

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## General stripped of star over flirty texts

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

*Stars and Stripes*

VICENZA, Italy — The former commander of U.S. Army Africa has been forced to retire for a flirtatious texting relationship with an enlisted man's wife and will lose a star in the bargain.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Harrington will retire as a one-star, the last rank at which he served satisfactorily, according to a story in USA Today.

Harrington's demotion came after an inspector general investigation found that his exchanging more than 1,000 wide-ranging messages with the woman over several months — in which he called her a "hottie," said he'd like to be in a tent with her and variously discussed the virtues of makeup sex, ice cream and religion — were not criminal.

Yet they "were not good examples of virtue and honor, negatively impacted the command climate and readiness of the (Vicenza Military Community), were dissolute

and immoral, and not an example of the exemplary conduct expected of an Army senior leader," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

"The conversations ranged from friendly conversation to flirtatious at times, and included sexual innuendo," the report stated.

A reprimand followed.

Harrington apologized, USA Today said.

"I made a mistake by responding to and entering into a private discussion with a soldier's spouse," Harrington wrote. "While we both considered it a friendship-based conversation, it is clear that the discussion should not have occurred. I hope others can learn from and avoid my mistake."

Don Christensen, president of the advocacy group for military sexual assault and harassment victims, Protect Our Defenders, said that the result was just but that the inspector general's analysis was flawed.

"Because the relationship never went past messaging, the Army's response was appropriate," said Christensen, formerly the Air Force's top prosecutor. "However, the IG is 100 percent wrong to say Harrington's conduct wasn't criminal. It clearly was at minimum a violation of Article 133 of the UCMJ. And it may be news to the IG, but violations of the UCMJ are crimes."

The Vicenza woman involved said she had conflicting feelings about the end of Harrington's career.

As a soldier's wife, she said, the outcome seemed fair.

"I think it's correct," she said. She said she'd known of cases where lower-ranking soldiers were more severely punished for less serious misconduct.

"But as a civilian woman from a foreign country, I think it's a lot," she said. "In Italy, that would never happen."

Harrington was suspended from command in September after the inspector general began an investigation.

## Emails detail how military grappled with Hawaii alarm

*The Washington Post*

The Hawaii government's erroneous warning of an imminent ballistic missile attack caused confusion at U.S. military facilities, frustrating senior U.S. military officers and causing them to question procedures for communicating with state officials, according to emails obtained by The Washington Post.

The emails were sent in succession after thousands of people received a text message warning Jan. 13 that prompted hysteria in parts of Hawaii. The U.S. military had no role in sending the mistaken message but nonetheless had to deal with the fallout.

"Apparently, they were getting ready to do a drill when the 'drill' part was lost in transla-

tion," Adm. Harry Harris, the chief of U.S. Pacific Command, wrote to Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an hour after the message was sent. "Totally uncoordinated with us, of course."

The emails were obtained Friday night through the Freedom of Information Act. They detail efforts by the U.S. military to address what happened, to gather information internally and to answer questions to better handle crises in the future.

The warning, sent to people's cellphones at 8:07 a.m. local time, was issued by an employee who did not realize a drill was underway, a federal investigation found.

It took Hawaii officials 38 minutes to issue a follow-up text indicating the alert had been sent in error.

The employee who posted the message was fired. A probe found he thought the threat was real and made similar mistakes in the past.

U.S. Pacific Command began responding to media questions about the alert by 8:23 a.m., saying there was no threat and state officials would issue a correction. Harris' email to Dunford and other senior Pentagon officers indicated the notification system "worked as we hoped it would," and that Pacific Command had several tasks to do.

Andrew Singer, a retired admiral who is now Harris' deputy director for intelligence, wrote to Air Force Maj. Gen. Kevin Schneider, Harris' chief of staff, that the state "has a lot more than the alert system to work on." It is unclear what he was alluding to.

Harris also emailed the top Air Force officer in the Pacific, Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, asking for additional information about a warning broadcast on base at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickham.

O'Shaughnessy's responses are partially redacted, but he told Harris that afternoon in another email that air-traffic controllers did not pass warnings of incoming ballistic missiles to aircraft or hold any aircraft on the ground.

Pacific Command's deputy commander, Army Lt. Gen. Bryan Fenton, followed up with Schneider that night, saying that Harris wanted additional information, including what ships, squadrons and ground units were told to do and how military families were informed.

# Navy maps cargo plane wreckage

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has mapped the undersea wreckage of a cargo plane that crashed into the Philippine Sea in November, killing three sailors.

Personnel aboard the research ship RV Petrel surveyed the wreck of the C-2A Greyhound on Feb. 3-5 and determined that its cockpit and fuselage are resting in two sections on the ocean floor, the Navy said in a statement Friday.

The aircraft's flight recorder appears to be intact, and planning for a salvage mission continues, the statement said.

Deepwater salvage experts found the aircraft Dec. 29 by tracking its emergency beacon 18,500 feet below the surface. A recovery operation would be

the deepest ever attempted.

"Despite very challenging conditions, every effort will be made to recover the aircraft and our fallen sailors," the Navy statement said.

The Greyhound was carrying 11 passengers and cargo from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan when it crashed on Nov. 22. It was assigned to Carrier Air Wing 5, the aviation component of the carrier's strike group.

