

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Military major front in shutdown battle

*The Washington Post*

The U.S. military faced a variety of consequences as a result of a federal government shutdown Saturday, with U.S. troops working at least temporarily without pay, thousands of civilian employees furloughed and Republicans and Democrats alike saying their opponents should do better for the troops.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in a memo released by the Pentagon on Saturday that the U.S. military will continue to carry out operations across the world, but the shutdown already was prompting the cancellation or delay of training for reserve units and was having other effects. Mattis pledged to do his best to mitigate disruptions and the financial impact on military families.

"We will continue to execute daily operations around the world — ships and submarines will remain at sea, our aircraft will continue to fly and our warfighters will continue to pursue terrorists throughout the Middle East, Africa and South Asia," Mattis wrote. "While training for reservists must be curtailed, active forces will stay at their posts adapting their training to achieve the least negative impact on our readiness to fight."

Mattis added: "Steady as she goes — hold the line. I know our Nation can count on you."

According to a Pentagon planning memo posted last week, all active-duty uniformed personnel are to continue their duties, but they will not be paid until after the shutdown is resolved.

Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said the shutdown would not have a significant impact across the Middle East, where U.S. troops are conducting operations against militants in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere, and where the U.S. mili-

tary has a host of major bases.

President Donald Trump accused the Democrats on Saturday morning in a tweet of "holding our Military hostage over their desire to have unchecked illegal immigration," a reference to the dispute that is at the heart of the shutdown.

But the situation wasn't that simple. While Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.; and other Republicans blamed the Democrats, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., made an effort shortly after midnight to get the troops' salaries and death benefits paid through the shutdown.

"I want to make sure that tonight we send a very clear signal that we don't want one moment to pass with there being any uncertainty of any soldier anywhere in the world that they will be paid for the valiant work they do for our national security," McCaskill said, calling for a resolution to pay the troops.

McConnell scuttled the effort, objecting to her motion.

The pay situation threatened the financial well-being of servicemembers, whose annual salaries begin at less than \$30,000. As McCaskill noted, Congress has historically given the military back pay when a shutdown occurs or passed a bill that pays them during a work stoppage. U.S. troops are paid twice a month, and the next check is expected Feb. 1.

As Mattis predicted in public remarks Friday, military reservists across the country traveled in preparation for scheduled training this past weekend, only to be sent home after the shutdown at midnight.

"We hope Congress has our country's best interest in mind," Col. Mark Cheadle, a U.S. Africa Command spokesman, said when asked about the shutdown.

## Servicemembers, families overseas confused, angry

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Defense Department personnel and their families overseas woke up over the weekend to confusion, uncertainty and some anger about how their lives would be affected by the U.S. government shutdown.

It didn't take long for some DOD operations to grind to a halt. American Forces Network, which provides entertainment and command information to U.S. servicemembers worldwide through its television and radio services, was dark early Saturday morning in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Classical music was playing on its stations, and the network posted a message online that said AFN services were not available due to the government shutdown.

On Sunday, one AFN sports channel and a news channel began re-airing sporadically overseas, meaning that servicemembers would be able to watch the NFC and AFC championship games.

Camp Humphreys in South Korea first reported the limited AFN availability along with AFN 360 on the internet, followed by multiple viewers in Japan on Twitter.

Just hours before kickoff, AFN announced further availability.

"To the world's most deserving viewing audience, it gives me great pleasure to announce we have been given the authority to bring back

limited television services," AFN Director Col. Dave Honchul posted on the AFN Europe Facebook page. "As such, we have brought back two channels — AFN News and AFN Sports. We will be broadcasting both the NFC and AFC championships."

An NFL spokesperson told The Washington Post on Saturday that the league would provide its NFL Game Pass to USO facilities and was working on other ways for troops to watch the games.

However, not all USO locations — such as those in Iraq and smaller bases in Afghanistan — have the high-speed internet needed for the NFL's streaming service. Also, servicemembers assigned to ships may not have access to a USO facility.

In a statement released Sunday, Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said that "despite the government shutdown, DOD determined the operational necessity of television and radio broadcasts constitutes them as essential activities."

In Japan, AFN programming and social media stopped at 2 p.m. Saturday, according to a post on U.S. Naval Forces Japan's official Facebook page. Like in Europe, the network's TV and radio stations played classical music.

On Sunday afternoon, AFN Tokyo broadcast a radio documentary about controversies surrounding President Donald Trump's administration.



# Navy calls for paternity leave increase

BY TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy is advocating a change that would give fathers and secondary caregivers more time off after a birth or adoption, the service's personnel chief said.

Nonchargeable leave would rise from a maximum of 10 days up to a cap of 21 days

under the recommendation, Vice Adm. Robert Burke, who serves as chief of naval personnel and deputy chief of naval operations, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

The recommendation stems from the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the Pentagon to increase nonchargeable leave across the

services. The recommendation is subject to approval by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which was not immediately available for comment on Friday.

"We don't know exactly where it's going to fall out on the OSD policy," Burke said.

"The current [policy] is 10 and 10 for paternity and adoption leave, so it could be going

up to somewhere around 21 and 21 is what we're guessing ... that's what we're recommending. We'll see where it comes out."

