

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Pelosi shreds speech after State of the Union

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Standing before a Congress and a nation sharply divided by impeachment, President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address to extol a “Great American Comeback” on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of “American carnage” under his predecessor.

The partisan discord was on vivid display Tuesday, as the first president to campaign for reelection after being impeached made his case for another term: Republican legislators chanted “Four More Years.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ripped up her copy of Trump’s speech as he ended the address.

“America’s enemies are on the run, America’s fortunes are on the rise and America’s future is blazing bright,” Trump declared. “In just three short

years, we have shattered the mentality of American decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America’s destiny. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never going back.”

Holding out the nation’s economic success as the chief rationale for a second term, Trump’s speech resembled a lower-volume version of his campaign rallies, providing something for every section of his political base.

When Trump climbed to the House rostrum, he did not take Pelosi’s outstretched hand, though it was not clear he had seen her gesture. Later, as Republicans often cheered, she remained in her seat, at times shaking her head at his remarks.

When Pelosi left, she told reporters that tearing up the speech was “the courteous thing to do considering the al-

ternative.” Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday said that her behavior marked a “new low.”

Trump, the former reality TV star, added a showbiz flavor to the staid event. He had his wife, Melania, present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, to the divisive conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, who recently announced that he has advanced lung cancer.

The president entered the evening on a roll, with his impeachment acquittal imminent, his job approval numbers ticking upward and Wall Street looking strong. He struck a largely optimistic tone. But in past moments when Trump has struck a tone of bipartisanship and cooperation, he has consistently returned to harsher rhetoric within days.

Trump spent much of the speech highlighting the economy’s strength, stressing how it

has helped blue-collar workers and the middle class, though the period of growth began under his predecessor, Barack Obama. And what Trump calls an unprecedented boom is, by many measures, not all that different from the solid economy he inherited from Obama. Economic growth was 2.3% in 2019, matching the average pace since the Great Recession ended a decade ago in the first year of Obama’s eight-year presidency.

While the White House said that the president was offering a message of unity, he also spent time on issues that have created great division and resonated with his political base. He attacked Democrats’ health care proposals for being too intrusive and again highlighted his signature issue — immigration — trumpeting the miles of border wall that have been constructed.

Navy SEAL on trial in nude pictures scheme

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk)

NORFOLK, Va. — A court-martial for a member of the Navy’s SEAL Team 6, who has been charged in connection with a scheme to receive nude photographs from a woman he worked with, began Tuesday.

Military prosecutors say that Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Howard used text messaging apps that allowed him to use a fake phone number and pretend to be someone he is not in order to request nude pictures.

Lt. Kirwinn Mike, a Navy prosecutor, accused Howard of pretending to be a female performance dietitian who worked for the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. Mike said

that while pretending to be the dietitian, Howard told a woman by text message that he could provide her a body-fat analysis if she texted a picture of herself naked from the neck down and provided other measurements.

“It’s 100% safe,” one text message said. “You don’t have to worry.”

“He was willing to be whoever he needed to be to get those photos,” Mike said during opening statements.

Eventually, the woman who was asked for a nude photograph became suspicious and contacted the person the messages were purportedly sent from. The real-life dietitian then contacted authorities be-

cause she worried that other questions which were asked about SEAL identities could be a threat, perhaps from a foreign intelligence service.

Howard’s civilian defense attorney countered that while the text messages are real, there’s no evidence Howard sent them. Nor are there any nude photos on his phone or the victim’s phone.

“Their case is in shambles,” Michael Waddington said. “You pull one string, it falls apart.”

Mike said that Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators were able to trace the apps to an Internet Protocol address registered to Howard’s Virginia Beach home.

But Waddington said that the email address used to create the text messaging accounts aligns with another SEAL’s nickname, and that Howard was in Afghanistan when the original email account was created in Iowa. He said anyone could have linked that email address to Howard’s IP address.

He also tried to cast doubt on the NCIS investigation during opening statements by saying that investigators were given the names of 23 people the messages could’ve been from, but they failed to follow up on those leads.

The court-martial at Naval Station Norfolk is scheduled to last through Friday.

Baghdad tells its military to cease reliance on US

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi government has told its military not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led coalition forces in operations against Islamic State, two senior Iraqi military officials said. The move comes amid a crisis of mistrust tainting U.S.-Iraq ties after an American strike killed a top Iranian general and Iraqi militia commander.

Officially, the Iraqi military announced Jan. 30 that it and the coalition resumed joint military operations after a three-week halt. The pause was called amid soaring tensions following the Jan. 3 U.S. airstrike ordered by President Donald Trump that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

But in practice, Iraqis are seeking to minimize coalition assistance against ISIS, based on government orders, two Iraqi military officials and one militia official said this week.

“After the killing of Soleimani, the Iraqi government decided to inform us formally not to cooperate and not to seek assistance from the U.S.-led international coalition in any operation,” a senior military intelligence official told

The Associated Press.

