

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump moving ahead with border wall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump used his executive authority Wednesday to jump-start construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall, one of his signature campaign promises. He also was expected to target “sanctuary cities” and potentially restrict the flow of refugees to the United States.

The president signed the first actions — including the measure authorizing work on the wall — during a trip to the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday afternoon. He also was to move to increase the number of border patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Trump, in an interview Wednesday with ABC News, said he expected construction of the wall to begin within months. U.S. taxpayers are expected to pay for the upfront costs, though Trump continues to assert that Mexico will reimburse the money through unspecified means.

“There will be a payment; it will be in a form, perhaps a complicated form,” Trump said, adding that negotiations with Mexico would begin soon. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, who has insisted

his country will not pay for a wall, is to meet with Trump at the White House next week.

Earlier in the day, the president was said to be weighing the details of plans to curb the number of refugees coming to the U.S.

The current proposal includes at least a four-month halt on all refugee admissions, as well as a temporary ban on people coming from some Muslim-majority countries, according to a source from a public policy organization that monitors refugee issues. The person was briefed on the details of that proposed action by a government official and outlined the plan to The Associated Press.

The officials and the public policy organization source insisted on anonymity in order to outline the plans ahead of the president’s official announcements.

While the specifics of Trump’s orders were unclear, both administration officials said Wednesday’s actions would focus in part on the president’s plans to construct a wall along the southern border with Mexico. He’s also expected to move forward with plans to curb funding for cities that don’t arrest or detain immigrants liv-

ing in the U.S. illegally — localities dubbed “sanctuary” cities — which could cost individual jurisdictions millions of dollars.

In claiming authority to build a wall, Trump may rely on a 2006 law that authorized several hundred miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile frontier. That bill led to the construction of about 700 miles of various kinds of fencing designed to block both vehicles and pedestrians.

The Secure Fence Act was signed by then-President George W. Bush, and the majority of that fencing in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California was built before he left office. The last remnants were completed after President Barack Obama took office in 2009.

The Trump administration also must adhere to a decades-old border treaty with Mexico that limits where and how structures can be built along the border. The 1970 treaty requires that structures cannot disrupt the flow of the rivers, which define the U.S.-Mexico border along Texas and 24 miles in Arizona, according to The International Boundary and Water Commission, a joint U.S.-Mexican agency that administers the treaty.

## Report: Rules on terrorism fight up for review

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is readying a sweeping review of how America conducts the war on terrorism, including possible resumption of banned interrogation methods and reopening CIA-run “black site” prisons outside the United States, according to a draft executive order obtained by The Associated Press.

The order would also instruct the Pentagon to send newly captured “enemy combatants” to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, instead of closing the detention facility as President Barack Obama had wanted. Altogether, the possible changes could mark a dramatic

return to how the Bush administration waged its campaign against al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

Trump spokesman Sean Spicer, questioned about the draft order, said it was not a White House document, but he would say no more about it.

The three-page document instructs top national security officers to “recommend to the president whether to reinstate a program of interrogation of high-value alien terrorists to be operated outside the United States and whether such program should include the use of detention facilities operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.”

The document says U.S. laws

should be obeyed at all times and explicitly rejects “torture.”

But its reconsideration of the harsh techniques banned by Obama and Congress is sure to inflame passions in the United States and abroad. While some former government leaders insist the program was effective in obtaining critical intelligence, many others blame it for some of the worst abuses in the war on terrorism after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, and claim it proved entirely ineffective.

Tactics in the early years of the CIA program included sleep deprivation, slapping and slamming detainees against walls, confinement in small boxes, prolonged isolation and even death

threats to those being interrogated. Three detainees faced the simulated drowning technique known as waterboarding. Many developed psychological problems.

The Pentagon didn’t immediately comment, but reports of the upcoming order quickly sparked significant alarm among Republicans as well as Democrats.

“The president can sign whatever executive orders he likes. But the law is the law,” said Republican Sen. John McCain, who was beaten when he was held captive during the Vietnam War. “We are not bringing back torture in the United States of America.”

## Women's marches bring out worst in some men

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — A school board member in Hillary Clinton's hometown resigned after making a derogatory reference on Twitter to the female anatomy in describing women marching against President Donald Trump. An Illinois teacher was pulled from the classroom for a tweet deemed sexist. And a freshman Indiana lawmaker was inundated with criticism over a Facebook post mocking "fat women."

Those are a handful of examples from across the U.S. of mostly male public officials who have been reprimanded, called out or disciplined over social media postings about the women's marches around the globe last weekend.

The rash of incidents, which range from boorish to downright vulgar, highlight how nasty political discourse has become since the divisive presidential election. But in an era when Trump made lashing out against "political correctness" central to his appeal, the consequences those officials face for unfiltered use of social media once again demonstrate that what you say on the internet still can hurt you.

"Very few people in public life, even today, get away with what Trump was able to get away with," said Michael Cornfield, a George Washington University professor who studies politics in the internet age.

It's not strictly a partisan issue. A writer for "Saturday Night Live" was suspended this week after writing an offensive

tweet about Trump's 10-year-old son Barron. The writer, Katie Rich, deleted the tweet, briefly deactivated her account and then apologized after a social media outcry led to calls for a boycott of the show.

