

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Iowa caucus results delayed by tech issues

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Chaos and confusion hung over Iowa on Tuesday and the Democratic Party blamed an app problem for delaying results of its first-in-the-nation presidential contest. Meanwhile, frustrated candidates plowed ahead in their quest for the White House.

More than 12 hours after caucus sites across the state closed, not a single vote had been reported and organizers offered no clear timeline — aside from promising that some of the highly anticipated results of the opening contest of the 2020 primary season would come late Tuesday.

Democratic Party officials in Iowa planned to release a majority of the delayed caucus results by 5 p.m. according to details shared with presidential campaigns Tuesday.

At the same time, the leading candidates tried to spin the uncertainty to their advantage, claiming momentum as they pivoted their campaigns to next-up New Hampshire.

“I’m feeling good,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren told a capacity crowd at a theater in Keene, N.H., on Tuesday morning. “It’s a tight, three-way race at the top. We know that the three of us will be dividing up most of the delegates coming out of Iowa.”

In a sign of the murkiness in the race, it was unclear to which three candidates Warren was referring.

The party told campaigns earlier Tuesday that the delay was a result of a “coding issue in the reporting system” that it said has since been fixed. The state party said the plan was to release results “as soon as possible” later Tuesday. It said

it had verified the accuracy of the collected data and said the problem was not a result of “a hack or an intrusion.”

Still, there were signs that the process was ongoing and laborious. Party officials were sending volunteers and staffers across the state to retrieve hard-copy results so that they could check them against numbers reported from precincts via a mobile app that proved problematic for many users, according to multiple sources working for the state party and granted anonymity to discuss sensitive party information. Many precinct organizers were forced to call in results, while aides entered results from about 1,600 sites manually.

Like Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden also said he was “feeling good” and predicted that the results would be close. Meanwhile, his campaign

raised questions about the integrity of the results if and when they are released.

Before leaving Iowa, an attorney for Biden’s campaign issued a letter to the state party raising concerns about “acute failures ... occurring statewide” and insisting on “full explanations and relevant information regarding the methods of quality control you are employing, and an opportunity to respond before any official results are released.”

Beyond 2020, the debacle invited fresh criticism about Iowa caucuses, a complicated set of political meetings staged in a state that is whiter and older than the Democratic Party. Many used the moment to question whether it was a quaint political tradition whose time had passed.

## US adds ‘low yield’ nuclear weapon to submarine arsenal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has deployed a new addition to its nuclear arsenal — a long-range missile armed with a nuclear warhead of reduced destructive power. The so-called low-yield missile joins other, more powerful weapons aboard stealthy submarines prowling the oceans.

The debut deployment aboard long-range submarines, known as boomers, is a landmark in U.S. nuclear weapons policy.

It is the first major addition to the strategic nuclear arsenal in recent decades and is a departure from the Obama administration’s policy of lessening dependence on nuclear weapons.

In confirming the missile

deployment to The Associated Press, the Pentagon’s top policy official asserted that the weapon makes Americans safer by making nuclear war less likely. Critics, including some Democrats in Congress, call it a dangerous excess that increases the risk of war.

John Rood, the undersecretary of defense for policy, said in an AP interview Monday that adding the “low-yield” warhead, known as the W76-2, to submarines which tote Trident II ballistic missiles lowers the risk of nuclear war. He said the United States will continue its stated policy of using nuclear weapons only in “extraordinary circumstances.” He also said that the warhead will help the U.S. dissuade Russia from

risking launching a limited nuclear conflict.

“This supplemental capability strengthens deterrence and provides the United States with a prompt, more survivable low-yield strategic weapon,” Rood said, adding that it supports the U.S. commitment to deter attacks against allies, and “demonstrates to potential adversaries that there is no advantage to limited nuclear employment because the United States can credibly and decisively respond to any threat scenario.”

The essence of critics’ argument against the low-yield weapon is that it makes the world less safe because it offers decision-makers another option for using a nuclear

weapon in a conflict that could then escalate to a full-blown nuclear war. They also contend that lower-yield air-launched nuclear weapons already in the U.S. arsenal make the W76-2 redundant.

The W76-2 is the Trump administration’s answer to what it calls a Russian misconception of an exploitable “gap” in U.S. nuclear capabilities. By deploying missiles at sea with a lower nuclear yield, or destructive power, the administration aims to dissuade Moscow from thinking it could “win” a war in Europe, for example, by firing its own low-yield nuclear weapon first, forcing Washington and its NATO allies to either commit to full-scale nuclear war or capitulate.

# Fitzgerald underway to test restoration

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

*Stars and Stripes*

The USS Fitzgerald passed another waypoint Monday in its journey back to active service following a fatal collision off of Japan 2½ years ago, according to the Navy.

