

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Mattis: US not leaving Iraq any time soon

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Monday he believes U.S. forces will be in Iraq and in the fight against Islamic State militants for a while despite some rocky times between the two nations.

Speaking at the end of a day of meetings in Baghdad with military commanders and Iraqi political leaders, Mattis said he is open to any request from his military commanders to aid the battle to retake Mosul and launch a major battle to oust the Islamic State group from the base of its so-called caliphate in Raqqa, Syria. He would not provide details.

Despite President Donald Trump's past threats to take Iraq's oil and his attempt to impose a travel ban that includes Iraqi citizens, Mattis said his meetings with Iraqi leaders underscored the partnership the U.S. has with the Iraqis.

He said there's no doubt that "the Iraqi people, the Iraqi military and the Iraqi political leadership recognize what they're up against and the value of the coalition and the partnership, in particular with the United States."

His optimistic words come on the heels of his earlier declaration that the U.S. does not intend to seize Iraqi oil, distancing himself from comments made by Trump that has rattled Iraq's leaders.

Trump's oil threat and his inclusion of Iraq in the administration's travel ban have roiled the nation and spurred local lawmakers to pressure Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to reduce cooperation with Washington.

"I think all of us here in this room, all of us in America, have generally paid for our gas and oil all along, and I'm sure that we will continue to do that in the future," Mattis told report-

### Mosul fighting moves to village of Abu Saif

Associated Press

SOUTH OF MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi forces on Monday advanced into the southern outskirts of Mosul on the second day of a push to drive Islamic State militants from the city's western half as the visiting U.S. defense secretary, Jim Mattis, met with officials to discuss the fight against the extremists.

With aerial support from the U.S.-led coalition, Iraqi police and army troops launched an offensive on Sunday to retake western Mosul, part of a 100-day-old campaign that has already driven the militants from the eastern half of the city.

Iraqi helicopters fired rockets at the village of Abu Saif early Monday, targeting a hill that overlooks the city's airport. By noon, the forces entered the village and gained control over much of the strategic hill as fighting was still raging, according to an Associated Press reporter.

Separately, militarized police in armored vehicles were moving toward the sprawling

Ghazlani military base on the southwestern outskirts of the city.

A U.S.-led coalition has been providing close air support throughout the campaign to retake Iraq's second-largest city. U.S. special operations forces are embedded with some Iraqi units, and thousands of U.S. troops are in Iraq providing logistical and other support.

The battle for western Mosul, the extremist group's last major urban bastion in Iraq, is expected to be the most daunting yet.

The streets are older and narrower in the half of the city stretching west from the Tigris River, which will force Iraqi soldiers to leave the relative safety of their armored vehicles. The presence of up to 750,000 civilians also will pose a challenge.

Two suicide car bombers struck army and paramilitary forces west of Mosul on Monday, killing and wounding a number of troops, two army officers said, without specifying the number of casualties.

ers traveling with him.

"We're not in Iraq to seize anybody's oil."

Trump brought up the prospect during the campaign, and he mentioned it again late last month during a visit to the CIA. He told the gathering there that, "To the victor belong the spoils," and added, "Maybe you'll have another chance" to take the oil.

Despite those tensions, Mattis and Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, described an enduring partnership between the U.S. and Iraq.

"I imagine we'll be in this fight for a while and we'll stand by each other," Mattis said.

Townsend, who was standing by Mattis, declined to say how long the U.S. will stay. But,

he said, "I don't anticipate that we'll be asked to leave by the government of Iraq immediately after Mosul." He added, "I think that the government of Iraq realizes their very complex fight, and they're going to need the assistance of the coalition even beyond Mosul."

Townsend also acknowledged that U.S. forces are now operating closer and deeper into the fight with Iraq units as the battle to retake western Mosul entered its second day.

He said the change began in recent months during the successful fight to take back eastern Mosul and is now happening more often. U.S. special operations forces have been working with the Iraqis, offering advice and assistance, but initially they were only at the headquarters' level.

More recently, they have been moving closer to the battlefield, working with brigade, battalion and sometimes smaller units. But they are generally with command-and-control units, not in combat on the front lines.

"We embedded advisers a bit further down into the formation," Townsend said.

Mattis' unannounced, one-day stop in Iraq was his first as Pentagon chief and the first visit to the war zone by a senior member of the Trump administration. It comes as Mattis and his military leaders are nearing the end of a 30-day review of the Islamic State fight. He must send Trump a strategy to accelerate the battle in the next seven days.

Senior U.S. military officers said Monday that the fight in the more urban, heavily populated areas of western Mosul will require more precision airstrikes and probably smaller bombs that can take out a building or group of militants and leave surroundings intact.

# US marks Presidents Day with praise, fear

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The U.S. on Monday marked Presidents Day, a holiday that's taking on a new meaning for some Americans this year as President Donald Trump — to the dismay of some and delight of others — upends traditional notions of the office.

The holiday began as a celebration of George Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, and its official name remains Washington's Birthday.

Throughout the 19th century, communities celebrated with parades and fireworks, said Evan Phifer, a research historian at the White House Historical Association. In the late 1800s, Feb. 22 became a federal holiday.

The holiday was moved to the third Monday in February in 1971, creating a three-day weekend for many workers.

"There was fear when the holiday was moved to the third Monday that it would lose the distinction of Washington's birthday, and people would forget his legacy," Phifer said.