Shortly after the crash, eight people were rescued by Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 12. U.S. and Japanese ships and aircraft spent two days searching for the three missing sailors — Lt. Steven Combs, Seaman Matthew Chialastri and Seaman Apprentice Bryan Grosso — over an area of nearly 1,000 square nautical miles.

The Navy has yet to announce

the official cause of the crash. It appears the Greyhound suffered a rare double engine failure, two Navy officials previously told Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation. They said it was unclear what would have caused both engines to fail.

The crash capped off a deadly year for the Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet that included a series of high-profile accidents and mishaps. In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay; in June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a merchant ship killed seven sailors; and in August, the USS John S. McCain ran into an oil tanker, killing 10 more.

## Navy officer: US undeterred by China on disputed isles

*Associated Press*

ABOARD USS CARL VINSON, Philippines — A Navy officer aboard a mammoth U.S. aircraft carrier brimming with F-18 fighter jets said Saturday that U.S. forces would patrol the South China Sea wherever "international law allows us" when asked if China's islands could restrain them in the disputed waters.

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins told The Associated Press on board the USS Carl Vinson that the Navy has carried out routine patrols at sea and on air in the strategic waters for 70 years to promote regional security and guarantee the unimpeded flow of trade that's crucial for Asian and U.S. economies.

"International law allows us to operate here, allows us to fly here, allows us to train here, allows us to sail here, and that's what we're doing, and we're going to continue to do that," Hawkins said on the flight deck of the 95,000-ton warship, which anchored at Manila Bay while on a Philippine visit.

The U.S. Navy invited journalists on board the 35-year-old carrier, which was packed with 72 aircraft, including F-18 Hornets, assault helicopters and surveillance aircraft. President Rodrigo Duterte has tried to back down from what he said was a Philippine foreign policy that was steeply oriented toward the U.S. but has allowed considerable engagements with his country's treaty ally while reviving ties with China.

U.S. Navy officials flew some of Duterte's Cabinet officials and journalists on board the Carl Vinson for a brief tour while it was patrolling the South China Sea on Wednesday.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have long contested ownership of the South China Sea, which straddles one of the world's busiest sea lanes and is believed to sit atop vast deposits of oil and gas.

## Several Calif. Marines guilty of sex crimes

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SANDIEGO—Several Camp Pendleton-based Marines have been found guilty in recent weeks of crimes including rape and child pornography, with other similar cases still pending in the military criminal justice system, records show.

The cases are coming to light after a series of Freedom of Information Act requests filed by the San Diego Union-Tribune over the past four months. Documents released by the Marines revealed that some of the most serious cases were tied to senior leaders like former Chief Warrant Officer E. DeLeon Jr.

At a Camp Pendleton court-martial last month, a military judge convicted DeLeon of possessing and distributing child pornography. The judge sentenced him to seven years behind bars, but a pretrial agreement capped his imprisonment at five years.

Highly redacted records trace DeLeon's crimes to Nov.

26, 2016, at Camp Pendleton, when he distributed a digital image of a child engaging in sex. Three days earlier, he had communicated to an unidentified person his desire to molest "a little girl," an act he thought "sounds amazing," according to his records.

Camp Pendleton Lance Cpl. M.F. Currington was found guilty of abusing anabolic steroids and sexually abusing a child. He was sentenced to three years in prison. Currington's charges stemmed from a late 2016 investigation into steroid and drug paraphernalia possession, according to records.

Another Camp Pendleton Marine, Lance Cpl. B.J. Morton, also was convicted last month of possessing and distributing child pornography. He was demoted to private and given a bad-conduct discharge.

He was jailed Aug. 14 after investigators accused him of possessing three videos and other sexually explicit images

of children, according to his records.

Several cases involve Marines accused of sneaking into other servicemember's rooms to assault or grope them.

Lance Cpl. J.P. Hill was convicted last month of sexual assault causing harm, abusive sexual contact and making an indecent recording. He crept into the room of a fellow Marine at night to assault her and photographed her when she was naked, according to records.

He was sentenced to two years in prison, demoted to private and given a dishonorable discharge.

L.M. Schmidt, a Marine assigned to Yuma, Ariz., was charged Aug. 17 with entering an unnamed servicemember's barracks to touch the person's hips to gratify his sexual desires, according to the court records.

Marine officials declined to comment.

# Students hit Trump over Fla. shooting

Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla.—Students who escaped the deadly school shooting in Florida focused their anger Sunday at President Donald Trump, contending that his response to the attack has been needlessly divisive.

“You’re the president. You’re supposed to bring this nation together, not divide us,” said David Hogg, a 17-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

“How dare you,” he added.

Hogg was responding to Trump’s tweet Saturday that Democrats hadn’t passed any gun control measures during the brief time they controlled Congress with a supermajority in the Senate. Trump also alluded to the FBI’s failure to act on tips that the suspect was dangerous while bemoaning the bureau’s focus on Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Trump was at his Florida estate Sunday but did not mention the attack in a series of morning tweets.

Florida politicians, meanwhile, scrambled to produce legislation in response to Wednesday’s attack that killed 17 people.

In a TV interview, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio embraced a Democratic bill in the Florida Legislature to allow courts to temporarily prevent people from having guns if they are determined to be a threat to themselves or others.

Gov. Rick Scott, also a Republican, attended a prayer vigil near the school and is expected to announce a legislative package with GOP leaders of the legislature this week.