The destroyer has undergone two years' worth of modernizing and restoration at the Huntington Ingalls Industries-Ingalls Shipbuilding's Pascagoula shipyard in Mississippi. Systems aboard the Fitzgerald, including navigation, damage control, combat and propulsion, will be evaluated while the vessel is underway, according to a Navy statement Monday.

"Since we launched the ship this past April, our efforts have

focused on restoring ship systems, conducting pier side tests and readying the ship for sea," said Rear Adm. Tom Anderson, Naval Sea Systems Command director of surface ship maintenance and modernization and commander of the Navy Regional Maintenance Center.

Seven sailors died June 17, 2017, when the Fitzgerald collided with a container ship, the ACX Crystal, about 60 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka Naval Base, where the warship was based.

Blame fell on the commanding officer at the time, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, and Lt. Natalie Combs, a tactical action officer, who were initially charged with negligent dereliction of duty resulting in death and

negligent hazarding of a vessel. The charges were dropped last year and the two were instead censured by the Navy. Benson retired in December, while a Navy panel in January ruled Combs could do the same.

A Navy report in late 2017 cited crew exhaustion, skipped certifications, poor watchstanding and training and manning problems among the causes of the collision, which the report concluded was preventable.

Two months after the Fitzgerald incident, the destroyer USS John S. McCain collided near Singapore with a commercial tanker, the Alnic MC, killing 10 sailors.

Like the Fitzgerald, the McCain underwent extensive

repairs. It emerged from Yokosuka in October for six days of sea trials. The warship is back in service, according to its official Facebook page.

The Fitzgerald is expected back on the line in the spring, according to its commanding officer, Cmdr. Scott Wilbur. Once the shakedown cruise concludes, the crew will undergo training and certification, according to the Navy.

"We are excited to take the next step to get Fitzgerald back out to sea where the ship belongs," Wilbur was quoted as saying. "My crew is looking forward to moving onboard the ship and continuing our training to ensure we are ready to return to the fleet."

## Marine general slips into Iraq to salvage relations

*Associated Press*

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — The top U.S. commander for the Middle East slipped quietly into Iraq on Tuesday, as the Trump administration works to salvage relations with Iraqi leaders and shut down the government's push for an American troop withdrawal.

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie became the most senior U.S. military official to visit since an American drone strike in Baghdad killed a top Iranian general, enraging the Iraqis. McKenzie met with Iraq leaders in Baghdad and then went to see American troops at al Asad Air base, which was bombed by Iran last month in retaliation for the drone attack.

His visit comes amid heightened anti-American sentiment that has fueled violent protests, rocket attacks on the embassy and a vote by the Iraqi parliament pushing for withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country. And it raises questions about

whether the appearance of a U.S. military commander could spur compromise, or simply inflame tensions and scuttle ongoing negotiations to put Patriot missile batteries in Iraq to better protect coalition forces.

Two reporters traveling with McKenzie for the past two weeks around the Middle East did not go with him into Iraq because the stop was added late and they didn't have required visas.

Top U.S. leaders have so far flatly dismissed Iraqi demands for U.S. troops to leave, adopting what appears to be a wait-and-see attitude with the hope that the problems will pass.

Iraqis, however, were furious over the drone strike at Baghdad's international airport on Jan. 3 that targeted and killed Qassem Suleimani, Iran's most powerful general, but also struck down an Iraq general who was with him. The Iraqi, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, was the deputy commander of Iran-backed militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

## Senators request Pentagon briefing after report on academy sexual assaults

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators has requested a briefing from the Pentagon following the release of an annual report that showed an increase in sexual assaults at the military academies.

A letter addressed to Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday by Sens. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., called the increase in reported incidents "an alarming trend that is heading in the wrong direction.

"While it seems that the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program is empowering cadets and service members to report and seek restorative care, the continued increase in reported incidents from year to year point to a disturbing trend that now requires us to re-examine our efforts to find solu-

tions," the letter reads.

The new report examined the number of sexual assaults reported at the three military academies for the 2018-19 academic year, and also discussed feedback from cadets and midshipmen in focus groups. The report found that reports of sexual assaults at the academies were up 27% last year, with the schools receiving a total of 149 reports of sexual assault, up from 117 the previous year.

The senators wrote that they are requesting a briefing on the report to complete their own separate analysis, and also want a meeting with Pentagon personnel members to discuss its findings and what the department plans to do to address the issue going forward.

Jessica Maxwell, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said in a statement that "as with all congressional correspondence, we will respond directly to the authors of the letter."

# Hong Kong reports its 1st virus death

Associated Press

BEIJING — Hong Kong hospitals cut services as thousands of medical workers went on strike for a second day Tuesday to demand the border with mainland China be shut completely, as a new virus caused its first death in the semi-autonomous territory and authorities feared it was spreading locally.

All but two of Hong Kong's land and sea crossings with the mainland were closed at midnight after more than 2,000 hospital workers went on strike Monday. Hong Kong health authorities reported two additional patients without any known travel to the virus epicenter, bringing the number of locally transmitted cases to four.