Still, the number of incidents following the women's marches, which packed public squares in blue states and some red as well, has put a few elected officials and supervisors in an awkward spot. In Indiana, Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma said he's conducting social media tutorials after posts from at least two state lawmakers.

Newly elected Indiana state Sen. Jack Sandlin, a Republican, credited Donald Trump with getting "more fat women out walking than [former first lady] Michelle Obama did in 8 years." Sandlin, who says he didn't knowingly share the since-deleted post, was inundated with criticism on his Facebook page and has apologized.

Bosma partially blamed "the Twitter storm created by our president" which he said "makes people feel this is an appropriate vehicle to communicate." He added, "We're elected officials, we're held to a higher standard."

On Monday, Dathan Paterno, a school board member in Park Ridge, Ill., where Hillary Clinton grew up, resigned after he called the protests a "farce" by "vagina screechers" on Twitter. Paterno, who did not respond to a request for comment, later deleted his social media accounts, said district Superintendent Laurie Heinz.

## President plans a voter fraud probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump tweeted early Wednesday that he is ordering a "major investigation" into voter fraud, revisiting unsubstantiated claims he's made repeatedly about a rigged voting system.

The investigation, he said, will look at those registered to vote in more than one state, "those who are illegal and ... even, those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time)."

Depending on results, Trump tweeted, "we will strengthen up voting procedures!"

Trump has been fixated on his loss of the popular vote in the election and a concern that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media, aides and associates say.

Trump's own attorneys dismissed claims of voter fraud in a legal filing responding to Green Party candidate Jill Stein's demand for a recount in Michigan late last year.

"On what basis does Stein seek to disenfranchise Michigan citizens? None really, save for speculation," the attorneys wrote. "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake."

Secretaries of state across the country have dismissed

Trump's voter fraud claims as baseless.

Trump's exaggerations about inauguration crowds and assertions about illegal balloting have been distractions as advisers have tried to launch his presidency with a flurry of actions on the economy.

His spokesman, Sean Spicer, has twice stepped into the fray, including on Tuesday, when he doubled down on Trump's false claim that he lost the popular vote because 3 million to 5 million people living in the U.S. illegally cast ballots.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have finalized their election results with no reports of the kind of widespread fraud that Trump is alleging.

"He believes what he believes based on the information he was provided," said Spicer, who provided no evidence to back up the president's statements.

If the president's claim were true it would mark the most significant election fraud in U.S. history — and would raise the same questions about Trump's legitimacy that he's trying to avoid.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Wednesday his panel has already sent letters to the attorneys general in all 50 states asking for reports of any election irregularities.

## Trump warns Chicago he's 'ready to send in the Feds'

Associated Press

CHICAGO — President Donald Trump says he's ready to "send in the Feds" if Chicago can't reduce its homicide problem, and the city's police superintendent says he is "more than willing" to work with the federal government to combat

the violence.

Trump tweeted Tuesday night: "If Chicago doesn't fix the horrible 'carnage' going on, 228 shootings in 2017 with 42 killings (up 24% from 2016), I will send in the Feds!"

In response to the president's tweet, Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson reiterated that

the city is receptive to assistance from the Department of Justice, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He also repeated that city officials have sought a "boost" in federal prosecution rates for gun crimes in Chicago since homi-

cide figures spiked.

The figures cited by Trump are the same as those published Monday in the Chicago Tribune. The tweet was posted about the time Tuesday evening that the figures were cited on Fox News Channel's "O'Reilly Factor."



## Guam to test for past Agent Orange use

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Guam's Environmental Protection Agency has been ordered to test sites around the tiny U.S. island territory for traces of the toxic Vietnam-era defoliant Agent Orange.

In a letter dated Jan. 19, Gov. Eddie Calvo instructed the agency's on-island administrator, Walter Leon Guerrero, to examine "drinking water sources and soils" where U.S. military veterans who served there in the 1960s and 1970s claimed the toxic-chemical mixture had been sprayed.

"I have justifiable concern about the residual effects this chemical may have on our environment, particularly our aquifer and drinking water sources," wrote Calvo, who said the testing was necessary after the veterans' public claims.

Guam EPA said it has requested affidavits from those veterans to pinpoint potentially affected areas.

Agent Orange has been blamed for a slew of veterans' health problems. It has also been known to cause birth defects in the children of those exposed.

The military discontinued the defoliant's use in the early 1970s.

# Iraq PM: Eastern Mosul recaptured

*The Washington Post*

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces have recaptured the entire eastern side of Mosul, the Iraqi prime minister said Tuesday, marking a midpoint in a grueling battle for the Islamic State-held city.

The announcement comes three months after Iraqi forces, backed by a U.S.-led coalition, launched an offensive for the city, a fight that has stretched on longer than officials first predicted. The operation to retake the northern city from the Islamic State group is the largest and most complex the country has seen since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Army and police forces, militia fighters, Kurdish peshmerga soldiers and elite counterterrorism troops are participating in the effort.

The forces initially were met with hundreds of car bombs, waylaying their progress and inflicting heavy casualties. The presence of civilians also slowed their efforts, and it soon became clear that Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's promise to recapture the city by the end of 2016 was impossible to fulfill. In recent weeks, however, with the city's bridges all bombed, militants on the eastern side of the Tigris River have been besieged and unable to resupply.

"We have seen a major collapse in the ranks of the

enemy," al-Abadi said in a televised news conference, adding that many of the militants had tried to flee in recent days.