The U.S.-led coalition paused its mission to fight ISIS in Iraq on Jan. 5 in the wake of the strike. That same day Shiite lawmakers, irate by what they called a flagrant violation of sovereignty, pushed a non-binding resolution requesting that the government cancel legal agreements that provide the basis for U.S. troop presence in the country.

Outgoing Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has stated publicly that U.S. troops must go, but has stepped back from unilaterally canceling existing agreements, saying the matter was up to the next prime minister to decide. Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Allawi has not made his policy toward the troop presence known.

U.S. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top American commander for the Middle East, met Tuesday with Iraqi leaders and acknowledged that joint military operations and training have been scaled back, though he said U.S. special operations forces are doing some missions with Iraqi commandos.

“We’re still in a period of turbulence. We’ve got a ways to go,” he said.

‘US Navy’ coveralls sell out on store’s website

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Stars and Stripes

A \$120 pair of blue “U.S. Navy” coveralls, the baggy attire worn by some sailors at work, has sold out on a fast-fashion retailer Urban Outfitters’ website.

Posted as a “vintage item,” the one pair listed for sale was no longer available Wednesday.

“Only one pair is available for purchase by one lucky customer, so get them before they’re gone!” Urban Outfitters stated on the sale page. “Please note, this vintage item is final sale and cannot be returned or exchanged.”

The mark-up was substantial; a pair of standard-issue Navy coveralls sells for \$27.89 on the Navy Exchange website.

Navy uniform guidance indicates coveralls are worn at the commander’s discretion and to avoid soiling other uniforms. According to regulations, coveralls are worn with black boots, black socks, a black belt with a silver clip, a silver buckle and the service member’s name on a white fabric tape on the right of the chest.

People who commented on the coverall sale page had a field day.

“I’m selling some that come in ‘New recruit blue’ and ‘Working party worn’ for that ‘distressed’ look,” wrote someone with the username SN_Smuckatelli. “Go talk to a Navy recruiter, they’ll show you how to get 3 pair for free!”

Another identified as moll15 added: “I had to go through bootcamp to get them. If you’re not ready to commit to the life of a Navy sailor, then don’t wear our uniforms.”

In 2017, Forever 21 received similar criticism for marketing its own brand of military-style clothing, in this case a “repurposed” Army physical-training T-shirt bearing the stylized graphic “A.”

Army offers \$60K bonuses for new air defense warrant officers

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army is offering big bucks to lure more warrant officers into the air defense artillery branch, where specialists are in high demand to meet an expanding set of global missions.

The Army said it will pay a \$60,000 bonus in the hopes of attracting new warrant officers to fill manning gaps. Sixty-eight new ADA warrant officers are needed each year, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathon Boone said in a recent Army statement.

“We always need three warrant officers per (ADA) unit, and 12 warrant officers per battalion,” Boone said.

There are three ADA warrant

officer specialties: command and control systems integrator, air and missile defense tactician, and air and missile defense systems technician.

The \$60,000 bonus is open just to new defense tacticians and technicians, the Army said.

The service added it will accept warrant applicants from service members in other branches interested in switching to the Army.

The Army has recently placed Short-Range Air Defense capabilities near the top of its priority list as it seeks to counter adversaries like Russia and China.

Most SHORAD units in the active Army stood down in the aftermath of the Cold War, as the military shifted focus to

counterinsurgency operations. However, Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine in 2014 and backing of separatists in the ongoing conflict in the country was a turning point for the Army.

The war in eastern Ukraine sparked renewed interest in rebuilding air-defense capabilities needed to combat more sophisticated weaponry than what troops faced during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The push for more firepower is happening across the Army. Three years ago, none of the Army’s 10 active divisions had short-range air defense battalions assigned to them. In 2019, the Army said it would add 10 SHORAD units by 2024.

Buttigieg holds edge in partial Iowa results

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Pete Buttigieg held a slight lead over Bernie Sanders in the opening contest of the Democratic race for the presidential nomination, according to partial results released by the Iowa Democratic Party.

The results that came out late Tuesday followed 24 hours of caucus chaos. Technical problems marred the complicated process, forcing state officials to apologize and raising questions about Iowa's traditional place atop the presidential primary calendar.

It was too early to call a winner based on the initial results from Monday's caucuses, but Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar were trailing in the tally of State Delegate Equivalents, according to the data released nearly a day after voting concluded.

The results reflected 71% of precincts in the state.

The two early leaders — Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., and Sanders,

Vermont's senator — were separated by 40 years in age, conflicting ideology and more.

Sanders, 78, a self-described democratic socialist, has been a progressive powerhouse for decades. For Buttigieg, 38, his early standing cemented his transformation from a little-known city leader to a legitimate force in the 2020 contest. Buttigieg is also the first openly gay candidate to earn presidential primary delegates.

"We don't know all of the numbers, but we know this much: A campaign that started a year ago with four staff members, no name recognition, no money, just a big idea — a campaign that some said should have no business even making this attempt — has taken its place at the front of this race," Buttigieg said as he campaigned in next-up New Hampshire.