The growing caseload "indicates signifi-

cant risk of community transmission" and could portend a "large-scale" outbreak, said Chuang Shuk-kwan, head of the communicable disease branch at the Center for Health Protection.

More than 7,000 health personnel joined the strike Tuesday, according to the Hospital Authority Employees' Alliance, the strike organizer.

Hong Kong's Hospital Authority said it was cutting back services because "a large number of staff members are absent from duty" and "emergency services in public hospitals have been affected."

Hong Kong was hit hard by SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, in 2002-03, an illness from the same virus family as the current outbreak. Trust in Chinese authorities has plummeted following months

of anti-government protests in the Asian financial hub.

The territory's beleaguered leader, Carrie Lam, criticized the strike and said the government was doing all it could to limit the flow of people across the border.

The mainland's latest figures of 425 deaths and 20,438 confirmed infections of the new coronavirus were up sharply from the previous day. Outside mainland China, at least 180 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, one in Hong Kong and the other in the Philippines.

The patient who died in Hong Kong was a 39-year-old man who had traveled to Wuhan, the mainland city where the outbreak started. The Hospital Authority said Tuesday he had pre-existing health conditions.

## More cancer cases reported from tours at Uzbek base

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — For the last six weeks, a private Facebook group set up to help veterans who served at a toxic base in Uzbekistan has been flooded with new members, many with hauntingly familiar stories: I served at K2. I have cancer.

"It was overwhelming," said retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Scott Welsch, a special operations military intelligence officer who deployed to K2, or Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan, in October 2001.

McClatchy exclusively reported in December that the Pentagon had known from the beginning that K2, a former Soviet and Uzbek base, was contaminated with radioactive processed uranium, chemical weapons remnants and underground pools of fuel and solvents that broke through the soil in a "black goo."

Despite the contamination, about 7,000 U.S. forces were deployed there after the 9/11 attacks, from October 2001 to 2005, until Uzbekistan with-

drew permission for the United States to use the base.

After the K2 story became public, the veterans' K2 Facebook site was flooded with new requests to join. Each new member was vetted for their military service. Once accepted, more names of ill veterans began to surface.

By the end of January, the group had recorded 310 cases of cancer.

This week, some of the K2 veterans and surviving spouses are in Washington to talk

to members of Congress and the press for a hearing about the toxic contamination on the base. They also plan to advocate for K2 veterans still struggling to get the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize their illnesses as connected to their time in Uzbekistan.

"We need to get in front of this, it's been killing us for 20 years now," said former Air Force Staff Sgt. Derek Blumke, who deployed to K2 in 2001 and 2003 with the 16th Special Operations Wing.

## Defense firms cash in on wave of classified spending

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Some of the Washington area's biggest defense contractors are making more money than ever from classified military and intelligence programs, top executives told investors last week, as competition with China and Russia drives a wave of secret spending one analyst called "unprecedented in recent history."

Executives from Northrop Grumman and Raytheon reported double-digit growth in classified defense business over the past year.

Northrop Grumman chief executive Kathy Warden told analysts that "restricted" work, a term that refers to classified programs, saw a double-digit increase over 2018. It now accounts for more than a quarter of the company's \$33.8 billion in 2019 sales, she said.

She attributed the change to a shift in the agencies' buying priorities.

"Our customers are increasingly focused on rapidly evolving multidomain peer threats in areas like space, hypersonics and missile defense,"

Warden said in a call with investors. "Our growing share of restricted work demonstrates that our customers are turning to Northrop Grumman for these capabilities."

An analysis of publicly available budget data by Todd Harrison, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, found that classified research and development funding increased by about 52% between 2015 and 2020.

Raytheon chief executive Thomas Kennedy said that his company's classified work

reached a record in 2019 after growing 17% over the previous year. Classified programs now account for about a fifth of the company's \$29 billion in annual sales, he said.

Some officials say that too much of the military's information is classified.

"We're just so over-classified it's ridiculous, just unbelievably ridiculous," said Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a recent event hosted by the Air Force Association.

# Motive sought in fatal California bus shooting

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A gunman who killed a woman and wounded five others on a Greyhound bus in Southern California was cursing and muttering incoherently before the attack, passengers and authorities said.

Investigators are trying to determine a motive for the apparently random assault Monday that left two people in critical condition.

Anthony Devonte Williams, 33, of Capitol Heights, Md., was arrested after passengers managed to disarm him and get him off the bus, California Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Pennings said.

Williams was booked at the Kern County jail Monday evening on suspicion of murder and attempted murder and was held

without bail.

The packed bus was heading from Los Angeles to San Francisco when shots were fired at about 1:30 a.m. Monday on Interstate 5 near the small mountain community of Lebec, about 70 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Passenger Mark Grabban, 29, told The Associated Press that the gunman had been sitting with his leg sticking out into the aisle, muttering to himself incoherently.