In 2015, the Navy implemented an 18-week maternity leave policy. The policy was overruled in 2016 by then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who set a 12-week maternity leave policy for all the services.

## Japan chides US for helo flights over school

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

AND HANA KUSUMOTO

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese government officials have chastised their U.S. allies after Marine Corps helicopters reportedly flew over an Okinawan elementary school where a CH-53E Super Stallion's window fell last month.

A UH-1Y Venom and two AH-1Z Vipers were spotted above Futenma Daini Elementary School on Thursday afternoon, said a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which is part of Japan's Defense Ministry. The school is adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Students were in class at the time, school officials said.

"It's deplorable that this has happened even though we've requested firmly that the U.S. not fly above the school," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Thursday. On Friday, he said he would continue to urge the U.S. to not fly over the school.

Officials had been watching for military aircraft over Okinawan schools after a Dec. 13 incident in which a Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated from the aircraft and landed on a Futenma Daini sports field while schoolchildren were playing. Footage from security cameras set up after that incident reportedly caught Thursday's flyover.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera called the flyover "extremely regrettable" and said he had lodged a complaint with U.S. Forces Japan's deputy commander, Maj. Gen. Charles Chiarotti.

Defense Ministry officials also lodged protests Thursday with U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez and Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander.

Onodera said the U.S. military denied the flyover took place when asked about it by his office. Marine officials did not respond to Stars and Stripes' requests for comment Friday.

Onodera added that he thought Martinez and Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis — who apologized to Japan earlier this month for recent aircraft mishaps — understood that refraining from flying over Okinawan schools is an important issue.

Onodera said he would urge the U.S. military to instruct all units not to fly over the elementary school and would ask for specific reasons for Thursday's flyover, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

Okinawa's anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga said he was outraged by the incident, according to the Asahi newspaper. Onaga plans to visit Tokyo to lodge a protest with the Japanese government.

Officials from the Ginowan city board of education said

they have had lingering safety concerns after the window fell and had asked the U.S. military on Okinawa not to fly over the school, a spokesman said.

The school held an evacuation drill before the flyover Thursday and hasn't used the playground since the window fell.

"We want to be able to hold classes in a normal and quiet environment," the spokesman said. "We just want them to not fly. That is all we want."

Thursday's flyover is the latest aviation mishap to strain relations between the two allies regarding the U.S. military's presence on the southern island prefecture.

The falling-window incident on Dec. 13 was followed by emergency landings by Marine helicopters on Jan. 6 and Jan. 8. On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawan day care facility.

In October, a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Super Stallion made an emergency landing in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area after an inflight fire. The aircraft was an almost total loss.

The incidents stand to embolden Okinawa's small but potent protest movement and could lead to renewed demonstrations against U.S. military aircraft and plans to relocate Marine air operations within the prefecture, from Futenma to Camp Schwab.

## US Army vehicle burns on roadway in Bavaria

*Stars and Stripes*

A Humvee being towed for repairs on a major roadway in Bavaria, Germany, suddenly burst into flames and smashed into a guardrail before coming to a stop, German police said.

There were no injuries in the early Thursday morning incident, police said Friday.

The Humvee broke down on Autobahn 93. Soldiers were towing it between Hof-Nord and Regnitzlosau for servicing at a U.S. facility in Grafenwoehr when its axle overheated and ignited the vehicle.

The soldiers disconnected the burning vehicle to keep it from igniting the tow vehicle. Once the burning Humvee was free, it rolled into the middle of traffic and hit a guardrail.

Damage to the Humvee was estimated at about \$98,000, police said. The accident shut down traffic in both directions.

The incident is the third this month for the military in southern Germany. Last week, a fuel truck crashed while making a delivery. The week before that, German police stopped a U.S. Army convoy hauling self-propelled howitzers on Autobahn 4 because the trailers were overloaded.

# DOD, FAA have yet to resolve aircraft tracking system risks

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Defense Department and Federal Aviation Administration have yet to resolve security risks to military aircraft posed by a new tracking system required to be implemented in less than two years, according to a government audit released Thursday.

Although those agencies and other organizations have identified the system's risks to military security and missions over the past decade, approved solutions remain an "urgent need," the Government Accountability Office said in the public version of a classified report.

All aircraft flying in domestic airspace must have the technology installed by Jan. 1, 2020.

Up to now, the Defense Department and the FAA have focused on how to equip military aircraft with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out technology, with much less thought given to solving or mitigating security risks, the GAO said.

In 2010, the FAA issued a final rule requiring all civilian and military aircraft flying within U.S. airspace to be equipped with ADS-B Out, which uses satellites to transmit flight information to enabled receivers. ADS-B Out is a key component of the FAA's ongoing modernization effort to switch from a ground-based radar system to a satellite system for aircraft position reporting, navigation and digital communications.

ADS-B Out employs an aircraft's avionics systems to

broadcast position, altitude, velocity and other data to receivers on the ground, air or space, the GAO said.

It is part of the FAA's so-called NextGen system intended to increase safety, reduce delays, decrease costs for airlines and passengers and cut down carbon emissions.