He urged Iraqi forces to "move quickly" to recapture the western part of the city. But the Islamic State group has had a year and a half to build up there, and Iraqi forces are expected to face another fierce battle.

Mosul's western side is more densely packed with civilians — some 750,000 according to Iraqi military estimates — and Iraqi forces have been trying to keep people in their homes to avoid a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations on Tuesday warned that civilians on the western side were at "extreme risk."

"We hope that everything is done to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who are across the river in the west," Lise Grande, U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, said in a statement. "We fear for their lives. They can be killed by booby-traps and in crossfire and could be used as human shields."

Reports of soaring food prices and intermittent water and electricity supplies were "distressing," Grande said.

The fight for the western side will be the Islamic State's last stand in the city and one of great symbolic importance for the group. It was the capture of

Mosul by the militants in 2014 that prompted the Islamic State to declare its caliphate. It was in a sermon in the city's Great Mosque that the Islamic State's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, urged Muslims around the world to follow him.

"The west is going to be challenging just like the east was," Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, head of ground forces for the U.S.-led coalition, said in an interview earlier this month. "We have an enemy that has had over two years to prepare."

Older parts of Mosul, where streets are narrower, make the terrain more complicated than in the east, he noted. "They've got to clear thousands of kilometers of streets, hundreds of thousands of rooms in excess of 100,000 buildings, and they've got to do that while discriminating between the enemy and the civilians," he said of the fight ahead for Iraqi forces.

Much of the fighting inside the city limits has been led by Iraq's elite counterterrorism troops, who announced that they had finished clearing their sector last week. Since then the army has been battling to retake a few remaining neighborhoods in the city's northeast. Those neighborhoods were cleared of booby traps and explosives on Tuesday, according to Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul, a spokesman for Iraq's joint operations command.

## Military wants lawsuit over Mariana Islands tossed

*Associated Press*

HAGATNA, Guam — The U.S. military is seeking to have a federal lawsuit challenging its plans to expand operations on the Mariana Islands dismissed.

The Department of Defense claims the court does not have the authority to question the \$8 billion international agreement that will move as many as 5,000 U.S. Marines from Japan to the Marianas in Dededo, Guam, The Pacific Daily News reported. The military also plans to use some islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands for training.

Earthjustice filed its lawsuit in July 2016 on behalf of several groups opposed to the military training.

The lawsuit says the U.S. Navy failed to evaluate the environmental impacts of training on Tinian and Pagan islands and did not consider alternate locations outside the Mariana Islands "where the Marines could accomplish their mission with fewer adverse impacts."

Earthjustice claims communities on Tinian would be subjected to high-decibel noise and have restricted access to fish-

ing grounds, cultural sites and recreational beaches as a result of the military training.

Other groups involved in the lawsuit include the Tinian Women's Association, Pagan Watch, the Center for Biological Diversity and Guardians of Gani, a nonprofit established to protect "Gani," which refers to the Marianas north of Saipan.

The military issued a response to the complaint last week, saying the court should dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

"The decision to relocate the Marines from Okinawa to

Guam is a 'political decision already made' by the United States Secretaries of State and Defense through a 2006 commitment to the Government of Japan, and a binding international agreement signed by the United States Secretary of State and Japan's Foreign Minister in 2009," the military's response states. "Plaintiffs point to no case in which a court has exercised jurisdiction to direct an Executive Branch agency to reconsider a course of Executive action that is the subject of a binding international agreement."

# Gunmen storm Somali hotel, killing 8

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — At least eight people were killed and 14 injured as Somali security forces ended a siege by extremist fighters who stormed a hotel in the capital, police said.

Four al-Shabab attackers were also killed in the attack on Dayah hotel, which is often frequented by government officials, said Col. Mohamoud Abdi, a senior Somali police officer.

Survivors described chaotic scenes in which hotel residents hid under beds and others jumped out of windows of the four-story building to escape the extremist attackers.

“They kicked down room doors and at some point posed themselves as rescue teams by telling those inside to come out (only) to kill them,” said Hassan Nur, a traditional Somali elder who participated in the election of members of Somalia’s new

parliament.

He said two well-known clan elders were among those killed by the attackers in the hotel.

The assault on the hotel started when a suicide car bomb exploded at its gates.

Dozens of people, including lawmakers, were thought to have been staying at Mogadishu’s Dayah hotel at the time of the morning attack, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein. Heavy gunfire could still be heard inside the hotel, he said.

A nearby shopping center caught fire, and dozens of people helped save goods in the business premises.

Somalia’s homegrown Islamic extremist group, al-Shabab, claimed responsibility for the attack via its online radio, Andalus, saying its fighters succeeded in entering the hotel and an “operation is ongoing now.”

Al-Shabab frequently targets hotels and

other public places often visited by government officials and foreigners. Al-Qaida’s East African affiliate is fighting to impose a strict version of Islam in the Horn of Africa nation.

In June, gunmen stormed the Nasa-Hablod hotel, killing at least 14 people. Two weeks before that, gunmen killed 15, including two members of parliament, at the Ambassador hotel.

Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds, al-Shabab continues to carry out deadly guerrilla attacks across large parts of south and central Somalia. Earlier this month, a bomb explosion at a restaurant in Mogadishu killed three, and a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at a security checkpoint near Mogadishu’s international airport, killing at least three. That blast occurred a few hundred yards from the main base of the African Union peacekeeping mission.