“He was just saying weird stuff like ‘you don’t know me like that,’ ‘wait til we get to the station,’ ‘get away from the dude in the striped shirt,’” Grabban said in a series of Instagram messages.

Suddenly, the man started cursing and shooting, Grabban said. Grabban hid beneath the seat in front of him. He said

the gunman fired eight or nine shots that “seemed to go on forever.”

The driver had pulled to the shoulder of the freeway, where authorities said some passengers managed to get the man off the bus.

Grabban said the driver of the stopped vehicle asked over the loudspeaker if anyone had been hurt and did not immediately pull away. “Everyone was screaming at him to drive off,” Grabban said.

The passengers gave first aid to the wounded as the driver continued to the next exit, where he pulled off at a gas station.

Meanwhile, CHP officers took Williams into custody along the road where he had been left. Passengers who did not require medical attention were driven to Northern California on a different bus.

## Pompeo warns of China threat on Europe, Asia trip

Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — The countries Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited on a five nation-tour over the last week varied from longtime ally Britain to ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia. But the message he conveyed to his hosts stayed the same: Beware of China.

In his trip to Europe and Central Asia, Pompeo denounced China’s human rights record, criticized its aggressive trade practices and urged his hosts to be wary of Chinese investment and influence.

He warned that China poses a risk as countries develop next-generation, high-speed wireless networks.

His language was blunt. “The Chinese Communist Party presents the central threat of our times,” Pompeo said last week in London, just days after the European Union unveiled security guidelines for 5G wireless networks that stop short of a ban on Huawei in the latest setback for the U.S. campaign against the Chinese tech company.

Pompeo’s tough rhetoric, on a trip coinciding with the rapid

spread of a new virus that originated in China and threatens global growth, underscores his preoccupation with the country and its recent diplomatic and trade victories.

His comments contrast with President Donald Trump’s more conciliatory language on China. That’s partly because Trump is working to complete a trade deal with President Xi Jinping. When he signed the first phase of the agreement last month, Trump called Xi a “very, very good friend of mine” and said he planned to visit China in the not-too-dis-

tant future.

Trump said then that he and Xi have “developed an incredible relationship.”

Pompeo’s comments in London, however, maintain the tough approach that he and Vice President Mike Pence have espoused about China, driven mainly by the country’s repression of Muslims and ethnic minorities in its western Xinjiang province, but also by what they say are Beijing’s predatory trade practices and development projects that they say put small and poor countries at great risk.

## Court cut short as Weinstein accuser driven to tears

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A key accuser in the New York City rape trial of Harvey Weinstein broke down in tears on the witness stand on Monday during an exhaustive cross-examination over the nature of her relationship with the once-powerful movie mogul.

The drama, which prompted the judge to send the jury home about an hour earlier than usual, came as the defense sought to paint the 34-year-old woman as an opportunistic manipulator who took advantage of Weinstein while pursuing an acting career, even after he allegedly raped her.

The woman said she tried to make Weinstein “my pseudo father” after a rough

upbringing. She said she sent him flattering emails and kept seeing him because “I wanted him to believe I wasn’t a threat.”

“I was afraid of his unpredictable anger,” the woman testified.

She became emotional while reading an email passage about being abused earlier in her life.

It was part of a lengthy confessional email she sent to her then-boyfriend in May 2014 about her relationship with Weinstein. She was bawling as she left the courtroom, and her cries could be heard from a nearby witness room.

She returned after a 10-minute break, but continued to weep loudly, resting her head on the witness stand and blotting

tears with a tissue. The lead prosecutor tried to console her, but she couldn’t continue. Her cross-examination was to resume Tuesday.

“I remember the day I realized I was controlling my world because I was sexually assaulted and that story played out where I played into sexual dynamics with people to feel like I would never be taken advantage of again,” she said, her voice quaking just before the judge halted the proceedings.

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno sought to shoot down the woman’s rape allegation by zeroing in on her admission that she also had noncoerced sexual encounters with Weinstein that she said only happened after “a long negotiation.”

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 166-year-old women's college admits males

**SC** COLUMBIA — A 166-year-old women's college in South Carolina has decided to admit men as residential students, possibly as early as fall 2021.

Columbia College has co-ed evening, graduate and online programs, but this will be the first "co-ed residential day program," college spokeswoman Erika Dawkins said in a news release after the board of trustees voted.

President Carol Moore said the school in Columbia will keep its designation as a women's college by letting women choose to attend co-ed or women-only classes.

That's likely to remain an option as long as class sizes allow it, Moore said.

## Parts of state's Amish Acres up for auction

**IN** NAPPANEE — A popular tourist attraction in northern Indiana that provides a glimpse into the life and history of the Amish is going on the auction block, a newspaper reported.

It's not clear if the auction will mean that Amish Acres in Nappanee will continue in the form it has for the last 50 years.

It includes historical cabins, barns and other structures, most of which date back to the 1800s. It also includes the 400-seat Round Barn Theatre.

