

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump inks security orders at Pentagon

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
AND TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed executive orders boosting defense spending and restricting refugees Friday, during his first visit to the Pentagon.

Trump said both orders aim “to ensure that the sacrifices of our military are supported by the actions of our government.”

The first executive order would “begin a great rebuilding of the armed services of the United States,” Trump said. “We are developing a plan for new planes, new ships, new resources and new tools for our men and women in uniform.”

“As we prepare our budget request for Congress ... our military strength will be questioned by no one,” he said.

The final version was not im-

mediately available, but a draft of the order obtained by The Washington Post and published Friday morning called for new Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to carry out a 30-day “readiness review” that will examine needs for the war against the Islamic State group and “other forms of Islamic terror,” as well as training, maintenance, ammunition and infrastructure. The review, the draft said, also will examine how to carry out operations against unnamed “near-peer competitors,” a group which U.S. officials typically identify as China and Russia.

The Washington Post said the draft order also calls for a second, parallel review in which the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget combine to craft a “military readiness emergency budget amendment” that would boost military spending this year, and

for Mattis to revise the Pentagon’s tentative budget proposal for 2018 within 90 days.

Trump’s second executive order established “new measures to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America.”

It calls for a 120-day suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and a 90-day ban on all entry to the United States from countries with terrorism concerns — which includes Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

“We don’t want ’em here,” Trump said. “We want to ensure we are not admitting into our country the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas.”

The terms of the order mean Syrian refugees will no longer be allowed into the United States until Trump determines the protocols used by the refugee assistance program will not threaten national security.

Although an original draft of the order included a plan for the Pentagon and the State Department to create safe zones within Syria, that directive was omitted from the order Trump eventually signed.

Trump arrived Friday afternoon at the Pentagon, where he was greeted by an honor cordon and Mattis.

Trump then met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon’s secure conference room known as “the tank,” where they were expected to discuss potential adjustments to accelerate operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Trump has instructed Mattis and his top generals to provide him a plan within the next month to boost the campaign.

## DOD to review Air Force One, F-35 vs. F/A-18

BY TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The White House and the Defense Department will review the cost and requirements of two major Air Force programs: the presidential plane and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the Pentagon announced Friday.

Both programs were early targets of President Donald Trump, who questioned their costs in tweets that he posted before taking office.

“Boeing is building a brand new 747 Air Force One for future presidents, but costs are out of control, more than \$4 billion. Cancel order!” Trump tweeted Dec. 6.

On the Joint Strike Fighter, Trump tweeted: “The F-35 program and cost is out of control. Billions of dollars can and will be saved on military (and other) purchases after January 20th,” he tweeted Dec. 12.

In two signed letters Thursday, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis directed reviews of both programs. On Air Force One, Mattis directed Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, a senior defense official under President Barack Obama who was asked to remain by Trump, to “identify specific areas where costs can be lowered” on the presidential aircraft, including potentially its cooling, survivability and power generation systems.

That review will be coordinated with the White House Military Office, according to the memo.

The contract to build the next Air Force One is expected to cost \$4 billion with planes in service by 2024.

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has been widely criticized for cost overruns and program delays but had begun in the last year to reduce costs and get its first squadrons out to the military. The total costs of the program are estimated to top \$1 trillion to produce 2,457 planes, according to the Government Accountability Office.

In the letter instructing Work to conduct a review to reduce the cost of the F-35, Mattis also

requested a review that compares the Air Force variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C, to the Navy’s F/A-18E/F Super Hornet.

The review will determine whether additional improvements could create an “advanced” Super Hornet that would “provide a competitive, cost-effective fighter aircraft alternative,” according to the second memo.

The Super Hornet is an upgraded Navy fighter jet that the service is looking to replace with the F-35. High levels of operational wear and tear on the Navy’s Super Hornet fleet has required a plan for overhauls of the aircraft sooner than expected.

# Trump temporarily halts refugee entry

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an order Friday to suspend admission of all refugees for 120 days while a new system is put in place to tighten vetting for those from predominantly Muslim countries and give preference to religious minorities. Trump said that the goal is to screen out “radical Islamic terrorists” and that priority for admission would be given to Christians.

“We don’t want them here,” Trump said of terrorists in a signing ceremony at the Pentagon. “We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people.”

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network earlier Friday, Trump was asked whether he would prioritize persecuted Christians in the Middle East for admission as refugees, and he replied, “Yes.”

“They’ve been horribly treated,” he said. “Do you know if

you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough, to get into the United States? If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian it was almost impossible. And the reason that was so unfair — everybody was persecuted, in all fairness — but they were chopping off the heads of everybody, but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair.

“So we are going to help them.”

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war and the rise of the Islamic State group, many more Muslims than Christians have been killed or displaced because of the violence. A 2015 Washington Post poll found that 78 percent of Americans favored equal consideration for refugees regardless of religion.

The order was called “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” and contained a temporary entry ban that would affect citizens of seven countries

— Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia.