To some extent, that has happened. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is Feb. 12, and many people now associate both presidents with the holiday. It has also become a retail holiday, where shoppers can get deals on cars, furniture and other goods during

Presidents Day sales.

The Associated Press spoke with people around the country about their ideas about Presidents Day, the presidency and how it is changing.

■ Jack Warren is executive director of the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783. George Washington was the first president general of the group.

He calls the idea of Presidents Day "wrongheaded" and said referring to Washington's Birthday as Presidents Day is a reflection of how out of touch we are with our revolutionary origins.

"The revolution George Washington led created the first great republic since antiquity. It articulated ideals of universal liberty, natural rights and equality that have shaped the entire history of our country and have reached beyond it," he said.

"We don't need a holiday to commemorate the presidency. We do need one to commemorate our greatest national leader."

■ Curt Viebranz is president and CEO of George Washington's Virginia estate, Mount Vernon. He expects between 10,000 and 15,000 people to visit on Monday.

"We wouldn't have a country without him," he said. "We wouldn't have a republic."

Many of the formal traditions of the

presidency that survive today were established by Washington, he said, such as the open-air inauguration.

■ Juathawala Harris, 67, of Baltimore, was on a trip to Dallas that included a visit to the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, which is dedicated to telling the story of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Harris, who works as a manager for a dialysis unit, said Presidents Day meant more to her in the past.

"We've lived through presidencies, and they have always been men that we look up to. That is not so for me now," said Harris, who voted for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

"I am fearful now, and I've never been fearful in all of my years," she said, adding that she is scared the country may be moving toward a war.

■ Robin Allweiss, 56, an attorney from Tampa, Fla., considers herself a patriot and takes Presidents Day seriously — especially so this year. She is a Trump supporter and thinks he's vastly different than any other president in the country's history.

"Donald Trump cares about us. And no other president in the history of the United States, or even any foreign leader, has cared about his country as much as Donald Trump."

## Feds boost probes over drug thefts at VA facilities

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are stepping up investigations at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers due to a sharp increase in opioid theft, missing prescriptions or unauthorized drug use by VA employees since 2009, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press.

Doctors, nurses or pharmacy staff at federal hospitals — the vast majority within the VA system — siphoned away controlled substances for their own use or street sales, or drugs intended for patients simply disappeared.

Aggravating the problem is

that some VA hospitals have been lax in tracking drug supplies. Congressional auditors said spot checks found four VA hospitals skipped monthly inspections of drug stocks or missed other requirements. Investigators said that signals problems for VA's entire network of more than 160 medical centers and 1,000 clinics, coming after auditor warnings about lax oversight dating to at least 2009.

Both the inspector general's office and the Drug Enforcement Administration said they have increased scrutiny of drug thefts from the VA, with the DEA reporting more criminal investigations.

## Investigations launched in Okla. veteran's death

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Federal and state investigations are underway into the choking death of a man with later-stage dementia at the Oklahoma Veterans Center in Talihina.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs have launched separate probes into the Jan. 31 death of Leonard Smith, 70, formerly of Sapulpa. Smith died in the nursing home's locked-down, special-needs unit.

A report from the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office about the cause and manner of Smith's death is still pending the results of toxicology tests, the

Tulsa World reported Sunday.

It is the second Talihina resident's death to be investigated in recent months. Vietnam veteran Owen Reese Peterson died at the Talihina Veterans Center on Oct. 3 after he was found with maggots in a wound.

Federal officials banned the Talihina Veterans Center from admitting new residents following Smith's death, a ban later lifted, state officials said.

John Carter, chairman of the governor-appointed Oklahoma Veterans Commission, has said it was his understanding that Smith "had a long history of ingestions of things perhaps that were not edible and this was not passed onto admissions when he was admitted."

## Elite gymnasts claim sexual abuse by former team doctor

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Three former elite U.S. gymnasts, including 2000 Olympian Jamie Dantzscher, have come forward saying they were sexually abused by a former doctor currently facing trial on a separate matter.

Dantzscher, three-time U.S. rhythmic gymnastics champion Jessica Howard and former national team member Jeannette Antolin appeared on “60 Minutes” on Sunday, detailing what they have claimed is sexual abuse by Dr. Larry Nassar.

All three accused Nassar, a volunteer team doctor for USA Gymnastics for almost three decades before his tenure ended in July 2015, of touching them inappropriately while he disguised the abuse as treatment.

Dantzscher, who helped the U.S. team earn a team bronze at the 2000 Olympics, filed a lawsuit against Nassar in California last September as “Jane Doe.” She gave up her anonymity for “60 Minutes” and described how she was sent to visit Nassar to receive treatment for lower back pain.

“He would put his fingers inside of me, move my leg around,” Dantzscher said. “He would tell me I was going to feel a pop and that that would put my hips back and help my back pain.”

Dantzscher said she saw Nassar for treatment from her early teens until the Olympics, when she was 18. Dantzscher said typically she saw Nassar

alone, which is in violation of USA Gymnastics policy.

USA Gymnastics President Steve Penny and others have been named as co-defendants in Dantzscher’s civil suit. The suit says the organization negligently suppressed, concealed or failed to disclose knowledge that Nassar had engaged in sexual conduct with team members. Nassar’s attorneys have denied any wrongdoing by the doctor.

