.

The waves smashed onto beaches at night without warning, ripping houses and hotels from their foundations in seconds and sweeping terrified concertgoers into the sea.

More than 800 people were injured and dozens more

missing after the tsunami hit around the Sunda Strait at 9:27 p.m. Saturday, the Disaster Management Agency said. The toll could continue to rise because some areas had not yet been reached.

Scientists, including those from Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said Sunday that the tsunami could have been caused by underwater landslides or those occurring aboveground on Anak Krakatau's steep slope following its eruption.

The Anak Krakatau volcano lies in the Sunda Strait between

Java and Sumatra islands, linking the Indian Ocean and Java Sea. It erupted about 24 minutes before the tsunami, the geophysics agency said.

The worst-affected area was the Pandeglang region of Java's Banten province, which encompasses Ujung Kulon National Park and popular beaches, the disaster agency said.

Agency spokesman Sutopto Purwo Nugroho said 222 deaths had been confirmed and at least 843 people were injured.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo expressed

his sympathy and ordered government agencies to respond quickly to the disaster.

"My deep condolences to the victims in Banten and Lampung provinces," he said. "Hopefully, those who are left have patience."

Saturday's tsunami also rekindled memories of the massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake that hit Indonesia on Dec. 26, 2004. It spawned a giant tsunami off Sumatra island, killing more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries — the majority in Indonesia

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Double lottery winner arrested in drug case

**NJ** JERSEY CITY — A man who won New Jersey's lottery twice has been arrested on drug charges.

Police in Jersey City stopped James Callahan for a traffic violation Friday.

They allegedly seized nearly 350 prescription drug pills and at least two weapons, including an assault firearm.

A subsequent search of Callahan's apartment yielded cocaine, marijuana and prescription drugs, police told the Jersey Journal.

Three weapons and hollow-point bullets were allegedly found in a storage locker.

Callahan, 53, won nearly \$700,000 in New Jersey's Cash 5 game in November 2015 and in November 2016.

## 2 hunters arrested after swan shootings

**MO** MOUND CITY — Authorities said two hunters were arrested after killing a federally protected trumpeter swan and wounding a tundra swan.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that the suspects haven't been identified pending the filing of charges. They were arrested earlier this month while hunting in Holt County.

The dead swan was seized as evidence, while the wounded one was released the next day.

Missouri Department of Conservation wildlife agent Jade Wright said the hunters likely mistook the birds for snow geese. But he said mistaken identity doesn't matter.

## Police say staffers pushed kids to fight

**PA** EXTON — Police said two staffers at a Penn-

sylvania facility for patients with disabilities encouraged children to fight.

Rayne Portela, 24, of Glenside, and Anthony Merrick, 25, of Coatesville, appeared in District Court in Exton on charges of failure to report or refer, endangering the welfare of children, simple assault and harassment.

Police said the incident happened at the Devereux Kanner Center in West Whiteland Township in July. Authorities said surveillance video shows Portela and Merrick place two 13-year-old boys in a makeshift ring and encourage them to fight.

## Couple remarries after first illegal try

**MI** STANTON — A couple learned that they broke the law when they wed two years ago, so they asked a judge to void the illegal marriage and then to do it all over again.

Philip Timmer and Trisha Stewart, both 55, were remarried last week at the Montcalm County Courthouse, the Daily News of Greenville reported.

Timmer and Stewart were both divorced with children from previous marriages when they met in 2010 through the social networking website Myspace. Stewart had divorced William Budlong in Texas in 1993; Timmer got divorced in 2000.

The couple married in 2016. Then Stewart learned that her divorce hadn't been properly finalized in Texas.

## Driver leads officers on chase over 2 days

**KS** PARSONS — A man was jailed after a two-day police chase that ran through four Kansas counties on roads and through fields at speeds sometimes over 100 mph.

Kansas Highway Patrol spokesman Chad Crittenden said the chase started Wednesday night when officers received a report of a stolen vehicle and potential kidnapping near Parsons.