The order calls for a halt to the flow of refugees from Syria until further notice and suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days until more analysis can determine which countries harbor the greatest threat. The annual intake of refugees for fiscal 2017 would also fall to 50,000 from more than 100,000 authorized now, according to the order.

The order also included a new policy that states and localities should have a say in determining whether refugees can resettle there. It calls for the secretary of homeland security to propose a way to make their involvement routine. Governors and mayors, mostly Republicans, have objected to refugees, once they are admitted to the country, being resettled in their jurisdictions, often in small and medium-size cities where the cost of living is lower than it is in big coastal cities.

Earlier drafts of the order

called for the creation of safe zones to protect civilians in Syria — a feature that could require committing thousands of ground troops. But in the final order, there was no mention of such zones.

The downsizing of the refugee program, which had grown under former President Barack Obama’s administration, fulfills Trump’s campaign pledge to start the “extreme vetting” of immigrants and refugees, even though the United States already conducts the most rigorous and drawn-out screening process in the world.

Syrians being considered for resettlement in the United States pass through a complex, multitiered background investigation.

The process typically takes nine months to two years to complete.

Now, with Trump’s executive order, the flow grinds to an immediate halt.

## President speaks with Putin, Abe, other leaders

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump called Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday in hope of cultivating “a great relationship,” one in a series of telephone conversations with world leaders as he develops a personal rapport with the heads of several traditional U.S. allies.

Trump’s call with Putin comes as the president faces pressure to maintain sanctions against Moscow. He is reaching out to repair the U.S.-Russian relationship, which has been badly strained by the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and the conclusion by U.S. intelligence agencies that Putin ordered systematic hacking of Democratic emails to tip the election in Trump’s favor.

Trump began the day with a call to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to discuss security and trade issues between the two countries and the mutual threat posed by North Korea.

“President Trump affirmed the iron-clad U.S. commitment to ensuring the security of Japan,” a White House statement said. It continued, “President Trump and Prime Minister Abe said they would consult and cooperate on the threat posed by North Korea.”

Trump and Abe also discussed an upcoming visit to Japan and other countries in the region by newly installed Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. Abe, who during Trump’s transition phase became the first foreign leader to talk face-to-face with the president-elect, agreed to meet Trump during a

visit to Washington on Feb. 10, according to the White House.

Trump then spoke by phone from with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. His outreach to Merkel comes after his repeated attacks on her during the campaign, during which he blasted the German policy on admitting Syrian refugees for allegedly putting German citizens in danger of terrorist attacks.

Trump was planning to speak with French President Francois Hollande and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Ahead of Trump’s call with Putin, leaders in Moscow expressed cautious hope that the new American leader could forge stronger ties than former president Barack Obama did.

On Saturday, Nikolai Patrushev, the influential head of the

Russian Security Council, welcomed the first contact.

“We will await the results, but I believe everything will be positive,” Patrushev said Saturday, according to Russia’s Interfax news agency.

Washington’s European allies, meanwhile, have expressed concern over whether Trump’s first moves with Russia will signal a reduction of the U.S. commitment to European security.

But Trump, speaking Friday at a White House news conference with British Prime Minister Theresa May, said that it is “very early” to discuss lifting sanctions on Russia. May also stated her commitment to keep the sanctions in place until the Minsk Agreement, a plan to end the conflict in Ukraine, has been implemented.

## Iraq finds chemical agents in Mosul

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi forces discovered a mustard chemical warfare agent in eastern Mosul alongside a cache of Russian surface-to-surface missiles, an Iraqi officer said Saturday.

Iraqi and U.S. officials have repeatedly warned of Islamic State group efforts to develop chemical weapons. When Iraqi forces retook Mosul University earlier this month, they found chemistry labs they believed had been converted into makeshift chemical weapons labs.

Iraqi special forces Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil said French officials tested the Mosul chemical last week and confirmed it was a mustard agent.

Fadhil did not specify the quantity or potency of the chemical, but Iraqi soldiers were able to visit the site for about 10 minutes without exhibiting any symptoms of exposure.

"We know that they were using this place to experiment with chemical weapons," he said, referring to the Islamic State group.

Fadhil said he believes the facility was set up in the Nineveh ruins — an ancient site just over a mile from the Tigris, but re-

moved from the city's dense neighborhoods — to keep it a secret from Mosul residents who might be passing information to Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition.

Iraqi forces showed journalists a tank of the chemical agent and a warehouse of more than a dozen surface-to-surface rockets bearing Russian inscriptions.

The number of casualties due to Islamic State chemical weapons is a small fraction compared to the hundreds of civilians killed in car and suicide bombings carried out by the group.

Experts say that is largely due to the low grade of the weapons and the group's lack of access to efficient delivery systems.

The types of rockets found at the site suggest the Islamic State group was attempting to weaponize the chemical agent, Fadhil said. He added that he believed the facility was being used up until just one or two weeks ago.

Iraqi forces declared Mosul's eastern half fully liberated, just over three months after the operation to retake the city from the Islamic State group was formally launched in October.