USA Gymnastics said it is “appalled that anyone would exploit a child in this manner.” The organization fired Nassar two years ago after going to federal authorities following an investigation into possible abuse by the doctor, leading the FBI to conduct its own investigation.

Nassar, who also treated gymnasts at Michigan State University, faces charges in two cases so far, although they’re not related to his work with athletes.

Nassar was ordered to stand trial on charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct after a woman described how he sexually abused her for years during her childhood. The 25-year-old woman who testified Friday said her parents were friends with Nassar and that he abused her from age 6 until age 12 during family visits to his home near Lansing, Mich. Nassar has pleaded not guilty.

In federal court, Nassar is charged with possessing thousands of images of child pornography and trying to destroy possible evidence.

## Trump’s revised travel ban targets same 7 countries

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A draft of President Donald Trump’s revised immigration ban targets the same seven countries listed in his original executive order and exempts travelers who already have visas to travel to the U.S. even if they haven’t used them yet.

A senior administration official said the order, which Trump revised after federal courts held up his original immigration and refugee ban, will target only those same seven Muslim-majority countries — Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya.

The official said that green card holders and dual citizens of the U.S. and any of those countries are exempt. The new draft also no longer directs authorities to single out — and reject — Syrian refugees when processing new visa applications.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the order before it’s made public. The official noted that the draft is subject to change ahead of its signing, which Trump said could come sometime this week.

Asked about the revised order, White House spokes-

woman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the document circulating was a draft and that a final version is expected to be released soon.

Trump’s original executive order triggered chaos at airports around the world as travelers were detained when the order rapidly went into effect, U.S. permanent residents known as green card holders among them. Attorneys to provide legal assistance to those held and protesters descended on the airports as news of the order’s implementation spread. In its original form, the order temporarily suspended all travel to the U.S. for citizens of those seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days.

The original order also called for Homeland Security and State department officials, along with the director of national intelligence, to review what information the government needs to fully vet would-be visitors and to come up with a list of countries that can’t or won’t make the information available. It said the government will give countries 60 days to start providing the information or citizens from those countries will be barred from traveling to the U.S.

## Traffic study ranks LA as world’s most clogged city

Associated Press

DETROIT — When it comes to getting stuck in traffic on the way to and from work, Los Angeles leads the world.

Drivers in the car-crazy California metropolis spent 104 hours each driving in congestion during peak travel periods last year.

That topped second-place Moscow, at 91 hours, and

third-place New York, at 89, according to a traffic scorecard compiled by Inrix, a transportation analytics firm.

The U.S. had half the cities on Inrix’s list of the top 10 most congested areas in the world, and it was the most congested developed country on the planet, Inrix found.

U.S. drivers averaged 42 hours per year in traffic during peak times, the study found.

San Francisco was the fourth-most congested city, while Bogota, Colombia, was fifth; Sao Paulo ranked sixth; and London, Atlanta, Paris and Miami rounded out the top 10.

Being stuck in traffic cost the average U.S. driver \$1,400 last year and nearly \$300 billion for all drivers nationwide, Inrix said.

Study authors said a stable U.S. economy, continued ur-

banization of big cities, employment growth and low gas prices all contributed to increased traffic and congestion worldwide in 2016, lowering the quality of life.

Inrix said it analyzed 1,064 cities worldwide across 38 countries to come up with its rankings. Since Inrix doesn’t gather its own data in either China or Japan, cities in those countries were not ranked.

# Video appears to show fatal attack on Kim's half brother

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — New security footage emerged Monday purportedly showing the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother at a Malaysian airport.

South Korean officials squarely put the blame for the Feb. 12 attack on Pyongyang, calling it an "act of terrorism."

The grainy video shows a woman in a white shirt and a bobbed hair cut approaching Kim Jong Nam from behind and holding something over his mouth for a few seconds. She and another woman then walk away in different directions.

Kim Jong Nam is seen apparently asking for help from airport workers, gesturing at his eyes. They accompany him to the airport clinic.

The authenticity of the closed-circuit TV footage,

which was posted on YouTube, could not be confirmed.

But the sequence of events appeared to be largely in line with reports that Kim Jong Nam was poisoned while waiting for a flight to Macau.

Officials have said he died while being transported to a hospital, although the cause of death has not been confirmed pending autopsy results.

Malaysian police have arrested four people, including a North Korean man and two women from Indonesia and Vietnam. They're also reportedly looking for four North Korean men who flew out of the country the day Kim was killed.

South Korea's acting president, Hwang Kyo-ahn, called the killing of Kim Jong Nam "an unacceptable inhumane criminal act" and urged the world to hold Pyongyang accountable for the "act of terrorism," according to the Yonhap

news agency.

As the eldest son, Kim Jong Nam, 46, was long thought to be the heir apparent to former leader Kim Jong Il until he fell out of favor with his father.

Kim Jong Nam has made comments critical of the regime in the past but has largely maintained a low profile while living outside the isolated country.

North Korea's top envoy in Kuala Lumpur criticized Malaysia's investigation into the death and demanded a joint probe as the case threatened to spark a diplomatic row between the two countries.

Two autopsies have been carried out despite objections by Pyongyang, which has demanded custody of the body.

Malaysian police said Kim told customer service staff at the Kuala Lumpur airport that two women had "swabbed or wiped his face with a liquid and that he felt dizzy," the AP reported.

