

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Fla. survivors demand action on guns

*Associated Press*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Survivors of the Florida school shooting descended on the state's Capitol on Wednesday with one overarching message: It's time for action.

The students entered a gun-friendly political climate in Tallahassee, where lawmakers have rebuffed gun restrictions since Republicans took control of the governor's office and the Legislature in 1999.

The students received attention and a warm reception, but politicians did not offer specific answers. The students' biggest wish — banning assault-type weapons such as the AR-15, the weapon used by suspect Nikolas Cruz — was taken off the table the previous day in the House.

"How is it possible that this boy that we all knew was clearly disturbed was able to get an assault rifle, military grade, and come to our school and try to kill us?" one 16-year-old student asked the Senate president.

The teens split into several groups to talk with lawmakers and other state leaders about gun control, the legislative process and mental health issues. Some tearfully asked why civilians should be allowed to have weapons such as the one fired in the attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School one week ago.

When Florida Senate President Joe Negron heard the question, he did not answer directly. "That's an issue that we're reviewing," he said. When another lawmaker said he supported raising the age to buy assault-style weapons to 21 from 18, the students broke into applause.

The Florida Senate opened its session by showing pictures of all 17 victims in the attack.

"There are some really harrowing tales here," said Democratic Sen. Lauren Book, of

Broward County, who helped organize busloads of students who arrived at the Capitol late Tuesday. She stayed overnight with the students in Tallahassee's Civic Center and said they stayed up until 5 a.m., researching, writing and preparing to talk with politicians.

"It has been a very, very difficult, tough night," Book said. "It's in those quiet moments that the reality of this stuff without all the noise sets in. In any given moment, there's tears. It's raw and it's there."

About 100 students from the high school made the 400-mile trip on three buses. They told the 500 students and parents waiting for them that they were fighting to protect all students.

"We're what's making the change," said Alfonso Calderon, a 16-year-old junior. "We're going to talk to these politicians. ... We're going to keep pushing until something is done because people are dying and this can't happen anymore."

Despite their determination, the students and their supporters are not likely to get what they really want: a ban on AR-15s and similar semi-automatic rifles. Republican lawmakers are talking more seriously about some restrictions but not a total ban.

Instead, they are discussing treating assault-style rifles more like handguns. That could mean raising the minimum age to purchase the weapon to 21, creating a waiting period and making it more difficult for people who exhibit signs of mental illness to buy weapons even without a diagnosis.

Democrats attempted to get a bill to ban assault rifles and large-capacity magazines heard on the House floor Tuesday. Republicans, who dominate the chamber, dismissed it.

## Trump says more must be done to protect children

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As a grieving Florida community demanded action on guns, President Donald Trump on Tuesday directed the Justice Department to move to ban devices such as the rapid-fire bump stocks used in last year's Las Vegas massacre. It was a small sign of movement on the gun violence issue that has long tied Washington in knots.

"We must do more to protect our children," Trump said, adding that his administration was working hard to respond to the shooting in Parkland that left 17 dead.

After past mass killings yielded little action on tighter gun controls, the White House is trying to demonstrate that it is taking the issue seriously. The president, a strong and vocal supporter of gun rights, has not endorsed more robust changes sought by gun control activists. But the White House cast the president in recent days as having been swayed by the school shooting in Florida and willing to listen to proposals.

In a tweet Tuesday night, Trump indicated he wants to strengthen the background check system, but offered no specifics.

Asked at a press briefing Tuesday if Trump was open to reinstating a ban on assault-type weapons, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said White House officials "haven't closed the door on any front." She also said that the idea of raising the age limit to buy an AR-15 was "on the table for us to discuss."

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat and leading advocate for tighter gun controls, said Trump's directive suggested

the president was aware of fresh energy on the issue and called it a sign that "for the first time" politicians are "scared of the political consequences of inaction on guns."

A bipartisan legislative effort to ban bump stocks last year fizzled out. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced in December that it was reviewing whether weapons that use bump stocks should be considered illegal machine guns under federal law.

Under the Obama administration, the ATF had concluded that bump stocks did not violate federal law. But the acting director of the ATF told lawmakers in December that the ATF and Justice Department would not have initiated the review if a ban "wasn't a possibility at the end."

The Justice Department had not made any announcement regarding its review when Trump on Tuesday signed a memorandum directing the agency to complete the review as soon as possible and propose a rule "banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machine guns."

A day earlier, Trump sent another signal he had been swayed by the Parkland shooting and the dramatic calls for action in its aftermath.

A White House statement said Trump was looking at a bill that would strengthen federal gun background checks. On Wednesday, he was to host parents, teachers and students at the White House for a "listening session" that would include people affected by mass shootings in Parkland; Littleton, Colo.; and Newtown, Conn.

# Taste of jungle in Cobra Gold

By LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

American troops slurped cobra blood and noshed on rats while learning how to survive in harsh environments during annual drills underway in Thailand.

This week's jungle survival training is one of the highlights of Cobra Gold, which began Feb. 13 and wraps up Friday. It's the largest multinational military exercise in Southeast Asia, with more than 11,000 troops from 29 nations participating.