Buttigieg's early rise was rivaled for possible importance by the struggle of another moderate, Biden.

One of his party's most accomplished figures, Biden was mired in the second tier of

Iowa candidates with almost two-thirds of precincts reporting. Biden's campaign sought to play down the caucus results even before they were released, hardly a measure of strength for a high-profile contender who has led national polls for most of the last year.

"We believe we will emerge with the delegates we need to continue on our path to nomination," said Symone Sanders, a senior adviser.

While all campaigns were eager to spin the Iowa results to their advantage, there was little immediate indication that the incomplete results erased the confusion and concern that loomed over the caucuses. It was unclear when the full results would be released.

During a private conference call with campaigns earlier in the day, the chairman of the state party, Troy Price, declined to answer questions about the timeline — even whether it would be days or weeks.

"We have been working day and night to make sure these results are accurate," Price said at a subsequent news

conference.

The leading candidates pressed on in New Hampshire, which votes Tuesday. Billionaire Michael Bloomberg sensed opportunity after Iowa, and said that he would double his already massive advertising campaign and expand his sprawling staff focused on a series of delegate-rich states voting next month.

The caucus crisis was an embarrassing twist after months of promoting Iowa as a chance for Democrats to find some clarity in a jumbled field. Instead, after a buildup that featured seven rounds of debates, nearly \$1 billion spent nationwide and a year of political jockeying, caucus day ended with no winner, no official results and many fresh questions about whether Iowa can retain its coveted "first" status.

Price said that he expected efforts to strip Iowa of its status to continue.

"That conversation takes place every four years," Price told reporters Tuesday. "There's no doubt that that conversation will take place again."

Judge OKs limited release of Pentagon Papers case records

Associated Press

BOSTON — The government must release some documents that will shed light on two grand juries that sat in Boston nearly 50 years ago to investigate the leak of the Pentagon Papers, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

The records detailing the probe into the publication of records that exposed the deceit of American policymakers during the Vietnam War were sought by Jill Lepore, a Harvard University professor and New Yorker staff writer.

Lepore filed a petition in 2018

seeking the long-secret documents from the 1971 grand juries, saying that the records would "fill a significant gap in the public's understanding of the Pentagon Papers episode and contribute to contemporary debates over press freedom and national security."

U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs said in her written decision that she would grant a "limited disclosure" of the grand jury materials, but not allow the "unfettered" access Lepore sought.

Court hears arguments in Ohio gunman case

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A school district is before the state high court fighting the release of student records of a gunman who killed nine people in Dayton last year.

Lawyers for Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools say that state and federal law protecting student privacy bar the release of confidential information without consent.

"There is nothing in the case law interpreting those two statutes that would advise an Ohio school administrator that either protection terminates upon the death of the student," attorneys for the district argued in a Jan. 14 filing.

Likewise, media groups seeking the records' release say that nothing in the laws prevent the information's release.

The Ohio Supreme Court could next decide to set oral arguments or simply rule on the case, though no final decision is expected for several weeks.

The records could shed light on whether authorities properly handled early warning signs exhibited by gunman Connor Betts, the media outlets, including The Associated Press, have argued.

The Supreme Court took the case after an appeals court ruled in favor of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek schools and its denial of access to Betts' high school files.

Trial begins for ex-CIA worker in leaking case

The Washington Post

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors Tuesday opened their case against a former CIA software engineer they say leaked a massive trove of the agency's secret hacking tools to take revenge on his former colleagues and bosses.

Joshua Schulte, 31, is charged with disclosing classified information to WikiLeaks after allegedly stealing it from a secretive CIA unit where he worked. In more than 8,000 pages of material published in 2017 — known as the Vault 7 leaks — WikiLeaks showed how the CIA breaks into smartphones and internet-connected devices, including televisions.

The disclosure “was the single biggest leak of classified national defense information in the history of the CIA,” Assistant U.S. Attorney David Denton told jurors. Denton said that as a result of the disclosure, CIA operations had “come to a halt,”

U.S. intelligence officers serving overseas had been exposed and American adversaries were able to turn cyberweapons developed by the CIA against the United States.

Schulte has pleaded not guilty to 11 criminal counts.

Over the months that the case has wound its way to trial, Schulte's lawyers have described the government's charges as vague and overreaching. They also complained that prosecutors have been slow to share information about their case with the defense and placed burdensome rules on the handling of classified information.

Sabrina Shroff, Schulte's lead defense attorney, accused the government of prosecuting Schulte out of embarrassment over losing such a huge volume of sensitive information, and because he was “an easy target.”

Schulte said previously that he was targeted for speaking out against what he de-

scribed as incompetent CIA management. From 2010 to 2016, Schulte worked in the CIA's Engineering Development Group, which produced the computer code published by WikiLeaks.