## Pakistani airstrikes kill 'dozens' of militants

*Associated Press*

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani airstrikes killed "dozens" of militants on Monday in a tribal region along the Afghan border, the military said.

Pakistan had vowed to fight back after a series of suicide bombings last week killed more than 100 people, including 88 worshippers at a famed Sufi shrine. The attacks were claimed by various Islamic militant groups, which have operated in the porous border region.

The planes targeted militant hideouts in the Wucha Bibi area of North Waziristan, the Pakistani army said in a statement.

Pakistan carried out an artillery assault on suspected terrorist camps in Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday after giving the Afghan government a list of 76 alleged Pakistani terrorists it said were sheltering there. On Monday, the Afghan ambassador to Pakistan handed Islamabad a list of 85 suspected terrorist leaders that Kabul says have found refuge in Pakistan as well as the locations of 32 insurgent centers it wants Pakistan to destroy, an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement said.

In a meeting with fellow officers on Monday, Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, ordered his troops to cooperate with their Afghan counterparts in preventing militants from crossing the border.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have long accused each other of turning a blind eye to insurgents operating along the border. Pakistan says the latest wave of attacks was orchestrated by militants who fled its operations in North Waziristan, and it has closed two border crossings.

Pakistani authorities have also rounded up nearly 100 Afghan refugees in the city of Quetta, saying they were living in the country illegally.

Police spokesman Shahzada Farhat said at least 35 people were in custody. Another 75 were picked up by a paramilitary force, said another official.

## Ex-cop: Duterte had foes slain

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — A retired Philippine police officer said Monday that President Rodrigo Duterte, when he was a mayor, paid him and other members of a so-called liquidation squad to kill criminals and opponents, including a kidnapping suspect, his family and a radio commentator.

Human rights lawyers who presented Arthur Lascanas at a news conference said the allegations could be grounds for impeaching Duterte.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who helped the lawyers from the private Free Legal Assistance Group present Lascanas in a news conference at the Senate, said he would ask his colleagues to immediately investigate the explosive allegations.

Duterte's communications secretary, Martin Andanar, dismissed the claims as a "demolition job" by people affected by Duterte's reforms.

Duterte has denied his administration backs unlawful killings of suspects in his crackdown on illegal drugs that is feared to have killed more than 7,000 mostly poor drug users and petty drug pushers since he took office in June.

The killings under the crackdown, an expansion of his anti-drug campaign when he was the long-

time mayor of southern Davao city, have alarmed the U.S., other Western governments and U.N. human rights officials.

Lascanas' comments came after he denied to a Senate hearing last year that he had been involved in any extrajudicial killings in Davao, Duterte's hometown. He testified at the inquiry in October after he was implicated by another witness, Edgar Matobato, who said Duterte ordered him and others to kill criminals in gangland-style assaults that left hundreds of people dead.

Breaking into tears at one point, Lascanas said Monday he was speaking up now because he was bothered by his conscience, including his role in the deaths of his two brothers, whom he ordered killed because they were drug users.

One of their first victims, a suspected drug lord, was gunned down and left with a message that warned others: "Don't emulate." Lascanas said he and other killers identified their group in the message as "Davao Death Squad."

Another target was radio commentator Jun Pala, who had angered Duterte with critical commentaries. He was killed in 2003 by gunmen, who Lascanas said included him. Lascanas said he personally received a financial reward from the then-mayor.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police recover 1,500 boxes of stolen diapers

**RI** CRANSTON — Rhode Island State Police say they have recovered more than half the load of diapers stolen from a delivery truck but are still looking for the rest.

Police said they recovered 600 boxes of the diapers from a private home in Cranston on Friday after recovering 900 boxes Thursday from a Providence storefront.

Police allege driver Aubrey Bettis, of Providence, sold the \$90,000 worth of diapers instead of delivering them to an Amazon distribution facility in Fall River, Mass. earlier this month.

Bettis, 59, and Damon Martin, 41, of Coventry, were arraigned in District Court on larceny charges.

## Police leader named in drinking incident report

**OR** EUGENE — An auditor's office report says a drunken police supervisor vomited in a work vehicle after a conference in Bend ended for the day and he went out for drinks with colleagues.

The Register-Guard reported the supervisor also was accused of repeatedly touching a female officer's leg, neck and hair.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel identified the supervisor as Eugene police Lt. Doug Mozan. The Eugene Police Auditor's Office and Police Chief Pete Kerns upheld the accusations against Mozan.

They also upheld accusations against an unidentified supervisor who did not report the behavior until Mozan was up for a promotion.

A prosecutor declined to file charges due to lack of

evidence.

It's unclear whether any disciplinary action will be taken.

## Baby male orangutan makes debut at zoo

**PA** ERIE — A baby orangutan has made its debut at a Pennsylvania zoo.

The Erie Zoo told the Erie Times-News the baby boy was born Feb. 1. He's the third baby for Joe and Dasa, and a zoo spokeswoman said all are doing great.

The orangutans' first baby, Leela, was born in 2003 and was transferred to the Toledo Zoo in 2012. Ollie, born in 2009, remains with Mom and Dad.

Spokeswoman Emily Antolik said Ollie's used to being the center of attention, so it's taking time for him to get used to the baby, but he's adjusting well.