"We learned how to make fire out of bamboo and kindling, we learned how to make traps using banana rope and also learned how to cook a rat," Army Pfc. Alex Davis said in a Marine Corps statement.

"That was pretty interesting. That's not something you learn back in the States."

Thai jungle survival instructors then observed and assisted as U.S. and Thai troops showed off what they learned.

"The most beneficial training was learning the various resources for water," said Army Sgt. Dillon Sawyers. "We learned how to get water from the banana plant and figure out different ways to get water other than streams and bodies of water."

Another source of water is cobra blood, which instructors poured into students' mouths. Marines later described the blood as tasting "fishy."

"When you are out there by yourself, you cannot worry about your emotions," Chief

Petty Officer 1st Class Pairoj Prasansai, a Thai Reconnaissance Marine, said in an American Forces Network report last year. "When your life is on the line, you simply have to do what you have to do to survive. You have to value your life."

Now in its 37th year, Cobra Gold is aimed at improving coordination between U.S. forces and key allies in the region. It involves evacuation drills, disaster-relief missions and traditional military drills such as amphibious landings.

Participants include host Thailand, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and representatives from 22 other nations either observing or participating in a limited manner.

# Navy rescues fishermen in South Pacific

By TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy has rescued three fishermen who had been adrift for more than a week in the South Pacific.

A 19-foot skiff was reported missing Feb. 12 after failing to return from a fishing expedition near Chuuk Lagoon in Micronesia. The boat carried food and water but no radios or safety equipment.

Sailors from Patrol Squadron Eight traveled to Guam from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to join the search at the request of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, a Navy statement said.

After searching on Tuesday for three hours, a P-8A Poseidon aircrew spotted the survivors and dropped a search-and-rescue kit that included food, water, medical supplies and communications and signaling equipment.

The fishermen were picked up by a police vessel a few hours later.

"It was incredibly rewarding to be a part of saving lives; it's what everyone joins the Navy to do," Lt. Miles Schumacher, the Poseidon's tactical coordinator, said in the statement. "We successfully demonstrated the capability of the [maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft] community to react quickly and effectively to operational requirements in the farthest corners of the globe. Hopefully, this is just the first of many successful rescues by P-8A Poseidon aircrews."

The Jacksonville, Fla.-based Patrol Squadron Eight is currently deployed to the 7th Fleet. The squadron consists of seven P-8A Poseidons — the Navy's newest maritime patrol aircraft — operated by 12 combat aircrews.

# Compensation sought in F-16 mishap

By TYLER HLAVAC  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

Local fishermen are seeking compensation for a fishing ban imposed after a U.S. military aviation mishap this week in northern Japan.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to Misawa Air Base's 35th Fighter Wing dropped two external fuel tanks into Lake Ogawara after an engine caught fire shortly after take-off Tuesday morning. No one was injured in the incident, and the aircraft was able to return safely to the base.

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Tuesday that officials spotted parts believed to be from the F-16 in the lake, and that the water surface was smeared with oil.

The Lake Ogawara Fishing Association instituted the ban the same day, group officials told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. It will remain in effect until the tanks are removed and fuel is cleared.

Since it is the height of fresh-

water shellfish season, local fisherman are looking at a loss of up to \$37,000 per day from shellfish alone, the officials said.

Aomori Prefecture Gov. Shingo Mimura on Wednesday asked the Japan Self-Defense Forces to clean Lake Ogawara, a Joint Chief Office spokesman said. Local leaders can make such requests after disasters or other emergencies.

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel have begun preparations for the cleanup, the spokesman said.

Onodera told reporters Wednesday that the Defense Ministry will assess the damage and then coordinate to compensate the fishermen.

A Tohoku Defense Bureau spokesman said the agency has requested that U.S. military officials take preventative measures and provide information about the incident.

Air Force officials said the accident is under investigation.

"We will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the

root cause of this incident," Col. Scott Jobe, 35th Fighter Wing commander, said in a statement.

Japanese broadcaster NHK reported Wednesday that Jobe apologized to Misawa Vice Mayor Koichiro Maita shortly after the incident, the latest in a string of mishaps involving U.S. military aircraft in Japan.

On Dec. 13, a CH-53E Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated from the aircraft and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's fence line. More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble.

On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawan day care facility. In October, a Super Stallion made an emergency landing in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area after an in-flight fire.

# Agency: Failed Hawaii missile test cost \$130M

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Rocket science, it should come as no surprise, is not easy or cheap.

That was most recently demonstrated Jan. 31 off the Hawaiian island of Kauai when a Raytheon SM-3 Block IIA missile failed to intercept an air-dropped intermediate-range target missile. The missile soon will be deployed to Navy ships, Japan, Romania and Poland to defend against North Korean and Iranian threats.

According to the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, which conducted the test, the cost of the still-in-development missile was \$36 million. The cost of the intermediate-range target missile was about \$40 million. The total cost of the test was about

\$130 million.

The last figure includes Pacific Missile Range Facility use, a variety of radars and other sensors, and about 350 personnel who supported the test, according to the agency.

"This was a developmental and operational test of a new capability and utilized a missile variant not yet in production," Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves, head of the Missile Defense Agency, said after the test.