## Trump to look at case of imprisoned sailor

The (New London, Conn.) Day

President Donald Trump said that he is "looking at" the case of the former Groton sailor or imprisoned for taking photos on a nuclear attack submarine.

During a roughly hourlong interview that aired on Fox News on Thursday night, Sean Hannity asked Trump if he'd consider pardoning Kristian Saucier, who was convicted of one count of unauthorized retention of national defense information, a felony.

"We're looking at a few of them. And by the way, if another event didn't happen, I would look at him. How can you have somebody else get away with such a tremendous amount and then this person who takes a picture of his desk on an old submarine— look, if China or Russia wanted information on that submarine, they've had it for many years. That I can tell you," Trump said.

A machinist's mate aboard the USS Alexandria from September 2007 to March 2012, Saucier, 30, used his cellphone camera to take pictures of various technical components of the submarine's nuclear pro-

pulsion system while it was docked at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton.

Jeffrey Addicott, a former Army attorney and director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St Mary's School of Law in Texas, submitted petitions on Jan. 9 for a presidential pardon and for clemency on behalf of Saucier.

Saucier's mother, Kathleen, who has appeared on Hannity's show, said Friday that she was "very grateful they are reviewing it."

She told The Day her son took the photos as a keepsake of his time in the Navy.

The Navy and the government have characterized Saucier's actions as far more serious than what Trump described Thursday night.

Rear Adm. Charles Richard, former director of undersea warfare, in submitting a victim impact statement on behalf of the Navy, said that Saucier's actions "have had far-reaching consequences for the United States and the Officers, Sailors and families who serve it."

The government sought 63 months' prison time in the case.

## Iraqi troops retake palace once used as US base

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi troops battled snipers, car bombs, mortars and anti-tank weapons to capture the palace complex that once served as the headquarters for Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq's second-largest city. They are still wary of entering some of the buildings because of booby traps.

The palaces, built by the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, were occupied by Petraeus and the soldiers he commanded from the 101st Airborne Division after the United States invaded Iraq in 2003.

Airstrikes have done massive damage to some of the palaces, but Iraqi troops have built a ramp out of the rubble to get to the upper floors of one building. From there, they've installed a heavy machine gun aimed at the Tigris river, which divides them from the western, enemy-held part of the city.

During the U.S. occupation, the complex was surrounded by concrete walls and housed offices and a command center filled with maps and video screens, where commanders oversaw efforts to secure northern Iraq.

Petraeus drew on his ex-

perience there to revamp the Army's counterinsurgency doctrine, then applied the lessons he learned to quell Iraq's insurgency after assuming overall command in 2007.

On Friday, Iraqi commandos had firm control of the palace complex although mortar shells were still falling around them.

The radical Islamist militants, whose religion forbids images of humans and animals, defaced facades on the palaces that depicted Hussein, eagles and historical figures. In their place, they drew their black and white flag and created a large mural showing a hooded terrorist holding a knife in front

of the Colosseum in Rome.

Capt. Aysar Ahmed Hassan, who commanded the unit in the palace, said he attended U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2010. The former chemistry teacher from Basra reminisced about tough training alongside U.S. and international Ranger candidates.

The palace where Hassan and his men were camped looks as though it will need to be demolished, something that saddens the young officer.

"These palaces are like national treasures for the Iraqi people," he said. "They shouldn't have been destroyed," he said.

# Teacher paid teenager \$28K in blackmail over sex

*The Washington Post*

It's unclear if Sandy Doan suspected the real source of the threatening blackmail messages on her cellphone, but for nearly a year, investigators say, she dutifully obeyed the texts, leaving thousands of dollars at drop-off locations across Dallas.

In return, the person on the other end of the phone said, he wouldn't tell authorities about the math teacher's illicit affair with a student.

Over a year, investigators say, the teacher paid more than \$28,000 — to the 14-year-old she was sleeping with.

Dallas Criminal Court documents describe the payments as hush money to cover up an affair that Doan, 27, feared would cost her her job and her freedom.

Police arrested Doan on Jan. 20 and charged her with having an improper relationship with a

student and with sexual assault. The cycle of sex and blackmail came to an end after a mother tried to figure out where her son was getting so much extra cash, according to an arrest warrant.

Doan met the student while he attended Quintanilla Middle School, where she taught math and social studies, and coached the cross-country team, the court documents say. They began communicating via Kik, Instagram and text messages, then started having romantic conversations on the phone. The relationship got physical in July 2015, according to the affidavit, when Doan picked the student up at his home and drove him to a park to have sex.

A search warrant affidavit obtained by Fox 4 described explicit texts and said Doan sent the student a picture of her naked breasts. They met up for sex in November and on Dec.

29, 2015.

The threatening texts began a few days later, the affidavit says.

To make the payments, Doan withdrew money from her bank account or took out payday loans.

Even as she was making the payments, she continued having sex with the student, court documents said.

At home, the student was becoming unruly, his mom told Dallas Fox affiliate KDFW. He had been in and out of the juvenile system for burglary and robbery, and things were getting worse. He used the money to buy drugs and alcohol. Sometimes he disappeared for days.