## SC lawmaker resigns after accusation he beat his wife bloody

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A South Carolina state lawmaker accused of beating his wife bloody resigned rather than be expelled from the Statehouse.

Rep. Chris Corley still faces a felony aggravated domestic violence charge that could put him in prison for up to 20 years.

House Speaker Jay Lucas read Corley’s one-sentence resignation letter Tuesday to his colleagues as he was preparing to introduce legislation forcing Corley from his House seat.

“I am grateful that the House did not have to take such extraordinary measures,” said Lucas, R-Hartsville.

While the state constitution gives the House authority to remove a member for disorderly conduct, the House hasn’t expelled one of its own since the 1870s, according to the speaker’s office.

Corley, a Republican best known for his defense of the Confederate flag, was easily re-elected with no opposition to a

second term in November. His troubles at home became public record through a desperate 911 call the day after Christmas.

“Please stop” can be heard repeatedly in the recording released by the Aiken County Sheriff’s Office. “Just stop daddy. Just stop. ... Daddy, why are you doing this?” their children say.

Corley said his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating, and the police report noted a scratch on his forehead. Corley’s wife told deputies he stopped hitting her on Dec. 26 only after noticing she was bleeding and hearing the screams of two of their three children, ages 2 and 8.

He was initially charged with first-degree domestic violence, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and pointing a firearm. The grand jury returned a more serious charge of “domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature,” punishable by up to 20 years. The gun charge is punishable by five years.

## Russia to decriminalize some domestic violence

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian parliament on Wednesday passed the second reading of a controversial bill to decriminalize some forms of domestic violence.

The State Duma voted 385-2-1 to eliminate criminal liability for battery on family members that doesn’t cause bodily harm. The bill that makes battery on a family member punishable by a fine or a 15-day day arrest has yet to be approved in the third reading. From the Duma, it would proceed to the upper house, largely a rubber-stamp body, and then to President Vladimir Putin’s desk.

The bill stems from a Supreme Court ruling to decriminalize battery that doesn’t inflict bodily harm, but to retain criminal charges for those accused of battery against family members. Conservative activists objected, arguing it was a threat to parents who might spank their children.

Activists picketed the Duma on Wednesday morning to oppose the bill, which has caused

controversy and attracted more than 200,000 signatures online against it.

Olga Batalina, one of the bill’s co-authors, rejected suggestions that the bill would sow impunity for those who beat up their families.

“The Criminal Code still carries criminal responsibility for battery, but now it will be applicable only for repeat offenders,” he told state television. All those “who terrorize their family members, who do it repeatedly ... will face criminal responsibility.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn’t comment on the bill.

A survey this month by state-run pollster VTsIOM showed that 19 percent of Russians said “it can be acceptable” to hit one’s wife, husband or child “in certain circumstances.” The nationwide poll by phone of 1,800 people was held Jan. 13-15. The survey had a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police hunt violent crew of robbers, attackers

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — Police are hunting for a violent crew of South Florida robbers who have recently attacked multiple women in shopping center parking lots.

The Sun Sentinel reported that the group has ambushed women with beatings and pepper spray while stealing purses, cash and electronics at shopping centers in Plantation, Fort Lauderdale and Dania Beach.

Some of the women also have been followed to their homes, where investigators say their cars were stolen.

Police said the robbers appear to include two women and possibly two men. The attacks began more than a week ago and usually take place at night. The suspects use a dark-colored Nissan sedan with dark tinted windows.

### Boy, 10, drives to store, gets in police chase

**OH** FOSTORIA — An erratic, speeding driver who led an Ohio police officer on a brief pursuit turned out to be a 10-year-old boy who took his parents' car without permission and drove 11 miles to a nearby city to shop at a convenience store, police said.

An officer in Fostoria, roughly 40 miles south of Toledo, tried to stop a driver who wasn't using headlights and kept braking Sunday morning, and the vehicle took off at 70 mph, WTOL-TV reported. The vehicle eventually struck a curb and stopped in a restaurant parking lot, where the officer was surprised to discover that the driver was a child.

The boy, from the nearby town of Kansas, was taken into custody and charged with fleeing from a law enforcement officer.

### Burglary suspect leaves keys, phone at scene

**CT** STRATFORD — A man suspected of breaking into a Connecticut animal hospital made it easy for police to track him down — he left his keys and cellphone behind.

The Connecticut Post reported that police responded to a burglar alarm at The Pet Hospital in Stratford recently to find a rear window broken and blood on the window frame. Inside, police say they found a trail of blood on the floor, along with keys and a phone. They said it appeared the burglar was looking for drugs.

Police traced the phone to Nicholas Bruner, 31, and charged him with third-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief. He is free on \$10,000 bond. Bruner said he had lost the items but couldn't remember where.

### Bicycle mistake leads to kidnapping charge

**FL** LEHIGH ACRES — A southwest Florida man is facing robbery and kidnapping charges after authorities say he mistook a teen's bicycle for his son's and forced the teen to get into his truck.

The News-Press reports Christian Javier, 43, was arrested Tuesday, a day after the boy's mother told authorities she wanted them to prosecute.

Lee County sheriff's deputies say Javier stopped a 15-year-old boy in Lehigh Acres on Monday and accused the teen of riding his son's bike. Officials say Javier tossed the bike in his truck and forced the teen to come with him. When they arrived at Javier's home, his son reportedly said the bike wasn't his. Authorities say Javier drove the teen to another spot, where he threw the bike onto the road and left the teen.