Troopers lost site of the truck but the chase resumed Thursday when Pratt County officials saw the truck. The Hutchinson News reported Crittenden said the chase went through fields, roads and highways in Pratt, Kiowa, Edwards and Pawnee counties.

The chase ended in an Edwards County field when the driver hit a vehicle that had been placed in its path. Dakota Dean Demeritt, 24, is jailed in Pratt County on \$200,000 bond facing several potential charges.

## Birds saved after they ate prescription pills

**CA** HUNTINGTON BEACH — A Canada goose and a gull are recovering after they swallowed prescription pills that were dumped at a Southern California park.

The Orange County Register said someone dumped hundreds of pills on the grounds of Carr Park in Huntington Beach.

On Dec. 17, someone spotted the Canada goose lying on the ground with its feet up and called the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center. The goose and a ring-bill gull had their systems flushed.

Both are recovering. Lisa Perrone, the center's wildlife manager, said that without treatment it's likely the birds would have died, if not from overdoses than from an inability to flee predators.

Police said the pills apparently included sedatives and they're grateful no children mistook the pills for candy and ate them.

## Police: Man used child to steal packages

**VT** BURLINGTON — A man police said used his 11-year-old to help steal packages from homes is facing charges.

NECN reported Jackie Walters, 33, pleaded guilty Thursday in Burlington to petit larceny and contributing to the delinquency of a child. But prosecutors said they need more information from an alleged victim and that the case will take more time. Judge Martin Maley said he wasn't ready to accept the plea.

Police said Walters rode a bike with a wagon attached to it when he stole the packages. Authorities say he brought his 11-year-old child along with him to hold the packages.

Burlington Deputy Police Chief Jon Murad said the case has been referred to the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

## Workers find dog but owner is still missing

**OR** AZALEA — Loggers working near Azalea found a dog that belongs to a missing 78-year-old man but there has been no sign of the Glendale man.

The Daily Courier reported Friday that loggers also found Terry L. Dodds' truck off a muddy logging spur road less than 2 miles south of Interstate 5 near Azalea.

The truck appeared to have slid off the road and into a ditch.

Dodds has been missing since he left his home on Dec. 8.

Authorities said he has a medical condition that could leave him confused.

From wire reports

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# No. 22 Army routs Houston in bowl 70-14

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. initially ran right before cutting back the other way and eluding a tackler. He sent two other defenders sliding to the ground when he switched directions again and took off toward the end zone.

That nifty 77-yard run was one of his Armed Forces Bowl-record five rushing touchdowns as the No. 22 Black Knights overwhelmed Houston 70-14 on Saturday to reach 11 wins for the first time in program history.

“Just trying to get back to the line of scrimmage,” Hopkins said. “There was this huge convoy of guys right there when I was running in. ... I just felt like people were on me. I thought it was Houston, and I realized it was gray jerseys. It was a really good team win.”

The Black Knights (11-2) won their ninth consecutive game since an overtime loss at playoff team Oklahoma exactly three months earlier.

“Great, great finish to a terrific season,” coach Jeff Monken said.

Houston (8-5) lost for the fourth time in five games since starting 7-1 and getting into the AP Top 25 poll for one week

in late October. The injury-plagued Cougars suffered their most-lopsided loss in their 27 bowl games, and their biggest loss overall since a 66-10 loss at UCLA during the 1997 regular season.

“That’s the hardest part to swallow, you’re 7-1,” second-year coach Major Applewhite said. “I’m proud of the way our kids fought. I’m not proud of losing the games at the end of the season the way we lost them.”

Hopkins ran 11 times for 170 yards before coming out of the game midway through the third quarter when it was 49-7. He also completed the first 1,000-yard passing season for Army since 2007.

## Top 25 basketball roundup

# No. 18 Sun Devils shock No. 1 Jayhawks

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Poised down the stretch after trailing most of the night, No. 18 Arizona State pulled off one of the biggest victories in school history by knocking off No. 1 Kansas 80-76 on Saturday.

“This was a huge moment for our basketball program,” Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said.