She went through his phone and found the text messages. She called the school the next day, trying to get them to put a stop to the relationship. Administrators called police.

## Many VA jobs exempt from freeze

BY NIKKI WENTLING

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs will exempt many health care and other positions from a temporary federal hiring freeze, according to a memorandum issued Friday by acting VA Secretary Robert Snyder.

President Donald Trump on Monday announced that federal agencies cannot fill open positions or create new ones for 90 days, until the Office of Management and Budget can devise a plan to cut the federal workforce through attrition.

The memo states there could be exemptions for jobs necessary for national security or public safety, and Snyder announced Tuesday that he intended to exempt some positions.

It's uncertain how many of the vacancies at the VA will be exempt under Snyder's memo, but the list of positions is wide-ranging, from health care positions to those working on major construction projects and in the National Cemetery Administration. Other positions include housekeeping, pest control and food service employees.

He said the cemetery workers exempted are those "directly involved with the burial of veterans and their eligible family members."

Snyder called his list of exemptions "guidance" and said it could change if the VA received more information on the hiring freeze from the Office of Personnel Management or Office of Management and Budget.

The list of exempted jobs was released after lawmakers and veterans groups spoke out against the freeze at the VA.

On Wednesday, over 50 Democrats sent a letter to Trump, asking that he exempt the VA from the hiring freeze. They urged him to exempt veterans seeking jobs in any federal department.

Republican chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs' committees followed up Thursday with their own letter, asking Trump to exempt patient care providers.

## Ferguson misses deadline in DOJ deal

*Associated Press*

FERGUSON, Mo. — Ferguson officials have missed critical deadlines in the early stages of an agreement with the Justice Department, but the manager of the beleaguered Missouri city said the process is now moving "in the right direction."

Clark Ervin, a Washington lawyer monitoring the consent decree involving the St. Louis suburb that has been under Justice Department scrutiny since the fatal 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown, told The Associated Press last week that Ferguson has missed some 120- and 180-day deadlines in crafting new policies and procedures on basic policing practices.

The missed deadlines underscore the challenges police departments can face complying with the sweeping overhauls mandated by the Justice Department, particularly when the troubles are as deeply-rooted as in Ferguson.

Ervin said the city was working in "good faith" toward meeting the procedures.

City Manager De'Carlton Seewood acknowledged that U.S. District Judge Catherine Perry, at a status hearing last month, felt the city was behind. But Seewood said the judge "also recognized we are further ahead than a lot of other places with similar consent decrees."

Ervin said one problem early on was that the city did not have a designated employee focused specifically on the consent decree. The city hired Frank McCall, formerly the police chief in neighboring Berkeley, Mo., in October as a police commander tasked with shepherding the agreement.

Ervin noted that the city had passed an ordinance to set up a civilian review board to handle allegations of police misconduct. Some revised policies have already been judged to comply with the consent decree.

The shooting of Brown, 18, who was black and unarmed, by white officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014, resulted in an examination of Ferguson's criminal justice system that led to a March 2015 Justice Department report citing racial bias. Perry signed off on an agreement between the city and the DOJ in April that called for significant changes in police and court procedures.

Wilson resigned in November 2014, although a St. Louis County grand jury and the Justice Department found no evidence of a crime.

The city's agreement with the Justice Department requires diversity training for officers, body cameras for police and jail workers, dashboard cameras for squad cars, establishment of a civilian police oversight board, municipal court reforms and other changes.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ride-hailing service for women to launch

**MA** BOSTON — An Uber-like service connecting female riders and drivers is launching in Boston following a rebranding and leadership change.

Safr says it will start its service this week on an invite-only basis in Boston. It says it will open to the wider Boston-area public starting March 1.

The company attracted attention last spring when founder Michael Pelletz announced its launch as Chariot for Women. The former Uber driver has since transferred management of the company to other executives.

The concept, which is also being developed by a New York City-based company, has faced questions about whether it runs afoul of anti-discrimination laws.

A Safr spokeswoman tells the Boston Globe the company is “mindful” of the concerns and is working with its legal advisers to make sure it’s in compliance.

## City sees return of ‘phantom dumper’

**UT** OREM — The so-called “phantom dumper” has returned to Orem, once again clogging the city’s sewer system with fibrous sludge.

Water Resources Division Manager Neil Winterton said someone has dumped fibrous gunk into Orem’s system three times in the past eight days.

The dumping has been going on for the past seven months, costing the city thousands of dollars each time. In November the city printed T-shirts with a cartoon phantom on the front to raise awareness that the behav-

ior is illegal.

Winterton estimates cleaning the goop up has cost the city close to \$100,000.

City administrators are offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the person responsible for the illegal dumping.

## Police on the hunt for biohazard suit burglar

**NY** NEW YORK — Police in New York City are asking for the public’s help in apprehending a burglar who wore a white biohazard suit to conceal his identity when he stole a safe containing \$200,000 from a home in Queens earlier this month.