### Worker jailed in food contamination case

**MS** COLUMBUS — A fast-food worker turned herself in Monday to Columbus police to face felony charges of intentionally serving contaminated food.

The Commercial Dispatch reported that Sky Juliett Samuel, 18, is jailed at the Lowndes County Adult Detention Center. Samuel hasn't seen a judge.

A co-worker said she saw Samuel lick and wipe bodily fluids on a cheeseburger before serving it on Jan. 7 at a Jack's Family Restaurant. Police could charge Samuel under a law making it illegal to "knowingly sell unwholesome bread or drink." The crime brings one to five years in prison. The incident received attention after the co-worker's mother wrote about it on Facebook.

### Homeowner's ex-wife: Police shot wrong guy

**PA** PITTSBURGH — The ex-wife of a Pittsburgh homeowner fatally shot by police responding to a burglary call said officers "shot the wrong guy."

Brenda Thompkins was divorced from the shooting victim, Christopher Thompkins, 57, but the couple reconciled years ago, and they were sleeping together when they spotted an intruder about 4 a.m. Sunday. Christopher Thompkins grabbed Brenda's gun and was headed downstairs when he fired at the intruder, who police arrested on a charge of criminal trespass. Police said two officers who responding to a security alarm thought the shots were being fired at them and returned fire, killing Thompkins.

The officers are on administrative leave and the police and district attorney are con-

ducting separate reviews to determine whether the police shooting was justified.

### Woman convicted in murder of boyfriend

**NJ** EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — A woman accused of fatally beating her boyfriend with a fireplace poker in 2006 has been convicted on murder charges.

Atlantic County prosecutors say Eileen Leone, 46, attacked Darius Smith, 32, from behind in the Egg Harbor Township home where they lived with their 4-year-old child. Leone, of Margate, faces a lengthy prison term when she's sentenced March 3. A county jury reached its verdict Jan. 19.

Prosecutors say the attack came after the couple had been arguing all day. They say Leone repeatedly struck Smith from behind as he sat on a couch.

An autopsy determined that Smith died from blunt-force trauma to the head.

### 4-year-old home alone accidentally kills self

**FL** AUBURNDALE — Authorities said a 4-year-old boy accidentally shot himself in the face with a gun he found while home alone.

Auburndale Deputy Chief Andy Ray told The Ledger that Avion Weaver died at a hospital Friday. Ray said the 26-year-old owner of the semi-automatic handgun could face charges.

Ray said the man told detectives that the gun had been on a kitchen counter in a box. However, Ray said the box hasn't been found, and the gun's owner initially told investigators that Avion had fallen and hit his head on a table.

Witnesses said the man left Avion watching TV while he went outside.

From wire reports

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# 3 of top 4 men's teams fall in one night

Associated Press

It was not a good night to be at the top of the AP Top 25.

For the first time since Jan. 21, 2012, three of the top four teams in the poll lost on the same day.

No. 1 Villanova lost 74-72 at Marquette on Tuesday, No. 2 Kansas fell 85-69 at No. 18 West Virginia and No. 4 Kentucky lost 82-80 at Tennessee.

That left No. 3 Gonzaga with a good chance to move up to No. 1 next week. The only undefeated team in Division I, the Zags (20-0) host San Diego on Thursday and travel to Pepperdine on Saturday.

It was just over five years ago that No. 1 Syracuse lost 67-58 to Notre Dame, No. 3 Baylor fell to No. 5 Missouri 89-88 and No. 4 Duke lost 76-73 to Florida

State.

Kentucky was No. 2 that day and after beating Alabama 77-71 on the night of upsets, the Wildcats moved to No. 1.

On Tuesday, Marquette (14-6, 5-3 Big East) rallied from a 17-point deficit for the win over the Wildcats (19-2, 7-2).

It was the second time Marquette beat a No. 1-ranked team. The Golden Eagles beat Kentucky in the 2003 Final Four.

Their fans partied at the Bradley Center in a court-storming frenzy, celebrating as if coach Al McGuire was still pacing the Marquette sideline.

"I don't even know what to say," said Katin Reinhardt, who made two free throws with 11.6 seconds to play. "You dream of these types of moments."

Villanova's Jay Wright, the

coach of the defending national champions, said: "You've got to put a whole 40 minutes together. Sometimes you get on the road and a team gets hot. If you don't finish the 40 minutes, they'll get you."

West Virginia pulled away to the victory that snapped Kansas' 18-game winning streak.

Esa Ahmad scored a career-high 27 points for the Mountaineers (16-4, 5-3 Big 12), who broke a two-game losing streak that dropped them 11 spots in the AP Top 25.

Josh Jackson matched his season high with 22 points for Kansas (18-2, 7-1).

West Virginia limited its turnovers to eight and went 19-for-23 from the free-throw line, making nine of its final 10.

"We did both of those things today," coach Bob Huggins

said. "And when we do, we're pretty good."

Robert Hubbs III scored 25 points as Tennessee snapped Kentucky's seven-game winning streak.

Tennessee (11-9, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) beat Kentucky (17-3, 7-1) in Knoxville for the second straight season and earned its first victory over a top-five team since an 83-76 triumph over No. 3 Pittsburgh on Dec. 11, 2010.