On March 13, 2017, less than a week after the original WikiLeaks publication, FBI agents searched Schulte's apartment in New York, where he had moved to take a new job after leaving the agency, and found a computer server and several external drives, as well as notebooks and handwritten notes, court filings show. Schulte was not arrested and denied to FBI agents that he had leaked the CIA materials.

But in August, Schulte was arrested after investigators searching his computer found evidence of child pornography, including more than 10,000 photos and videos, prosecutors alleged. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges, which will be tried separately.

Avalanche in Turkey wipes out team of rescuers

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — An avalanche slammed into a mountain road in eastern Turkey on Wednesday, wiping out a team of rescue workers sent to find two people missing in an earlier avalanche. Officials said 23 rescue workers were killed while others were still buried under the snow.

Wednesday's avalanche increased the overall death toll from the disaster to 28.

About 300 emergency service workers were called to a highway near the town of Bahcesaray in Van province, which borders Iran, after an avalanche struck late Tuesday. That snowslide killed five people.

Around noon Wednesday, the team was struck by the second avalanche.

Gov. Mehmet Emin Bilmez said that 23 rescuers' bodies were recovered from the mass of snow on the steep slope. They included eight military police officers, three government-paid village guards, three firefighters and nine volunteers. Emergency teams were searching for other colleagues who may still be buried under the snow, Bilmez said. He did not provide a figure.

Approximately 30 emergency workers were either rescued or escaped from under the snow and were hospitalized Wednesday, the Interior Ministry said.

Video from the scene showed at least three overturned vehicles at the bottom of a hill during a snow storm. Some rescuers were climbing a steep incline to get out of the mass of snow, while others dug frantically into the snow with shovels and pickaxes. Fog, heavy snow and strong winds were hampering the rescue efforts.

The first avalanche buried a snow-clearing vehicle and a minibus. The vehicle's operator and seven passengers escaped alive. The Anadolu Agency said that the operator, Bahattin Karagulle, was trapped beneath the snow for 25 minutes before he managed to break a window and escape.

Bid to remove anti-Semitic relic in Germany rejected

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German appeals court Tuesday rejected a Jewish man's bid to force the removal of a 700-year-old anti-Semitic statue from a church.

The “Judensau,” or “Jew pig,” sculpture on the Town Church in Wittenberg is one of more than 20 such relics from the Middle Ages that still adorn churches across Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Plaintiff Michael Duellmann had argued that the sculpture was “a defamation of and insult to the Jewish people” that has “a terrible effect up to this day.”

Duellmann said he would appeal Tues-

day's decision to the Federal Court of Justice and is prepared to take the case outside Germany to the European Court of Human Rights, if necessary.

Placed on the church about 13 feet above ground level, the sculpture depicts people identifiable as Jews suckling the teats of a sow while a rabbi lifts the animal's tail. In 1570, after the Protestant Reformation, an inscription referring to an anti-Jewish tract by Luther was added.

In 1988, a memorial was set into the ground below, referring to the persecution of Jews and the 6 million people who died during the Holocaust. In addition, a sign gives information about the sculpture in

German and English.

After a court in Dessau rejected Duellmann's case in May, he took it a higher state court in Naumburg. That court said in its ruling Tuesday that he failed to prove the Town House sculpture must be taken down because “in its current context” it is not of “slandorous character” and didn't violate the plaintiff's rights.

The appeals court said that with the addition of the memorial and information sign, the statue was now “part of an ensemble which speaks for another objective” on the part of the parish.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fight over urination ends with man shot

AL GRAND BAY — An Alabama man confronted a neighbor who was urinating in public and was shot in the face during a gunfight that followed, a sheriff's office said.

Their fight began as the man was urinating in a street near Grand Bay early Sunday morning, Mobile County Sheriff's Capt. Paul Burch said. The upset neighbor got a gun from his car and began firing the first shots, Burch told news outlets. The other man then got a gun from his own vehicle and returned fire, he said.

His injuries weren't considered life-threatening and he was flown to a hospital in Pensacola, Fla., for treatment, Burch said. Authorities haven't identified either man involved.

FBI offers \$10K reward in 'Scream' mask case

VA RICHMOND — A \$10,000 reward is being offered by the FBI for information about a robbery suspect in Virginia who often wears a mask from the horror movie "Scream."

WRIC reported Tuesday that the so-called "Scream Bandit" has struck at least six gas stations in central Virginia in a string of robberies that stretches back a year.

The robber has typically entered a business with a semi-automatic gun and ordered that money be put into a bag.

Hands crushed, woman calls 911 with her toes

SC WALTERBORO — A woman whose hands were crushed while she was changing a tire on the side of an interstate in South Carolina managed to call for help using

her toes.

The unnamed woman, 54, got a flat tire while driving on a rural stretch of I-95 Sunday evening, Colleton County Fire-Rescue said in a news release. A jack holding up the car slipped while the woman was putting on the spare tire, causing the woman's hands to get stuck between the tire and the fender, the release said.

Over the next 35 minutes, officials said the woman was able to slide off her shoe, manipulate her cellphone and call 911. Fire-rescue crews arrived in less than 10 minutes, the release stated.