The zoo is partnering with the Magee-Women's Hospital for a naming contest.

## Officials warn of rise in bobcat sightings

**CT** WOODBRIDGE — Police and state environmental officials are cautioning Connecticut residents about possible encounters with bobcats.

The Connecticut Post reported that several of the animals have been sighted in Woodbridge during the past few weeks.

Three women were attacked by a rabid bobcat in Colchester on Jan. 17 and suffered minor injuries.

Wildlife biologists with the state Department of Environmental Protection wildlife division say attacks on humans are extremely rare, but the bobcat population in Connecticut has been increasing in recent years. The DEEP says if you see one, keep your distance, make a lot

of noise and back away slowly.

## Newspaper that sought owner via contest sold

**VT** MONTPELIER — The owner of a small Vermont weekly newspaper who tried to find a new owner with a \$175 essay contest is selling the paper to a Connecticut couple.

Last fall, Ross Connelly abandoned his plan to give the Hardwick Gazette to the winner of an essay contest because he didn't get enough entries.

After returning the entry money, Connelly told entrants he'd still like to sell the weekly paper that serves Hardwick, a town of about 3,000 in northern Vermont. He then began negotiating with Ray and Kim Small of Stamford, Conn., who had submitted an essay.

## Rutgers condemns anti-Muslim poster

**NJ** PISCATAWAY — Rutgers University officials are condemning an anti-Muslim poster found hanging outside a cultural center on the New Jersey school's campus in Piscataway.

The poster contained the words "Imagine a Muslim-Free America" and a silhouette image of the World Trade Center's twin towers. It was discovered Monday night and was reported to campus police, who turned it over to the county prosecutor.

The school, whose main campus is in New Brunswick, issued a statement condemning the poster, saying its content "violates the values and ideals for which Rutgers stands."

University officials said campus police will increase security and patrols at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, which serves as a hub of Muslim and other minority student gather-

ings and as a prayer space.

## Woman accused of memorial fund theft

**ID** SPOKANE — A woman is facing a theft charge after she was accused of taking \$14,000 from a memorial fund.

The Coeur d'Alene Press reported the money was intended to benefit the families of Justin Luhr, 34, and Justin Honken, 21. The men and Caitlin Breeze, 21, died last year in a two-boat collision on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

An Oct. 8 fundraiser for the men's families brought in almost \$30,000.

Katie Rafter managed the finances for the event. She is accused of making deposits to her personal bank account and taking out cashier's checks to pay a tanning salon owner.

## Coroner: Wind-blown branch killed motorist

**PA** MECHANICSBURG — A Pennsylvania coroner said high winds took down a tree branch that crashed through a motorist's windshield and led to his death.

Cumberland County Coroner Charley Hall said Shannon Lee Martin, 22, of Loysville, died early Feb. 13 after going into cardiac arrest at a hospital outside Harrisburg.

Hall said Martin was driving near Mechanicsburg late Feb. 12 when the branch fell. It struck him in the chest, breaking his ribs and lacerating his heart.

The National Weather Service in State College said winds in the Harrisburg area were gusting to about 60 mph at the time Martin was struck.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Elliott claims Daytona pole

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It's impossible to tell the history of NASCAR without mentioning Elliott and Earnhardt.

As the series shifts into a new era, those distinguished names are out front again and will give the start of the Daytona 500 a throwback feel.

Chase Elliott and Dale Earnhardt Jr. — teammates and sons of Hall of Fame drivers — will start 1-2 and should give a sagging series a sorely needed boost this week headed into its marquee event.

Elliott nipped Earnhardt on the final qualifying lap Sunday to win his second straight pole for the Daytona 500. Elliott turned a lap at 192.872 mph to just edge Earnhardt's speed of 192.864 and become the first repeat pole winner in 27 years.

"I don't really care who it is. I'm not going to feel bad about beating somebody," Elliott said. "Dale's a good guy. I'm happy to share the front row with him. Happier to beat him."

Earnhardt, long NASCAR's most popular driver, had the speed to beat in his triumphant return after missing the second half of last season with a concussion. He missed the final 18 races with nausea, vision and balance issues after at least the fifth concussion of his career following a June wreck. He was as sharp as ever in the No. 88 Chevrolet headed into his first race since last July.

"Ain't much to it. The car does all the work," he said.

Elliott and Earnhardt gave Hendrick Motorsports and Chevrolet a 1-2 front row for the fifth time in the Daytona 500.

Elliott, the 21-year-old son of Hall of Fame driver and two-time Daytona 500 champion Bill Elliott, became the youngest Daytona 500 pole winner a year ago and proved in the No. 24 Chevy starting first last season was no fluke.

Elliott also made it three straight years for the No. 24 on the pole. Jeff Gordon won the pole in 2015 in his final season before he retired and turned the car over to Elliott.

The rest of the field will be set Thursday in the two qualifying races.

Elliott will lead the field to green and try and avoid the problems that spoiled his Daytona 500 debut.

Elliott's run at a Daytona 500 victory last season ended in the grass just 19 laps into the race. The front end of his car lifted off the ground, and the rough ride caused enough damage that his car had to be towed to the garage.

Until the wreck, Elliott was the star of Speedweeks. He followed the pole with a win in the second-tier Xfinity Series race.

He's back out front again and expecting a better finish.