"We just wanted to go out and make a statement," Hubbs said. "I think we did that tonight."

Kentucky coach John Calipari said: "Tennessee was better than us tonight. They deserved to win the game. It would have been a shame if we'd made a three or something crazy and had won the game. ... From the start, they deserved to win."

## Falcons overcome 12-point deficit to beat San Diego St.

Associated Press

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Trevor Lyons scored 15 points and Air Force overcame a 12-point second-half deficit to beat San Diego State 60-57 on Tuesday night.

Lyons drove the left side and made Air Force's first field goal in four-plus minutes for 57-55 lead but Trey Kell answered with two free throws to tie it at 57-all.

Air Force's Jacob Van was fouled away from the basket and hit two free throws for a 59-57 lead. Kell's long three-pointer hit the back of the iron, Lyons grabbed the long rebound and after air-balling the first free throw, made the second for a three-point lead with 22 seconds to go.

Kell missed an off-balance three-pointer from the wing, and Van was off on two free throws, giving SDSU a final chance, but Jeremy Hemsley's long three-pointer was off the mark.

Air Force (10-11, 3-5 Mountain West) was only 8-for-25 shooting in the first half and

finished at 38.5 percent.

**No. 12 Virginia 71, No. 14 Notre Dame 54:** London Perantes scored 22 points and the visiting Cavaliers pulled away late for their 10th straight win over the Fighting Irish.

Isaiah Wilkins finished with 13 points and nine rebounds, and Devon Hall added 11 points and nine boards for Virginia (16-3, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), which improved to 4-1 on the road in league play.

Bonzi Colson led Notre Dame (17-4, 6-2) with 20 points.

**No. 13 Louisville 106, Pittsburgh 51:** Donovan Mitchell scored a career-high 29 points and Anas Mahmoud added 14 while making all seven of his shots for the visiting Cardinals.

Louisville (17-4, 5-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) rebounded from a close loss at No. 10 Florida State on Saturday by handing the reeling Panthers the second-worst loss in the program's 111-year history.

Louisville held Pitt (12-8, 1-6) to 25 percent shooting (13-for-51) and never let the Panthers in the game.

Michael Young led Pitt with 12 points.

**No. 15 Wisconsin 82, Penn St. 55:** Bronson Koenig scored 20 points and the host Badgers shut down the Nittany Lions in the second half.

Wisconsin (17-3, 6-1 Big Ten) started to shake off Penn State (11-10, 3-5) after Ethan Happ came alive.

Happ asserted himself to open the second half, scoring on the Badgers' first two possessions to spark a 13-2 run that put Wisconsin up 52-38 on Vitto Brown's three-pointer.

**No. 20 Purdue 83, Michigan St. 73:** Caleb Swanigan had 25 points and 17 rebounds for the visiting Boilermakers.

Purdue (17-4, 6-2 Big Ten) has won three straight, helping it to its best eight-game record in the conference since 2010-11.

Michigan State (12-9, 4-4) has lost three straight and four of five, forcing it to turn it around soon to improve its chances of playing in a 20th straight NCAA Tournament.

**No. 22 Maryland 67, Rutgers 55:** Melo Trimble fueled

a second-half surge that put his team in control and the host Terrapins remained in first place in the Big Ten.

Trimble scored 17 points and freshman Kevin Huerter had 11 for Maryland (18-2, 6-1), which owns its best record after 20 games since the 1998-99 season.

Corey Sanders scored 15 points for the Scarlet Knights (12-9, 1-7), who went 10-for-24 at the free-throw line in losing for the eighth time in nine games.

**No. 23 South Carolina 98, Auburn 69:** Duane Notice tied career highs with 27 points and six three-pointers for the host Gamecocks.

Notice had scored 22 points combined in his previous four games, but like most of his Gamecock teammates let it fly from long range early and often to open a big first-half lead over the Tigers (13-7, 3-5).

Notice and Sindarius Thornwell had four three-pointers in the first half while Justin McKie hit two as the Gamecocks (16-4, 6-1) led 48-27 at the half.



# Nadal, Serena advance to semifinals

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The last time Serena Williams and Mirjana Lucic-Baroni played each other, nearly two decades ago at Wimbledon, they were both precocious teenagers just starting their tennis careers.

Now, the two 30-something women will meet again in the semifinals of the Australian Open, a tournament that's starting to have a distinct throwback feel.

Serena Williams, 35, reached her 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Johanna Konta on Wednesday, while Lucic-Baroni, 34, upset fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to advance to her first major semifinal in nearly 18 years.

"Thirties is the new 10," Williams said. "No matter what happens, someone 34 or older will be in the final."

On the men's side, 30-year-old Rafael Nadal dominated third-seeded Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-4 on Wednesday to join 35-year-old Roger Federer

and 31-year-old Stan Wawrinka in the semifinals. It's the first time since the 1968 French Open that three 30-somethings made the men's semifinals at a Grand Slam.

Nadal will play Grigor Dimitrov, who beat David Goffin 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

With 36-year-old Venus Williams also reaching the semifinals in the women's draw, it's also the first time in the Open era that two players aged 35 or older have reached the final four of a Grand Slam. Venus plays another American, CoCo Vandeweghe, in her semifinal on Thursday.

Serena Williams was tested by Konta in the second set when the British player broke her to go up 2-1. But Williams broke back at love to level the score at 3-all and saved another break point in her next service game before closing out the match.

