

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US sailor arrested in Japan

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan was arrested by Tokyo police Saturday after being accused of sexual assault, the Navy said Monday.

Navy officials would not identify the sailor.

“We are cooperating with Japanese authorities,” U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen said in a statement. “Due to the ongoing investigation and privacy concerns, it would be inappropriate for us to comment on any additional details.”

A Navy official told Stars and Stripes that the alleged victim is not a Japanese national.

A Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department spokesman reached Monday afternoon also was unable to provide details.

News of the arrest comes on the heels of a short-term alcohol ban placed on Ronald Reagan sailors. Capt. Michael Donnelly, the ship’s commander, implemented the restriction Sunday morning after an uptick in alcohol-related incidents. The ban was lifted Monday afternoon after an all-hands call aboard the ship that focused on “the importance of safe and professional conduct every day, on and off duty,” Mommsen said.

One of those incidents involved a Ronald Reagan sailor being injured over the weekend at a Yokosuka barracks. Navy officials would not provide further details but said the incident is under investigation and that the sailor is in stable condition.

## US troops begin to leave Iraq as Baghdad says ISIS beaten

*Associated Press*

AL-ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — American troops have started to draw down from Iraq following Baghdad’s declaration of victory over Islamic State last year, according to Western contractors at a U.S.-led coalition base in Iraq.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi government spokesman on Monday confirmed to The Associated Press that the drawdown has begun, though he stressed it was still in its early stages and doesn’t mark the beginning of a complete pullout of U.S. forces.

Dozens of American soldiers have been transported from Iraq to Afghanistan on daily flights over the past week, along with weapons and equipment, the contractors said.

An AP reporter at the Al-Asad base in western Iraq saw troop movements reflecting the contractors’ account. The contractors spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations and declined to reveal the exact size of the drawdown.

“Continued coalition presence in Iraq will be conditions-based, proportional to the need and in coordination with the government of Iraq,” coalition spokesman Army Col. Ryan Dillon told the AP when asked for comment.

Government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi said, “The battle against Daesh has ended, and so the level of the American presence will be reduced.” Daesh is the Arabic language acronym for ISIS.

Al-Hadithi spoke just hours after AP reported the American drawdown — the first since the war against ISIS was launched over three years ago.

One senior Iraqi official close

**‘Continued coalition presence in Iraq will be conditions-based, proportional to the need and in coordination with the government of Iraq.’**

**Army Col. Ryan Dillon**  
coalition spokesman

to Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said 60 percent of all American troops currently in country will be withdrawn, according to the initial agreement reached with the United States. The plan would leave a force of about 4,000 U.S. troops to continue training the Iraqi military.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

A Pentagon report released in November said there were 8,892 U.S. troops in Iraq as of late September.

The U.S. launched airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq in August 2014. At the time the military intervention was described as “limited,” but as Iraq’s military struggled to roll back the extremists, the U.S.-led coalition’s presence in the country steadily grew.

“We’ve had a recent change of mission, and soon we’ll be supporting a different theater of operations in the coming month,” U.S. Army 1st Lt. William John Raymond told the AP at Al-Asad.

He spoke as he and a handful of soldiers from his unit conducted equipment inventory checks required before leaving Iraq. Raymond declined to specify where his unit was being redeployed, in line with regulations as the information has not been made public.

The drawdown of U.S. forces comes three months ahead of elections in Iraq, where the indefinite presence of American troops continues to be a divisive issue.

Al-Abadi, who is looking to remain in office for another term, has long struggled to balance the often competing interests of Iraq’s two key allies — Iran and the U.S.

While the U.S. has closely backed key Iraqi military victories over ISIS, such as the retaking of the city of Mosul, Iraq’s Shiite-led paramilitary forces with close ties to Iran have called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. The prime minister has previously stated Iraq’s military will need American training for years to come.

The Iraq drawdown also follows the release of the Pentagon’s National Defense Strategy that cited China’s rapidly expanding military and an increasingly aggressive Russia as the U.S. military’s top national security priorities.

Iraq declared victory over ISIS in December after over three years of grueling combat against the extremists in a war Iraqi forces fought with U.S. support.

ISIS maintains a “cellular structure” of fighters who carry out attacks in Iraq aimed at disrupting local security, U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. James Glynn told reporters during a Pentagon briefing last month.

# Japanese combat helo crash kills copilot

Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese military helicopter crashed in southwestern Japan on Monday, killing one of its two crewmembers and ripping the top floor off a house and setting it on fire, officials said.

The Boeing AH-64 combat helicopter, belonging to the Ground Self-Defense Force's Metabaru training camp, crashed in Saga

prefecture seven minutes after taking off on a test flight after routine maintenance, defense officials said.

The Defense Ministry said the copilot suffered heart and lung failure and was later pronounced dead, and the pilot was initially listed as missing.

Public broadcaster NHK showed orange flames and black smoke rising from the charred

house, which had its upper floor torn off. Witnesses reported a big boom and ripping noises from the sky before the crash.

An 11-year-old girl was the only one of the four residents of the damaged house who was home at the time. She escaped, according to Saga prefecture's disaster department. It said she suffered a minor knee injury. The house next door and a stor-

age building were also damaged, the department said.

Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said the helicopter fell nose down after losing contact with air traffic control. He said the cause of the accident is under investigation. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered the grounding of all 12 helicopters of the same type for safety checks, Kyodo News reported.

## Okinawa's anti-US base movement suffers major setback in election loss

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The movement to halt the relocation of Marine air operations within Japan's Okinawa prefecture suffered a major setback Sunday when Nago's anti-base mayor was defeated by an independent candidate backed by Tokyo.

Taketoyo Toguchi, 56, a former Nago assemblyman supported by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, defeated incumbent Susumu Inamine, 72, by more than 3,450 votes.

"I am glad [Toguchi] won as I thought it would be tough to defeat [Inamine]," Abe said, according to the Asahi newspaper. "We will carry out [the relocation] in accordance with the Supreme Court decision with the understanding of the citizens," he told Jiji Press.

Toguchi ran on a platform touting economic development, while Inamine — a close ally of anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga — remained focused on blocking Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's relocation to Camp Schwab. Nago — ground zero for the Okinawa protest movement — is home to Schwab and daily small-scale demonstrations.

Construction is underway on a runway into Oura Bay that will one day facilitate the relocation.

The Japanese government and its American allies have said the relocation from a densely packed urban area in central Okinawa to a seaside plot in the island's remote north is the only option to close and return Futenma and ensure the safety of residents. Politicians like Onaga and Inamine have advocated for relocation outside the prefecture.

Toguchi's victory came as a surprise to many on the southern island prefecture on Monday morning, as polls right up until the election had him trailing. Inamine was running for his third term as mayor.

Toguchi remained relatively mute in victory on the base relocation issue. He said he would keep a close eye on upcoming court proceedings initiated by Onaga to block the move.

Inamine lamented that the relocation did not become the election's central issue. "It is regrettable that issue involving the relocation to Henoko didn't become the focus of the election. I strongly appealed that peace, security and safety are the basis for the economy, education and social welfare, but the base issue was evaded," Inamine said after his defeat.

## US fans downrange gather for big game

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — About two dozen football fans gathered at NATO's Resolute Support headquarters in the early hours of Monday morning to watch the New England Patriots take on the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2018 Super Bowl.

The viewing event at the base's dining hall began at 3:30 a.m., 30 minutes before kickoff.

Servicemembers watched a recorded message by President Donald Trump broadcast before the game in which he said he hoped the entertainment offered them "much deserved relaxation."

"I was struggling to get up, but it was worth it. These guys are my friends," said Air Force 1st Lt. Nicole Roose, pointing to two airmen next to her.

One of them, lifelong Patriots fan 1st Lt. Tim Judge, wore the team's dark blue jersey over his uniform.

"I wasn't going to miss the Super Bowl, even if it is at 3:30 in the morning," Judge said, adding that while the event was nice, it was "not even close" to being like home. "For one, there's no alcohol in these things," he said, pointing to a can of alcohol-free Amstel beer.

U.S. troops are banned from drinking in Afghanistan. An-

other tradition missing in Afghanistan was Super Bowl commercials. American Forces Network, which broadcast the game, was prohibited from airing them. Breaks were filled with public service announcements and recorded messages of thanks from football players.

Despite the early hour, food staples like chicken wings, nachos and deep-fried mozzarella were available, and a large Super Bowl cake was made.

"There's a good atmosphere in here," said California native Army Sgt. Oscar Ortiz. "I've been an Eagles fan since I was in the sixth grade, and it's good to be able to watch them."

The number of spectators fluctuated throughout the morning, with a spike at 6 a.m., when breakfast began. About 7:30 a.m., when the Eagles had defeated the Patriots 41-33, cheers filled the dining hall.

Josh Goemey, a retired Army colonel, current civilian employee and Patriots fan, said that despite his team's loss he was glad he got up early to watch the game. "I had two 'near beers,' so I can kind of mentally put myself in the right state," he joked. "I'm not one of these guys where everything is dependent on who wins the game. It's all good. If you're around friends, you're having a good time."

# States, cities take on bump stocks

Associated Press

In the immediate aftermath of the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas, there was a fevered pitch to ban bump stocks, the device that allowed the shooter's semi-automatic rifles to mimic the rapid fire of machine guns.

With that push stalled at the federal level, a handful of states and some cities are moving ahead with bans of their own.

Massachusetts and New Jersey — two states led by Republican governors — as well as the cities of Denver and Columbia, S.C., have enacted laws prohibiting the sale and possession of the devices, which were attached to a half-dozen of the long guns found in the hotel room of the Las Vegas shooter who in October killed 58 people and injured hundreds more attending a nearby outdoor concert. A little over a dozen other states are also considering bans on bump stocks.

Gun control advocates say the push fits a pattern in gun politics: inaction in Washington that forces states to take the lead. Gun rights advocates call it a

knee-jerk reaction that will do little to stop bad guys from killing and vow a legal challenge.

For Zach Elmore, the issue is deeply personal. His sister was among those wounded in the Las Vegas attack. He finds hope in the statewide and local efforts to ban bump stocks.

"Hopefully, it's the start of a big movement versus just a flash in the pan," Elmore said. "Obviously, you cannot legislate (against) evil, but you can legislate the things with which bad people will use to perpetrate evil."