Arizona State (9-2) had a hard time stopping Kansas preseason All-American Deric Lawson inside, blew shots at the rim and had a rough night at the free throw line.

Trailing by up to nine points, the Sun Devils rallied by double-teaming Lawson, digging in on defense and making the biggest plays down the stretch to beat a No. 1 team for the second time as a program.

**No. 19 Kentucky 80, No. 9 North Carolina 72:** Keldon Johnson scored 21 points, Reid Travis added 20 to lead Kentucky in the CBS Sports Classic in Chicago.

Johnson scored 16 in the second half, helping the Wildcats (9-2) hold off the Tar Heels (8-3) in their first meeting since the 2017 NCAA South Regional final. Kentucky won its second in a row since an overtime

loss to Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden.

**No. 3 Tennessee 83, Wake Forest 64:** Grant Williams had 22 points and 10 rebounds as the host Volunteers trounced the Demon Deacons for the Vols’ sixth consecutive victory.

**No. 4 Michigan 71, Air Force 50:** Iggy Brazdeikis scored 19 points and Charles Matthews added 17 to lead the Wolverines.

Michigan (12-0) went on a 19-3 run in the first half and never looked back.

**No. 5 Virginia 72, William & Mary 40:** De’Andre Hunter scored 18 points, Kyle Guy had 16 and the host Cavaliers pulled away after halftime.

The Tribe (4-8) used a 14-3 run spanning halftime to trim a 17-point deficit to 34-28 early in the second half, but Mamadi Diakite’s basket sparked a 17-2 run that put Virginia (11-0) in command again.

**No. 6 Nevada 68, Akron 62:** Caleb Martin and Jordan Carline scored 19 points apiece, and Martin hit a three-pointer with 45 seconds left to help the Wolf Pack fend off the visiting Zips.

**No. 7 Auburn 93, Murray State 88:** Samir Doughty scored 20 points, Austin Wiley

had 17 points and 10 rebounds and the host Tigers held off the Racers.

Doughty and Wiley were two of five players to score in double figures for Auburn (10-2). Chuma Okeke had 17 points, Harper finished with 12 and Bryce Brown added 11.

**No. 11 Florida State 81, Saint Louis 59:** David Nichols scored a season-high 19 points off the bench and the Seminoles shot a season-best 55 percent to beat the Billikens in the one-day Orange Bowl Classic in Sunrise, Fla.

Saint Louis shot only 30 percent — its season low, and the best effort yet for Florida State’s defense. The Seminoles (11-1) won their sixth game in a row and matched the best 12-game record in school history.

**No. 15 Ohio State 80, UCLA 66:** C.J. Jackson scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half, and the Buckeyes handed the Bruins their third consecutive loss.

Kaleb Wesson had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Ohio State (11-1), which has won five in a row since its only loss of the season last month against Syracuse.

**No. 16 Wisconsin 84, Grambling State 53:** Ethan Happ

scored 19 points and grabbed his 1,000th career rebound, leading the host Badgers.

Happ finished with eight rebounds for Wisconsin (10-2). He is the 15th player in Big Ten history to reach 1,000 rebounds.

**No. 17 Mississippi State 67, Wright State 63:** Quinndary Weatherspoon scored 14 points and went 5 of 6 from the free-throw line in the final minute as the Bulldogs won their eighth straight game.

**No. 22 Indiana 94, Jacksonville 64:** Juwan Morgan recorded the second triple-double in Hoosiers history and host Indiana won its sixth straight. Morgan finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

**No. 23 Iowa 110, Savannah State 64:** Joe Wieskamp scored a career-high 24 points, Jordan Bohannon had 18 on six threes and the host Hawkeyes blew past the Tigers for their fourth straight victory.

Tyler Cook scored 16 points in 17 minutes for Iowa (10-2).

**No. 25 Nebraska 86, Cal State Fullerton 62:** James Palmer Jr. scored 23 points and the host Cornhuskers took control midway through the first half to defeat the Titans.

# Jackson, surging Ravens top Chargers

Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Just like that, the Baltimore Ravens have gone from a midseason swoon to the brink of their first playoff trip in four years.