However, the NextGen system's reliance on internet protocols, digital communication and GPS creates a greater risk of it failing or being hacked, the GAO said.

As far back as 2008, the Defense Department had notified the FAA that military aircraft would need "special accommodations" due to national security concerns, in areas such as sensitive missions and electronic-warfare vulnerabilities, the GAO said.

## Women's March sets sights on ballot box

*Tribune Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON — In a boisterous coast-to-coast outpouring, hundreds of thousands of marchers in dozens of cities staged a reprise of last year's Women's March, seeking to not only deliver a powerful rebuke to the policies of President Donald Trump but also to mount a crucial mobilization for this year's midterm elections.

In addition to the roll call of major American cities where marches took place — including New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Dallas, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta — protesters raised their voices in suburbs and small towns, reflecting the aim of coalescing a broad-based movement on the anniversary of Trump's inauguration to oppose the president's stance on immigration, health care, race and other issues.

Against the backdrop of the government shutdown that took hold Saturday, many marchers pointed to the irony of the closure of sites associated with the fight for liberty and equality, such as the Statue of Liberty and the visitor center at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta.

Dozens of gatherings were also held overseas. In Rome, Italian actress-director Asia Argento, one of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's accusers, called on women to "speak out and change things."

The mood at many of the rallies was lighthearted. Marchers vied to outdo one another with droll signs — "Ugh where do I start," read one, while another declared, "If you take away my birth control, I'll just make more feminists." The age spectrum ranged from babies to elders, with large numbers of men marching along with women.

Organizers of Power to the Polls planned the event to inspire more progressive candidates to run for office, register voters and educate activists on how they can mobilize people.

## At least 18 killed in Kabul attack

BY CHAD GARLAND  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said at least four Afghans and 14 foreigners were killed in an attack at a luxury hotel in Kabul that ended Sunday after about 16 hours.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which began when gunmen stormed the Intercontinental Hotel around 9 p.m. Saturday. The head of telecommunications for Farah province was among those killed, said Najib Danish, Interior Ministry spokesman.

Eleven of the 14 foreigners were employees of the private Afghan airline KamAir, Danish said. KamAir also put out an announcement saying some of its flights were disrupted because of the attack.

The exact number of deaths is not clear and may rise. Local outlets had reported more than 40 are believed dead.

Ukraine said six of its citizens were killed in the attack. Pavlo Klimkin, the Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs, released that information Sunday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I have informed the president of the death of six Ukrainian citizens as the result of the attack on the hotel in Kabul," Klimkin said.

At least 10 others were wounded, including six

security forces personnel. More than 150 people, including 41 foreigners, were evacuated from the hotel, Danish said.

Local TV showed people trying to climb from the hotel windows, and survivors told several outlets they hid under beds or in bathrooms until they could escape.

The Taliban said they targeted the hotel because the facility was hosting a gathering of Afghan and foreign officials. One of two major hotels in the city, the Intercontinental is a popular site for weddings, press conferences, official meetings and more.

At the time of the attack, officials from Afghanistan's 34 provinces had gathered for a meeting organized by the country's Telecommunications Ministry.

More than 13 hours later on Sunday morning, dozens of journalists and spectators had gathered to watch the siege play out. They lined a main road outside the hotel complex, which is situated on a hill in the Bagh-e-Bala neighborhood in the Afghan capital's northwest, as sporadic and sometimes heavy gunfire and blasts echoed down from the hilltop.

One of the spectators, Rahmadullah Omarkhaid, 50, said the incident "tells you everything you need to know" about security in Afghanistan. He said he feared a worsening situation in his country, where there has been fighting for as long as he can remember.



# Congress gets more texts from removed agent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has turned over to Congress additional text messages involving an FBI agent who was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigative team following the discovery of derogatory comments about President Donald Trump.

But the department also said in a letter to lawmakers that its record of messages sent to and from the agent, Peter Strzok, was incomplete because the FBI, for technical reasons, had been unable to preserve and retrieve about five months' worth of communications.

New text messages highlighted in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray by Sen. Ron Johnson, the Republican chairman of the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, are from the spring and summer of 2016 and involve

discussion of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. They reference, among other things, Attorney General Loretta Lynch's decision to accept the FBI's findings in that case and a draft statement former FBI Director James Comey had prepared in anticipation of concluding the investigation without criminal charges.

Strzok, a veteran counterintelligence agent who also worked the Clinton email case, was reassigned from the team investigating ties between Russia and Trump's Republican presidential campaign after Mueller learned that he had traded politically charged text messages — many anti-Trump in nature — with an FBI lawyer who was also detailed to the group. The lawyer, Lisa Page, left Mueller's team before the text messages were discovered.

The Justice Department last month produced for reporters and Congress hundreds of text messages between the two officials, with Republican lawmakers con-

tending that the communication reveals the FBI and Mueller team to be politically tainted and biased against Trump — assertions Wray has flatly rejected.

Beyond the communications already made public, the Justice Department on Friday provided Johnson's committee with 384 pages of text messages, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

But Johnson said the FBI had told the department that the FBI's system for retaining text messages sent and received on bureau phones had failed to preserve communications between Strzok and Page over a five-month period between December 2016 and March 2017.