Emma Gonzalez, another student who survived the attack, cited Trump, Rubio and Scott by name in a warning to politicians who are supported by the National Rifle Association.

“Now is the time to get on the right side of this, because this is not something that we are going to let sweep under the carpet,” she said on “Meet the Press.”

The pointed comments by the students are the latest sign of increased pressure for gun control after the massacre.

The students have vowed to become the face of a movement for tighter firearm regulations and plan to visit the state capitol in Tallahassee this week to demand immediate action.

Organizers behind the Women’s March, an anti-Trump and female empowerment protest, called for a 17-minute, nationwide walkout by teachers and students on March 14. The Network for Public Education, an advocacy organization for public schools, announced a day of walkouts, sit-ins and other events on school campuses on April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado that left 12 students and one teacher dead.

Meanwhile, school and other government records obtained Sunday show the suspect, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, was diagnosed as developmentally delayed at age 3 and had disciplinary issues dating back to middle school. In February 2014, while in eighth grade, Cruz was transferred to a special school for children with emotional and behavioral is-

sues. He stayed there until 10th grade, when he was transferred to Stoneman Douglas. A month after arriving, Cruz was written up for using profanity. Last year, Cruz was expelled.

On Sept. 28, 2016, an investigator from the Florida Department of Children and Families visited Cruz and his mother, Lynda Cruz, after he posted video on Snapchat showing him cutting himself. The report showed that Cruz had written a racial epithet against African-Americans and a Nazi symbol on his book bag, which his mother had forced him to erase. The investigator said Cruz was suffering from depression and on medication and had told Lynda Cruz he planned to buy a gun, but she couldn’t determine why.

A crisis counselor told the DCF investigator he had visited the school and that he did not believe Cruz was a danger to himself or others. The case was closed, with the investigator concluding that Cruz was receiving help from his mother and counselors, and “no other referrals or services were needed.”

## Trump lashes out over Russia probe, FBI

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.— Venting his fury over the Russia investigation, President Donald Trump on Sunday asserted that the Obama administration bears some blame for the election meddling, insisted he never denied that the Kremlin interfered in the 2016 U.S. campaign and said “they are laughing their asses off in Moscow.”

In a rapid-fire series of tweets from his Palm Beach estate, the president unloaded over the Russia investigation, days after an indictment from special counsel Robert Mueller charged 13 Russians with a plot to interfere in the U.S. presidential election.

While the nearby town of Parkland, Fla., continues to mourn a school shooting that left

17 dead, Russia was clearly top of mind for the president. The administration has focused on the fact that the Russian effort began in 2014, before Trump announced his White House run, and Trump continued that argument Sunday.

He said the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, California Rep. Adam Schiff — calling him “Liddle’ Adam Schiff, the leakin’ monster of no control” — “is now blaming the Obama Administration for Russian meddling in the 2016 Election.” Trump appeared to be referring to an NBC interview with Schiff in which the lawmaker said the previous administration should have set up a “more forceful deterrent” against cyberattacks after the 2014 hack of Sony Pictures.

Obama in late 2016 defended

his administration’s response to the Russian meddling, also saying he had confronted Russian President Vladimir Putin that September, telling him to “cut it out.”

Trump has not been seen in public since he arrived at his Florida club late Friday after a visit to the community shattered by the shooting. That evening, he met with first responders, medical personnel and some victims. He planned to meet with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on Sunday at Mar-a-Lago.

Trump did find time to use the Florida shooting to criticize the FBI, saying in a tweet late Saturday that the bureau “missed all of the many signals” sent by the suspect and arguing that agents are “spending too much time trying to prove Russian collusion with the Trump campaign.

Get back to the basics and make us all proud!” he said.

The FBI received a tip last month that the man now charged in the school shooting had a “desire to kill” and access to guns and could be plotting an attack. But the agency said Friday that agents failed to investigate.

In his Russia-related posts Sunday, Trump asserted he “never said Russia did not meddle in the election.” The president has repeatedly expressed skepticism over the Russian election meddling.

Trump also argued Sunday that the ongoing investigations are just what the Russians want, saying: “Investigations and Party hatred, they have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. They are laughing their asses off in Moscow. Get smart America!”

# 65 feared dead after plane crash

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran—An Iranian commercial airplane brought back into service only months ago after being grounded for seven years crashed Sunday in a foggy, mountainous region of southern Iran, and officials said they feared all 65 people on board were killed.

The crash of the Aseman Airlines ATR-72 marks another fatal aviation disaster for Iran, which for years was barred from buying airplane parts for needed maintenance due to Western sanctions over its nuclear program.

Its nuclear accord with world powers allows it to get those parts, and the country has made deals worth tens of billions of dollars for new aircraft. However, President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the deal has injected uncertainty into those sales while Iranians still fly in aging aircraft.

The ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-dis-

tance regional flying, went down near its destination of the southern Iranian city of Yasuj.

It wasn't clear what caused the crash, although weather was severe in the area. Dense fog, high winds and heavy snow in the Zagros Mountains made it impossible for rescue crews in helicopters to reach the site Sunday, state television reported.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on board Flight No. EP3704 were killed. Those on board included 59 passengers and six crewmembers, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday night, lowering the death toll to 65 from an initially reported 66.

Both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani offered their condolences.