Williams finished with 10 aces, but only connected on 45 percent of her first serves overall.

"The main focus is actually my serve," said Williams, who is

aiming for a record 23rd Grand Slam title. "I got a little frustrated, but then I just told myself, 'Serena, stop complaining. Don't be Baby Rena out here.'"

Lucic-Baroni advanced to the last four at a major for the first time since her run to the Wimbledon semifinals in 1999 at the age of 17. She is surprised she is getting another chance at this stage of her career.

"I know this means a lot to every player to reach the semifinals, but to me, this is just overwhelming," she said, in tears, after the match. "This has truly made my life and everything bad that happened, it has made it OK."

Lucic-Baroni was once considered a prodigy with as much promise as the Williams sisters. She won the first tournament she entered as a 15 year old in 1997 and several months later captured the 1998 Australian Open doubles title with Martina Hingis.

Lucic-Baroni said she never lost the belief she could compete at the top of the game.

"When you stop winning as

much and you don't play for a long time, yeah, you definitely lose it a little bit," she said. "Not even lose it, you forget it. ... And I'm really glad that I remembered."

Nadal, whose ranking has slipped to No. 9, also believed he'd return to another Grand Slam semifinal despite struggling with injuries and a lack of confidence in recent years. The last time he made it this far was at the 2014 French Open when he claimed his 14th Grand Slam title.

The win over Raonic was Nadal's 50th at Melbourne Park, where he won the title in 2009 and lost in the final in 2012 and '14. The Spaniard saved six set points in the second set, including two in the 13-minute tiebreaker.

"Even when I was winning a lot I had doubts, you can imagine I had more when I had injuries," Nadal said. "I think I had a great career, but at the same time I had a lot of tough moments. That makes me enjoy even more the good moments I'm having today."

## Federer facing familiar foe in Wawrinka

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer certainly knows what to expect in his Australian Open semifinal. And so does his opponent Stan Wawrinka.

There'll be no secrets in the all-Swiss showdown for a place in Sunday's final.

"I think him and Rafa (Nadal) best know my game. I've played him so much. Stan and I practiced so much together," Federer said. "With Rafa, I only practiced once in my life, whereas with Stan, I can't even keep count anymore."

The first of the men's semifinals will be played in the night session Thursday, following the women's semifinals which will feature three 30-somethings, and three Americans. Venus Williams, 36, will play CoCo Vandeweghe before Serena Williams, 35, takes on 34-year-old Mirjana Lucic-Baroni. Nadal will play Grigor Dimitrov on Friday night in the last of the semifinals.

Federer holds an imposing 18-3 lead in head-to-head encounters with Wawrinka. And, significantly, he has never lost to his

compatriot on hardcourts.

While the pair have shared Davis Cup success and Olympic gold, that friendship must be temporarily put aside in the pursuit of the chance for another Australian title.

Four-time champion Federer will be playing his 13th semifinal at Melbourne Park, and the Australian Open is his most successful Grand Slam in match wins with 85.

But he's wary of Wawrinka, the 2014 champion, despite a remarkable start to 2017 after missing the second half of last year to recover from a knee injury.

"If someone would have told me I'd play in the semis against Stan, never would I have called that one for me," Federer said. "For Stan, yes, but not for me. I honestly didn't even know a few days ago that he was in my section of the draw or I'm in his section."

The 35-year-old Federer thought the quarterfinals was a realistic target for his Grand Slam comeback, but he has upgraded the expectations.

A look at the women's semifinals on Thursday:

**No. 13 Venus Williams vs. CoCo**

**Vandeweghe:** Unseeded American Coco Vandeweghe overpowered defending champion Angelique Kerber and French Open winner Garbine Muguruza in the past two rounds. Now she's playing Venus Williams, one of her tennis inspirations.

Vandeweghe said she must replace childhood admiration with ruthless instincts to attempt to reach her first Grand Slam singles final.

"It's a dream to play someone you grew up watching. To play an unbelievable player, future Hall of Famer in Venus, and to be on the court with her, I've only experienced it one time before," Vandeweghe said. "But to do it at this stage of a Grand Slam is kind of crazy."

**No. 2 Serena Williams vs. Mirjana Lucic-Baroni:** Lucic-Baroni didn't play a Grand Slam championship from the 2003 US Open qualifying rounds until 2010 Wimbledon as she dealt with issues she vowed to outline sometime in a book.

Lucic-Baroni dismissed concern that her fitness could be an issue against the most dominant player in the women's game.

# Wiggins' buzzer-beater lifts T-wolves

Associated Press

PHOENIX—Buzzer-beating victories for the Timberwolves are almost as rare as a balmy Minnesota day in January.

So Tuesday night's was one to be savored.

Andrew Wiggins sank an 18-foot pull-up jumper as the game ended to give the Timberwolves a 112-111 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"I wasn't going to let no one stop me," Wiggins said.

It was the first buzzer-beating win for the Timberwolves since Luke Ridnour made a floater to beat Utah on Feb. 22, 2012.

Tuesday night's play had other options.

"But my mind was made up once I got the ball. I was going to shoot it," Wiggins said. "I got to my spot. I knew the pull-up would be there."

**Spurs 108, Raptors 106:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points while Patty Mills added 18 off the bench as visiting San Antonio earned its fifth straight victory.