WNBC-TV reported surveillance video shows the burglar pull a Mercedes-Benz station wagon into the driveway of a home in the Bayside section of the borough on Jan. 6.

Police said the man exited his vehicle, entered the home through an unlocked back door and made off with the safe, which contained valuable jewelry in addition to the cash.

## Newspaper van carjacker nabbed

**NV** ELKO — A carjacker who made off with a newspaper delivery van in northeast Nevada was arrested after he drove past the newspaper’s office.

The Elko Daily Free Press posted a story on its website Thursday warning subscribers deliveries might be delayed because of the crime.

Elko County Undersheriff Ron Supp said the van’s driver was loading a newspaper rack at a convenience store in Ryn-don on Interstate 80 about 13 miles northeast of Elko when a man pushed him to the ground around 3 a.m. and stole the van

with emblems of Elko’s companion paper, the Times-News in Twin Falls, Idaho.

The carjacker headed east on I-80, but a short time later a Free Press employee saw the van pass the Elko office.

Deputies pulled over Roland Reynolds, 45, of Elko at about 4 a.m. and arrested him for suspicion of grand larceny, robbery and possession of a stolen vehicle, Supp said.

Reynolds was being held Thursday in the Elko County jail where his bail was set at \$90,000.

## State Police chief stops parking lot fight

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A man accused of punching a man in an Albuquerque Starbucks parking lot apparently didn’t know someone important was watching.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported New Mexico State Police Chief Pete Kassestas arrested Lawrence McCormick shortly after he said the 47-year-old punched another man through a driver-side window.

Kassestas, who was inside the Starbucks, says he ran out and took down McCormick, who was armed with a knife.

He says the fight appeared to be related to a parking dispute.

The police chief said it’s nice to show his officers their chief can still handle himself.

McCormick faces battery and aggravated assault charges.

## Man rescued after 2 days on side of road

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A 26-year-old man who was trapped in his pickup truck for two days after his vehicle swerved off a road was rescued in the Angeles National Forest near Mount Baldy in Southern

California early Wednesday, authorities said.

Firefighters were dispatched at 2:55 a.m. to the remote area near Mount Baldy Road and the Barrett Stoddard Truck Trail, where they found the man’s white truck flipped over, said Vanessa Lozano, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The truck fell about 75 feet down the side of a cliff, KTBC-TV reported.

The man, who was not identified, was “awake and alert but had some severe injuries,” Lozano said.

The man suffered broken ribs and a fractured right ankle, Los Angeles County Fire Battalion Chief Mark Tolbert told On-Scene.TV. It was unclear what caused the crash, Lozano said. The man was hoisted up the hill and airlifted to a trauma center, she said.

## New fissure found in Ariz.’s Pinal County

**AZ** TUCSON — The Arizona Geological Survey has discovered a new crack in Pinal County.

The Geological Survey announced last week that they found the fissure, which they explored with drone video. The fissure is about 25 miles south of Arizona City. The fissure is believed to have formed between March 2013 and December 2014. It is more than half a mile longer than other fissures in the area.

Fissures are fairly common in central Arizona. There are clusters of fissures around Eloy and in Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties.

From wire reports

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# Serena tops sister for Aussie Open title

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams has won her record 23rd Grand Slam singles title, and her sister was right there on court to give her a congratulatory hug.

The all-Williams final — the first at the Australian Open since Serena won the first edition of the family rivalry here in 2003 — went to the younger sibling 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday night.

With her record seventh Australian title, the 35-year-old Williams moved ahead of Steffi Graf for the most major titles in the Open era. Margaret Court has the all-time record and was also in the crowd for the final at Rod Laver Arena.

Court won 24 majors, but collected 13 of those before the Open era which began in 1968 after the sport became professional.

The victory also ensured Serena Williams will regain the top ranking, which she lost in September after 186 straight weeks when Angelique Kerber won the U.S. Open.

It was Serena's seventh win in nine all-Williams Grand

Slam finals, and the first since Wimbledon in 2009. It was 36-year-old, No. 13-seeded Venus Williams' first trip back to a major final in 7½ years.

Serena sat on the court, holding both arms up to celebrate, before Venus walked over to her sister's side of the net for a hug.

"This was a tough one," Serena Williams said. "I really would like to take this moment to congratulate Venus, she's an amazing person — she's my inspiration."

"There's no way I would be at 23 without her — there's no way I would be at one without her. Thank you, Venus, for inspiring me to be the best player I can be and inspiring me to work hard."

Williams has won 15 majors since last losing to Venus in a Grand Slam final, at Wimbledon in 2008. That was the seventh and last major title that the older of the Williams sisters won.

Venus hadn't made the second week of a major for a few years as she came to terms with an energy-sapping illness since being diagnosed with Sjogren's

syndrome in 2011, and made her return to the semifinals at Wimbledon last year.

"She's made an amazing comeback ... I don't like the word comeback," Serena Williams said. "She's never left. She's been such a great champion."