Tabatabai said the plane crashed into Mount Dena, which is about 14,435 feet tall. The plane's last signal, at 12:35 a.m. EST, showed it at 16,975

feet and descending, airplane-tracking website FlightRadar24 said. The pilot was in contact with the tower 14 miles from the airport, state TV said.

One previous passenger on the route posted a video Sunday showing the flight typically comes in just over the mountain peaks. Aeronautical charts for the airport warn pilots to keep an altitude of 15,000 feet.

Locals described hearing the crash, although no one had found the crash site yet, according to state TV.

Aseman Airlines, owned by Iran's civil service pension foundation, is a semi-private air carrier headquartered in Tehran that specializes in flights to remote airfields across the country. It also flies internationally.

Aseman Airlines is Iran's third-largest airline by fleet size, behind state carrier Iran Air and Mahan Air. It is banned from flying in the European Union over safety concerns.

# Canada: Castro not father of Trudeau

Associated Press

A story claiming that Fidel Castro was the father of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not true. The Canadian government has denied it, Cuba has never claimed it, and Trudeau's parents had never visited Cuba until several years after Justin Trudeau was born.

The Feb. 1 suicide of Castro's oldest son, Fidelito, spurred the most recent report on several sites, claiming that Fidelito left a suicide note referring to Justin Trudeau as his half-brother. A theory that Castro was Trudeau's father was also shared widely on social media after Castro's death in 2016, when Trudeau caused an uproar over remarks praising the late Cuban leader.

The Canadian government denied the reports last week. Justin Trudeau was born on Dec. 25, 1971, to the late Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his wife, Margaret.

Trudeau was born a little more than nine months after the marriage of his parents and more than four years before Margaret made a much-publicized first trip to Cuba where she met Fidel Castro.

Margaret was 22 years old when she married the 51-year-old prime minister and was the subject of intense media scrutiny. Experts say that it would have been nearly impossible for an earlier visit to the island nation to go unnoticed by the media.

Cuban media have been unusually open about the death of Castro's oldest son, Fidelito, describing it as a suicide after a long depression. Neither state media nor independent reporters covering the death have reported the existence of a suicide note.

# Girl urges NASA to make Pluto a planet again

The Washington Post

Cara Lucy O'Connor has a concern.

Pluto used to be one of the nine planets in the solar system, and it isn't anymore. That's not right, said the little girl from Ireland. So Cara, with the help of her teacher, wrote a letter to NASA hoping to persuade the space agency to "make Pluto a planet again."

"I listened to a song and at the end of it the song said 'Bring Pluto Back' — and I would really like that to happen," Cara wrote.

She went on to explain that in 2006, Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet, "a type of planet that isn't big enough to clear its orbit." She talked about the Kuiper belt, a doughnut-shaped ring beyond Neptune where many dwarf planets are located.

"I really think Pluto should be a main planet again like Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus & Neptune, because in one video I watched called 'Let's go meet the planets,' Pluto was at the very end," she wrote.

In another video, she said, Pluto "was put in the trash can and was scared by planet Earth." "This was really mean," Cara wrote, "because no one or no planet or dwarf planets should be put in the trash can."

Cara dreams of becoming a NASA astronaut and wants to "visit all the main planets including Pluto." In the meantime, she told NASA, "you

need to fix this problem for me."

Though not likely to result in a dramatic change in Pluto's demoted status as a dwarf planet, the 6-year-old's letter did not fall on deaf ears. James Green, director of NASA's Planetary Science Division, wrote her back.

"I agree with you that Pluto is really cool — in fact, who would have believed that Pluto has a heart? ... It's a fascinating world that appears to be constantly changing. To me, it's not so much about whether Pluto is a dwarf planet or not; it's that Pluto is a fascinating place that we need to continue to study," Green wrote.

"I hope that you will discover a new planet," he added, "and I trust that if you continue to do well in school we will see you at NASA one of these days."

Cara, who hopes to discover a planet and name it Planet Unicorn, often peppers her teachers with questions about why black holes exist, or whether the moon landing really happened.

"She had the most interesting mind. She asked questions that I couldn't answer," said Sarah O'Donovan, who taught Cara last year at Glashen Girls' School in Cork, Ireland. "She's always interested in things that are far, far above her level."

Cara said she's been interested in space and astronomy since last year. She loves learning about "the forming of the planets," she said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Meth lab operated in hotel is cause of fire

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — Police charged a New Jersey man with setting up a methamphetamine lab in an Atlantic City casino hotel room that caught fire Wednesday, causing four floors to be evacuated.

The fire at the Tropicana casino injured the man who rented the room and later was arrested and a hotel employee who entered the room after the fire was detected.

Police charged Michael Pilar, 49, of Whiting, N.J., with maintaining a drug production facility, possession of methamphetamine and criminal mischief.

Damage from the fire was contained to the room on the 44th floor of the casino's west tower. A hazardous materials team dismantled the lab.

## Public school removes Scriptures from walls

**AR** SEARCY — A public school in Arkansas has removed Bible verses from the walls after an anonymous complaint was made to a non-profit supporting the separation of church and state.

The Daily Citizen reported that posters displaying Scriptures had been hung in the choir room of Searcy High School.

Searcy School District Superintendent Diane Barrett said Feb. 2 that the choral director removed the Christian-themed posters from her room in November and that staff has been addressed regarding religious displays.

The Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation sent a letter to the school district late last year requesting the posters be removed.

## Online boozy cupcake business is closed

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Sioux Falls officials are looking into local food laws after an online business selling alcohol-infused cupcakes closed amid legal uncertainty.

The Argus Leader reported that Intoxibakes consulted with regulators before opening to confirm they didn't need a liquor license to serve boozy sweets, including RumChata and Bourbon Maple Bacon cupcakes.

The business stopped all sales after receiving a note from City Hall saying it's illegal to make cupcakes with alcohol.

## Rampaging bull spurs high school lockdown

**ID** BURLEY — A high school in southeastern Idaho was placed on lockdown after a bull escaped an auction yard and stormed by campus.

The Times-News reported the Black Angus bull went on a rampage across the town of Burley on Tuesday, trampling over signs and charging at people before arriving at Burley High School.

The Cassia County Sheriff's Office notified school officials, who placed the campus on lockdown for about 15 minutes as officers followed the animal off school grounds. Sheriff Jay Heward said the officers were not able to capture the bull so the animal was killed.

## Police dog stabbed by suspect during arrest

**CA** SAN DIEGO — San Diego police said one of their police dogs was stabbed with a 7-inch knife during an arrest.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported the dog was attacked Feb. 12 at an Encanto

home shortly after officers had shot the suspect using bean bag rounds. Police Lt. Charles Lara said a 22-year-old man was struck four times.

The police dog was released after the rounds "had a negligible effect" on the suspect. Police said the 4-year-old dog named Dexter suffered a broken rib and ruptured spleen and is expected to recover.

## Candidate's parents donate to his rival

**WI** MADISON — The parents of Republican U.S. Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson have donated the maximum amount to the campaign of their son's Democratic rival, Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

Nicholson is in a primary battle against Republican state Sen. Leah Vukmir, with the winner advancing to take on Baldwin in the fall.

Federal records show that Nicholson's parents, Michael and Donna Nicholson, both gave \$2,700 in December to Baldwin. Nicholson is a former Democrat, but his parents have a long history of donating to Democratic candidates.

## Derailed locomotive left to run for 6 days

**NY** JOHNSBURG — Railway officials hope a derailed locomotive that was left running for six days in upstate New York can be moved soon.

The Post-Star reported that the engine derailed Feb. 6 in Johnsbury in the Adirondacks. It was left running to avoid weather-related problems.

Neighbors were upset about the noise and smell. Someone shut it off late Feb. 12 or 13, and the railway called police.

The Saratoga & North Creek Railway said the locomotive was put back onto the rails Thursday.

## Police: School bus driver leaves crash

**MA** RAYNHAM — Massachusetts police cited a school bus driver for crashing into two trees and driving away from the scene with students aboard.

Authorities said Francelle Fleurine, 34, of Attleboro, was transporting 10 Raynham Middle School students when she struck the first tree the afternoon of Feb. 12. Fleurine backed into a second tree, smashing the bus' back window, before finishing her route.

No injuries were reported.

Officers responded to the school about 3:30 p.m. after receiving a report of the crash.

School district Superintendent Derek Swenson said in a statement that Fleurine is no longer a driver for the school system.

## Bill to protect historic displays is advancing

**WV** CHARLESTON — A West Virginia bill that aims to protect historic displays is advancing.

The Register-Herald reported the "West Virginia Monument and Memorial Protection Act of 2018" passed out of the Senate Committee on Government Organization on Tuesday. The bill prohibits the removal, renaming, alteration or relocation of any statue, monument, memorial, school, street, bridge, building or park more than 50 years old recognized by the state Historic Preservation Office.

The protected items also have to be named in honor of historical, military, labor, civil rights or Native American events, figures and organizations and on public property.

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## Giant slalom

# Hirscher wins 2nd gold medal

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Marcel Hirscher has turned his domination in the giant slalom into a second gold medal at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The 28-year-old Austrian star extended his first-run lead to win by a huge margin of 1.27 seconds over hard-charging Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway. Kristoffersen rose from 10th-fastest in the morning with the quickest time in the second run.

Hirscher won his first Olympic gold medal in the Alpine combined last week, and that took a lot of pressure off him.

Still, he was never seriously challenged Sunday as he continues to compile his historically great season.

"I know, OK, if once it is not happening or not working out good, who cares?" he said. "I have [won] way more already than I was ever, ever expecting. That is giving you a lot of

light shoulders."

Alexis Pinturault of France finished 1.31 behind Hirscher's two-run time of 2 minutes, 18.04 seconds to get the bronze medal.

Hirscher has a good chance at a third gold medal in his best event, the slalom, which is scheduled for Thursday.

Denied a first career gold medal again when he finished second in the combined, Pinturault said it was his "great luck" to race in Hirscher's era: "It's something really special. He is the greatest ever."

Hirscher raised his right index finger in the air on crossing the finish line, screaming "Yesss!" as he skied toward a television camera.

An Olympic medal in giant slalom was one of the few honors Hirscher lacked after two near misses. He placed fourth in GS at both the 2010 Vancouver Games and 2014 Sochi Games, when Pinturault also took bronze.

Hirscher is also the world

champion in giant slalom, taking gold last year at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Ted Ligety, the 2014 Olympic champion and a three-time world champion before Hirscher, let his title slip without contending for a medal. The 33-year-old American was 20th-fastest after a cautious first run in the morning, and finished more than three seconds back, outside the top 10.