"The result was that data that should have been automatically collected and retained for long-term storage and retrieval was not collected," according to a cover letter accompanying the texts.

## Not all happy about unified Korean team

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Koreans seem generally happy they'll see the North Koreans at their Olympics, but aren't as pleased about sharing a team with them.

The agreement between the war-separated rivals to field a unified women's ice hockey team at February's Winter Olympics has triggered a debate in South Korea, where there's no longer strong public clamor for reunification or for using sports to make political statements.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who views the Pyeongchang Games as an opportunity to improve relations following a year of tension over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, said the unified team would provide a "historically grand moment" once it appears on ice.

Other reconciliatory gestures the Koreans have agreed to for the Olympics include a joint march under a blue-and-white "unification" flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony and a pair of performances by a visit-

ing North Korean art troupe. The joint march and the unified hockey team were approved Saturday by the International Olympic Committee, which allowed 22 North Korean athletes to take part in the games in exceptional entries given to the North.

Not all South Koreans are in the mood. There are apparently few objections to the North Korean presence at the Olympics itself, which likely ensures that the country holds off any significant weapons test or other aggressive acts that would risk disrupting the games.

Many South Koreans believe their government went too far by pushing athletes into a "political show" that will likely become meaningless once the lull in tensions breaks down after the Olympics.

"I think it will be emotionally moving to watch the athletes of both Koreas march under the same flag during the opening ceremony as we come from the same nation," said Oh Ju-yeon, 46, a housewife. "But after the games, there will be bitterness from realizing that nothing's really going to change."

## Jordan to Pence: 'Rebuild trust' after Jerusalem pivot

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan's king appealed Sunday to Vice President Mike Pence to "rebuild trust and confidence" in the possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict following fallout from the Trump administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Pence, in turn, tried to reassure the monarch that the Trump administration remains committed to restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts and views Jordan as a central player. The vice president also said that "the United States of America remains committed, if the parties agree, to a two-state solution." Such a caveat deviates from long-standing U.S. support for a two-state solution as the only possible outcome of any peace deal.

Trump's pivot on Jerusalem infuriated the Palestinians, who seek the Israeli-annexed eastern sector of the city as a future capital. They accused the U.S. of siding with Israel and said Washington can no longer serve as a mediator.

Trump's Jerusalem policy shift set off protests and condemnation in Arab and Muslim countries.

It posed a dilemma for Jordanian King Abdullah, who is a U.S. ally but derives his political legitimacy in large part from the Hashemite dynasty's role as guardian of a key Muslim site in Jerusalem. Any perceived threat to Muslim claims in the city is seen as a challenge to Jordan, where a segment of the population is of Palestinian origin.

Pence told Jordan's monarch Sunday that Trump made it clear in his announcement on Jerusalem "that we are committed to continue to respect Jordan's role as the custodian of holy sites, that we take no position on boundaries and final status." He said Jordan would continue to play a central role in any future peace efforts.

Abdullah expressed concerns about the regional fallout from the Jerusalem decision. "Today we have a major challenge to overcome, especially with some of the rising frustrations," he said.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police dog chokes to death on ball

**NY** WATERTOWN — A police dog in northern New York state died during a training exercise.

The Jefferson County Sheriff said its office dog, a German Shepherd named Scout, was retrieving a ball Thursday afternoon when it got stuck behind the dog's teeth.

According to The Post-Standard of Syracuse, officers tried the Heimlich maneuver, CPR and mouth-to-nose resuscitation before rushing Scout to an animal hospital. By the time the dog arrived at the facility, it was too late; its airway had been blocked for too long.

## Town manager leads segregationist group

**ME** JACKMAN — The town manager of a rural Maine community says he's the leader of a racial segregationist group, and he believes the U.S. would be better off if people of different races were to "voluntarily separate."

Jackman town manager Tom Kawczynski wants to preserve the white majority of northern New England and Atlantic Canada, he has told the Bangor Daily News. He moved to Maine a year ago and launched a group called "New Albion" to promote what he calls "the positive aspects of our European heritage."

American Civil Liberties Union of Maine legal director Zachary Heiden said Kawczynski's attitudes and materials are "shockingly racist."

## Police: Murder suspect may be tied to old case

**FL** DAYTONA BEACH — Authorities in Florida said a woman arrested for

killing and dismembering her ex-boyfriend may be linked to another, 10-year-old case.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that Nelci Tetley, 67, is a person of interest in the 2007 death of Michael Scot Louis, whose chopped-up body was found in garbage bags along the Tomoka River.

Tetley was arrested Thursday and charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of Jeffrey Albertsman, 55.

Daytona Beach police officers found Albertsman's body six months ago. He'd been shot in the head, and his arms and legs were missing. Albertsman's arms and legs were found about 10 miles from where Louis' body was discovered a decade earlier.

## Fundraiser saves pony that lost part of penis

**ME** BRIDGTON — A Maine animal rescue group said it has raised enough money to save a 15-year-old pony that lost part of its penis due to cancer and frostbite.