The resurgent Ravens continued their late push with a 22-10 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Saturday behind Lamar Jackson's first 200-yard passing game and a stingy defense that held one of the NFL's top offenses under 200 yards for the first time since 2014.

Baltimore, which has won five of its past six with Jackson as the starter, dominated for most of the night to remain in possession of the last AFC wild card with one game remaining in the regular season. And the Ravens (9-6) would move into first place in the AFC North if Pittsburgh loses at New Orleans on Sunday.

"I'm proud of our guys. So many of them stepped up and made plays," coach John Harbaugh said. "Our guys were winning the 1-on-1 battles and our coverage was real good."

Baltimore got a win against a Los Angeles squad that had already clinched a playoff spot with wins in 10 of its last 11 games. The Chargers' loss, which drops them to 11-4, deals a big blow to their hopes of winning the AFC West. Kansas City can

wrap up the division title and a first-round playoff bye with a win at Seattle on Sunday night.

"We couldn't get them off the field on defense. And we couldn't stay on the field on offense," coach Anthony Lynn said. "We got outplayed. We got outcoached. It's just that simple."

Jackson, the 32nd overall draft pick in April, completed 12 of 22 passes for 204 yards.

"I'm used to playing on big stages and people doubting us. I try to prove them wrong," Jackson said. "We can play with anyone. That was a great team. We can fight and everyone sees it now."

Baltimore led 6-3 at halftime but the Chargers took the lead less than two minutes into the third quarter on Melvin Gordon's touchdown from a yard out. The Ravens got the ball to start the second half but Chargers rookie safety Derwin James forced Kenneth Dixon's fumble, which was recovered by Melvin Ingram at the Ravens 21 and returned 3 yards.

The Ravens quickly answered on the ensuing possession when tight end Mark Andrews split safeties Adrian Phillips and Jahleel Addae, taking Jackson's pass in stride and racing 67 yards for a TD.

"We turned it over so it was up to us to go back down and score," said Jackson, who

also rushed for 39 yards. "It was play action. Mark got open and made a great catch."

The Ravens' defense, which came into the game as the top-ranked unit in the NFL, frustrated the Chargers most of the night. Philip Rivers — who went 23 of 37 for 181 yards — was sacked four times, threw two interceptions and didn't have a touchdown pass for the first time this season.

Baltimore converted three Los Angeles turnovers into 10 points. The Ravens were up 16-10 with 2:40 remaining when Patrick Onwuaso forced Antonio Gates to fumble and Tavon Young scooped it up and returned it 62 yards for a touchdown.

"I saw a couple opportunities where I could punch the ball out and that was one of them. Once I punched it I didn't know if he was down or not," Onwuaso said.

The 198 net yards by the Chargers' offense was their fourth-lowest total since Rivers became the starting quarterback in 2006.

"We got off to a terrible start, turning the ball over on the first play," Rivers said. "And we had three third-down conversions called back really that we couldn't overcome. We got ourselves in third-and-super-long a lot. It's a good defense and they outplayed us today. Depending on what happens we may get another crack at them in two weeks."

## Gabbert keeps Titans' playoff hopes alive

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans finally have a victory in a game where quarterback Marcus Mariota left injured, and Blaine Gabbert did much more than just win.

Gabbert kept the Titans' playoff hopes alive.

The veteran threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt with 4:30 left and the Titans rallied to beat the Washington Redskins 25-16 on Saturday for their fourth straight victory.

"I don't know," Gabbert said when asked if this was the biggest win of his eight-year career with four teams. "It was a fun win. We got a big game next week."

The victory was Tennessee's first in the seven career games that Mariota has left with an injury.

Coming off the bench for the third time this season, Gabbert threw for 101 yards after the Redskins knocked Mariota out of the game late in the first half with a stinger. Gabbert hit Taywan Taylor for 35 yards to jump-start the winning drive, Derrick Henry ran four times for 33 yards, his last an 18-yarder to the 2. Gabbert then hit Pruitt at the back of the end zone.