Ligety said Hirscher's ability and mental toughness were "pretty phenomenal."

"He's always able to bring out those amazing performances," he said. "It's amazing to be able to watch that."

With Hirscher so dominant, it seemed the others were racing for silver.

"Marcel is at the moment unbeatable in GS. Today, I won the silver," said the 23-year-old Kristoffersen, who has been runner-up behind Hirscher three times in World Cup giant slalom this season.

## Bobsled

# US struggles in two-man

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Christian Poser is the husband of an American bobsled star. Justin Kripps was born in Hawaii. And the way things are looking, they both could win Olympic two-man medals on Monday night.

Thing is, Poser races for Germany and Kripps drives for Canada.

And the sliders racing for the U.S. didn't exactly have the same level of success on the opening night of bobsledding at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The German sled driven by Nico Walther and pushed by Poser — whose wife is U.S. women's driver Jamie Greubel Poser — holds the lead after the first two runs of the two-man event, despite crashing across the finish line in their second run after posting a combined time of 1 minute, 38.39 seconds.

Kripps and Alexander Kopacz are in second for Canada, one-tenth of a second back. Germany's Johannes Lochner and Christopher Weber are third, 0.19 seconds off the lead going into the final two heats.

The Americans were not as fortunate. The late Steven Holcomb — whose death in May is still something the U.S. team is grappling with — won bronze in two-man at the Sochi Games four years ago for the first American medal in this event in 62 years, but it'll be a challenge just to get one sled into the top 10 in Pyeongchang.

Sgt. Justin Olsen — still recovering from his emergency appendectomy just four days before the opening ceremony — and Olympic rookie Evan Weinstock were the top U.S. sled, sitting in 12th place and more than a half-second out of a medal spot.

Sgt. Nick Cunningham and Hakeem Abdul-Saboor were 24th for the U.S., one spot ahead of fellow Americans Codie Bascue and Sam McGuffie. Both sleds will need to rally on Monday just to get a fourth run; only the top 20 after the third heat will advance.

## Slopestyle skiing

# Goepper's long journey comes full circle

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Nick Goepper wasn't ready four years ago. He can admit that now.

A bronze medal in Sochi when slopestyle skiing made its Olympic debut gave the 19-year-old a taste of fame he didn't know how to deal with. He partied with his friends back in Indiana for weeks. He drank too much. The edge that he brought to competitions across the world dulled. His motivation waned. Depression set in.

The journey back included a stint in rehab in the summer of 2016, some serious self-examination and more than a little growing up. Unassuming by nature, Goepper decided to

talk openly about his struggles not necessarily to become a role model for those dealing with mental health concerns but simply to help with his own healing process.

Full circle arrived on Sunday, when he stood on a mountain in South Korea and once again delivered under Olympic-sized pressure, drilling his third and final run down the demanding course at Phoenix Snow Park. His score of 93.60 earned him a silver go to with that bronze from Sochi, a moment the now-23-year-old feels infinitely more prepared to handle.

"I just love skiing and I love competing," Goepper said. "I really want to get back to it as quick as I can."

The proof came during what

Goepper and gold medalist Oystein Braaten of Norway described as the greatest slopestyle competition ever. The top five all put up runs in the finals that scored 90 or better. That list didn't include Goepper until his final run.

Emphatically, Goepper raised his arms after drilling his triple cork 1440, one that included both a mute grab and a Japan grab (basically three off-axis flips combined with four twists and a couple of stylish ski grabs mixed in). It was the same final jump he used in Sochi to assure the U.S. of a podium sweep, along with gold medalist Joss Christensen and silver medalist Gus Kenworthy.

Only this time, it propelled Goepper into second.

## Medals roundup

# Japan's Kodaira edges Lee

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Nao Kodaira burst off the line, furiously pumping her arms and legs to build up speed. She shot around the oval in a blur and crossed the finish line, the 500-meter Olympic speedskating gold medal easily in hand.

With two pairs to go, Kodaira could watch knowing that two-time defending champion Lee Sang-hwa was unlikely to catch her despite being propelled by the loud cheers of flag-waving Korean fans on Sunday night.

Kodaira was timed in 36.94 seconds, becoming the first woman to race under 37 seconds at sea level. She high-fived her coach after the last skater crossed the line and shook her fists in triumph.

**Aerials:** Oleksandr Abramenko gave Ukraine its third-ever gold medal at the Winter Olympics, edging China's Jia Zongyang.

The 29-year-old Abramenko posted a score of 128.51 in his last jump to give his country its first medal in Pyeongchang.

**Biathlon:** France's Martin Fourcade slammed his ski pole into the snow in disgust after sliding through the finish line, thinking he'd just lost another Olympic gold medal to a photo finish.

But upon further review, replays showed Fourcade's left boot crossed the line a few centimeters ahead of Germany's Simon Schempp, giving him a dramatic victory in the 15-kilometer mass start and his second gold medal of the Pyeongchang Games.

**Cross-country skiing:** Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo grabbed the Norwegian flag as he headed for the finish line and gave it a big wave, knowing his country's 16-year gold medal drought in the men's 4x10-kilometer relay was coming to an end.