The devices were originally intended to help people with disabilities and were little known and little sold until the Las Vegas shooting. They fit over the stock and pistol grip of a semi-automatic rifle and allow the weapon to fire rapidly, some 400 to 800 rounds per minute, mimicking a fully automatic firearm.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reviewed the devices and approved them in 2010, ruling they did not amount to ma-

chine guns that are regulated under the National Firearms Act that dates to the 1930s.

Richard Vasquez was assistant chief of the ATF's technology bureau and led the review of bump stocks. He stands by the agency's 2010 ruling, which relied on a key difference between semi-automatic and fully automatic firearms: While semi-automatic firearms require a separate and independent pull of the trigger to fire a bullet, fully automatic firearms can fire multiple rounds with a single trigger pull. ATF determined bump stocks didn't convert a semi-automatic firearm into one that is fully auto.

"It's a proper determination. Everybody wants to jump the gun and say that ATF made a mistake," said Vasquez, who left the agency in 2014. "ATF didn't make a mistake."

The federal agency is reviewing its ruling, something Vasquez and others caution is a dangerous move without Congress first changing the law to specifically make such devices illegal.

# GPS system eyed in SC train crash

Associated Press

CAYCE, S.C. — Federal investigators spent a second day Monday at the site of a deadly train crash in South Carolina, where an Amtrak train was mistakenly sent off a main track and down a side spur — and into a parked freight train. The ensuing crash early Sunday killed two people and injured more than 100 passengers.

The investigation headed by the National Transportation Safety Board could take years, but federal investigators are already focusing on one critical factor: that a switch, set manually, may have caused the passenger train to barrel down the wrong track.

Moreover, authorities say the crash could have been prevented with a GPS-based system called "positive train control," which knows the location of all trains and the positions of all switches in an area and is designed to prevent two trains from traveling on the same track at the same time. "It could have avoided this accident. That's what it's designed to do," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

Regulators have demanded the implementation of positive train control for decades, and the technology is now in place in the Northeast, but railroads that operate tracks used by Amtrak elsewhere in the U.S. have won repeated extensions from the government. The deadline for installing such equipment is now the end of 2018.

CSX Corp., the freight railroad operator which runs that stretch of track, issued a statement expressing condolences but said nothing about the cause.

"Business as usual must end," Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, of Connecticut, said after this latest crash.

Sumwalt said the passenger train hurtled down a side track near Cayce about 2:45 a.m. Sunday because a switch had been locked in place, diverting it from the main line.

# Mars rover produces stunning photo

The Washington Post

After 1,856 Martian days among blue sunsets, sand dunes and small, lumpy moons, the Mars rover Curiosity sat on the ridge of an ancient lake bed and looked back on its five-year-long journey so far.

NASA released a composite photo of what Curiosity saw in October last week, and if the rover could breathe, it might gasp.

In one image was its whole story: from the lower slopes of Mount Sharp, where it sat holding its camera, to the spot in the crater floor 11 miles distant, where it had touched down five years earlier to great celebration on Earth.

As the most complex NASA instrument ever put on Mars, with its drill, laser and chemistry set, Curiosity has sometimes disappointed those who would

mine its data for research. A NASA panel even chastised the robot — or its operators — for doing more sightseeing than science.

Maybe for the same reason, Curiosity has brought Mars to life for the public. The soil data it has collected suggest Mars was once a beautiful planet of rivers and lakes. But the rover's many postcards of eclipses, dust devils and shimmering sands showed the world it's a beautiful place, even now.

From the ridge on which Curiosity sat late last year to take its panorama photos, it could see the treacherous Bagnold Dunes it had crossed months before.

The rover reached the dune field on the 1,174th Martian day, or sol, of its mission (late 2015 on Earth) and spent months navigating between them. These mounds of windblown sand stretched for miles and

were one of the greatest barriers between Curiosity and its destination — Mount Sharp, toward the crater's interior.

Curiosity took its first photos from the dunes with its back to the wind, the Planetary Society wrote, and watched sand blow across the crater's floor. It would have to be careful going forward, lest its wheels get stuck.

Naturally, it made time for a few selfies on the way.

By the end of 2016, Curiosity had cleared the dunes and was rolling across veins of gypsum. Attending to its scientific duties, The Washington Post wrote, the rover used its laser to detect traces of boron in the rock, suggesting a habitable lake once covered the crater floor.

Then it turned toward Mount Sharp and began to climb its lower ridges, where it now sits.

# Trump lashes out over Russia probe memo

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump traded insults with the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee Monday, a day after Democrats and Republicans said Trump was wrong to assert that a GOP-produced classified memo on FBI surveillance powers cleared him in the Russia investigation.

Trump's attack on California Rep. Adam Schiff came before a planned meeting of the House intelligence panel Monday at which the committee is expected to consider whether to release a Democratic rebuttal

memo. Democrats are seeking to push back on the Republican document, which questions FBI methods used to apply for a surveillance warrant on a onetime Trump campaign associate.

On Twitter, Trump called Schiff "one of the biggest liars and leakers in Washington," adding that he "must be stopped."

Schiff quickly shot back that: "Instead of tweeting false smears, the American people would appreciate it if you turned off the TV and helped solve the funding crisis, protected Dreamers or ... really anything else."