The match didn't live up to its classic billing, with nerves and tension causing uncharacteristic mistakes and unforced errors and four consecutive service breaks before Venus finally held for a 3-2 lead in the first set. That included a game when Serena had game point but served back-to-back double-faults and three in all to give up the break.

There were six service breaks in all. Both players were relatively subdued, except for Serena's racket smashing spike on the court in the third game that earned her a code violation.

After the fourth game, however, Serena Williams didn't face another break point in the 1-hour, 22-minute match.

"Serena Williams, that's my little sister, guys. Congratulations Serena on No. 23," Venus said. "I have been right there with you. Some of them I have

lost right there against you. It's been an awesome thing, your win has always been my win, you know that. All the times I couldn't be there, wouldn't be there, didn't get there, you were there."

Venus stayed in the match with 21 winners, and won the longest rally of the match, but couldn't seem to keep up with her sister as the match progressed.

In terms of total years, it was the oldest Grand Slam women's final in the Open era with the Williams sisters combining for 71 years, 11 months. Roger Federer will be aiming to increase his all-time men's record to 18 when he takes on 14-time major winner Rafael Nadal on Sunday night, completing the singles finals lineup of all 30-somethings.

The Bryan twins missed out on a doubles record late Saturday, losing the final 7-5, 7-5 to Henri Kontinen of Finland and John Peers of Australia.

The third-seeded Bob and Mike Bryan were trying to win their 17th Grand Slam title, which would have tied them with John Newcombe for the most titles all-time.

## Super Bowl against Pats 'dream game' for Dimitroff

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Thomas Dimitroff's Super Bowl matchup against Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots is far more than an executive facing his former boss and employer.

Dimitroff, the Atlanta Falcons general manager since 2008, has extremely deep ties with Belichick. Dimitroff's first NFL job was on the Cleveland Browns' grounds crew when his father was a scout and Belichick was the coach.

Dimitroff climbed the ranks before spending five years as the Patriots' director of college scouting under Belichick.

Now Belichick and the Patriots stand in the way of the Fal-

cons' attempt to win their first Super Bowl.

It's a challenge Dimitroff said he relishes.

"This is kind of a dream game that way, to be able to go against the Patriots and against one of my mentors in this league," Dimitroff said Friday.

Dimitroff's respect for his former boss is obvious. He says New England is where he learned the most important lessons that prepared him for the opportunity in Atlanta.

"I learned a lot from my father and from different places I was at, of course, but it wasn't until I got to the Patriots that I truly realized the idea at the core of the team concept," he said.

"I mean, I grew up hearing it

all the time, but actually being put into effect there in New England, I'll take that with me forever."

The Falcons retained Dimitroff when hiring coach Dan Quinn in 2015. The two formed a management partnership that produced Atlanta's second Super Bowl berth, perhaps faster than either could have predicted.

Though Quinn was given ultimate control of player personnel decisions, the two appear comfortable sharing authority with no apparent sign of friction. Dimitroff calls their relationship a "partnership."

The coach and GM often are seen in warm embraces on the field after games, and Dimitroff says they talk 10 or more times

during a day "on so many levels from policy to acquisitions to how we're going to replace lights in this (indoor practice) facility."

Dimitroff says Quinn is "a general manager's dream to be with." Quinn has started four rookies and four second-year players on defense this season.

The success of the young players, including rookies Keanu Neal, Dion Jones, De'Vondre Campbell and Brian Poole, is the best reward for a general manager and his scouts.

"I mean, he has all kinds of nerve to go into this season and start four rookie defensive players," Dimitroff said. "To me, that's amazing. I've had countless personnel men call me and ... laud Dan for that."

# Lawsuit alleges at least 52 rapes by Baylor players under Briles

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — A former Baylor University student who says she was raped by two football players filed a federal lawsuit Friday against the school that alleges there were dozens more assaults of women involving other players.

The lawsuit by the student, who is listed in the documents only as “Elizabeth Doe,” alleges at least 52 rapes by more than 30 football players over a four-year period.

It also alleges a “culture of sexual violence” and describes her 2013 attack by two players. It doesn’t detail the other alleged attacks, but says some were recorded by the players, who shared them with friends.

Fifty-two assaults would dramatically increase the 17 reports of sexual and physical attacks involving 19 players since 2011 previously acknowledged by Baylor officials.

The school faces at least five lawsuits from women who allege they were attacked and that the school failed to protect them or ignored their complaints.

The nation’s largest Baptist university has been gripped by the ongoing scandal that led to the firing of football coach Art Briles and the departure of school President Ken Starr in 2016.

An internal investigation last year found that the football program operated as if it was “above the rules” and that assistant coaches and staff interfered or stifled investigations into alleged assaults by players.

Baylor allowed Briles’ staff of assistants to remain for the 2016 season but new coach Matt Rhule hasn’t retained them. Some have moved to new jobs, including Briles’ son and former offensive coordinator, Kendal Briles, to Florida Atlantic, and defensive coordinator Phil Bennett to Arizona State.