## College basketball roundup

# Spartans rally from 27 down

Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Cassius Winston scored 17 points, and No. 2 Michigan State erased a 27-point deficit on Saturday to beat Northwestern 65-60 and extend its winning streak to 10 games.

Nick Ward added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Miles Bridges hit four free throws in the final minute, and the Spartans (26-3, 14-2 Big Ten) used a huge second half to pull out the win when they looked like they were headed to a stunning blowout loss.

Vic Law cooled off after a blistering start to finish with 21 points, and Northwestern (15-13, 6-9) made just 3 of 26 field goals in the second half.

The Wildcats gave themselves a great chance at their first win over a Top 5 team since 1979 even though star guard Bryant McIntosh sat out with a shoulder injury.

They led by as much as 27 and were up 49-27 after a stunning first half that had fans chanting "Overrated!" But the Spartans — tied for the Big Ten lead coming into the game — sure did turn it around after halftime.

They outscored Northwestern 29-4 over the first 14½ minutes, tying it on Nick Ward's tip-in and taking their first lead of the game at 56-53 on Jaren Jackson's three-point play with 5:26 remaining.

**No. 3 Villanova 95, No. 4 Xavier 79:** Mikal Bridges led an early three-point shooting spurt that put visiting Villanova in control, and the Wildcats showed they're not ready to relinquish their reign in the Big East, beating Xavier in a show-down for the league lead.

The Wildcats (24-3, 11-3) have won all four regular-season titles since the league was reconfigured. Xavier (24-4, 12-3) had a chance to take control of the race, but simply wasn't up to the Wildcats' level in the biggest game of the season. Now, Xavier's lead is down to

a half game and Villanova has swept the season series.

**Baylor 59, No. 7 Texas Tech 57:** Terry Maston scored 24 points, and host Baylor ended the Red Raiders' seven-game winning streak after the Big 12 leaders lost top scorer Keenan Evans to a foot injury in the first half.

**No. 9 Gonzaga 81, Pepperdine 67:** Johnathan Williams had 18 points and 12 rebounds and host Gonzaga held off last-place Pepperdine to remain in first place in the West Coast Conference.

Killian Tillie and Josh Perkins each scored 15 points for Gonzaga (25-4, 15-1 WCC), which has won nine consecutive games since suffering its only league loss to No. 15 Saint Mary's.

**South Carolina 84, No. 10 Auburn 75:** Frank Booker scored 19 points, and host South Carolina built a 26-point lead before holding on to defeat Auburn, ending the Gamecocks' six-game losing streak.

The Tigers (23-4, 11-3 Southeastern Conference) had won seven of their past eight and were heavy favorites to keep that going at South Carolina (14-13, 5-9). Instead, the Gamecocks used a 21-1 run in the first half on the way to a 37-11 lead.

**No. 13 Kansas 77, No. 20 West Virginia 69:** Udoka Azubuike scored 21 points and Devonte' Graham added 15 to help host Kansas get past West Virginia.

Both teams struggled to create much separation in the first half, neither establishing more than a six-point lead. After being tied at halftime, the Mountaineers (19-8, 8-6 Big 12) took the lead with 17:22 left and held it until the game was tied again at 66 with about two minutes remaining. The Jayhawks (20-7, 10-4 Big 12) wouldn't reclaim the lead until Svi Mykhailiuk hit a pair of free throws 30 seconds later.

**No. 14 North Carolina 93, Louisville 76:** Joel Berry scored 23 points, Luke Maye

had 13 rebounds and visiting North Carolina dominated the boards and second-chance points against Louisville for its fifth consecutive victory.

**No. 15 Saint Mary's 73, Portland 61:** Jock Landale had 23 points and 10 rebounds and visiting Saint Mary's rebounded from a pair of losses.

Tanner Krebs added 16 points for the Gaels (25-4, 14-2 West Coast Conference), who have won seven straight against the Pilots (10-19, 4-12).

**Georgia 73, No. 18 Tennessee 62:** Yante Maten scored 19 points, and host Georgia denied the Volunteers an opportunity to pull within a game of the SEC lead.

Derek Ogbeide had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Georgia (15-11, 6-8 Southeastern Conference) won its second straight in a late attempt to return to NCAA Tournament consideration.

Tennessee (19-7, 9-5) remained two games behind No. 10 Auburn, the SEC leader, which lost to South Carolina 84-75. The Vols have lost two of their last three.

**Arkansas 94, No. 21 Texas A&M 75:** Jaylen Barford scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half to lead host Arkansas to its fourth straight win.

The triumph was the 10th straight over the Aggies in Fayetteville for the Razorbacks (19-8, 8-6 Southeastern Conference), who lost 80-66 in College Station on Jan. 30. It was also Arkansas' third home win over a ranked opponent this season, joining victories over Minnesota and Tennessee.

**Texas 77, No. 23 Oklahoma 66:** Dylan Osetkowski scored 21 points, Texas slowed national scoring leader Trae Young, and the visiting Longhorns extended the Sooners' losing streak to five games.

**No. 24 Nevada 93, Utah State 87:** Cody Martin scored 30 points on 13-for-18 shooting and twin brother Caleb Martin added 23 points to lead visiting Nevada past Utah State.

## All-Star Saturday

# Mitchell wins dunk contest; Booker is 3-point champion

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The NBA dunk contest was a throwback in many ways, with a 21-year-old rookie and a 25-year-old, third-year pro fighting it out for the trophy.