Without Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Pau Gasol, the Spurs finished a season sweep of the Raptors following a home victory earlier this month.

**76ers 121, Clippers 110:** Nerlens Noel scored 19 points while Richaun Holmes had 18 as host Philadelphia beat Los Angeles.

Here was a twist ending

not even M. Night Shyamalan could have scripted from his courtside seat: The Sixers played without injured center Joel Embiid and still beat the 30-win Clippers.

**Wizards 123, Celtics 108:** Bradley Beal scored 13 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as Washington extended its home winning streak to 14 games with a victory over Boston.

John Wall added 27 points and Markieff Morris had 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Wizards never trailed while scoring their most points this season.

**Bulls 100, Magic 92:** Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and Jimmy Butler added 20 as Chicago beat host Orlando for its

second straight victory.

Facing an Orlando team that was missing three of its four top guards, Wade and Butler took full advantage with drives to the basket and pull-up jumpers as the Bulls pulled away in the fourth quarter.

**Nuggets 103, Jazz 93:** Nikola Jokic had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Jameer Nelson scored seven of his 17 points in the last four minutes and host Denver held on to beat Utah.

The Nuggets led by 17 with a minute left in the third quarter before the Jazz made their push. Rudy Gobert scored eight of his 11 in the fourth and Boris Diaw's reverse layup cut the lead to 92-88 with 2:49 remaining.

## Hutton stops 34 shots to help Blues shut out Penguins

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Carter Hutton shut down the defending champion Pittsburgh Penguins, and handed them a rare regulation loss at home.

Hutton stopped 34 shots for his sixth career shutout to lead the St. Louis Blues to a 3-0 victory over the Penguins on Tuesday night.

Colton Parayko, Ryan Reaves and Scottie Upshall scored to help the Blues end a three-game skid. Hutton won for the third time in his last four starts and fifth in the last seven to improve to 7-6-2 this season.

Hutton recovered from allowing three goals on eight shots against the Washington Capitals last Thursday. St. Louis had allowed at least five goals in each of its previous three games.

"I just worry about my play," Hutton said. "I think that's something I've stuck by this whole time. Like I said, I think I could've been better in relief coming into games, where I don't think I have been great all year coming in relief, but it's tough.

"But my starts, I think have been solid and I just try to keep

chipping away at that."

Matt Murray finished with 24 saves for the Penguins, who snapped a four-game winning streak. Murray, 17-5-1 was 9-0-1 in his first 10 starts at home this season.

**Lightning 5, Blackhawks 2:** Tyler Johnson scored two goals 30 seconds apart early in the third period to lead visiting Tampa Bay past Chicago and end a three-game slide.

Brian Boyle had a goal and an assist while Nikita Nesterov and Nikita Kucherov also scored for the Lightning, who broke loose for three goals in a 3:57 span of the third to erase a 2-1 deficit.

Jonathan Toews had a goal and an assist while Duncan Keith also scored for the Blackhawks.

**Senators 3, Capitals 0:** Mike Condon stopped 31 shots for his fourth shutout of the season as host Ottawa defeated Washington.

Chris Kelly, Bobby Ryan and Zack Smith scored for the Senators while Phillipp Grubauer made 31 saves for the Capitals.

**Wild 3, Stars 2 (SO):** Chris Stewart scored in the fifth round of a shootout to lift visiting Minnesota over Dallas.

Patrick Eaves and Jamie

Benn had scored for the Stars in the shootout, but Jason Pominville and Mikko Koivu matched them. Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk stopped Jason Spezza before Stewart's shot won the game.

Pominville and Koivu scored in regulation for Minnesota and Dubnyk had 35 saves through overtime.

**Bruins 4, Red Wings 3 (OT):** David Pastrnak scored with 46.9 seconds left in overtime as host Boston rallied to beat Detroit.

Pastrnak beat goalie Jared Coreau with a high slap shot and ended the Bruins' four-game losing streak (0-3-1).

**Islanders 4, Blue Jackets 2:** Nikolay Kulemin scored a goal and helped create another as host New York chased All-Star goalie Sergei Bobrovsky in a win over Columbus.

The Islanders are 3-0-1 under interim coach Doug Weight a week after Jack Capuano was fired. Thomas Greiss made 21 saves.

**Kings 3, Devils 1:** Anze Kopitar and Tanner Pearson scored in the opening 1:46 as visiting Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over New Jersey.

Kings defenseman Alec Martinez capped the team's three-goal first period and Peter Budaj stopped 24 shots in his 21st win of the season.

**Canadiens 5, Flames 1:** Alexander Radulov scored twice as host Montreal extended Calgary's losing streak to four games.

Andrew Shaw, Tomas Plekanec and Daniel Carr also scored for the Canadiens (29-13-7). Carey Price made 30 saves and even had an assist.

**Sabres 5, Predators 4 (OT):** Jack Eichel scored two goals, including the game-winner at 2:35 of overtime to give visiting Buffalo a comeback victory over Nashville.

Nashville held a 4-2 lead late in the third period before Brian Gionta scored at 14:10. Then, with Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner pulled for an extra skater, Kyle Okposo tipped home a pass from Sam Reinhart with 1:05 remaining to send the game into overtime.

**Sharks 4, Jets 3:** Patrick Marleau scored the tiebreaking goal with 4:33 left in the third period to lift visiting San Jose over Winnipeg for its sixth straight win.