The Titans (9-6) must beat Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts and have either Baltimore or Pittsburgh lose once to earn the AFC's second wild-card spot for a second consecutive playoff berth.

"The only scenario that any of us are smart enough to worry about is us preparing to win and ultimately win, and that's all we can do right now," first-year Titans coach Mike Vrabel said.

Safety Kevin Byard inter-

cepted Josh Johnson's pass on third-and-3 with 1:17 left. Then Malcolm Butler picked off a pass as time expired and ran 56 yards for an emphatic TD.

The Redskins (7-8) have lost five of six, and coach Jay Gruden said they couldn't ask for anything more from quarterback Josh Johnson, who came off his couch only weeks ago. Washington needs losses by Minnesota and Seattle to avoid being eliminated.

"I'm just very proud and sick for the way it ended for him tonight because he really just played (great), displayed great courage, leadership all in three weeks," Gruden said. "I hate for him to be judged on that one pass [Byard's interception], but overall just very, very proud of the way he came in here and led this team."

Mariota had thrown for 110

yards when he was sacked with 48 seconds left in the first half by Jonathan Allen. His right, throwing shoulder and arm were examined, then he walked to the locker room and was replaced by Gabbert.

The stinger is the same injury that knocked him out of Tennessee's loss Nov. 18 at Indianapolis. He also was knocked out of the season opener with an elbow injury that cost him a start. Vrabel said Mariota was still being evaluated after the game.

Byard said the Titans have full trust in Gabbert.

"It's really no panic on the sideline," Byard said.

Johnson threw for 153 yards and a TD. Dustin Hopkins kicked field goals of 50, 40 and 46 yards, and Washington finished with three sacks.

## NBA roundup

# Wizards down Suns in triple-overtime

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal had 40 points and his first career triple-double to lift the Washington Wizards over the Phoenix Suns 149-146 in triple-overtime Saturday night.

With All-Star point guard John Wall sidelined due to illness, Beal scored 10 points in the third overtime, including a slicing layup that made it 146-144 with 40 seconds to play. He also had a career-high 15 assists and 11 rebounds.

Thomas Bryant added a career-high 31 points, hit all 14 of his shots and made all three of his free throws. At one point, Bryant scored 16 of 18 points for Washington across a stretch of the first and second overtime. He also had 13 rebounds.

**76ers 126, Raptors 101:** Joel Embiid had 27 points and 11 rebounds, Ben Simmons added 26 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists and host Philadelphia routed short-handed Toronto.

JJ Redick added 22 points for the 76ers, who pulled within 2½ games of first-place Toronto in the Atlantic Division.

Pascal Siakam scored 26 points and Kyle Lowry added 20 for the Raptors, who slipped to 25-10. Toronto played without two-time defensive player of the year Kawhi Leonard, as well as Serge Ibaka and Jonas Valanciunas.

**Clippers 132, Nuggets 111:** Danilo Gallinari and Tobias Harris each scored 21 points, Montrezl Harrell added 20 as Los Angeles dealt visiting Denver its worst loss of the season.

The Nuggets (21-10) had not lost by more than 10 points and had won four straight.

Nikola Jokic led Denver with 19 points in 20 minutes before being ejected. Jamal Murray added 18 points and Monte Morris 15.

The Clippers outscored the Nuggets in the paint 80-50.

**Thunder 107, Jazz 106:** Paul George had 43 points and 14 rebounds to help Oklahoma City win at Utah.

Jerami Grant and Teven Adams each scored 15 as the Thunder (21-10) won their fourth straight game and tied Denver for the best record in the Western Conference. Russell Westbrook had eight points on 3-for-17 shooting with 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz (16-18). Donovan Mitchell scored 20.

**Heat 94, Bucks 87:** Josh Richardson scored 16 points, Dwyane Wade had a pair of big baskets in the final minutes and host Miami held Giannis Antetokounmpo to a season-low scoring effort.

Wade finished with 13 points for the Heat, which extended its season-high winning streak to four games. Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and Kelly Olynyk and James Johnson each scored 11 points for the Heat.