Some firsts included using both ground- and space-based sensors to remotely cue the launch of the interceptor missile, Greaves said. It was also the first time an SM-3 IIA missile was launched from land using the Aegis Ashore test complex on Kauai.

Everything up to and includ-

ing the launch worked. A failure review board will determine why an intercept didn't occur.

The costs, meanwhile, point to the fact that the United States spends a lot of money on a missile defense system that's still very much a work in progress.

The Missile Defense Agency is requesting \$9.9 billion in fiscal 2019. According to a May 2017 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, the agency since 2002 has received approximately \$123 billion to develop and deliver ballistic missile defense systems.

U.S. officials repeatedly express confidence in the 44 ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California that protect Hawaii and the mainland from North Korean threats. The mainly ship-based Aegis

ballistic missile defense system, which uses multiple types of missiles, has a record of 36 successful intercepts in 45 tests, according to the Congressional Research Service.

A new SM-3 IIA also failed to hit its target in June off Kauai. A sailor on the Pearl Harbor destroyer USS John Paul Jones, which was doing the shooting, pushed a button that caused the missile to self-destruct in flight in a \$130 million mistake.

The over-the-horizon Raytheon/Kongsberg Naval Strike Missile, a long-range, precision strike weapon that can destroy enemy ships at distances up to 115 miles, flies at sea-skimming altitude, uses an advanced seeker for targeting and costs about \$1.5 million, according to published reports.

## Probe of conduct by Afghan forces sought

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Witnesses claim that Afghan security forces summarily executed civilians during a recent joint operation with U.S. forces — an allegation that a human rights organization says should be investigated by the Afghan government and the U.S. military.

Human Rights Watch said Wednesday that the incident took place late on Jan. 31 and into the early hours of Feb. 1, when civilians fled U.S. airstrikes in southern Kandahar province. Locals told the organization at least 20 civilians were executed.

An Afghan special operations unit launched an offensive in Kandahar's Maiwand and Panjwai districts against the Taliban on Jan. 31 that was backed by U.S. airstrikes.

At least 50 Taliban fighters — including some key commanders — were killed, Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security said at the time.

Navy Capt. Tom Gresback, a

spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said that "all of those killed in the operation were identified as Taliban fighters." He said U.S. Forces-Afghanistan "takes seriously all allegations of human rights violations reportedly committed by Afghan forces."

Witnesses who spoke to Human Rights Watch said security forces dragged some men from their homes and shot them.

"Summarily executing people in custody, whether they are fighters or civilians, is a war crime," said Patricia Gossman, a researcher at Human Rights Watch. "A prompt and impartial investigation" is needed to determine exactly what happened during the assault, she said.

Ahmad Zia Durrani, a spokesman for Kandahar's police chief, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday two members of a family that had "helped the enemy" were wounded when their house was raided and those were the only civilian casualties caused by the operation.

## New strikes kill 10 people in suburbs of Damascus

Associated Press

BEIRUT — New airstrikes and shelling of the besieged, rebel-held suburbs of the Syrian capital killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens more on Wednesday, a rescue organization and a monitoring group said, adding to a staggering casualty toll that has overwhelmed paramedics and doctors in the past few days.

Syrian government forces and Russian aircraft have shown no signs of letting up their indiscriminate aerial and artillery assault on eastern Ghouta since they stepped up strikes late Sunday as part of a seemingly new, determined push to recapture the territory that has been controlled by rebels since 2012.

At least 260 people have been killed since Sunday night, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights group that closely monitors the fighting through activists on the ground, including 10 in a wave of strikes on the town of Kafr Batna on Wednesday.

The Syrian Civil Defense search-and-rescue group, also known as the White Helmets,

said government forces targeted the town with airstrikes, artillery fire and barrel bombs — crude, explosives-filled oil drums dropped from helicopters at high altitudes. It reported that several other people were wounded.

The locally run Ghouta Media Center reported strikes on Kafr Batna and other towns in the region outside Damascus.

A Syrian doctor working as an anesthesiologist at a hospital in the town of Zamalka, part of the eastern Ghouta region, said the number of casualties from the government's air blitz is overwhelming the hospitals there. Waleed Awata, 44, said his small hospital, with just 17 beds, received 82 patients Tuesday night.

The physician added that the hospital was struck by barrel bombs Tuesday as well as sporadic artillery fire.

The Russian military is supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces and was instrumental in the all-out assault on the eastern half of Syria's largest city, Aleppo, in late 2016 to eject rebels from their enclave there.

# Evangelist Graham dies at 99

Associated Press

MONTREAT, N.C. — The Rev. Billy Graham, who transformed American religious life through his preaching and activism, becoming a counselor to presidents and the most widely heard evangelist in history, died Wednesday. He was 99.

Graham, who long suffered from cancer, pneumonia and other ailments, died at his home in North Carolina, spokesman Mark DeMoss told The Associated Press.

More than anyone else, Graham built evangelicalism into a force that rivaled liberal Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in the United States. His leadership summits and crusades in more than 185 countries and territories forged powerful global links among conservative Christians and threw a lifeline to believers in the communist-controlled Eastern bloc. Dubbed “America’s pastor,” he was a confidant to U.S. presidents from Gen. Dwight Eisenhower to George W. Bush.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan gave Graham the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor. When the Billy Graham Museum and Library was dedicated in 2007 in Charlotte, N.C., former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton attended.