## Firefighter applicant accused of arson

**MD** UPPER MARLBORO — A man accused of arson recently attempted to become a volunteer firefighter and was denied

twice, according to fire officials in Maryland.

Francis Ortiz-Oro, 20, and Giancarlo Reyes, 19, were accused of setting a vacant house on fire Jan. 20 in Prince George's County, news outlets reported. Reyes had applied to be a volunteer firefighter with the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department. His application was denied in January 2019 after a background check, Prince George's County Fire/EMS said in a news release.

## Official: Woman, kids, snuck drugs into prison

**MA** CONCORD — A woman visiting a Massachusetts prison with two young children was caught trying to smuggle drugs into the facility over the weekend, prisons officials said.

The package of eight suboxone strips was found in the possession of an inmate who had received them from a visitor, according to a state Department of Correction tweet.

The visitor was interviewed by state police. Because the woman had two children with her, she was not arrested but will be summoned to court. The department did not release her name.

Suboxone is used to treat heroin addiction but can be misused to get high.

## Ambulance stolen, driven 200 miles

**LA** BOSSIER CITY — A woman accused of stealing an ambulance in Texas was arrested after a police chase in Louisiana ended in a traffic jam.

Kendall Tyson, 19, was located behind the wheel of the ambulance along Interstate 20 near Shreveport, Louisiana State Police Trooper First

Class Brent Hardy said in a news release.

Slowed traffic near Bossier City brought the chase to a stop, police said. The ambulance had been stolen from Dallas, about 200 miles away.

## City bans pet owners from tying up animals

**AL** GADSDEN — An Alabama city is taking steps to outlaw the tethering of animals.

The Gadsden City Council recently passed an ordinance to ban tying up animals but won't enforce it until after a grace period, The Gadsden Times reported.

Some cities allow tethering, but only for a certain amount of time. But Gadsden Police Chief Lamar Jaggears said police and animal control officers don't have time to monitor how long a dog has been outside.

The chief said a ban on tethering is more easily enforceable.

## Video game equipment stolen in armed robbery

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Police arrested three people following an armed robbery during which store employees were tied up and thousands of dollars of video game equipment was stolen near San Diego.

Two suspects wearing masks and hooded sweatshirts robbed a GameStop store at gunpoint in Lemon Grove, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

The robbers used zip-ties to subdue the employees and made off with about \$4,500 worth of Nintendo Switch consoles and controllers, the statement said.

Detectives tracked the suspects to a home in nearby National City.

Authorities arrested Gerald Haynes, 27, on suspicion of robbery and Margie Daniels, 31, on suspicion of possession of stolen property.

## Man accused in theft of alcohol at golf match

**AZ** PHOENIX — A man accused of stealing alcohol at the Waste Management Phoenix Open fled from event workers, climbed a fence and jumped into a canal, where he was rescued and then arrested, according to police.

Scottsdale police Sgt. Ben Hoster told the Arizona Republic that Quinn Jamieson, 20, was accused of stealing alcohol at the golf tournament and was chased inside the event by staff.

Hoster said Jamieson climbed the fence, jumped into the canal and swam for about 10 minutes. He was unable to get out on his own so firefighters rescued him.

## Man mistakenly pumps gas onto deck of boat

**FL** ORLANDO — Mistakenly inserting a fuel nozzle into a fishing pole slot, a Florida man pumped \$60 worth of gasoline onto the deck of his boat and the ground of a gas station, fire rescue officials said.

The incident happened in the Orlando area, Orange County Fire Rescue spokesman Mike Jachles said on Twitter.

The gas flowed from the fishing pole hole and onto the deck of the 24-foot boat. The 31-year-old man realized his mistake and quit pumping.

As he tried to clean up the mess, the gasoline began leaking from the boat onto the ground at the 7-Eleven store. He told personnel and then called the fire department, Jachles said.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Missing players fuel trade speculation

Associated Press

It is the time of year when every injury report causes eyebrows to raise.

D'Angelo Russell, not in Golden State's lineup at Washington on Monday?

Hmmm.

Tristan Thompson, scratched by the Cleveland Cavaliers for their game against New York the same night?

Interesting.

That's because it's the week of the NBA trade deadline, when teams need to be careful with the health of players they might be trying to deal.

The deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m. EST. It arrives quickly now, once the NBA moved it from its longtime spot on the calendar after the All-Star break to its current one the week before. It allows traded players to use the break to acclimate themselves to a new situation, rather than returning to a team that might deal them a couple of days later.

Russell could be making

that adjustment. He's been considered a trade possibility since virtually the moment the Warriors acquired him from Brooklyn in July in the sign-and-trade transaction that sent Kevin Durant across the country. He's a point guard coming off his first All-Star season, is under contract for a few more years, and plays in a backcourt where the Warriors will eventually have Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson again.