In a statement, Baylor Presi-

dent David E. Garland said the university had made “great progress” in fortifying security measures since the sexual assault scandal erupted last year.

“Baylor University has taken unprecedented actions that have been well-documented in response to the issue of past and alleged sexual assaults involving our campus community,” Garland said. “We have made great progress in implementing 105 recommendations to strengthen the safety and security of all students and restore faith in the university.”

The statement did not specifically address the allegations in the new lawsuit.

In the lawsuit filed Friday, the woman alleges being raped by two players in 2013. The attack was reported to Waco police but no charges were filed and the players were allowed to stay on the team at the time.

According to the lawsuit, campus officials didn’t investigate her case until 2015. One of the players involved was suspended from the team and later expelled. The other had transferred.

The lawsuit alleges the football program operated under a “show ‘em a good time” policy that “used sex to sell” Baylor to high school recruits.

The woman was a member of a campus group called the Baylor Bruins that would host prospective athletes during visits. The lawsuit alleges Baylor encouraged making Baylor Bruins available for sex with recruits, as well as taking recruits to strip clubs, implied promises of sex and using alcohol and drugs in the recruiting process.

Art Briles’ attorney Ernest Cannon denied the program culture described in the lawsuit.

“If they were doing that it would be terrible, but they weren’t doing that. Art wasn’t involved in anything like that,” Cannon said. “Lawyers have

great imaginations when money is involved. It’s really sad.”

In other college football news:

■ Colorado assistant football coach Joe Tumpkin has resigned at the athletic department’s request after his former girlfriend said he repeatedly physically assaulted her.

His resignation is effective Jan. 31 and coach Mike MacIntyre will conduct a quick search for a replacement with spring ball set to begin in less than a month.

On Jan. 6, MacIntyre and athletic director Rick George placed Tumpkin, 45, on administrative leave after learning that a judge had issued a temporary restraining order against Tumpkin at the request of his ex-girlfriend.

■ The 10 Minnesota football players suspended after an alleged sexual assault last fall presented their case Friday in the final day of hearings in front of a panel of university employees.

## Rose takes lead, Tiger misses cut

SAN DIEGO — Justin Rose already achieved what he wanted Friday in the Farmers Insurance Open. One last birdie for the lead made the day a little bit better.

Spooked by the bumpy greens late in the day at Torrey Pines that cost him two bogeys, Rose rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 closing hole on the South Course for a 1-under 71 that gave him a one-shot lead going into a weekend that no longer has as much star power.

Tiger Woods missed the cut in his return to the PGA Tour after 17 months. Perhaps more shocking was that Jason Day and Dustin Johnson also missed the cut, as did Rickie Fowler. Phil Mickelson was on

the bubble until making a birdie on the 18th for a 72 to make the cut with one shot to spare.

Rose, who was at 8-under 136, now gets two more cracks at the South Course, where the average score for two days was 73.8.

“Everyone has played both courses now, and now we get to play the bruiser for the next two days,” Rose said. “So you just want to basically put yourself within shot.”

Brandt Snedeker saved par from a shot that nearly went out-of-bounds on No. 12, rammed in a birdie putt on the 13th and held on for a 69. He was one shot behind as he tries to join J.C. Snead, Woods and Mickelson as the only back-to-back winners since this event began in 1952.

## Former NC State star found dead

KINSTON, N.C. — Charles Shackelford, a North Carolina State basketball star in the 1980s who spent six seasons in the NBA, was found dead in his home Friday. He was 50.

The cause of death hasn’t been determined and an investigation is underway, spokesman Woody Spencer of the Kinston Police Department told The Associated Press. He did not say what circumstances led authorities to the home.

Shackelford, 6-foot-10, averaged 13.7 points and 7.8 rebounds a game in three seasons at N.C. State. He earned first-team all-Atlantic Coast Conference honors in 1988 after leading the league in rebounding at 9.6 per game that season.

Shackelford was a second-round draft pick by New Jersey in 1988. He averaged 5.4 points and 4.8 rebounds for his NBA career while also making stops in Philadelphia, Minnesota and Charlotte through the 1998-99 season.

# Harden scores 51 as Rockets top Sixers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — James Harden scored 51 points and had 13 rebounds and 13 assists to lead the Houston Rockets to a 123-118 victory over Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday.

Harden has at least 30 points and 10 assists in 18 games this season. The NBA's third-leading scorer entering the game, Harden finished two points shy of tying his career high. He was 16-for-28 from the field, including 6-for-11 from three-point range, and made 13 of 14 free throws.

Harden scored 19 points in the third quarter. Nene added 21 points to help the Rockets snap a two-game skid and win for just the fourth time in 10 games.

Embiid had 32 points and

seven rebounds in his return to the lineup after missing the last two games with a knee contusion.

**Heat 100, Bulls 88:** Goran Dragic had 26 points and 11 assists, Willie Reed scored 20 points and Dion Waiters added 19 to lead Miami past host Chicago for its sixth straight victory.

Dwyane Wade had 15 points to lead the Bulls, who began the day with a team meeting and ended it with a second straight frustrating loss.