“When he prays with you in the Oval Office or upstairs in the White House, you feel he’s praying for you, not the

president,” Clinton said at the ceremony.

Beyond Graham’s public appearances, he reached untold millions through his pioneering use of prime-time telecasts, network radio, daily newspaper columns, evangelistic feature films and globe-girdling satellite TV hookups. Graham’s message was not complex or unique, yet he preached with a conviction that won over audiences worldwide.

By his final crusade in 2005 in New York City, he had preached in person to more than 210 million people worldwide. No evangelist is expected to have his level of influence again.

“William Franklin Graham Jr. can safely be regarded as the best who ever lived at what he did,” said William Martin, author of the Graham biography “A Prophet With Honor.”

Born Nov. 7, 1918, on his family’s dairy farm near Charlotte, Graham came from a fundamentalist background that expected true Bible believers to stay clear of Christians with even the most minor differences over Scripture. But as his crusades drew support from a widening array of Christian churches, he came to reject that view.

He joined in a then-emerging movement called New Evangelicalism that abandoned the narrowness of fundamentalism to engage broader society. Fundamentalists at the time excoriated the preacher for his new direction, and broke with him

when he agreed to work with more liberal Christians in the 1950s.

Graham stood fast. He would not reject people who were sincere and shared at least some of his beliefs, Martin said. He wanted the widest hearing possible for his salvation message.

Graham’s 12-week London campaign in 1954 defied expectations, drawing more than 2 million people and the respect of the British, many of whom had derided him as little more than a slick salesman before his arrival. Three years later, he held a crusade in New York’s Madison Square Garden that was so popular it was extended from six to 16 weeks, capped off with a rally in Times Square that packed Broadway with more than 100,000 people.

In 1995, his son, Franklin, was named the ministry’s leader. Along with the many honors he received from the evangelical community and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Graham received the \$1 million Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1982 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996.

Graham will be buried by his wife, Ruth, at the Billy Graham Museum and Library.

“I have been asked, ‘What is the secret?’” Graham had said of his preaching. “Is it showmanship, organization or what? The secret of my work is God. I would be nothing without him.”

## Weather causes havoc in many states

Associated Press

MATTAWAN, Mich. — Sandbags were holding back floodwaters in parts of Michigan as a storm system moved across several Midwest and Great Plains states on Wednesday, bringing heavy rain, snow and ice to the region.

The weather has already been blamed for hundreds of car crashes and several fatalities, including the deaths of four people in a crash along a slippery interstate in Nebraska.

Melting snow and heavy rain prompted the National Weather Service to issue flood warnings for parts of northern Illinois and northern Indiana, as well as southern Wisconsin and much of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Flood warnings also were issued for parts of Missouri and Texas.

Flood watches were issued for several states, while winter weather advisories were in effect Wednesday for an area stretching from southwestern Illinois to Texas, including parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas.

The storm system stretched to Texas, where weather service officials said three tornadoes hit. One struck early Tuesday in a rural area near Joshua, destroying at least two mobile homes and severely damaging several others.

## Preventive peanut allergy treatment succeeds in study

Associated Press

The first treatment to help prevent serious allergic reactions to peanuts may be on the way. A company said Tuesday that its daily capsules of peanut flour helped sensitize children to nuts in a major study.

Millions of children have peanut allergies, and some may have life-threatening reactions if accidentally exposed to them. Doctors have been testing daily doses of peanut flour, contained in a capsule and sprinkled

over food, as a way to prevent that.

California-based Aimmune Therapeutics said 67 percent of kids who had its treatment were able to tolerate the equivalent of roughly two peanuts at the end of the study, compared with only 4 percent of others given a dummy powder.

The study involved nearly 500 kids ages 4 to 17 with severe peanut allergies. They were given either capsules of peanut flour or a dummy powder in gradually increas-

ing amounts for six months, then continued on that final level for another six months. Neither the participants nor their doctors knew who was getting what until the study ended.

About 20 percent of kids getting the peanut powder dropped out of the study, 12 percent due to reactions or other problems.

The results have not yet been reviewed by independent experts, but will be presented at a medical meeting next month.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Deputy is stabbed during distress call

**MD** COLLEGE PARK — Authorities said a sheriff's deputy was stabbed while answering a distress call in a Maryland suburb of Washington.

Prince George's County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sharon Taylor told The Washington Post the deputy was taken to a hospital and doing well after being stabbed early Monday morning in College Park. The deputy also suffered a broken jaw and a couple of fractures.

Taylor said an arrest was not made, but a person was taken into custody to receive psychiatric services as is customary in such calls. The family of the person who was the subject of the call told authorities the person was hypoglycemic when the erratic behavior took place.

### Man accused of giving goat whiskey, cocaine

**GA** GRAYSON — A man Georgia authorities say participated in forcing a goat to ingest whiskey and cocaine was charged with aggravated cruelty to animals.

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that Sergio Palomares-Guzman, 28, was arrested Feb. 15 in connection with a videotaped incident believed to be from early January.