Man accused of filming coworkers at day care

FL ST. PETERSBURG — A cafeteria worker at a Florida child care center is facing a video voyeurism charge after his co-workers found a cellphone taped under the sink and facing the toilet in a bathroom.

St. Petersburg police arrested Julin Nichols, 30, on Monday. He had worked at the Lew Williams Center for Early Learning for a month.

Police didn't say whether any children were involved in the investigation, or how many people were recorded by the phone. An investigation is continuing.

Nichols was released on a surety bond Tuesday.

Dentist is suspended after patients sickened

NJ NEWARK — A New Jersey oral surgeon has agreed to a five-year license suspension after 15 patients were sickened by a bacterial heart infection and one died.

Dr. John Vecchione on Monday also agreed to pay \$293,500 in penalties. He initially had fought the allegations.

"Dr. Vecchione spent years denying any responsibility for the infections contracted by patients in his care," said Howard Pine, Acting Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

Vecchione engaged in "professional misconduct and gross negligence" by failing to follow infection control protocols, state officials said. The state alleged the Budd Lake dentist failed to use sterile water or sterile saline during surgical procedures, improperly handled and stored single-dose medication vials and did not properly prepare instruments. The allegations stemmed from inspections conducted after an outbreak of bacterial endocarditis among Vecchione's patients.

Woman sees pet on cans promoting shelter dogs

FL BRADENTON — A Florida brewery that recently began placing shelter dogs' faces on beer cans helped reunite a Minnesota woman with her dog, Hazel, who went missing three years ago.

Earlier this month, Motorworks Brewing in Bradenton teamed up with the Manatee County Animal Shelter to turn beer cans into adoption flyers for shelter dogs. Monica Mathis, of St. Paul, told KSTP that she couldn't believe it when she spotted Hazel's face on a beer can that had been photographed and posted on social media. Hazel, a terrier mix, was among the dogs featured on beer cans called "The Four Packs." But the featured dog's name was Day Day.

Mathis contacted the shelter, which needed proof that Day Day was in fact Hazel.

"I sent everything I could find," Mathis said.

Mathis said she was living in Iowa when Hazel disappeared.

The shelter confirmed that

Day Day is Hazel. The nonprofit Friends of Manatee County Animal Services will cover the cost of transporting Hazel to Minnesota.

Officials: Virus killing Eurasian collared doves

ND BISMARCK — A virus is killing some doves in the Bismarck-Mandan area, state wildlife officials said Monday.

North Dakota's Game and Fish Department says it has received "numerous" reports since December of dead and dying Eurasian collared doves. That dove is a nonnative species that typically does not fly south for the winter.

Officials have confirmed a virus — paramyxovirus-1 — is the cause, The Bismarck Tribune reported. Game and Fish officials are still working to document the extent of the disease outbreak in the area and whether it's a problem in other parts of North Dakota.

Police: Mom forced son, 13, to vape THC

NM ROSWELL — A New Mexico woman is facing child abuse charges after authorities say she forced her 13-year-old son to smoke vape pens containing THC.

KOB-TV reported that Candace Lindeman was arrested last week following reports about child abuse. Lindeman's son told investigators his mother physically abused him and made him smoke vape pens containing 90% THC, and grounded him for weeks if he refused. THC is the chemical in marijuana that makes users feel high.

Lindeman, 29, of Roswell, faces four counts of child abuse.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Red Sox trade Betts, Price to Dodgers

Associated Press

BOSTON — Banking on Mookie Betts to be the missing piece in their World Series pursuit, the Los Angeles Dodgers finally pulled off a blockbuster deal with the cost-cutting Red Sox.

Boston agreed to trade the 2018 AL MVP to the Dodgers on Tuesday night, according to two people with knowledge of the deal, packaging Betts with left-hander David Price in a salary dump designed to save the Red Sox tens of millions of dollars and help them dip below baseball's luxury tax threshold.

The Dodgers, eager for a World Series title after losing in the 2017 and '18 Fall Classics, are sending outfielder Alex Verdugo back to the Red Sox. The deal also involves the Minnesota Twins, who are getting right-hander Kenta Maeda from the Dodgers and sending pitching prospect Brusdar Graterol to Boston. Los Angeles will also get cash from Boston to offset some of the \$123 million owed to Betts and Price,

but the exact amount was not yet known.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade, pending the exchange of medical information, had not been announced.

Betts, who will earn \$27 million this season, has spurned nine-figure offers from the Red Sox for a long-term deal and expressed eagerness to test the free agent market. Boston decided to move him now — a century after selling Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees — rather than let the four-time All-Star walk after the 2020 season.

One of baseball's best all-around talents, the popular Betts should fit nicely into a Dodgers lineup that also includes reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger. Los Angeles has won seven straight NL West titles but hasn't celebrated a World Series championship since 1988. They fell in 2018 against Betts and the Red Sox, a year after being defeated by the Houston Astros in seven games.