The committee did not re-

lease the Democratic memo last week, with one Republican member saying revisions were needed so the memo would not endanger national security. Key Democrats are seeking to put out the document, including the Senate's Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, of New York, who urged Trump to back the public release and said that refusing to do so would show the president's intent to undermine the Russia investigation.

Trump would need to sign off on the memo if it contains classified information. A White House official said Monday that if the Democratic memo made it out of the committee, the ad-

ministration would consider releasing it, subjecting it to a similar review process as the Republican memo. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and sought anonymity to discuss internal thinking.

House Speaker Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has said he supports the release of the Democrats' memo if sensitive intelligence information is removed.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating possible collusion between Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Russia, as well as whether there have been efforts to obstruct the investigation.

## Abuse letter contradicts pope

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The letter was graphic not just in describing how the priest kissed and fondled the boy, but also in how other priests who saw the abuse tried to hush it up. Pope Francis said recently that none of the victims had come forward to denounce the cover-up, so the news that the letter was hand-delivered to Francis in 2015 is adding fuel to one of the biggest scandals of his five-year papacy.

The Associated Press obtained the eight-page letter and was told by both the victim who wrote it and by members of the pope's sex abuse commission that Francis' top adviser assured them he gave it to the pope.

The pope's trip to Chile last month was marred by protests over his defense of Bishop Juan Barros, who is accused by victims of witnessing and ignoring the abuse of young parishioners by the Rev. Fernando Karadima. During the trip, Francis dismissed accusations against Barros as "slander," seemingly unaware victims had placed him at the scene of Karadima's crimes.

But members of the pope's Commission for the Protection of Minors say that in April 2015, they sent a delegation to Rome specifically to hand-deliver the letter from Juan Carlos Cruz because they were alarmed by Francis' recent appointment of Barros as a diocesan bishop. Cruz's account of the abuse he suffered at Karadima's hands had helped Vatican investigators decide to remove Karadima from ministry and sentence him in 2011 to a lifetime of "penance and prayer."

Barros was a Karadima protégé, and according to Cruz and other victims, he witnessed the abuse and did nothing.

"Holy Father, it's bad enough that we suffered such tremendous pain and anguish from the sexual and psychological abuse, but the terrible mistreatment we received from our pastors is almost worse," Cruz wrote the pope.

On April 12, 2015, the members of the sex abuse commission met with Francis' top adviser, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, explained their objections to Barros' appointment as bishop of Osorno and gave him the letter to deliver to the pope.

"He assured us he would give it to the pope and speak of the concerns," then-commission member Marie Collins told the AP. "And at a later date, he assured us that that had been done."

Cruz, who now lives in Philadelphia, heard the same.

Neither the Vatican nor O'Malley responded to multiple requests for comment.

After Francis' comments backing Barros caused such an outcry in Chile, he was forced last week to do an about-face. The Vatican announced it was sending in its most respected sex crimes investigator to take testimony from Cruz and others about Barros.

In the letter to the pope, Cruz described how Karadima would kiss Barros and fondle his genitals and do the same with younger priests and teens.

Barros has repeatedly denied witnessing any abuse or covering it up. But many of Barros' opponents question how a prelate who didn't recognize a priest's abuse of young boys can run a diocese where he is responsible for protecting children from pedophiles.

## Trial of shootout suspect underway

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The only surviving member of the Islamic State cell that attacked Paris in November 2015 refused to rise for a Belgian court on Monday or answer questions about his actions during his first appearance in public since his arrest nearly two years ago.

Salah Abdeslam is on trial in his hometown of Brussels on charges of attempted murder for a police shootout from which he fled. The man who covered for his getaway with a spray of automatic gunfire died. Abdeslam's escape was short-lived — he was captured on March 18, 2016, in the same neighborhood where he and many of his ISIS fighter colleagues grew up.

Abdeslam arrived in the Belgian capital Monday morning after being transferred from a prison in France. Security was high at the Brussels courthouse, with armed guards and multiple checkpoints leading to the courtroom.

He is being tried alongside a second defendant, Sofiane Ayari, in relation to the shootout. The judge's questions Monday were oriented toward establishing which of the two had also fired on officers.

Asked why he was refusing to stand, Abdeslam said, "I'm tired; I did not sleep."

Abdeslam, now wearing a full beard and longer hair than in pictures released before he was arrested, was flanked by masked guards and refused to answer questions beyond a few formalities.

"I do not wish to respond to any questions. I was asked to come. I came," he said. "I defend myself by keeping silent."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Bakery halts cake delivery to retailers

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A Vietnamese bakery in Louisiana has suspended deliveries to other retailers until Mardi Gras amid increasing demand and rumors of price gouging.

The Advocate of New Orleans reported Dong Phuong ended the delivery Thursday.

Dong Phuong President Linh Garza said the company now will be prioritizing customers who come to the bakery by only selling the cakes there. Garza said the bakery has heard about people buying their cakes for up to \$60 from scalpers when the bakery's king cake prices start at \$14.

Dong Phuong makes about 1,000 cakes per day. The bakery now rations the cakes to two per person.

### Dead goose knocks hunter unconscious

**MD** EASTON — A waterfowl hunter is in stable condition after a dead goose fell from the sky and knocked him unconscious.