"I hope we can just try to get to the end of the

500, next," Elliott said. "We've obviously got to get through the Duels, first. But, just making it to the end and having yourself in position, obviously we'd love to have a shot to win this thing. It would be great and I think we have a car that can do it."

Elliott's speed earned team owner Rick Hendrick his 11th overall pole in the Daytona 500.

"My boss man is happy," Earnhardt said. "I just talked to him on the phone, and he's got to be thrilled with having his cars up front."

The 42-year-old Earnhardt got married in the offseason, wants a family and said over the weekend that he would like a "couple of months" to see how he feels before deciding to sign a contract extension.

Earnhardt starts second in the first NASCAR race under the Monster Energy sponsorship banner and the Daytona 500 is the first under the new format that divides the race into segments.

NASCAR ditched its knockout group qualifying format for Daytona for single cars making one qualifying lap.

After 42 drivers had a scheduled turn, the 12 fastest advanced to the second round. The two fastest drivers in the second round set the front row. There were 36 drivers guaranteed a spot because of the charter system.

Other things to know about qualifying:

**Who's in:** Beard Motorsports driver Brendan Gaughan and Tommy Baldwin Racing's Elliott Sadler secured spots in the Daytona 500 as the two fastest drivers from teams not locked into the 40-car field.

**Repeat poles:** Elliott joined Fireball Roberts, Buddy Baker, Bill Elliott and Ken Schrader as drivers with consecutive Daytona 500 poles.

**Waltrip finale:** Michael Waltrip failed to advance to the second round of qualifying in his 30th and final Daytona 500. He said the race will be his last in NASCAR. Waltrip, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, will drive the No. 15 Toyota for Premium Motorsports. Premium bought a team charter from the defunct HScott Motorsports, guaranteeing the 51-year-old Waltrip a spot on the grid.

**Suarez struggle:** Daniel Suarez also did not advance to the second round in his first career Cup event. Suarez, the only non-American in the Monster Energy Cup Series, has become a sensation in his native Mexico. He became NASCAR's first foreign-born series champion with an Xfinity Series title last season and Joe Gibbs Racing promoted him to the No. 19 Toyota when Carl Edwards abruptly retired.

**Right calls:** Alan Gustafson became the first crew chief to win three straight poles since Ernie Elliott in 1985-1987.

# Logano wins Clash

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The real clash at Daytona came when Denny Hamlin and Brad Keselowski wrecked on the final lap.

That was just the opening Joey Logano needed to get Ford to victory lane again at a superspeedway.

Logano stole a win in the Clash at Daytona on Sunday, driving around the crashing leaders to land NASCAR's first trophy of Speedweeks. It was Ford's fourth consecutive win at a restrictor-plate track, and with four additional cars in the fold thanks to Stewart-Haas Racing's move from Chevrolet, the manufacturer known for its blue-oval logo might just be the one to beat heading into the season-opening Daytona 500.

"One car alone was not going to win this race," Logano said. "Didn't have a shot just because the (Joe Gibbs Racing) cars and the Toyotas were way too committed to each other. It's going to take a lot more than one guy to beat them."

Hamlin led much of the 75-lap exhibition event, which was postponed a day because of rain, but lost control while trying to block Keselowski just after taking the white flag for the final lap. Logano slid by on the outside as Hamlin and Keselowski slowed.

It was Logano's first Clash victory in nine tries and his third overall win at Daytona International Speedway. This one came in NASCAR's first race of Speedweeks.

"It's a momentum builder, that's what this is," said Logano, the 2015 Daytona 500 champion.

Kyle Busch finished second, following by Alex Bowman and Danica Patrick. Bowman drove the No. 88 Chevrolet in place of Dale Earnhardt Jr., who felt Bowman earned the opportunity because he filled in for Earnhardt (concussion) last year.

"It means a lot to have driven this car for Team Hendrick," Bowman said. "It's been a lot of fun, made a lot of memories. Hope to do it again someday."

Harvick was fifth, followed by Keselowski and Clash rookies Chase Elliott and Daniel Suarez.

With a 17-car field, the Clash hardly provided more than a glimpse into what to expect in the Daytona 500. It surely showed that Ford and Toyota have the most speed.

# Pelicans acquire Kings' All-Star Cousins

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins is on his way out of Sacramento — and right into an All-Star frontcourt pairing with Anthony Davis.

The New Orleans Pelicans agreed to acquire Cousins from the Kings on Sunday, the same night the center was playing in the All-Star Game in their arena.

The Kings dealt one of the most talented but temperamental big men in the game along with Omri Casspi to New Orleans for Tyreke Evans, 2016 first-round draft pick Buddy Hield, Langston Galloway and first- and second-round draft picks this summer, a person familiar with the situation said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the trade is not official and has not been announced by either team.

The deal pairs the 6-foot-11 Cousins, a frontcourt All-Star

from nearby Mobile, Ala., with the 6-11 Davis, who on Sunday night was the All-Star Game MVP after scoring 52 points, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's 1962 record of 42.

The move also sends a message that the Pelicans are more concerned with making a 25-game push for the playoffs this spring than where they'll be drafting next offseason.

The deal was still in the works when Cousins spoke with reporters after the All-Star Game, when he played just two minutes as trade rumors swirled.

He said he was happy with the Kings, but would also be happy playing closer to home and alongside Davis.