Larry Nance Jr. rolled out his father's old uniform — down to the knee-high socks — and then rolled out his father himself to help with one of his dunks. But he came up short against Donovan Mitchell, the precocious Utah Jazz rookie with his own sense of history.

Mitchell put on a show at Staples Center to win the slam dunk contest and cap off NBA All-Star Saturday.

Mitchell edged Nance Jr. 98-96, sealing his victory with a close approximation of the 360-degree spin dunk that Vince Carter used to win the 2000 contest.

"I wanted this so badly,"

Mitchell said. "This is one of my favorite events of All-Star weekend. To not only be in it, but to win it, it's crazy."

Before making his winning dunk, Mitchell peeled off his Jazz jersey to reveal a vintage Carter jersey from the Toronto Raptors.

Mitchell — three inches shorter than the 6-foot-6 Carter — needed a score of 47 to beat Nance, and he got a 48 from the five judges: DJ Khaled, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Rock and Hall of Famers Julius Erving and Lisa Leslie.

Mitchell, the Jazz's 21-year-old guard out of Louisville, is among the NBA's top first-year players with a rookie-best 19.6 points per game. Though the 13th overall pick in last year's draft might seem slightly undersized for a high-flying dunk champion, he showed more than enough athleticism to compete with the league's best.

Earlier, Devin Booker, of the Phoenix Suns, won the three-point contest with a record 28 points in the final round and Spencer Dinwiddie of the Brooklyn Nets won the skills challenge.

Booker beat 2016 champion Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors and Tobias Harris of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Booker was sensational in the final round, when he missed only five of 25 shots.

The previous record was 27 points, set by Stephen Curry in 2015 and matched by Thompson the following year.

Dinwiddie, who played at Taft High in the Woodland Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, beat Lauri Markkanen of the Chicago Bulls in the final round of the skills challenge, which included dribbling around pylons, passing the ball into a net and shooting three-pointers.

## Reddick needs 5 OTs to win Xfinity opener

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tyler Reddick needed five overtimes, a brief red flag and the closest finish in NASCAR history to take Dale Earnhardt Jr. to victory lane.

Reddick won the Xfinity Series' season-opening race by beating JR Motorsports teammate Elliott Sadler in a photo finish. The margin of victory was 0.000 seconds, breaking the mark set by Butch Miller when he beat Mike Skinner by 0.001 seconds to win the Truck Series race July 15, 1995 at Colorado National Speedway.

"How do I protest that? It's a tie, and it should go to the elder," joked veteran Sadler of the win that went to the 22-year-old Reddick.

It was a nail-biting and tense opener at Daytona International Speedway for NASCAR's second-tier series.

Ryan Reed was third, and Kaz Grala fourth, in Fords. Garrett Smithley was a career-best fifth and Daniel Suarez was the highest finishing Toyota driver, in eighth.

## NHL roundup

# Knights match home win record, move atop standings

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Reilly Smith had two goals and an assist to lead the Vegas Golden Knights to a 6-3 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday.

Brad Hunt, Tomas Nosek, Ryan Carpenter, Nate Schmidt also scored for Vegas, while Jonathan Marchessault had three assists. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 30 shots, including a highlight-reel glove save on Charles Hudon skating in on a breakaway in the third period, to improve to 19-6-2.

Since their first meeting, a 3-2 win in Montreal on Nov. 7, the Golden Knights are 30-10-3 while the Canadiens are 15-21-6.

At 22-4-2, the Golden Knights have the best home record in the NHL, improving to 6-3-0 in February.

**Blackhawks 7, Capitals 1:** Jonathan Toews had a goal and two assists and the

Chicago Blackhawks ripped host Washington to end an eight-game losing streak.

Patrick Kane, Brandon Saad and Ryan Hartman each added a goal and an assist in a 44-shot attack that powered Chicago to its first win since Jan. 30 at Nashville.

**Ducks 3, Wild 2 (SO):** Nick Ritchie scored in the 11th round of a shootout and John Gibson stopped the final seven shooters in visiting Anaheim's victory.

**Penguins 5, Maple Leafs 3:** Olli Maatta scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period to lift host Pittsburgh past Toronto.

**Coyotes 1, Oilers 0:** Antti Raanta made 39 saves for his first shutout of the season and host Arizona won its fourth straight, scoring on its first shot in a victory over Edmonton.

**Devils 4, Lightning 3:** Eddie Lack made 48 saves and New Jersey beat host Tampa Bay.

**Senators 6, Rangers 3:** Derick Brassard had a goal and two assists to help host Ottawa beat New York.

**Red Wings 3, Predators 1:** Petr Mrazek stopped 30 shots to remain unbeaten against host Nashville, and Detroit defenseman Luke Witkowski scored his first NHL goal.

**Kings 4, Sabres 2:** Anze Kopitar and rookie Michael Amadio each scored twice and Los Angeles beat host Buffalo to snap a three-game skid.

**Canucks 6, Bruins 1:** Loui Eriksson scored his second goal of the night late in the third period and Anders Nilsson stopped 44 shots to lead host Vancouver to just its second win in eight games.

**Panthers 6, Flames 3:** Mike Matheson scored twice, Aleksander Barkov had a goal and two assists, and visiting Florida won in goalie Roberto Luongo's return after 2½ months.