So it was hardly a surprise when word came Monday that Russell wouldn't play. The depleted Warriors know as well as anyone how quickly injuries can pop up and wreck things.

They hadn't made a trade during the season under coach Steve Kerr until dealing Willie Cauley-Stein to Dallas last month. The buzz remains around Russell, leading Kerr to have conversations with his players he never had to consider before.

"It feels different this year, obviously, because of the cir-

cumstances that we find ourselves in," Kerr told reporters in Washington. "Definitely different set of circumstances, so I have to address those circumstances as a coach in terms of what that means for our team, for individual players."

A former Kerr player, the NBA Finals MVP from his first season, could be available by trade. Andre Iguodala is still on the roster of the Memphis Grizzlies, who haven't played him this season.

The Grizzlies made a deadline deal last year that had a massive impact on the championship chase, when they traded Marc Gasol to Toronto. He became the starting center on their first NBA title team.

It's unclear if any big moves are left for February after nearly half the players in the league changed teams in the summer. But without a clear-cut favorite like the Warriors of recent years, more teams who believe they are contenders could be enticed to swing a deal.

A player like Tristan Thompson, with NBA Finals experience but now a veteran on a losing team that's committed to youth, is the type of player who teams could call about. And a team like the New York Knicks, with a number of veterans on short-term contracts but mired near the bottom of the standings, could have reason to be active before Thursday.

In the meantime, keep an eye on the lineups.

## Flying into February

Portland's difficult four-game week includes games at Denver and Utah, two of the best in the West.

Good thing for the Trail Blazers they have basketball's hottest player to lead them there.

Damian Lillard averaged 45 points and 11 assists in leading Portland to a 3-0 record last week. He finished off that stretch with 51 points and 12 assists against the Jazz on Saturday, giving him three 50-point games in his last six outings.

## NBA roundup

# Miami's Butler scores 38 points against former team

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 38 points against his former team before getting the fourth quarter off, and the Miami Heat ran away in the second half to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 137-106 on Monday night.

Goran Dragic scored 24 points for Miami, Duncan Robinson had 19 and All-Star Bam Adebayo finished with 18 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the Heat, who set a season high for points and victory margin.

"We want Jimmy to be aggressive," Dragic said. "He's our leader."

For Philadelphia, it was more of the same. The team with an NBA-best 22-2 home record

lost for the 10th time in its last 12 road games. Joel Embiid led the 76ers with 29 points and 12 rebounds, and Ben Simmons had 16 points.

Miami won the season series, 3-1.

"We just want to get better as the season goes on and we knew that this game was important just from the standpoint of being able to go up 3-1 against one of the teams we're jostling against in this competitive Eastern Conference," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It matters."

**Clippers 108, Spurs 105:** Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points, Paul George added 19 and host Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter.

**Celtics 123, Hawks 115:** Jayson Tatum scored 28 points

and Grant Williams drove for a key basket in the final minute, leading Boston to a win at Atlanta for its fourth straight victory.

**Mavericks 112, Pacers 103:** Kristaps Porzingis had 38 points and 12 rebounds to lead Dallas to a win at Indiana.

**Warriors 125, Wizards 117:** Alec Burks scored 30 points, Glenn Robinson III added 22 and Golden State overcame another big performance by Bradley Beal to win at Washington.

**Grizzlies 96, Pistons 82:** Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 17 rebounds, Dillon Brooks added 15 points and host Memphis defeated Detroit to sweep the season series.

**Magic 112, Hornets 100:** Nikola Vucevic scored 22 points, Aaron Gordon had 16

points and 12 rebounds, and Orlando snapped a five-game skid with a win at Charlotte.

**Knicks 139, Cavaliers 134 (OT):** Marcus Morris Sr. scored 26 points, including the go-ahead jumper with a minute left in overtime, and New York won at Cleveland.

**Kings 113, Timberwolves 109:** De'Aaron Fox scored 31 points, Bogdan Bogdanovic made five free throws in the final 69 seconds and host Sacramento held off a late run to hand Minnesota its 12th consecutive loss.

**Nets 119, Suns 97:** Caris LeVert equaled a career high with 29 points in his first start in nearly three months, helping host Brooklyn overcome the absence of Kyrie Irving to beat Phoenix.

# US women win Olympic qualifying group

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Christen Press and Samantha Mewis each scored a pair of goals and the United States beat Costa Rica 6-0 on Monday night to finish atop its group in the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying tournament.

The World Cup-winning U.S. team extended its unbeaten streak to 26 games. The Americans wrapped up the group stage with three shutouts and 18 goals.

Both teams had already earned a spot in the semifinals

of the tournament later this week in Carson, Calif. Eight teams are playing in the tournament, which will determine the region's two berths to the Tokyo Olympics this summer.

The semifinal matchups were to be determined Tuesday when Canada plays Mexico in Edinburg, Texas. The winner of that match will avoid the top-ranked Americans.