Bridgton-based Animal Rescue Unit took over care of the pony that was suffering from cancer and an infection.

The animal, named Richard, will be spared from being euthanized thanks to a fundraising campaign that surpassed its goal of raising \$4,000 for care, including reconstruction.

## Police: Woman tells of body, then leads chase

**NH** NASHUA — Police in New Hampshire said a woman told them a man was shot fatally and was in her home, and then led them on a chase into Massachusetts and back before she was arrested.

A body has not been found.

Police in Nashua said they

had contact Wednesday with Carmelita Vergez, 54, who told them about the death but drove off as they attempted to learn more. They said Vergez led them into neighboring Tyngsborough, Mass., where she caused a minor collision before driving back to Nashua, a total of about 20 miles.

Police said her car struck another car, and she ran down an embankment before being arrested.

## Officer guilty of threats to release photos of ex

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — An officer who threatened to send nude photos of his former girlfriend to their colleagues on a Florida police force has been found guilty of extortion.

The SunSentinel reported jurors took just 20 minutes Wednesday to decide that James Krey, 40, threatened to release the photos and a sex video unless she resigned from her position on the Davie Police Department. He faces up to 15 years in prison when he's sentenced in February.

## Man accused of killing 2 dogs over cat's death

**VA** CHRISTIANSBURG — Authorities said a Virginia man whose cat was killed by two Labrador retrievers pursued their owner and fatally shot the dogs.

The Roanoke Times reported Stephen Nichols Cook, 68, was convicted Tuesday of two misdemeanor charges in connection with the November incident and a judge sent felony charges against Cook to a grand jury.

The hearing featured testimony from several witnesses, who described how Cook and Arthur Hamrick had long been

at odds, fueled by encounters between Cook's cats and Hamrick's dogs.

## 1 killed, 1 hurt during illicit sledding excursion

**ME** NEWRY — A teenage stunt in which two high school students sneaked onto a ski mountain for some illicit, late-night tubing ended in tragedy when the pair crashed into a tree, killing one and seriously injuring the other, officials said.

The Sunday River ski mountain was closed and off limits when the crash was reported at 2 a.m. Wednesday by a third person who was not on the inflatable tube, Oxford County Chief Deputy Hart Daley said.

Portsmouth High School Principal Mary Lyons confirmed that a senior, David Kohlase, 18, died in the crash and another student was hospitalized.

## Statue honoring writer of anthem is defaced

**MD** BALTIMORE — A statue honoring the composition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was defaced in Baltimore.

News outlets reported that red paint was sprayed on the statue in Baltimore's Patterson Park. The words "Racist Anthem" were sprayed on a sidewalk leading up to the statue.

The statue was built in 1914, paid for with pennies collected by Baltimore schoolchildren.

In September, a city statue dedicated to the anthem's author, Francis Scott Key, was defaced.

Key, a slaveholder, wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" after witnessing the bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# US Army helped Sweeney reach Olympics

Associated Press

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Emily Sweeney owns no clothing with the Olympic rings emblazoned on them. She's refused to wear anything bearing that logo, instead sometimes staring at those who were and wondering if her chance would ever come.

At long last, it's here.

Olympic gear is coming her way, and it was earned. Sweeney is one of three women on the team that USA Luge is sending to the Pyeongchang Games in February, after clinching her spot in December and ending an eight-year odyssey that had more twists and turns than the ice-coated winding chutes that she slides down to make a living.

"It doesn't feel real," Sweeney said. "I feel exactly the same as I did before."

Much like a luge track itself, Sweeney's path to the Olympics has been long, cold, bumpy and treacherous. She lost a race-off for the final spot on the 2010 U.S. Olympic team — to her sister. She missed out again when trying to make the 2014 team for the Sochi Games, doomed in part by injuries. She's barely a year removed from surgery on a wrist that is still giving her problems.

This time, she handled every challenge.

Sweeney is ranked ninth in the current World Cup standings, won a gold medal in a sprint race in Germany earlier this season and survived a U.S. team selection process that went down to the final weekend. Her spot was clinched in a most unceremonious fashion: It became mathematically secured on a night when she wasn't even at the track, and instead was alone doing laundry at the Olympic Training Center that she's called home for years.

"She's resilient, right? She had a goal and she went for it," said a teary-eyed and beaming Megan Sweeney, Emily's sister — the winner of that race-off a week before Christmas 2009 for that winter's Olympic berth, one where she got the right to race in British Columbia while her kid sister watched from the stands. "She was so aggressive. She's way better than I ever was."

Erin Hamlin is going to her fourth Olympics for the U.S., and Summer Britcher is going to her second. Sweeney, who has spent 14 of her 24 winters on a luge sled, is the lone rookie on the women's team.

In a sport where the Germans have always dominated and figure to do so again at these Olym-

pics, the Americans are closing the gap. Hamlin won Olympic bronze in Sochi. It would not surprise anyone if any of the U.S. women found their way to the podium in Pyeongchang. And Sweeney, at 24, just figures to keep getting better.