"If I'm blessed enough to have a job here, absolutely," Cousins said. "If that's what happens."

New Orleans (23-34) went into the All-Star break 2½ games behind Denver for the eighth and final playoff seeding

in the Western Conference.

Cousins, like Davis a former collegiate star at Kentucky, is averaging 27.8 points and 10.6 rebounds this season. But he is due to become a free agent in 2018 unless the Pelicans can sign him to an All-Star caliber extension. New Orleans will also have to hope Cousins can dial back some of his after-the-whistle intensity and antics. He leads the NBA in technical fouls with 17, putting him one away from another one-game suspension.

While Davis said after the All-Star Game that he wasn't aware of an impending trade, he said he admired Cousins as a player.

"He's a great player, dominant in this league, of course, with all the numbers he puts up," Davis said. "Of course, DeMarcus is an elite player in this league."

But the Kings decided to move on without him, having not made the playoffs since tak-

ing Cousins with the No. 5 pick in the 2010 draft.

The Kings get a player with a lot of potential in the 6-4 Hield, although he has been inconsistent during his rookie season out of Oklahoma, where as a senior he was one of the best players in the nation.

Hield is averaging 8.6 points but has been explosive at times, with a season high of 21 points. The 6-6 Evans, who can play point guard, shooting guard or small forward, will be entering a second stint in Sacramento, where he was drafted in 2009 and went on to be Rookie of the Year.

Galloway has been a solid reserve, providing scoring punch from the perimeter.

The 6-9 Casspi has been playing about 19 minutes per game for the Kings this season, averaging 5.9 points and 4.1 rebounds.

## All-Stars disregard defense; Davis scores 52

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It was the fourth quarter of the All-Star Game, and a few fans started yelling loudly enough for DeAndre Jordan to hear them from his spot on the Western Conference bench.

Their cry: "De-fense! De-fense!"

Jordan's shout back: "No, no, no!"

The moment was both hilarious and fitting. Defense was in short supply on Sunday night during the NBA's showcase game, one where Anthony Davis smashed a 55-year-old record with 52 points and the Western Conference beat the Eastern Conference 192-182. And it prompted some questions afterward on whether the glorified exhibition needs at least the appearance of defense.

"All-Star is about offense and giving the crowd a show, but if they want to see a little more

defense as fans and everything — I mean, nobody wants to go out here and get hurt," said Davis, the game's MVP in his home arena. "It's all about fun. ... I love it. I don't really care. I'll go out there and have fun. I didn't play any defense."

Few did.

There were 33 steals in the game, sure, but most of those were the byproduct of bad passes, not picked pockets. There were 16 fouls, mainly ones players were taking to stop the clock and allow substitutions; only four were of the shooting variety. Stephen Curry laid down on the court at one point while Giannis Antetokounmpo was driving in for what became one of his 12 dunks.

"I'm going to play hard no matter what," Antetokounmpo said. "That's the only thing I know how to do."

Davis took 39 shots, making 26, both of those now All-Star records. The game also estab-

lished records for total points (384), most field goals (162), most assists (103), most assists by one team (West with 60), most points in one quarter (101, first) and so on. The East set a rather dubious record, establishing a new high score by a losing team for the third consecutive season.

Put simply, it's not a real game, and real-game thinking doesn't apply. LeBron James made a shot from nearly half-court, something he would never try in a competitive situation.

He loves defense. He wasn't missing it on Sunday.

"I think the biggest thing coming out of the game is that everybody leaves injury-free," James said. "We gave the fans what they wanted to see and everyone left injury-free. Another successful All-Star weekend for myself and everyone."

West coach Steve Kerr said he and East coach Brad Ste-

vens had jobs on Sunday night akin to the person who played the role of the title character in "Weekend at Bernie's," that being a deceased man who gets dragged from place to place and propped up to somehow give others the illusion that he's still actually alive.

Kerr's point: How All-Star games are played isn't up to the coaches, but rather it'll be the players who decide if they want defense back.

"It would be good to possibly incentivize the guys somehow," Kerr said. "I don't know if you can maybe get their charities involved or winner-take-all type thing, but I think it's possible to play a lot harder without taking a charge. We know what silly is out there, if you're undercutting guys, but it's almost gone too far the other way where there's just no resistance at all. I think there's a happy medium in there somewhere."

# Badgers back on track with win over Terps

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Nigel Hayes was in vintage form, going strong to the hoop. Bronson Koenig returned from a leg injury to provide a jump-shooting boost off the bench.

No. 11 Wisconsin played like it was fighting to get into the NCAA tournament, even if the Badgers are virtually guaranteed to be playing into mid-March.

Hayes scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half, and Ethan Happ had 20 points to beat No. 23 Maryland 71-60 in a choppy, foul-filled game on Sunday.

The Badgers (22-5, 11-3) overcame 27 points from Terps guard Melo Trimble to snap a two-game losing streak and stay in a tie atop the Big Ten standings with Purdue.

After consecutive losses to Northwestern and Michigan — two squads looking to pad their resumes just to get into the NCAAs — Wisconsin took the court with the mindset of a bubble team trying to prove

a point.

“I would definitely say ‘Yes,’ that’s kind of why we dropped the last two,” Hayes said when asked if his team was playing with a sense of urgency.