Price is due \$96 million over

the final three years of a \$217 million, seven-year deal he signed before the 2016 season. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner missed time last year with a wrist issue and went 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 22 starts.

The Dodgers finally pulled off the kind of splashy offseason deal that has eluded them in recent years. They lost out on two primary offseason pursuits when pitcher Gerrit Cole signed with the New York Yankees for \$324 million over nine years and third baseman Anthony Rendon signed a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the rival Angels.

Until now, the Dodgers' top addition this winter was reliever Blake Treinen.

Adding Betts' bat to a lineup that includes Bellinger, Justin Turner, Max Muncy and Corey Seager makes the Dodgers even more fearsome. Their offense led the National League with 886 runs and 279 home runs last year.

Verdugo, a left-handed hitter, batted .294 with 44 RBIs and 12 home runs in 106 games before a back injury in August ended

his season early. His outfield defense is average, but at 23 he has time to improve.

The deal makes sense only in the complicated economics of baseball's collective bargaining tax, which penalizes a team for spending over a preset limit — \$208 million for 2020. What's more, a ballclub that surpasses the threshold in three straight years pays a top rate of 95%; on the other hand, if a team goes under the limit for a season, the penalty for their next violation resets to the lowest rate of 20%.

This deal is expected to get Boston below that threshold.

Graterol is a hard-throwing righty who ranked 83rd on MLB.com's most recent list of the top 100 prospects in baseball. He made his major league debut last season with the Twins and posted a 4.66 ERA in 10 relief appearances. A starter in the minors, he faces questions about his durability but could get a chance to pitch in Boston's rotation. If not, he's thrown as hard as 102 mph and could be an effective late-inning reliever.

Michigan State's Dantonio retires after 13 seasons

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — From "pride comes before the fall" to Little Giants, Mark Dantonio leaves Michigan State fans with an abundance of fond memories after bringing the Spartans to heights they hadn't reached in decades.

Dantonio announced his retirement Tuesday, ending a 13-year run in which his teams won three Big Ten titles and he became the school's winningest coach. The 63-year-old Dantonio called his decision a difficult one while noting the nonstop demands of the job.

"I just found myself never having the opportunity to come up for air, and that can wear on you," he said Tuesday night at a news conference.

Dantonio went 114-57 as

Michigan State's coach and won Big Ten titles in 2010, 2013 and 2015. The last of those three seasons included a trip to the College Football Playoff, but the Spartans declined after that. They went 7-6 this past season.

Defensive coordinator Mike Tressel will be the acting head coach while Michigan State seeks a replacement for Dantonio, who said qualified candidates would be willing to crawl to campus for the job.

Michigan State athletic director Bill Beekman said he will seek Dantonio's input on the search for his successor. Dantonio plans to have a role within the athletic department.

Beekman acknowledged the timing isn't ideal to search for a new football coach.

"There are times that are better than other times," he said. "But I think when you've won 114 games, you're our all-time winningest coach, and you've taken us to the places Mark has taken us and you've set the bar where Mark set it, I was comfortable operating on his timeline whatever that would be.

"We'll find a very good coach."

The Spartans have fallen from the Big Ten's elite in recent years, but only after Dantonio brought Michigan State to the top echelon of the league — and the nation — during a terrific stretch from 2010-15. He won at least 11 games five times in that six-year span — the first time a Big Ten coach had done that.

A turning point in his tenure occurred in 2010, when the Spartans memorably beat Notre Dame on a fake field goal in overtime. The trick play was called "Little Giants" — and Dantonio had a heart attack in the immediate aftermath of that victory. He returned to coach his team soon after and led Michigan State to a share of the Big Ten title.

Michigan State also dominated its heated rivalry with Michigan for much of Dantonio's tenure. In 2007, his first season at the helm, the Spartans lost to the Wolverines. Afterward, Michigan's Mike Hart referred to Michigan State as a little brother. Dantonio responded by warning the Wolverines that "pride comes before the fall" — and the Spartans won four straight meetings after that.

NHL roundup

Washington's Ovechkin reaches 698 goals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin doesn't think he's ever been this hot in a 15-year career that has included eight NHL scoring titles.

If he continues at his present pace, he'll join the 700 career goal club by this weekend.

Ovechkin recorded his 27th career hat trick and raised his career goal total to 698 during a furious five-minute stretch of the third period, rallying Washington to a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

With 14 goals in his last seven games, he's closer to becoming the eighth player in an elusive NHL club than many would've suspected a month ago. Though there isn't much time to reflect on it.

"Not yet," he said. "I'm still playing. But after the year, yeah, I'm pretty sure me and my family and my friends are going to talk about it."

Ovechkin's career-best recent flurry has pushed him to 40 goals on the season and back into the top spot in his chase

of a ninth Maurice Richard Trophy, two ahead of Boston's David Pastrnak. The Capitals also lead the Bruins by a point in the race for the President's Cup.

And No. 700 could come as early as Saturday against the Philadelphia Flyers.