"Not making the team in 2010 is one thing," Sweeney said. "It was fine. It obviously wasn't fine. I would have loved to have been there and competed with my sister. Not making the team in 2014 was a little crushing to me. It took me a long time to come back from that."

She took six months off after Sochi, didn't do much training, didn't go to those Olympics as a spectator. Retiring wasn't an option, but the zest for sliding was certainly waning at that point.

The U.S. Army helped her get back on track. Sweeney is a sergeant and part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program. She needed to go through some scheduled military training a few months after Sochi. After three weeks of training, she knew she was ready to get back on the sled.

"Can't say no to the military," Sweeney said.

And now, the Olympic dream — the one she decided to pursue as a 7-year-old — is realized.

"I didn't have much doubt

that she would get through this year," said Hamlin, Sweeney's close friend and longtime roommate. "She's been sliding really well and has the speed, for sure, to even contend for the podium at the games. She just had to have that confidence, she did and it's really nice to see. I went to the games with her sister in Vancouver, so I've come full circle. It's exciting."

Hamlin has had her Olympic gear for more than a decade, and that means Sweeney had to be in close proximity to all those shirts and hats and jackets and whatever else is part of the massive perk package bestowed on those who make the team.

Hamlin can relate to Sweeney's reluctance to wear any Olympic apparel — since she subscribes to the same theory.

"Not until you make the team," Hamlin said. "I wouldn't even wear Pyeongchang stuff until I made the team. No chance. You haven't earned it yet. You can't wear the garb if you haven't earned it."

But the quest is over. She's an Olympian.

"It's been a very long road," Sweeney said. "I've learned how to deal with disappointment. I haven't really learned how to deal with this yet."

## Nadal, Dimitrov make it to Australian quarters

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — If Rafael Nadal wanted a fitness test in the first week of the Australian Open, he got one in his almost four-hour, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3 win over Diego Schwartzman.

No. 3-ranked Grigor Dimitrov did it tough, too, before advancing to the quarterfinals at the expense of the last Aussie in the draw. Dimitrov avenged a loss two weeks ago to Nick Kyrgios with a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (4) win over Nick Kyrgios on Sunday night.

He'll next face Kyle Edmund, who reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 win over Andreas Seppi earlier in the afternoon and could relax and watch the night-time entertainment.

Nadal, with his spot in a 10th Australian Open quarterfinal secure, draped an arm around his Argentine friend Schwartzman and patted him on top of the head after they met at the net.

"A great battle ... he's a good friend of mine," Nadal said. "This is the first big match that I played in 2018. That's confidence for myself ... confidence I can resist for four hours on court at a good intensity."

Nadal lost last year's Australian Open final to Roger Federer, but went on to regain the No. 1 ranking and win the French and U.S. Open titles before bringing his season to a premature end because of an injured right knee.

"It was a good test for me. It was a lot

of hours on court. Moments under pressure," Nadal said. "So, yeah, a lot of positive things that I managed well."

Nadal will next play 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic, who collected his 100th Grand Slam match win with a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-6 (0), 7-6 (3) victory over No. 10 Pablo Carreno Busta.

"I had the 300th win of my career at the U.S. Open in 2014, so this is also beautiful one," Cilic said of his latest major milestone. "I hope I'm going to continue and gather three more here."

Caroline Wozniacki continued to cash in on her second chance, reaching the quarterfinals here for the first time since 2012 with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Magdalena Rybarikova.



## NBA roundup

## OKC embarrasses struggling Cleveland

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James couldn't get to 30,000 career points and he and his Cleveland teammates couldn't stop Paul George, Russell Westbrook or Carmelo Anthony as the Oklahoma City Thunder thumped the Cavaliers 148-124 on Saturday for their fourth straight win.

Oklahoma City tied the record for the most points scored against Cleveland in a regulation game. Philadelphia scored 148 back in 1972.

George scored 36, Westbrook had 23 and 20 assists and Anthony scored a season-high 29 as the Thunder embarrassed the Eastern Conference champions, whose defensive issues aren't improving. Cleveland has lost 10 of 14.

James finished with 18 points

and is seven shy of becoming the seventh player in NBA history to reach the 30,000-point plateau. His next chance is Tuesday when the Cavs visit San Antonio.

**Rockets 116, Warriors 108:** Chris Paul scored 33 points and 11 rebounds, James Harden had 22 points and Houston held off Golden State to snap its 14-game road winning streak.

Harden stepped back from Stephen Curry for a three-pointer as the shot clock expired to make it 114-108 with 1:10 left. Harden then blocked Curry's three-point attempt after a timeout, and Paul made two free throws with 28 seconds left.

Golden State lost away from home for the first time since Nov. 22. The Warriors had won seven straight in Houston.

**76ers 116, Bucks 94:** Joel

Embiid had 29 points and nine rebounds and host Philadelphia pulled away from undermanned Milwaukee for its seventh win in eight games.

Khris Middleton had 23 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for the Bucks in their second straight loss. They were without top scorer Giannis Antetokounmpo, who was sitting out the first of two games to rest a sore right knee.

**Timberwolves 115, Raptors 109:** Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had all 22 of his points in the second half as Minnesota rallied from an 11-point first-half deficit to beat visiting Toronto.