Press extended her scoring streak to four straight games with a goal in the fourth minute. Lindsey Horan, who had a hat trick in the U.S. team's 8-0

victory over Panama on Friday, scored six minutes later.

Press, who plays for Utah of the National Women's Soccer League, added her second goal in the 36th minute.

Mewis scored off a free kick by Press in the 63rd minute and Jessica McDonald added a goal in the 77th before Mewis' second goal, which appeared to just barely hit the line after deflecting down off the crossbar.

The crowd at Houston's BBVA Compass Stadium was announced at 7,082. Already eliminated, Haiti beat Panama

6-0 in the other group game.

Costa Rica rested top players Shirley Cruz and Raquel Rodriguez in anticipation of the semifinals on Friday.

The U.S. has qualified for every Olympics since women's soccer was introduced in 1996, and has won the gold medal four times. The team has five consecutive titles in the qualifying tournament.

Six teams have already made the field for Tokyo: Japan; Brazil; Great Britain; the Netherlands; Sweden; and New Zealand.

## WADA requests public hearing for Russia case

Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Anti-Doping Agency wants a rare public hearing for sport's highest court to judge a four-year slate of punishments faced by Russia for persistent cheating.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport is preparing a hearing expected within weeks for the blockbuster case in Switzerland.

"It is WADA's view — and that of many of our stakeholders — that this dispute at CAS should be held in a public forum to ensure that everybody understands the process and hears the arguments," the Montreal-based agency's director general, Olivier Niggli, said in a statement.

Urged on by President Vladimir Putin, Russia's anti-doping agency, known as RUSADA, is formally challenging a WADA ruling in December to declare it noncompliant after key data from the Moscow testing laboratory was corrupted.

The CAS panel of three judges will have the power to enforce WADA-recommended sanctions, including a ban on Russia's team name, flag and anthem at Olympic Games and world championships.

WADA also wants Russian

athletes to compete as neutrals at the Olympics and major events only if they pass a vetting process which examines their history of drug testing and possible involvement in lab cover-ups of positive tests.

CAS hearings can be opened to media and public observers in some cases when both parties consent.

The court held its first public hearing for 20 years in November when WADA appealed a ruling by swimming's world body not to ban China's three-time Olympic gold medalist Sun Yang for alleged doping rule violations.

Evidence was heard over almost 10 hours in a lakeside hotel ballroom at Montreux, Switzerland, with media attending and proceedings streamed live on the court's website. A verdict is expected this month.

However, it is unclear if the WADA vs. Russia case fits the limited scope of CAS cases which can be heard in public.

The Sun Yang case is a more traditional appeal in a disciplinary case involving a single athlete.

The latest Russian case is an arbitration dispute between two institutions.

## NFL Hall of Famer Wood, 83, dies of natural causes

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Willie Wood, the Hall of Fame defensive back who won five NFL championships with the Green Bay Packers under coach Vince Lombardi and made the first interception in Super Bowl history, died Monday. He was 83.

Wood died of natural causes in Washington, according to Robert Schmidt, his longtime friend and former teammate at Southern California. Wood had suffered from advanced dementia for several years.

After being undrafted out of Southern California, Wood sent postcards to several NFL teams seeking a tryout. The 5-foot-10, 190-pounder signed as a free agent with the Packers and played safety for them from 1960-71.

"The Packers saw his heart while the others saw his size," Jim Hill, who played for the Packers from 1972-74 and now is sports director for KCBS-TV in Los Angeles, told The Associated Press. "Vince had an eye like Joe Torre or Tom Lasorda. He could see talent where other people couldn't."

Wood had a key interception in the first Super Bowl, returning it 50 yards to set up a third quarter touchdown that sealed

the Packers' 35-10 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in 1967.

"Willie was Mr. Packer on defense along with Ray Nitschke," Hill said. "Willie set the tone and the pace for people who played safety — very smart, very articulate, a good tackler. Anything that was good about sports and football was Willie Wood."

Wood had a 31-yard punt return in the second Super Bowl that stood as a record for 16 years. The Packers beat the Oakland Raiders 33-14 in the 1968 title game.

"The Green Bay Packers family lost a legend," Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy said. "Willie's success story, rising from an undrafted rookie free agent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is an inspiration to generations of football fans. While his health challenges kept him from returning to Lambeau Field in recent years, his alumni weekend visits were cherished by both Willie and our fans."

Wood was a nine-time All-NFL first or second team honoree, an Associated Press All-Pro from 1964-68, and played in eight Pro Bowls. He won five of the six NFL championship games he played in. In his career, he had 48 interceptions.

## NHL roundup

## Pysyk's hat trick propels Panthers

Associated Press

TORONTO — Mark Pysyk scored three times for his first career hat trick, and the Florida Panthers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3 on Monday night.

Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist for Florida, which trailed 3-1 early in the third period. Mike Matheson had three assists, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 31 saves in the Panthers' seventh win in eight games.