**Rockets 108, Spurs 101:** James Harden had 39 points and 10 assists to lead Houston past visiting San Antonio.

Clint Capela had 21 points and a season-high 23 rebounds, and Eric Gordon had 18 points on 4-for-12 shooting from three-point range.

**Warriors 120, Mavericks 116:** Kevin Durant had 29 points with a key three-pointer with 15 seconds left, and added 12 rebounds and eight assists, as host Golden State held off a fourth-quarter rally.

Stephen Curry contributed 22 points, five rebounds and five assists and Jonas Jerebko provided a nice boost with a season-high 23 points on 10-for-12 shooting with six rebounds in 21 minutes off the bench.

## NHL roundup

# Kucherov's five points lead red-hot Lightning

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The longest point streak in the NHL this season will extend through the holiday break.

Nikita Kucherov had a goal and four assists, Steven Stamkos and Tyler Johnson each scored twice and the Tampa Bay Lightning stretched their run to 12 games with a 6-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday night.

J.T. Miller also scored for the NHL-leading Lightning (28-7-2), who are 11-0-1 in their last 12 games.

**Canadiens 4, Golden Knights 3:** Phillip Danault completed a hat trick late in the third period, Paul Byron scored in overtime and Montreal won at Vegas.

Danault entered the game with two goals this season. His third score of the game came with 1:25 left in the third period, setting up Byron's backhand goal 1:59 into OT.

**Blues 3, Flames 1:** David Perron had a goal and an assist and Jake Allen made 28 saves to lead St. Louis at Calgary.

Perron has nine goals and 11 assists in 16 games against the Flames since the start of the 2014-15 season.

Tyler Bozak and Oskar Sundqvist also scored to help the Blues finish 2-1-0 on their trip through Western Canada.

**Kings 3, Sharks 2 (OT):** Ilya Kovalchuk scored in overtime in his return from an ankle injury and lifted Los Angeles at San Jose.

Kovalchuk also scored in the first period, and Alex Iafallo had a goal and an assist. Kovalchuk had missed 10 games after having an ankle bursectomy.

**Panthers 2, Red Wings 1:** Roberto Luongo made 33 saves and Florida won at Detroit.

Mike Hoffman and Evgeni Dadonov scored for the Panthers. Florida leading scorer Jonathan Huberdeau and captain Aleksander Barkov each had two assists. Barkov has seven points (four goals, three

assists) in his last four games.

**Blue Jackets 4, Flyers 3:** Cam Atkinson scored two goals and Artemi Panarin had a goal and two assists as Columbus won at Philadelphia to run its winning streak to three games.

Zach Werenski also scored and Pierre-Luc Dubois added three assists for the Blue Jackets.

**Bruins 5, Predators 2:** Patrice Bergeron returned to the lineup after missing 16 games and scored two goals, reaching 300 for his career in leading host Boston.

Bergeron set up Brad Marchand's tie-breaking score as the Bruins won for the sixth time in eight games.

**Penguins 3, Hurricanes 0:** Sidney Crosby set up three goals and Matt Murray made 38 saves as Pittsburgh won at Carolina.

Jake Guentzel scored twice and Kris Letang added a goal for the Penguins.

**Sabres 3, Ducks 0:** Linus Ullmark made 36 saves and Buffalo got goals from Rasmus Dahlin and Jeff Skinner in beating visiting Anaheim.

**Coyotes 6, Avalanche 4:** Brad Richardson scored twice in the final 3:39 to lead host Arizona past Colorado.

**Maple Leafs 5, Rangers 3:** Mitch Marner scored twice during a wild third period and Toronto beat visiting New York.

**Capitals 4, Senators 0:** Phoenix Copley made 35 saves for his first career shutout for Washington, which won at Ottawa.

**Stars 2, Wild 1 (OT):** Alexander Radulov scored with 10 seconds on the clock in overtime to give Dallas a win at Minnesota.

**Jets 1, Canucks 0:** Mark Scheifele scored with 1:32 left in the third period and Laurent Brossoit made 40 saves for his first shutout for visiting Winnipeg.