**Jazz 125, Clippers 113:** At Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points and Utah close out Los Angeles.

**Pelicans 111, Grizzlies 104:**

Jrue Holiday scored 13 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter, DeMarcus Cousins had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and host New Orleans beat Memphis.

**Bulls 113, Hawks 97:** Robin Lopez scored 20 points, Lauri Markkanen added 19 and visiting Chicago easily beat Atlanta.

**Trail Blazers 117, Mavericks 108:** Damian Lillard hit his first nine shots — including seven three-pointers — en route to 31 points, and host Portland beat Dallas.

**Heat 106, Hornets 105:** Kelly Olynyk scored 14 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter, including a free throw with 0.2 seconds left, to help visiting Miami erase a five-point deficit in the final 34 seconds and stun Charlotte.

## NHL roundup

## Carrick helps Leafs snap four-game losing skid

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Patrick Marleau simply opened his mouth, and that was enough to spark Toronto's comeback.

Connor Carrick snapped a tie midway through the third period and the Maple Leafs scored three times in the final frame to rally past the Ottawa Senators 4-3 on Saturday night.

The win stopped a four-game losing streak for the Maple Leafs, who also got third-period goals from Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner. Zach Hyman scored in the first, Jake Gardiner had three assists and Frederik Andersen made 15 saves.

Toronto went into the second intermission down 3-1 and got an earful from a respected veteran before returning to the ice.

"When Patrick Marleau steps up to say something in the locker room, guys listen," Matthews said. "He's a pretty soft-spoken guy but when he says something you have to listen up and he kind of got the ball going."

Erik Karlsson, Mike Hoffman and Tom Pyatt scored to give the Senators a 3-1 lead through 40 minutes. Craig Anderson made

29 saves.

Carrick took a wrist shot from the point that went over Anderson's shoulder and in at 8:58 of the third. The Ottawa netminder didn't appear to be screened.

**Avalanche 3, Rangers 1:** Nathan MacKinnon, Erik Johnson and Mikko Rantanen each had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Bernier made 27 saves and the streaking host Colorado earned its ninth consecutive win.

**Bruins 4, Canadiens 1:** David Pastrnak scored twice and set up another goal to help surging Boston beat host Montreal for the third time in eight days.

**Flyers 3, Devils 1:** Travis Konecny had a goal and an assist, Michal Neuvirth made 28 saves and host Philadelphia scored all its goals in the first period.

**Stars 7, Sabres 1:** Mattias Janmark had two goals and an assist, and Esa Lindell added a goal and two assists as Dallas routed host Buffalo.

**Hurricanes 3, Red Wings 1:** Elias Lindholm's second goal of the game broke a third-period tie for visiting Carolina.

**Wild 5, Lightning 2:** Zach Parise scored his first goal of the season and host Minne-

sota beat suddenly sputtering Tampa Bay.

**Islanders 7, Blackhawks 3:** Rookie defenseman Ryan Pullock had a goal and a career-high four assists, Anthony Beauvillier scored two power-play goals and New York beat slumping host Chicago.

**Sharks 2, Penguins 1:** Tomas Hertl scored a tiebreaking, power-play goal early in the third period and Aaron Dell made 31 saves to lead host San Jose over Pittsburgh in a rematch of the 2016 Stanley Cup Final won by the Penguins.

**Coyotes 5, Blues 2:** Christian Dvorak scored twice and Antti Raanta made 25 saves to help Arizona beat host St. Louis.

**Predators 4, Panthers 3:** P.K. Subban scored to cap a three-goal second period for host Nashville, and the Predators beat Florida for their fifth straight victory.

**Jets 2, Flames 1 (SO):** Bryan Little and Blake Wheeler scored in the shootout and Winnipeg ended host Calgary's seven-game winning streak.

**Oilers 5, Canucks 2:** Jesse Puljujarvi had a goal and two assists, Patrick Maroon scored twice for host Edmonton..

## Top 25 roundup

# Top-ranked Villanova rolls over UConn

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Jalen Brunson scored 23 points and top-ranked Villanova routed former Big East rival UConn 81-61 on Saturday.

Donte DiVincenzo added 17 points for the Wildcats (18-1), who complete their non-conference schedule at 13-0.

Jalen Adams scored 19 for UConn (10-9), which has now lost five games this season by at least 20 points.

The Wildcats hit just two of their first 13 shots, but still led 13-5 after a pair of three-pointers by DiVincenzo. A jumper from Adams brought the Huskies within five points at 21-16.

But Villanova scored 18 of the final 20 points before intermission, and the rout was on.

**No. 3 Purdue 87, Iowa 64:** Carsen Edwards scored 22 points and Vincent Edwards had 19 Saturday, leading the visiting Boilermakers to their 15th straight victory.

**Oklahoma State 83, No. 4 Oklahoma 81:** Trae Young scored 48 points, but missed a deep three at the buzzer in overtime as the Sooners fell to the host Cowboys.

**No. 5 Duke 81, Pittsburgh 54:** Freshman Wendell Carter

Jr. had 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting while the host Blue Devils shot 52 percent in a win over the Panthers.