Robert Meilhammer, of Dorchester County, was hunting with three other people when one of them fired at a flock of Canada geese overhead.

Maryland Natural Resources Police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said a goose hit Meilhammer, knocking him out and causing head and facial injuries.

The Washington Post reported that when he came to, he knew who he was, but "little else," according to a Natural Resources police officer.

The agency tweeted Friday that Meilhammer was in stable condition and awaiting more tests at a Baltimore trauma center.

### Exceptions sought in ban on child marriage

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — The Florida House isn't completely willing to out-law child marriages.

The day after the Senate unanimously passed a bill to ban marriage for anyone younger than 18, a House committee on Thursday approved exceptions for those ages 16 and 17 in cases of pregnancy in which the partner is no more than two years older than the minor and the parents consent.

Republican Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen amended a bill by Republican Jeanette Nunez to allow the exception. Fitzenhagen said she wants to account for real-life situations, including pregnancy.

### Anti-LGBTQ group buys ex-gay bar site

**OH** TOLEDO — A Christian group that considers homosexuality to be immoral has purchased a building for worship services that until late last year housed one of Ohio's oldest gay bars.

The Blade reported property records show the Bretz Nightclub building in Toledo was bought last month for \$148,000.

The Greater Toledo House of Prayer said the previous owner had tried to sell the building for three years so it could remain open as a gay club. The group said it has no role in closing the club and bought the building because it needs more space.

### Man is charged after clash with firefighters

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Bernalillo County authorities said a neighbor was arrested at a house fire after

he ignored commands to stand clear and then allegedly attacked firefighters.

Officials said Ruben Cuellar, 31, was arrested on suspicion of aggravated battery upon a health care worker after being accused of dislocating one firefighter's shoulder, punching another in the nose and pushing a third. The incident occurred Thursday night on the Pajarito Mesa west of Albuquerque.

Bernalillo County Fire Department spokesman Larry Gallegos said two firefighters were treated for minor injuries and two people pulled from the home were treated for light smoke inhalation.

### Mayor, 91, retires after nearly 55 years

**IL** MARION — The longest-serving mayor in Illinois has retired at age 91.

The Southern Illinoian reported that Bob Butler has served as mayor of Marion for nearly 55 years. He took office in 1963 and has been elected by three generations of voters.

Butler, who retired Jan. 31, said he has always had his own way of doing things, but that he doesn't believe he was much different than anybody else would be given the time he has served.

### City bans disposable plastic shopping bags

**AK** KODIAK — The Kodiak City Council has approved a ban on some plastic bags.

The Kodiak Daily Mirror reported that councilmembers voted Jan. 25 to ban stores from providing customers with plastic bags. The new law will go into effect April 22.

Store owners, some of whom have mixed feelings on the ban, will be able to use their current

inventories of disposable bags for up to eight months after the ban goes into effect.

Councilmember Charles Davidson said only "disposable plastic shopping" bags will be banned, leaving the door open for store owners to continue using other types of plastic.

### Family's dog turns up after 10-year absence

**PA** APOLLO — A family has been reunited with its dog 10 years after the dog went missing.

Debra Suierveld and her family assumed their dog Abby had died after she ran away in 2008 from their home, but decade-old sadness turned to joy on Saturday when Suierveld received word someone had found the dog.

The black Labrador mix showed up on George Speiring's front porch in Lower Burrell, 10 miles west of Apollo. Speiring contacted Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley, which discovered the dog's microchip and contacted Suierveld.

### 'Big Bass Capital' city unveils fish monument

**AL** EUFAULA — Alabama is known for its unusual memorials and statues, and the city of Eufaula is adding to the list with a monument to a fish.

Officials in the lakeside town on the Georgia border have unveiled a 12-foot-tall replica of a largemouth bass to celebrate its claim as the "Big Bass Capital of the World."

Bass fishing draws thousands of people to Lake Eufaula each year, and the state tourism agency awarded a grant to construct the monument.

From wire reports

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# Eagles outduel Patriots in Super Bowl

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — As their delirious fans sang their theme song and their owner lifted the Lombardi Trophy, the Philadelphia Eagles finally could breathe freely.

Yo, Philly, you really did beat Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in a thrilling Super Bowl that rewrote the offensive record book.

Nick Foles guided the drive of a lifetime, Zach Ertz made a bobbling touchdown catch that had to survive replay review, and an exhausted defense came up with two stands in the final moments Sunday for a 41-33 victory. For the first time since 1960, the Eagles are NFL champions.

“Fly Eagles Fly,” indeed.

“We’ve played this game since we were little kids, we dreamed about this moment,” game MVP Foles said. “There’s plenty of kids watching this game right now dreaming about this moment and someday will be here.”

In a record-setting shootout between backup QB Foles and five-time champ

Brady of the favored Patriots, Foles led a pressure-packed 75-yard drive to the winning touchdown, 11 yards to Ertz with 2:21 to go.

Then Brandon Graham strip-sacked Brady and Derek Barnett recovered, setting up rookie Jake Elliot’s 46-yard field goal for an 8-point lead.

Brady got his team to midfield, but his desperation pass fell to the ground in the end zone.

“For us, it was all about one stop we had to make. We went out here and made that one stop,” Graham said.