The sheriff's office said Palomares-Guzman lived on a ranch where he worked as a horse trainer. The statement says video shows him holding the goat's horns and forcing its mouth open while another man gives it substances. That man and a third suspect remain unidentified.

The sheriff's office said the goat is healthy and has since been adopted.

### 12-year-old arrested after school threats

**IN** DUGGER — Investigators said a 12-year-old girl was arrested after making online threats to students and staff at a school in western Indiana.

Sullivan County sheriff's officials said tips helped authorities find the girl Monday. Investigators believe she's responsible for threats via Snapchat.

Sheriff Clark Cottom said no weapons were found, and she faces a felony charge of intimidation.

The case is among about a dozen involving school threats in Indiana since the shooting last week at a Florida high school that killed 17 students and faculty.

### Boy, 11, receives a summons for jury duty

**PA** WEST CHESTER — One Pennsylvania resident has been called to perform his civic duty a few years earlier than expected.

Jeanette Fox said her son, Luke, 11, received a summons from a Chester County court to appear for jury duty in March.

Fox said she tried to go online to request an exemption but there was no option to select for those too young to serve. She said she made multiple phone calls, and a person who answered said the county had recently changed companies that pull the list for people who receive summonses.

### Attorney: Painkillers caused man to unravel

**DE** WILMINGTON — An attorney for a Maryland man who pleaded guilty to impersonating an FBI agent said the man's life began to un-

ravel when he became addicted to painkillers and was kicked out of the Navy.

Eric Kappesser's public defender is asking a Delaware judge to sentence him to time served. He faces a maximum of three years in prison, but guidelines call for no more than six months behind bars.

Authorities say Kappesser represented himself to others as an FBI agent, including obtaining law enforcement discounts when purchasing firearms accessories and wearing a fake badge.

### Man brandishes toy gun at church mass

**NM** LAS CRUCES — A man caused a scare at a Las Cruces church by brandishing a toy gun during a mass.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reported that the man walked up an aisle of St. Genevieve Church on Sunday and began displaying erratic behavior. Witnesses told the newspaper that the man, who wasn't believed to be a regular attendee, raised an orange toy gun, which popped a few times.

A group of men from the church surrounded the man and escorted him out of the building. Police said the man was intoxicated.

### Officials: No dog meat on menu at restaurant

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles restaurant doesn't have permission to kill as many as three dogs a day and serve the meat to customers, despite claims in a widely shared false story last week.

Health officials said the restaurant doesn't exist.

A post that has appeared online in various forms since at least 2014 surfaced again re-

cently on the site quotes-news. The Los Angeles County Health Department said it has no record of any restaurant named Puchow de Manila Eatery and Fine Dining. Even if there was such a place, the department said the sale of dog meat for human consumption is illegal in California.

The false story quotes World Animal Protection as being "shocked" about the restaurant, but a spokeswoman for that group said it was never asked to comment.

### Tar cakes tires, slows commute on highway

**NJ** OLDMANS TOWN-SHIP — It was a sticky commute on a New Jersey interstate after tar coated the highway.

State Trooper Alejandro Goetz said the tar was in the center and right southbound lanes along a 5-mile stretch of Interstate 295 in Salem County just after 5:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The trooper said about 20 vehicles reported going over the tar between mileposts 13 and 8. The tar stuck to their tires and wheels.

### Students accused of selling drugs in dorm

**CT** HAMDEN — Two students at Quinnipiac University have been charged with selling drugs out of their dorm room, including edible squares made with marijuana and Fruity Pebbles cereal.

Police arrested Patrick Ownbey, 18, of Cherry Hill, N.J., and Shawn Wheeler, 18, of Atkinson, N.H., on Sunday. They were charged with the possession and sale of a controlled substance.

Quinnipiac said both students have been suspended pending disciplinary meetings.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# US women capture cross-country gold

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — As she headed up the steepest, most grueling hill of her life in third place, Jessica Diggins thought to herself just winning an Olympic medal was no longer good enough.

She wanted more. She wanted gold.

Diggins dug deep, remembering all the years of training she had put in, and of all her teammates waiting for her at the finish line to bring home the United States' first medal ever in women's cross-country skiing — and then she let loose.

Diggins reached the peak of the hill in third place but sped past Norway's Maiken Caspersen Falla on the last big, winding downhill. She rounded the final corner and took dead aim at Sweden's Stina Nilsson on the final 100-meter homestretch.

The crowd in the grandstand was on its feet sensing history, and at that moment Diggins said she felt "unstoppable."

"Around that final corner I felt like I was uncoiling a spring and letting it go," Diggins said. "Giving it everything I had, digging as deep as I could and putting it all out there. When your team is counting on you, you don't give up ever."

Diggins certainly didn't give up. She blew by Nilsson in a

blur to capture gold in the team sprint, bringing the United States its first gold medal ever in cross-country skiing.

As she crossed the line she collapsed in exhaustion as teammate Kikkan Randall tackled her in the snow. Randall lay on top of a crying Diggins shaking her ski jacket in pure excitement and utter joy.

"That feeling of being able to cross the line and have Kikkan tackle me was the coolest thing ever," Diggins said.

It was fitting Randall was her partner on the two-woman team. She has been through all of the tough times, competing with the American cross-country ski team since the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. She said it was also fitting that the American women won their first medal in a team event.