**Cavaliers 124, Nets 116:** LeBron James scored 31 points, Kyrie Irving added 28 and Cleveland ended a turbulent week with a victory over visiting Brooklyn.

The NBA champions had lost three straight and six of eight while James questioned whether the organization was

fully committed to winning a second title.

Sean Kilpatrick led Brooklyn with 18 points, and Bojan Bogdanovic had 17. The Nets have lost four straight and 15 of their last 16.

**Pelicans 119, Spurs 103:** Jrue Holiday scored 23 points, Anthony Davis had 16 points and tied a career high with 22 rebounds, and host New Orleans snapped San Antonio's five-game winning streak.

**Celtics 128, Magic 98:** Isaiah Thomas had 21 points and eight assists in just three quarters, extending his streak of at least 20 points to 30 games and helping Boston beat visiting Orlando.

**Knicks 110, Hornets 107:** Carmelo Anthony shook off some boos and a rough shooting night to score 18 points, Courtney Lee added 16 against

his former team and host New York beat Charlotte.

**Pacers 115, Kings 111 (OT):** Paul George scored 12 of his team's last 16 points and finished with 33 and Indiana overcame a 16-point third-quarter deficit to beat visiting Sacramento.

**Trail Blazers 112, Grizzlies 109:** Damian Lillard scored 33 points, including 13 straight for late in the fourth quarter, and host Portland held off Memphis.

**Raptors 102, Bucks 86:** Kyle Lowry had 32 points, Norman Powell added 19 and Toronto beat visiting Milwaukee to snap its longest losing streak of the season at five games.

**Wizards 112, Hawks 86:** Otto Porter Jr. had 21 points and 11 rebounds, John Wall scored 19 points and visiting Washington beat Atlanta.

## NHL 100 pays homage to league's greatest players

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux and Bobby Orr were among the easiest choices for The NHL 100, the group of enduring superstars chosen and honored by the league Friday night as the best players in hockey history.

Yet if the Great One, Super Mario and No. 4 had to pick an NHL 1, they would all choose Mr. Hockey, the late Gordie Howe.

Wondrous athletes with incredible achievements were in abundance Friday night in downtown Los Angeles, the site of Sunday's NHL All-Star Game and the celebration of the league's centennial. Dozens of the NHL 100 members were honored in the gala ceremony, from 1970s greats Guy Lafleur and Yvan Cournoyer to current Chicago Blackhawks stars Patrick Kane, Duncan Keith and Jonathan Toews.

Many of the greats spared a thought for Howe, who died in June. He featured prominently in the memorial highlight reel

shown to the audience at the Microsoft Theatre.

"Gordie is, in my mind, the best that ever played the game," Orr said while flanked by Gretzky and Lemieux. "I'm not sure if we'll ever see another one. I sometimes sit and look at his numbers, as I sit sometimes and look at the numbers that these two guys put up. I think, 'How in the world did they do it?'"

The NHL 100 was selected by a large panel of league executives, former players and media members. The league revealed 33 selectees who played during the league's first half-century on New Year's Day, and four of them showed up to receive a standing ovation in Los Angeles: Dave Keon, Johnny Bucyk, Frank Mahovlich and Red Kelly.

The rest of the 100 were named Friday, with most of the greats in attendance for a ceremony hosted by actor Jon Hamm.

"Quite an interesting evening," Mark Messier said. "I've

been to a lot of All-Star games, a lot of award ceremonies, a lot of events with the NHL over the years, but this is definitely one that put things over the top. ... I grew up watching a lot of these players on TV, grew up playing with a lot of these players. So you talk about one big, long walking memory everywhere you look."

Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby joined the Blackhawks' championship-winning trio among the active players in the 100. Jaromir Jagr, the Florida Panthers forward who turns 45 next month, was the final player named, getting a wild ovation in the theater when he took the stage.

"To be part of this group and have so many guys here that you look up to and that paved the way, were great role models for us growing up, it's really special," Crosby said. "You can go down the list. It's a pretty amazing group of players. Just to be in that company is pretty special in and of itself."

Bobby Hull and Brett Hull

both made the 100, prompting Chris Pronger to declare that "there is probably not going to be a father-son combo like that again."

The host Los Angeles Kings had representatives including Gretzky, Luc Robitaille and Marcel Dionne.

Five players who recently left the NHL were recognized for their careers in the 2000s: Martin Brodeur, Pavel Datsyuk, Nicklas Lidstrom, Chris Pronger and Teemu Selanne.

The most prolific skater who didn't make the 100 was Mark Recchi, the 12th-leading scorer in NHL history. Other high-scoring stars who didn't make the cut included Doug Gilmour, Dale Hawerchuk and San Jose center Joe Thornton.

When asked to name his top omission, Lemieux chose somebody close to his heart.

"That's a tough call, but certainly (Evgeni) Malkin would be close to 101," the Pittsburgh owner said of the Penguins' former league MVP, who is skipping All-Star weekend entirely.