Northwestern and Michigan “were fighting for their tournament lives, trying to build a resume,” Hayes said. “We finally have that sense of urgency on our own end.”

Koenig scored all nine of his points in the second half, giving the Badgers a lift with his jump shot after the senior missed a game with a nagging left calf injury. Wisconsin shot 51 percent in the second half.

Wisconsin pulled away slowly, turning a six-point halftime deficit into a 12-point edge with 3 minutes to go.

“Those guys just dominated,” Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said about forwards Hayes and Happ. “We couldn’t guard them heads-up. We couldn’t guard them in a double-team.”

**No. 20 Creighton 87, Georgetown 70:** Marcus Foster scored a career-high 35 points and the host Bluejays

broke open the game early in the second half.

Creighton (22-5, 9-5 Big East) shot 53 percent while avenging a 20-point road loss to the Hoyas on Jan 25. Georgetown (14-13, 5-9) shot just 38.5 percent in its first game since Feb. 11 and was 3-for-22 from three-point range.

Isaiah Zierden added 13 points and Justin Patton and Cole Huff had 10 apiece for the Bluejays.

L.J. Peak, held to two points over the first 16 minutes, finished with 23 to lead Georgetown.

**No. 24 Butler 82, DePaul 66:** Nate Fowler scored 15 points and Kelan Martin added 14 points and eight rebounds for the host Bulldogs.

Butler (21-6, 10-5 Big East) won its second straight and retained its hold on second place in the conference standings.

Eli Cain had 24 points for DePaul (8-19, 1-13), which has lost 10 straight. Joe Hanel had 10 points.

**Minnesota 83, Michigan 78 (OT):** Jordan Murphy had

16 points and 15 rebounds and Eric Curry scored all 12 of his points in the second half to lift the host Gophers to their fifth straight victory in overtime over Michigan.

Minnesota (20-7, 8-6 Big Ten) out-rebounded Michigan 44-31, including 13-3 on the offensive glass, and outscored Michigan (17-10, 7-7) 19-0 in second-chance points to hold off a furious rally in their fifth overtime game of the conference season.

**Georgia Tech 71, Syracuse 65:** Ben Lammers scored 23 points, Tadic Jackson added 20 points and host Georgia Tech held off a late charge by Syracuse.

The Yellow Jackets (16-11, 7-7 ACC) improved to 6-1 at home in league play.

Trying to rally from a 13-point deficit, the Orange (16-12, 8-7) had a chance to tie in the closing seconds, but Tyler Roberson, who played just 7 minutes, committed an offensive foul and Georgia Tech got three free throws from Josh Heath and Lammers to seal the victory.

# Wings top Pens, finish impressive weekend

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Tomas Tatar and Thomas Vanek scored early third-period goals to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 5-2 victory against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Sunday.

Nick Jensen and Steve Ott also scored and Luke Glendening added an empty-netter for the Red Wings, who completed a back-to-back sweep of Washington and Pittsburgh, two of the top teams in the league. Petr Mrazek made 24 saves for his second win in as many days; he lost his previous four games.

Detroit defeated Washington in a shootout at home Saturday and followed with the win at Pittsburgh, the NHL’s best home team. It was the Red Wings’ second victory against Pittsburgh this season.

Sidney Crosby scored his league-leading 32nd goal. The Penguins lost in regulation for the first time since the All-Star break.

**Rangers 2, Capitals 1:** Mats Zuccarello scored a third-period goal and Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves, powering New York

to its fifth win in a row at home.

Alex Ovechkin scored a second-period power-play goal for Washington, which lost its second straight after a six-game winning streak.

**Predators 4, Blue Jackets 3:** Mattias Ekholm scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and Juuse Saros stopped 35 shots, helping Nashville to the road win.

**Blackhawks 5, Sabres 1:** Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist in his annual homecoming in Buffalo, leading Chicago to its sixth win in seven games.

**Islanders 6, Devils 4:** Ryan Strome had two goals and an assist, helping New York improve to 9-0-2 in its past 11 at home.

The Devils beat the Islanders 3-2 at home on Saturday night.

**Maple Leafs 4, Hurricanes 0:** Connor Brown scored twice, Auston Matthews had a highlight-reel goal on a backhand as he was twirling to the ice, and visiting Toronto stopped a two-game skid.

**Jets 3, Senators 2:** Josh Morrissey scored early in the third period, and visiting Winnipeg held off Ottawa.

**Ducks 1, Kings 0:** Josh Manson scored his second goal of the season, John Gibson stopped 24 shots for his 10th career shutout and host Anaheim defeated Los Angeles.

Peter Budaj made 28 saves for the Kings, who have lost all three games since their bye week and five of their last six overall.

**Bruins 2, Sharks 1 (OT):** Brad Marchand scored on a breakaway with 2:24 left on the clock in overtime, and Boston picked up where it left off before its six-day bye with a victory at San Jose.

**Lightning 3, Avalanche 2 (OT):** Jonathan Drouin stole the puck and scored 2:27 into overtime, and visiting Tampa Bay recovered after blowing a two-goal lead to beat Colorado.

Drouin swiped the puck from forward Matt Nieto deep in Avalanche territory and backhanded the game-winner past Calvin Pickard.

**Flyers 3, Canucks 2:** Shayne Gostisbehere had three assists for the first three-point game of his NHL career in visiting Philadelphia’s victory over Vancouver.