The underdog Eagles (16-3), even injured starting quarterback Carson Wentz, came bolting off the sideline in ecstasy while Brady sat on the ground, disconsolate.

It was the first Super Bowl title for Philadelphia (16-3), which went 7-9 last season.

“If there’s a word [it’s] called everything,” Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. “That’s what it means to Eagles fans everywhere. And for Eagles fans every-

where, this is for them.”

Super Bowl MVP Foles orchestrated the victory with the kind of drive NFL MVP Brady, a five-time champion, is known for. The drive covered 14 plays, including a fourth-down conversion, and the Eagles had to survive a video replay after the ball popped into the air as Ertz crossed the goal line.

“If they would have overturned that, I don’t know what would have happened to the city of Philadelphia,” Ertz said. “But I’m so glad they didn’t overturn it.”

The touchdown stood — and so did thousands of green-clad Eagles fans who weren’t going to mind the frigid conditions outside US Bank Stadium once they headed out to celebrate. But not before a rousing rendition of “Fly Eagles Fly” reverberated throughout the stands once the trophy was presented to Lurie.

Later, fans danced along with the “Gonna Fly Now,” the theme from “Rocky,” the city’s best-known fictional underdog.

## MVP Foles an unlikely hero in Philadelphia

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Cast aside once in Philadelphia, Nick Foles delivered the city its first Super Bowl title.

He outdueled the great Tom Brady to do it.

“Being a part of this and being drafted to Philadelphia, and being fortunate enough to come back and be a part of this team, to be a piece of this puzzle, I mean, it’s been a long time coming and I know there’s going to be a lot of celebrating tonight,” Foles said.

Foles, who took over when Carson Wentz injured his right knee in mid-December, matched Brady, the five-time champion and three-time MVP, big play for big play Sunday in leading the Eagles past the New England Patriots 41-33.

After an unusually slow start, Brady led the favored Patriots to scores on five of six possessions, and Foles kept right on coming, executing coach Doug Pederson’s aggressive calls.

“I wasn’t worrying about the scoreboard, I wasn’t worrying about the time, I was just play-

ing ball,” Foles said. “I think sometimes you start worrying about that too much, it starts creeping in your brain. I was just playing, whatever play Doug called, I was just going to go out there and rip it.”

After watching Brady put the Patriots ahead 33-32 with 9:22 left, Foles drove the Eagles 75 yards in 14 plays, hitting tight end Zach Ertz from 11 yards on third-and-7 for the go-ahead TD with 2:21 left.

That drive lasted a tick more than seven minutes and kept Brady cooling his cleats on the sideline while allowing the Eagles’ exhausted defenders to catch their collective breath in a game that featured 1,151 total yards, the most in any NFL game in the Super Bowl era.

That meant the world when Brady got the ball back and Brandon Graham swept in and jarred the ball loose for the game’s lone sack. Derek Barnett smothered it at the 31 with just over two minutes remaining, and Jake Elliott’s 46-yard field goal, the longest in a Super Bowl by a rookie, made it

an eight-point cushion.

It also gave Brady just a minute to work his magic.

He started at his 9 with 58 seconds remaining and drove the Patriots to midfield before time ran out on New England as a desperation pass fell in the end zone.

Brady threw for more yards — a playoff career-high 505 to Foles’ 373 — but Foles matched Brady’s three touchdown tosses and even caught another, hauling in tight end Trey Burton’s toss from the 1 that gave Philadelphia a 22-12 halftime edge. It also made Foles the first player in Super Bowl history to be on both ends of a touchdown pass in the same game.

Foles had never caught a pass in the NFL before his TD grab.

His only interception was a fluke, but it did help Brady and the Patriots staunch an early stumble to stay in it until the very end.

Foles was 28 of 43 and wasn’t sacked. A third-round pick by former Eagles coach Andy Reid in 2012, Foles had tremendous success as a starter under Chip

Kelly his sophomore season. He threw 29 TDs and two picks in 11 starts, including playoffs in 2013. Foles posted a passer rating of 119.2, third-highest in league history. He tied an NFL record with seven TD passes in a game at Oakland in November 2013 and won an offensive MVP award at a Pro Bowl.

But Foles was traded to St. Louis for Sam Bradford in March 2015. He lost his starting job to Case Keenum and asked for his release after Jared Goff was drafted No. 1 overall when the Rams relocated to Los Angeles. Foles even considered hanging up his cleats before Reid persuaded him to go to Kansas City to be Alex Smith’s backup.

Now he’s a folk hero for a franchise that had gone 0-for-2 in Super Bowls, and for a legion of fans who were rooting for anybody other than the Patriots.

“Just to be in this moment,” Foles said, shaking his head. “Unbelievable.”

# Record night from Brady not enough

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The ball had just been whacked out of Tom Brady's right hand at the worst possible moment for the New England Patriots, giving the Philadelphia Eagles the ball just before the two-minute warning.

Brady sat on the turf, resting his arms on his knees with a pose of resignation. Once he reached the sideline and plopped down on the bench, he lowered his head and stared down for several seconds.

This was surely not the end of his unparalleled and sure-bet-for-the-Hall-of-Fame career, but at age 40 there's no guarantee this wasn't the last time he played in a Super Bowl.