"I got to see in 2013 when we won the world championships ... that team gold is worth far more than any individual accolade," the 35-year-old Randall said. "What really kept me going over the last four years was trying to contribute toward a team medal. To do it with Jessie one more time is just amazing."

So move over Bill Koch, you have company — finally.

Koch was the only other American to win a medal in cross-country, taking home

silver at the 1976 Innsbruck Games.

Diggins and Randall ended that 42-year drought and surely gave a huge boost to all of the young cross-country skiers back home in the United States.

"Hearing it out loud, it still doesn't feel real," Randall said. "It's what I've been working on for 20 years and with this team for the last five years and, wow, it's just so fun to put it together tonight — finally."

Added Diggins: "It feels unreal. I can't believe it just happened."

It meant more that their teammates were there to celebrate — and family, too.

Diggins' father, Clay, said he had a feeling this was the day the drought would end. Diggins had three top-six finishes at the Olympics and Randall was skiing well, too. And he said the entire American women's cross-country team came out to practice on Tuesday morning with Diggins and Randall.

"There were only two of them skiing today, but the entire team came out to support them — practicing tags and everything," Clay Diggins said. "That to me is pretty cool. They wanted to be there for them, for the team. And I think Kikkan and Jess felt that (support) on the course."

If not, they certainly felt it after the race.

"Our whole team had that belief we could win and everyone was there screaming," Diggins said of the final sprint. "I don't know if you have that many teams where everyone is out there on the fence yelling their faces off. I just think we had a lot of support behind of us."

Charlotte Kalla sensed the Americans were extra motivated for a medal, saying she saw it in their eyes before the race and felt it when Randall stayed on her heels on the second-to-last lap.

"Olympic champions, they are so worth it," the Swede said. "They were amazing today. I'm really impressed with them."

Sweden took silver and Norway finished with a bronze, which allowed Marit Bjoergen to secure her record 14th medal at the Winter Games. That broke her tie with Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen for the most medals at the Winter Olympics.

Bjoergen, who already had won gold, silver and bronze at the Pyeongchang Games, said she was happy to see the Americans win this one.

"Those two, they are happy girls," Bjoergen said. "And I think that is important for our sport that the USA is there."

## Vonn settles for bronze in Olympic downhill

Associated Press

JEONGSEON, South Korea — Lindsey Vonn knew that the bronze medal she earned Wednesday came in her final Olympic downhill, the signature event of her singular career. She knew that, but she didn't have an easy time processing it.

That's why the words "probably" and "most likely" kept slipping into her sentences. Why she marked the occasion by posing with dozens of folks for a group photo near the finish line. Why she engaged in a series of warm, lengthy hugs — with her sisters; with U.S. coaches; with the winner, her good friend Sofia Goggia of Italy; with the runner-up, Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway. With, seemingly, anyone she could grab hold of.

"I wish I could keep going. I wish this wasn't my last Olympics, but it is," Vonn said, looking down at the snow underfoot and shaking her head, "so I'm trying to accept that and deal with the emotions of that and enjoy the ride."

Goggia finished in 1 minute, 39.22 seconds, just 0.09 seconds faster than Mowinckel. Vonn was 0.47 seconds off Goggia's pace.

"I came here ... with one goal: to beat Lindsey," Goggia said.

Yes, for years now, Vonn has been the standard by which all other female ski racers are judged — and judge themselves. And as much as ski racing has meant to Vonn, and as much as Vonn has meant to her sport, she knows that this is, indeed, goodbye.

She is 33, the oldest woman to ever win an Alpine medal at a Winter Games. Vonn's total of three includes downhill gold and super-G bronze at Vancouver in 2010.

The American wasn't at Sochi in 2014, instead "on the couch, watching," she said, after two operations to repair torn ligaments in her right knee. She's endured a lengthy list of injuries.

"It's taken its toll. And that's why I can't keep ski racing, you know?" she said with a sigh. "I think my injuries made me stronger. I do. Because I wouldn't be the same person that I am today. When you're young, you ski and you win and you don't appreciate things. I've been in the fence so many times. I know so many doctors on a first-name basis that it's ridiculous."

# Czech Republic ousts US men in hockey

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Instead of waiting for his turn for this Olympic shootout, T.J. Oshie was sitting at home along with the rest of the NHL.

Four years after his shootout heroics in Sochi, Oshie could only watch helplessly halfway around the world as Chris Bourque, Ryan Donato, Marc Arcobello, Troy Terry and Bobby Butler got their chances against the Czech Republic with a berth in the semifinals on the line. And it was Ryan Zapski in net instead of Jonathan Quick, who was back in North America on the bench for the Los Angeles Kings' 60th game in an NHL regular season that rolled on, right through the Olympics.

Little-known Czech Republic goaltender Pavel Francouz stopped all five Americans in the shootout and Petr Koukal scored as the United States was eliminated with a 3-2 loss Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

Francouz did his best impression of legendary countryman Dominik Hasek, though

Donato also had him beat and lost the puck. Gone by a matter of inches was a chance to knot the shootout at 1-all, and now the Americans will head home while the Czechs get a semifinal game against the powerhouse Russians.