Even within this recent run, Tuesday night's performance to singlehandedly lift Washington to victory stood out.

With 6:10 remaining, just over two minutes after the Capitals fell behind, Ovechkin one-timed a feed from T.J. Oshie to tie the game at 2-all. Seventy seconds later, he rebounded his own miss off goaltender Jonathan Quick's pads and put Washington in front.

He added an empty-netter with 1:46 to play, moving within 10 goals of Mike Gartner for seventh on the NHL's all-time goals list.

John Carlson added his 14th goal and 50th and 51st assists for the Capitals.

Islanders 4, Stars 3 (OT): With its hold on a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference faltering, New York rallied from a

late deficit to get a needed win.

Mathew Barzal tied tie score with just under four minutes remaining in the third period, and Anthony Beauvillier scored his second goal of the game 2:52 into overtime to give the Islanders a win over Dallas.

"This was a huge two points for us tonight," Beauvillier said. "Lot of character for us tonight."

Blue Jackets 1, Panthers 0 (OT): Zach Werenski scored 1:54 into overtime and host Columbus extended its points streak to nine games with a win over Florida.

Lightning 4, Golden Knights 2: Steven Stamkos tipped in his 24th goal of the season in the third period and led host Tampa Bay over Vegas.

Avalanche 6, Sabres 1: Andre Burakovsky had a goal and three assists for a career-best four points in visiting Colorado's rout of spiraling Buffalo.

Bruins 4, Canucks 0: Charlie Coyle had a goal and an assist, Tuukka Rask stopped 25 shots for his third shutout this season and host Boston extended its winning streak to four games.

Canadiens 5, Devils 4 (SO): Ilya Kovalchuk scored the only shootout goal and visiting Montreal rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat New Jersey.

Ducks 3, Senators 2 (SO): Rickard Rakell scored the shootout winner and visiting Anaheim beat Ottawa.

Blues 6, Hurricanes 3: Brayden Schenn had two goals and an assist, Zach Sanford scored twice and host St. Louis beat Carolina.

Wild 3, Blackhawks 2 (OT): Matt Dumba scored with 2:39 remaining in overtime to lift host Minnesota past Chicago.

Predators 2, Jets 1 (OT): Mikael Granlund scored 1:11 into overtime, lifting visiting Nashville past Winnipeg.

Coyotes 3, Oilers 0: Conor Garland and Lawson Crouse scored two minutes apart in the second period, Antti Raanta stopped 30 shots and host Arizona ended a five-game losing streak.

Sharks 3, Flames 1: Joe Thornton had two assists to reach 1,500 career points and visiting San Jose beat Calgary.

College basketball roundup

No. 22 Penn State wins fifth straight Big Ten game

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Patrick Chambers is on a quest to keep Penn State's basketball program hungry and humble as it surges in a successful season.

Lamar Stevens had 24 points and Myreon Jones made a career-high six three-pointers and scored 20 points, leading the 22nd-ranked Nittany Lions to a 75-70 win over No. 16 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

Penn State (17-5, 7-5 Big Ten) has won five straight games in the Big Ten for the first time and has become a contender in

the conference during the second half of the regular season.

"It's great that we're in the position we're in," Chambers said. "But if you focus on that, that's when you start to slip."

No. 7 Duke 63, Boston College 55: Vernon Carey Jr. had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead the visiting Blue Devils over the Eagles and give coach Mike Krzyzewski his 500th career Atlantic Coast Conference victory.

Carey made a layup and then hit two free throws with about six minutes left during a 10-0 run that gave Duke (19-3, 9-2 ACC) the lead for good. Tre

Jones scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half for the Blue Devils.

No. 9 Maryland 56, Rutgers 51: Jalen Smith had 14 points and 15 rebounds, Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 17 and the host Terrapins used a strong second half to beat the Scarlet Knights.

Maryland trailed 25-20 at halftime after shooting 24%. With Smith leading the way, the Terrapins (18-4, 8-3 Big Ten) emerged from the break with a 14-4 run and held off a late surge by Rutgers.

No. 11 Auburn 79, Arkansas 76 (OT): The Tigers'

depth wore down the host Razorbacks, allowing Auburn to rally in regulation and hold on in overtime. Samir Doughty scored 23 points, hitting two free throws in the final seconds of overtime.

No. 15 Kentucky 80, Mississippi State 72: Nick Richards scored a career-high 27 points, Immanuel Quickley added 21 and the host Wildcats beat the Bulldogs for the 14th straight time.

Nevada 88, Air Force 54: Jalen Harris scored a career-high 38 points and the host Wolf Pack overwhelmed the Falcons.

NBA roundup

LeBron's run of 3-pointers lifts Lakers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James absorbed contact and tumbled to the court while his fifth three-pointer in a three-minute span dropped through the net. The Los Angeles Lakers' entire roster left the bench and crossed the court, gleefully picking up their leader while a sellout crowd roared.