"It's a team sport. The Eagles played a better game today," Brady said. "They deserve to win. That's why we're not the champs."

The fumble, forced by Brandon Graham and picked up by Derek Barnett, put the Eagles in position for a field goal that

pushed their lead to eight points. Brady and the Patriots had one last possession, but his final heave from midfield was batted down to give the Eagles their first Super Bowl trophy with a 41-33 victory and drop Brady's career record in the title game to 5-3.

The all-time leader with eight career postseason fourth-quarter comebacks, Brady wasn't able to notch a ninth.

"We obviously didn't make enough plays in the red zone and turned the ball over one time," offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. "If we have a turnover that leads to some points for them, and you fail to score a couple of touchdowns in the first part of the game, generally speaking against a really good team, it usually comes back to bite you."

Brady already owns a healthy share of the NFL record book, but there's a new entry that he and all of New England would prefer to erase. Brady became the first quarterback in NFL history to lose a game, in the

regular season or the playoffs, despite passing for 500 or more yards, three or more touchdowns and no interceptions.

"You always hope you come out on the winning end of the shootout," Brady said. "We didn't win it today."

Brady finished 28-for-48 for 505 yards and three scores and a 115.4 passer rating. He has two of the three 400-yard passing games in Super Bowl history, with his 466 yards in last season's overtime win over Atlanta and Kurt Warner's 414 yards for the St. Louis Rams in a victory over the Tennessee Titans 18 years ago.

"I've played in eight of them, and they're all good games. Today, we had our opportunities," Brady said. "Never really got control of the game. Never really played on our terms. Just didn't make plays when we needed to."

This was the second time Brady was voted the NFL's Most Valuable Player and lost in the Super Bowl, a contrast he also experienced 10 years ago.

In fact, the past nine winners of the Associated Press MVP award to reach the big game have lost. The others were Kurt Warner (2001), Rich Gannon (2002), Shaun Alexander (2005), Peyton Manning (2009 and 2013), Cam Newton (2015) and Matt Ryan (2016).

Brady led the league in 2017 with 4,577 passing yards, despite losing standout wide receiver Julian Edelman to a knee injury, so he sure hasn't been slowing down. There've been reports of friction between Brady, coach Bill Belichick and owner Robert Kraft, but any potential dysfunction didn't deter him. He was all smiles during his interview sessions during the week, wondering with seeming sincere curiosity why there's been so much media fixation on when he'll ever retire. This one, though, had to hurt.

"No one is going to feel sorry for us," Brady said. "We'll evaluate like we always do. I'm sure everyone is pretty tired after a long year. That's football."

## Aggressive playcalling key for Philadelphia

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Doug Pederson called for a pass to his quarterback on fourth down, went for 2-point conversions when the chart said otherwise and stuck with the same aggressive approach in the biggest game of his coaching career.

The Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl champions because they weren't intimidated and wouldn't back down just like their coach.

"We just wanted to stay aggressive," Pederson said. "My mentality coming into the game was that I was going to stay aggressive with Nick (Foles), and allow his playmakers to make plays."

They made one big play after another in a 41-33 victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday night to win the franchise's first NFL title since 1960.

Pederson was criticized for being too aggressive in his rookie season when the Eagles were 7-9. He didn't change his philosophy this year, but his players executed the plays.

On fourth down from the 1 with 34 seconds left in the first half, running back

Corey Clement took a direct snap and pitched to tight end Trey Burton, who threw to Foles for a touchdown that gave Philadelphia a 22-12 lead.

"A quarterback going out on a route? I was pumped to go over there and talk to Doug and we agreed to do it," Foles said. "We worked on it for a long time and executed perfectly. We've been working on it for a month."

Burton was recruited as a quarterback out of high school by Florida. He was confident he'd make the right throw and Foles would make the catch on a play called "Philly Special."

"Coach has some guts," Burton said. "People don't realize how great of an athlete Nick is. I would've thrown to him even if he was covered. He would've gone up to get it."

Other teams who failed to topple New England after taking leads in playoff games were too conservative. Atlanta blew a 28-3 lead in last year's Super Bowl and Jacksonville had a 20-10 fourth-quarter lead in the AFC championship game.

But the Eagles never let up the same way

they went after Minnesota in a 38-7 win in the NFC title game two weeks ago.

"We wanted to be aggressive," running back Jay Ajayi said. "We understood that this is a team that doesn't quit, that plays four quarters and we were going to have to be aggressive all game long. We showed that. We wanted to set the tone early and we wanted to keep our foot on the gas."

Pederson's aggressive nature almost backfired when he went for a 2-point conversion early in the second quarter because Jake Elliott had missed an extra point on the team's first score. When it failed, the Eagles led 15-3 and that loomed large when they fell behind 33-32 in the fourth quarter.

But Pederson didn't hesitate going for fourth-and-1 from the Eagles 45 with 5:39 left in the game and the team trailing by one point. Foles tossed a 2-yard pass to Zach Ertz and later connected with Ertz on the go-ahead TD pass.

"Doug has been aggressive since he came here," Ertz said. "That's part of our identity. It's a big reason we're here and now we're champions."

## NBA roundup

## Horford guides Celtics over Blazers

Associated Press

BOSTON — Al Horford made a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer and the Boston Celtics topped the Portland Trail Blazers 97-96 on Sunday, giving New England fans a few hours to get home before the Super Bowl.