"It always comes down to the smallest plays and I think at the end of the day you've got to be able to capitalize on those plays to win a game," said Donato, who scored his fifth goal of the tournament in regulation. "It didn't go the way I wanted it to and we wanted it to, but it comes down to those things."

The memorable U.S. win over Russia in the Sochi shootout came in group play and had far less at stake. The U.S. reached the semifinals that time by beating an outmanned Czech Republic team 5-2 on goals by James van Riemsdyk, Dustin Brown, David Backes, Zack Parise and Phil Kessel. Had the NHL gone to South Korea, the U.S. team likely would have overflowed with talented players such as Auston Matthews, Johnny Gaudreau, Patrick Kane, Jack Eichel, Shayne Gostisbehere and Seth Jones.

This team had the best young talent it could select in Terry, Donato and fellow college player Jordan Greenway.

"I think the players that were here did a phenomenal job," coach and former NHL player Tony Granato said. "It was a team that was built to represent our country the way it was represented. Play hard, compete, leave it all on the ice, represent us that way. We did that. So we have a lot to be proud of."

Zapski got better throughout the Olympics, and he stopped 18 of 20 shots in regulation and overtime against the Czechs. The Americans were inches away from a victory several times — when Brian O'Neill clanked it off the bottom of the post with 2:40 left in the third period, when Bobby Sanguinetti's shot left the puck sitting in the crease in the final moments of overtime, when Donato couldn't get the puck past Francouz at the side of the net.

And then came the shootout and another close call for Donato.

"He was making pretty good deke," said Francouz, who

plays for Traktor Chelyabinsk in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League. "He was all over me already, but he kind of lost the puck in the end, so I was happy he didn't score."

The Czech Republic is into the Olympic semifinals for the first time since 2006, when it won bronze. Francouz now hopes to repeat what Hasek and the Czechs did in 1998 in Nagano when they won gold in what was the first Olympic tournament with NHL players.

That chance is gone for the U.S., which improved throughout the tournament but looked somewhat fatigued after needing to play Slovakia in the qualification round Tuesday while the Czechs rested. Even with that, the Americans were right there with the chance to advance and it might've come down to a choice Francouz made for his glove hand as a child growing up in Plzen, Czech Republic. Francouz catches with his right hand, a rarity in hockey, and that meant Terry couldn't use his favorite shootout move.

## Germany surprises US, Canada in women's bobsled

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Women's bobsledding has a new star, and a surprise Olympic champion.

Germany's Mariama Jamanka — a winner of exactly zero major international races in her life until now — drove to gold in the women's bobsled event at the Pyeongchang Games on Wednesday night, adding to her country's dominant showing at the sliding track in these Olympics.

Jamanka and brakeman Lisa Buckwitz finished their four runs in 3 minutes, 22.45 seconds. Elana Meyers Taylor and Lauren Gibbs of the U.S. were second in 3:22.52, the 0.07-second margin being the closest between first and second in

any Olympic women's bobsled race.

Canada's Kaillie Humphries teamed with Phylicia George to get third in 3:22.89.

It was the third consecutive medal for both Meyers Taylor and Humphries. Meyers Taylor won bronze as a push athlete in 2010 and silver as a driver in 2014; Humphries won gold in each of those Olympic races.

Both arrived in South Korea fully expecting gold. Jamanka had other ideas.

She showed absolute nerves of steel in the ultimate moment to win the 18th Olympic gold medal in German bobsled history, the second by a woman.

And there's no question who the best team at the sliding track has been in these Pyeongchang Games. With eight

of the nine events now complete in bobsled, skeleton and luge, Germany has won five golds and will be a favorite to grab yet another in the four-man event that ends on the final day of these games Sunday.

Stephanie Schneider of Germany was fourth, and Jamie Greubel Poser of the U.S. took fifth.

Nigeria, with pilot Seun Adigun and brakewomen Akuoma Omeoga and Ngozi Onwumere — Omeoga was ill and couldn't race Wednesday, so she was subbed out — finished last in the 20-sled field, nearly four seconds behind 19th-place Jamaica.

The Nigerians were the first sled from an African nation to compete in women's bobsled at the Olympics.

"All we have to give is everything we've got," Adigun said.

Meyers Taylor and Jamanka were the last two sleds down the track, and the only two real remaining contenders for gold by that point in the race.

Meyers Taylor finished in 50.73 seconds, jumped out of her sled, threw her arms in the air and celebrated with Gibbs. And then everyone turned their attention to the top of the track, to see if Jamanka could pull off the win.

It wasn't the greatest start for the Germans, and they trailed Meyers Taylor by 0.13 seconds in one of the early splits. But Jamanka picked the perfect line and kept picking up speed, overtaking Meyers Taylor's time in one of the final turns.

## NHL roundup

# Lightning jump all over weary Capitals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The plan was simple: Score early against a weary opponent and ride the momentum the rest of the way.

The Tampa Bay Lightning carried out the strategy perfectly, turning a big first period into a huge 4-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night in a showdown between division leaders in the Eastern Conference.

Washington had played in Buffalo one day earlier, and that played significantly into the game-plan of Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper.

“The big thing for us is, we knew they played [Monday]. The key for that is you’ve got to get the lead,” Cooper said.