Frederik Andersen started for Toronto and stopped seven of eight shots, but was forced into concussion protocol after getting bumped into at least three times — with the worst coming on a collision with Florida center Frank Vatrano.

Coach Sheldon Keefe said his No. 1 goalie passed concussion protocol, but he didn't know if he would practice Tuesday before the Leafs fly to New York for a meeting with the Rangers on Wednesday.

Auston Matthews, William Nylander and John Tavares scored for Toronto, which had won three in a row. Mitch Marner had two assists.

"I don't think the result is in any way indicative of the way the game went," Keefe said. "When you talk about the maturity of our team, a lot of the narrative is how we can't defend. That's the best defensive game we've played the entire season. I don't know if we gave up over four scoring chances at even-strength.

"(We) just got distracted by the 3-1 goal and perhaps that's an area we'd like to have back and do better job of. There's a lot of things to like about what we did."

Matthews' 37th goal of the season made it 3-1 38 seconds into the third. But Pysyk and Huberdeau scored 58 seconds apart, tying it at 3 at 3:18.

Hoffman put the Panthers ahead to stay when he banked his 19th off Leafs defenseman Cody Ceci and through Hutchinson's pads at 10:30.

"It's just one of those series of unfortunate events that ends up in the back of your net," Hutchinson said.

**Stars 5, Rangers 3:** Joe Pavelski scored power-play goals 16 seconds apart, leading visiting Dallas past New York.

Stephen Johns and Blake Comeau scored 4:04 apart in the second period for the Stars, who improved to 30-18-4 with their second straight win. Corey Perry also scored, and Anton Khudobin stopped 33 shots.

Pavel Buchnevich and Brett Howden scored power-play goals for the Rangers in the first, and Brendan Lemieux added another with the man advantage in the third.

New York had won two straight coming out of the All-Star break and a bye week as the front office weighs its options ahead of the Feb. 24 trade deadline.

**Flyers 3, Red Wings 0:** Brian Elliott made 16 saves for his 40th career shutout, helping visiting Philadelphia beat Detroit.

Scott Laughton, Kevin Hayes and defenseman Matt Niskanen scored for the Flyers, who won for the fourth time in five games. It was Elliott's second shutout of the season.

The goals by Hayes and Niskanen were short-handed.

The Red Wings were shut out for the second straight game. Detroit has lost nine straight overall.

## Top 25 roundup

## No. 1 Baylor earns 19th straight win

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Baylor wasn't dominant, just good enough to lead Kansas State throughout and maintain its roll.

Jared Butler scored 20 points and the No. 1 Bears extended their school-record winning streak to 19 games, beating the Wildcats 73-67 on Monday night.

MaCio Teague added 15 points and Davion Mitchell scored 13 for Baylor (20-1, 9-0 Big 12), which is off to the best start in league play by any Big 12 team since 2011.

"We have a bunch of glue guys," Bears coach Scott Drew said. "We have blue-collared, hard-working guys that live in the gym, and most of them have just gotten better and better."

Xavier Sneed tied a career high with 23 points, Cartier Diarra scored 11 and Makol Mawien had 10 for Kansas State (9-13, 2-7), which lost to Baylor for the first time since 2017.

The Bears went 24-for-48 from the floor, including 9-for-22 from three-point range, while the Wildcats were 22-for-48 from the field and 8-for-21 from deep.

Baylor's struggles from the free-throw line helped Kansas State get closer, even though the Wildcats were never a threat to win. The Bears were 16-for-29 on free throws while Kansas State was 15-for-19.

The Wildcats gave the ball up 16 times, including four in the first three minutes as Baylor jumped out to an 8-0 lead and never trailed.

"It's tough to spot them that many points and work your way back," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "I just challenged them in the timeout and they responded well."

The Bears are 5-0 on the road in conference play.

**No. 3 Kansas 69, Texas 58:** Udoka Azubuike scored 17 points and the host Jayhawks beat the Longhorns.

Devon Dotson added 16 points and Marcus Garrett scored 11 for Kansas (19-3, 8-1 Big 12), which has won seven straight, including four since an ugly brawl in the closing seconds of a win over rival Kansas State.

Matt Coleman III scored 20 points to lead Texas (14-8, 4-5), which stayed within a possession of the lead for much of the game.

A lob from Marcus Garrett to Azubuike fueled an 8-0 run for the Jayhawks midway through the second half, building a 52-42 lead.

**No. 8 Florida State 65, North Carolina 59:** Patrick Williams had 14 points and nine rebounds, Trent Forrest also scored 14 and the host Seminoles beat the Tar Heels.

RaiQuan Gray had 10 second-half points as Florida State (19-3, 9-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) moved within a win of its best-ever start in league play. The Seminoles opened 10-2 in ACC play in 2011-12.

Cole Anthony started in his second game back from knee surgery for UNC (10-12, 3-8). The freshman guard scored 16 points on 5-for-23 shooting and added seven rebounds.