"That's what we're all about," James said. "Our team, anytime anyone is having success in the game, we cheer like it's our own. So having that camaraderie, having that brotherhood, even though they're beating you up, it's just a pretty cool feeling."

Nine days after Kobe Bryant's death, the Lakers finally had an evening that felt like a return to normalcy.

Well, as normal as anything can be when King James is performing feats of basketball brilliance.

James scored 19 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter with that incredible three-point barrage, propelling the Lakers to a 129-102 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night.

James added nine assists and seven rebounds, while Anthony

Davis and Kyle Kuzma had 18 points apiece as the Lakers beat San Antonio for the third time, sweeping the season series.

After the Spurs chipped away at the Lakers' big lead late in the third quarter, James and Kuzma put the game away with a combined seven three-pointers in 3½ minutes to start the fourth. James' shots seemed to increase in difficulty with each possession, but he buried them all.

"When the guy gets hot like that, it's always fun to watch him," Davis said, laughing at the Lakers' group celebration after the final three. "It wasn't the plan. We all just kind of ran over there and jumped on him."

DeMar DeRozan had 28 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in his hometown for the Spurs, who have lost five of seven.

San Antonio was outrebounded 58-28 by the bigger Lakers, and the Spurs grabbed only three rebounds in the fourth quarter while the Lakers went 16-for-24 from the field.

When asked what the Spurs can do when James gets rolling, coach Gregg Popovich quipped: "Make sure you get

good pictures."

Bryn Forbes added 13 points, but one night after the Spurs blew a late lead in a three-point loss to the Clippers, they returned to Staples Center and fell to 0-2 in their eight-game road trip.

"As a competitor, it's what you want to play against," DeRozan said of the LA back-to-back. "I don't look at it like it's being tough. It's part of the job, part of the game, and as a competitor you want to compete against the best. You worry about the toll afterwards."

Nuggets 127, Trail Blazers 99: Nikola Jokic finished an assist shy of a triple-double in just three quarters, and Gary Harris helped keep hot-shooting Damian Lillard in check as host Denver routed Portland.

Jokic had 29 points and 13 rebounds as the Nuggets improved to 8-0 against Northwest Division rivals this season. They held Lillard to 21 points, ending his string of eight straight games with at least 30. Lillard was 8-for-23 from the floor, predominantly with Harris and Torrey Craig taking turns shadowing him.

Bucks 120, Pelicans 108: Giannis Antetokounmpo had

34 points and 17 rebounds in Milwaukee's victory at New Orleans.

Khris Middleton scored 20 for the Bucks, who led by 19 in the third quarter before holding off a Pelicans rally in the fourth.

Brandon Ingram scored 32 points and Zion Williamson had 20 for New Orleans, which briefly got as close as seven twice in the fourth period before Milwaukee stemmed the tide and improved to 20-4 away from home this season.

Williamson was 5-for-19 shooting and the Pelicans were minus-11 with their rookie sensation on the court.

Rockets 125, Hornets 110: James Harden had 40 points and 11 assists, and short-handed Houston overcame an early deficit to defeat Charlotte.

The Rockets won their third straight, handing the Hornets their fourth consecutive loss and 12th in 13 games.

Harden finished a rebound shy of a triple-double after also scoring 40 points but falling one assist short of a triple-double in Houston's last game. He's scored at least 35 points in his past three games after struggling through a shooting slump over his previous four.

Sources: Covington, Capela on move in 4-team trade

Associated Press

Robert Covington is going to the Houston Rockets and Clint Capela is going to the Atlanta Hawks as the headline moves in a complicated trade that was struck early Wednesday involving four teams, 12 players and at least three draft picks, according to two people familiar with the situation.

Among the key components, according to the people who spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade has not received league approval: Covington and Jordan Bell will join

the Rockets from Minnesota, Capela and Nene are leaving the Rockets for the Hawks, the Timberwolves added soon-to-be restricted free agents Malik Beasley and Juancho Hernangomez from Denver and the Nuggets got Shabazz Napier from Minnesota plus a first-round pick from Houston.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the trade, which was subsequently confirmed by other outlets.

It was not immediately clear if a call with NBA attorneys to review and approve the trade would happen on Wednesday

or Thursday. The league's trade deadline is Thursday afternoon.

Also in the deal: Jarred Vanderbilt is leaving Denver for Minnesota, and the Nuggets are getting Keita Bates-Diop and Noah Vonleh from the Timberwolves as well as Evan Turner from the Hawks. Gerald Green — who is out with a seasonlong foot injury — also goes to Denver from Houston to help make the math work and is likely to be waived once the deal is final. Atlanta will also have to make another move to finalize the trade since it must first clear a

roster spot.

The biggest takeaway from the deal would seem to be that this commits Houston to keeping the small-ball lineup that it has employed with much success of late. Capela was the only center that the Rockets have consistently played this season — and they're 10-1 in games without him. Houston could still look to acquire another big man for depth through another trade or potentially after a buyout, and this trade gives the Rockets some financial flexibility to do so.