**No. 6 West Virginia 86, Texas 51:** Jevon Carter scored 22 points and led a big second-half run that propelled the Mountaineers to victory over the visiting Longhorns.

**Houston 73, No. 7 Wichita State 59:** The seventh-ranked Shockers lost their second straight game as the Mustangs beat a Top 10 team for the first time in 22 years, with Rob Gray scoring 24 points.

**Iowa State 70, No. 8 Texas Tech 52:** Freshman Cameron Lard scored 18 points and the host Cyclones cruised past the Red Raiders for their first win over a ranked opponent this season.

**No. 10 Kansas 70, Baylor 67:** Malik Newman scored seven of his game-high 24 points in the closing minutes, the visiting Bears turned the ball over on the final inbounds play and the Jayhawks rallied to beat Baylor.

**No. 11 Xavier 73, No. 19 Seton Hall 64:** JP Macura scored a season-high 27 points and the Muskateers handed the Pirates their first loss at home

by rallying from a 10-point second-half deficit.

**No. 12 Cincinnati 86, East Carolina 60:** At Highland Heights, Ky., Jacob Evans and Kyle Washington each scored 17 points, and Gary Clark had 14 points and 14 rebounds, lifting the Bearcats past the Pirates.

**No. 13 Gonzaga 75, Santa Clara 60:** Zach Norvell Jr. scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half, and the visiting Bulldogs bounced back from their first conference loss of the season to beat the Broncos.

**No. 14 Arizona 73, Stanford 71:** Rawle Alkins made a go-ahead layup with 38 seconds remaining, and the host Wildcats held on for a comeback win over the Cardinal to take sole possession of first place in the Pac-12.

**No. 15 North Carolina 80, Georgia Tech 66:** Luke Maye had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Tar Heels beat the visiting Yellow Jackets.

**No. 16 Arizona State 81, California 73:** Tra Holder and Remy Martin scored 13 points apiece, and the visiting Sun Devils overcame a slow start to beat the Golden Bears.

**No. 17 Auburn 79, Georgia 65:** Bryce Brown scored 28 points and the host Tigers ral-

lied in the second half to beat the Bulldogs.

**Florida 66, No. 18 Kentucky 64:** Jalen Hudson came off the bench to score 17 points, and Chris Chiozza, Keith Stone and Kevarrus Hayes contributed clutch baskets down the stretch as the visiting Gators rallied to upset the Wildcats.

**No. 20 Clemson 67, Notre Dame 58:** Gabe DeVoe had 17 points, including a crucial three-pointer with 3:18 to go, and the host Tigers got their first-ever win over the Fighting Irish.

**No. 21 Tennessee 70, South Carolina 63:** Lamonte Turner matched his career high with 25 points, and the visiting Volunteers pounded the ball inside to get past the Gamecocks.

**No. 22 Ohio State 67, Minnesota 49:** At New York, Keita Bates-Diop had 17 points and 12 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season, leading the Buckeyes over the Golden Gophers at Madison Square Garden for their seventh straight win.

**Kansas State 73, No. 24 TCU 68:** Dean Wade scored 20 points and the host Wildcats beat the Horned Frogs.

## Titans hire Vrabel as coach

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans hired Houston defensive coordinator Mike Vrabel as their new coach in a fast search that wrapped up after three interviews and just five days after firing Mike Mularkey.

The Titans announced Saturday they have agreed to terms with Vrabel. A news conference was scheduled for Monday.

Vrabel was the first person Tennessee interviewed after firing Mularkey on Monday. Mularkey, who also coached Buffalo and Jacksonville, went 21-22 and led the franchise to its first playoff victory in 14 years.

This will be Vrabel's first head coaching job after 18 years in the NFL — 14 as a player and four as a coach.

Titans owner Amy Adams Strunk said in a statement it was easy to see Vrabel's commanding presence and relationship with general manager Jon Robinson. The GM got his start in the NFL as a scout with the New England Patriots, where Vrabel won three Super Bowls as a linebacker.

"Mike has a commanding presence and a deep understanding for how he will attack this head coaching opportunity," Strunk said.

## Miocic, Cormier keep UFC belts

Associated Press

BOSTON — Stipe Miocic and Francis Ngannou had a violent history of first-round finishes.

By the time their heavyweight bout reached the fifth round, Miocic and Ngannou huffed, puffed and trudged around the cage without a knockout in sight. Miocic set the UFC heavyweight record with his third straight successful title defense, turning the anticipated slugfest against Ngannou into a methodical and masterful ground-and-pound bout to win the main event of UFC 220 at TD Garden.

Miocic (18-2) won 50-44 on all three scorecards early Sun-

day and was never seriously tested by the raw and unrefined Ngannou (11-2).

With a Boston crowd roaring and chanting his initials, Daniel Cormier showed why he's the best active light heavyweight fighter in UFC, dominating Oezdemir via TKO to retain the 205-pound belt.

Cormier raised his hands in triumph as UFC President Dana White wrapped the title belt around his waist. Cormier dropped to his knees on the canvas and said this fight was the validation he needed to prove he was worthy of being called champion.