The crowd at TD Garden was dotted with jerseys for Patriots stars Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. A Philadelphia Eagles fan shown on the Jumbotron repeatedly got booed.

Horford finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds in Boston's fourth straight win.

Damian Lillard shot just 6-for-19, but scored Portland's final eight points, including a three-point play with 7.2 seconds remaining to give the Blazers a 96-95 lead.

CJ McCollum led the Blazers with 22 points and Lillard had 21.

**Lakers 108, Thunder 104:** Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Julius Randle added 19 and visiting Los Angeles handed Oklahoma City its fourth straight loss.

Jordan Clarkson scored 18 points and Brandon Ingram added 16 for the Lakers, who have won six of eight.

Russell Westbrook scored 36 points and Paul George added 26 for the Thunder. Oklahoma City had won eight in a row before its current skid.

**Raptors 101, Grizzlies 86:** DeLon Wright scored 15 points, and host Toronto pulled away in the fourth quarter.

DeMar DeRozan and Fred VanVleet each scored 13 points as the Raptors improved to 21-4 at home. Jonas Valanciunas had 12 points, and Kyle Lowry finished with 11.

Toronto is 14-3 when VanVleet scores 10 or more points. He matched his career high with seven rebounds and had eight assists.

**Hawks 99, Knicks 96:** Kent Bazemore's three-pointer with 6.7 seconds left lifted visiting Atlanta to the victory.

The Hawks rallied from a 93-87 deficit in the final 2:16.

Bazemore was wide open in the left corner and hit for a 98-96 lead. Tim Hardaway Jr. then stepped on the line trying to inbound, giving the ball back to Atlanta.

After Dewayne Dedmon made one of two foul shots, Hardaway missed a poten-

tial tying three-pointer.

**Bucks 109, Nets 94:** Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points, John Henson had 19 points and 18 rebounds, and Milwaukee easily extended its winning streak over host Brooklyn to 10 games.

Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo departed after twisting his right ankle with about 7½ minutes left. He finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Khris Middleton also had 16 points for the Bucks, who improved to 6-1 since firing Jason Kidd and moved a season-best six games over .500 at 29-23.

**Hornets 115, Suns 110:** At Phoenix, Nicolas Batum scored 22 points and Charlotte rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half.

Kemba Walker and Dwight Howard added 18 apiece for the Hornets, who staged their biggest comeback of the season and matched their season best with three straight wins.

Rookie Josh Jackson scored a career-high 23 and T.J. Warren added 21 for the Suns.

## NHL roundup

## Knights get by Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Perseverance paid off the Alex Tuch and the Vegas Golden Knights.

Tuch scored the go-ahead goal with 5:12 remaining, and the Golden Knights defeated the Washington Capitals 4-3 Sunday in a matchup of division leaders.

Vegas rallied three times from one-goal deficits to beat Washington for the second time this season.

"We never gave up. I thought we played our best game in two weeks, I really did, even though we were behind most of the [day]," Golden Knights coach Gerard Gallant said. "It was only a one-goal lead every time, so we kept battling and we worked hard and that's something our team has done all year long."

On Tuch's shot from in close, Capitals goalie Philipp Grubauer tied to corral the loose puck, but knocked it into the net with his catching hand. Washington challenged the play for goaltender interference, but the goal stood.

**Sharks 3, Hurricanes 1:** Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, leading San Jose to the road win.

Timo Meier and Chris Tierney scored, and Aaron Dell stopped 29 shots for this first win in two weeks. The Sharks never trailed as they won their second straight following a four-game losing streak.

**Canadiens 4, Senators 1:** Artturi Lehkonen broke out of a 24-game scoring slump with a pair of goals, powering visiting Montreal to the victory.

Lehkonen hadn't scored since he had two goals on Oct. 30.

## College basketball roundup

## Villanova gets Super win

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Villanova turned the site of its latest romp into the scene of a Super Bowl pep rally.

The final horn caused a celebration — not just because the Wildcats won, but to signal the certain Eagles bash ahead.

Omari Spellman hit six three-pointers and had 26 points, 11 rebounds and helped No. 1 Villanova kick off a rousing day in Philadelphia sports with a 92-76 win over Seton Hall on Sunday.

The Wildcats (22-1, 9-1 Big East) won their ninth straight game in front of a crowd dotted with green jerseys and chanting for the Eagles hours before the Super Bowl.

"I love the Eagles," Villanova coach Jay Wright said, "but this is way more important to me."

**No. 17 Ohio State 75, Illinois 67:** Keita Bates-Diop scored a career-high 35 points and had 13 rebounds for host Ohio State.

The Buckeyes (20-5, 11-1 Big Ten) played without suspended guard Kam Williams. Jae'Sean Tate added 11 points.

**No. 25 Arizona State 88, Washington State 78:** Shannon Evans II scored 23 points and Romello White added 21 for visiting Arizona State.

Tra Holder had 20 for the Sun Devils (17-6, 5-6 Pac-12).

**Colgate 69, Navy 64:** Jordan Swopshire had 16 points, with four three-pointers, and nine rebounds to help visiting Colgate beat Navy.

Tom Lacey scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Navy (15-10, 6-6).