Brayden Point sandwiched two goals around a tally by Chris Kunitz to make it 3-0 after

the first period. That proved to be enough of a cushion for goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, who stopped 35 shots to earn his NHL-leading 35th win.

“A good first period, and then we kind of hung on,” Point said.

After Alex Ovechkin notched his NHL-high 36th goal for Washington to make it 3-2 at 11:02 of the third, Nikita Kucherov clinched it with a breakaway goal with 7:02 remaining.

The victory improved Tampa Bay’s NHL-best record to 40-17-3 and kept the Lightning ahead of surging Boston in the Atlantic Division and the Eastern Conference.

“I liked a lot what happened in the first period. I thought we deserved to have a 3-0 lead,” Cooper said. “There are a lot of positives to take out of the game, especially the fact that

we got two points.”

**Flyers 3, Canadiens 2 (OT):** Jakub Voracek scored the tying goal with 1:25 left in regulation and then got the game-winner 1:26 into overtime to lift host Philadelphia over Montreal.

**Blue Jackets 2, Devils 1:** Defenseman Scott Harrington broke a second-period tie with his second goal of the season, and slumping Columbus snapped a three-game skid and ended host New Jersey’s four-game winning streak.

**Predators 3, Red Wings 2:** Viktor Arvidsson scored his third goal in two games and visiting Nashville ended its seven-game skid to Detroit.

**Sharks 3, Blues 2:** Logan Couture and Mikkel Boedker each had a goal and an assist, sending visiting San Jose to a victory over slumping St. Louis.

**Kings 4, Jets 3:** Dion Phaneuf scored on the power play for his third goal in four games with his new team, helping visiting Los Angeles cap a seven-game road trip with a win over Winnipeg.

**Maple Leafs 1, Panthers 0:** Frederik Andersen made 40 saves, James van Riemsdyk scored his 25th goal with 28 seconds left in the first period and surging Toronto blanked visiting Florida.

**Bruins 3, Oilers 2:** David Krejci broke a tie with 1:04 remaining and visiting Boston rallied for three goals in the third period to beat Edmonton.

**Avalanche 5, Canucks 4 (OT):** Nathan MacKinnon scored his team’s fifth power-play goal of the game 3:36 into overtime, lifting visiting Colorado past Vancouver to cap a comeback from three goals down.

## College basketball roundup

# No. 2 Michigan State clinches share of Big Ten crown

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Miles Bridges grabbed the Big Ten trophy, lifted it and flashed an ear-to-ear grin.

Bridges scored 19 points, leading No. 2 Michigan State to an 81-61 win over Illinois on Tuesday night to seal a share of the Big Ten championship.

The Spartans (27-3, 15-2 Big Ten) have won 11 straight and can claim the conference title outright if they win at Wisconsin on Sunday.

Bridges turned down a chance to make millions in the NBA this season to be a college sophomore in part to chase championships, and now he has one.

It is clear, though, he’s not satisfied with a Big Ten title.

“We’re not done yet,” Bridges told the Breslin Center crowd after the game.

Coach Tom Izzo, likewise, isn’t content with winning his eighth Big Ten title.

“It’s one of those years, I’m not satisfied with that one,” Izzo said.

The Fighting Illini (13-16, 3-13) were coming off a win over Nebraska and looked like they were building momentum, competing well enough to trail the Spartans by just three points at halftime.

Michigan State dashed their hopes of pulling off an upset by opening the second half with a 12-1 run to take control and went on to build 20-plus-point leads.

“They don’t have any weaknesses,” Illinois coach Brad Underwood said. “I think they’re really capable of winning the whole thing.”

The cushion allowed Izzo to put his three seniors in and out of the game in the final min-

utes. That gave each of them an opportunity to kiss the school’s logo at midcourt and get an ovation from the crowd, following a tradition Shawn Respert started in 1995 during Izzo’s final season as an assistant under Jud Heathcote.

**No. 16 Ohio State 79, Rutgers 52:** C.J. Jackson scored 18 points to help Ohio State rout Rutgers.

Kaleb Wesson added 14, and Kam Williams, playing his last home game, had 13 as the host Buckeyes (23-7, 14-3 Big Ten) got a feel-good win on senior night, coming on the heels of tough road losses to Penn State and Michigan that dropped them out of first place in the conference.

**No. 18 Rhode Island 95, La Salle 93 (OT):** Jeff Downtin scored 25 points, including four key free throws in the final seconds, as Rhode Island clinched

a share of the Atlantic 10 regular season title with a hard-fought victory at La Salle.

The Rams (22-4, 14-1 Atlantic 10) trailed 30-18 midway through the first half before going on a 14-0 run and taking a 39-37 halftime lead.

**No. 21 West Virginia 71, Baylor 60:** Jevon Carter and Esa Ahmad both scored 15 points as West Virginia beat host Baylor, ending the Bears’ five-game winning streak that had been the longest in the Big 12 Conference.

The Mountaineers (20-8, 9-6 Big 12) were pretty much in control throughout the game, and led by as many as 28 points early in the second half.

Baylor (17-11, 7-8) managed to get within 55-43 with after Terry Maston’s jumper. But that was the last of eight straight points for the Bears that capped off a 21-5 run.