

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Senate seeks to bar US NATO pullout

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

A bipartisan group of lawmakers reintroduced legislation Thursday that seeks to prohibit President Donald Trump from quitting the NATO alliance amid fresh concerns about the president's commitment to the 70-year-old military pact.

The bill, with sponsors including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., would require Trump to gain Senate approval before terminating support of NATO. At a time of fierce partisan divisions in Washington, the U.S. commitment to NATO remains one of the few issues in which there is broad bipartisan backing.

"NATO is more important than ever with Russia's growing subversive activities in the

region and beyond," Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said in a statement backing the bill. "It is critical to our national security and the security of our allies in Europe that the United States remain engaged and play an active role in NATO."

If Trump attempted to leave NATO without Senate approval, the bill would prohibit any funding from being used to do so and would authorize congressional legal counsel to challenge the administration in court. Trump has said previously he believes he has the authority to pull out of the alliance if he so chooses.

The reintroduction of the bill comes after reports last week that Trump repeatedly expressed interest in quitting the alliance to senior advisers last year.

The president's ambivalence

about American military commitments in Europe and doubts about the utility of NATO isn't new. During a NATO summit in July, Trump caused a stir when he hectored allies about their failure to invest more in defense and threatened that the U.S. could "go our own way" if things didn't change.

That prompted U.S. lawmakers to introduce legislation at the time seeking to block any attempt to withdraw from NATO, but the matter never came to a vote and seemed to fade as a legislative priority.

Trump, during an appearance Thursday at the Pentagon, gave no indication of a looming NATO pullout. "We will be with NATO 100 percent, but as I told countries, you have to step up," he said.

The Senate's renewed con-

cerns about the White House commitment to NATO, which was founded in the aftermath of World War II as a collective bulwark against Soviet expansion, comes after a series of abrupt foreign policy changes. These include Trump's call to pull forces out of Syria and downsize the military mission in Afghanistan.

Kaine, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees, said such sudden policy changes "and [Trump's] deference to Vladimir Putin is destroying strategic partnerships we have forged with allies across the world."

"At a time of increased Russian aggression and global threats, our alliance with NATO is more important than ever to ensure the safety of the American people," Kaine said.

## Dems dismiss Trump compromise plan as 'nonstarter'

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — In a bid to break the shutdown stalemate, President Donald Trump offered to extend temporary protections for young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for his long-promised border wall. But while Trump cast the move as a "commonsense compromise," Democrats were quick to dismiss it as a "nonstarter."

With polls showing a majority of Americans blaming him and Republicans for the impasse, Trump said from the White House that he was there "to break the logjam and provide Congress with a path forward to end the government shutdown and solve the crisis on the southern border."

But Trump did not budge on

his \$5.7 billion demand for the wall and, in essence, offered to temporarily roll back some of his own hawkish immigration actions — actions that have been blocked by federal courts.

Democrats dismissed Trump's proposal ahead of his televised speech after reports of his prepared remarks were published. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the expected offer was nothing more than "a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives" and that the effort could not pass the House.

"What is original in the president's proposal is not good. What is good in the proposal is not original," she later tweeted.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., also panned the proposal as "more hostage taking," saying that it

was Trump who had "single-handedly" imperiled the future of the immigrants he proposed to help.

Reacting to the cool reception, Trump fired a flurry of tweets lashing out at Pelosi personally. He accused her, without evidence, of having "behaved so irrationally" and moving "so far to the left that she has now officially become a Radical Democrat."

He also on Sunday appeared to threaten to target millions of people living in the country illegally if he doesn't eventually get his way, writing that "there will be no big push to remove the 11,000,000 plus people who are here illegally — but be careful Nancy!"

Trump had sought to cast his plan as a bipartisan way forward and said Saturday's pro-

posal had incorporated ideas from "rank-and-file" Democrats, even as top Democrats made clear they had not been consulted.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., will bring the legislation to a vote on Tuesday — a move that will force Democrats who oppose the idea to vote against reopening the government as hundreds of thousands of federal workers remain without pay.

Tuesday is also the deadline for the next federal pay period.

"If the bill is filibustered on Tuesday ... people will not get paid," said White House acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

McConnell had previously stated that no vote should be held in the Senate until Trump and Democrats agreed on a bill.

# 52 extremists killed in airstrike

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — The U.S. military on Saturday said it had carried out its deadliest airstrike in Somalia in months, killing 52 al-Shabab extremists after a “large group” mounted an attack on Somali forces.

The U.S. Africa Command said the airstrike occurred near Jilib in Middle Juba region. There were no reports of Americans killed or wounded.

The U.S. statement did not say whether any Somali forces were killed or wounded by the al-Qaida-linked extremists. Al-Shabab via its Shahada news agency asserted that its attack on two Somali army bases killed at least 41 soldiers. It described the location as the Bar Sanjuni area near the port city of Kismayo.

In neighboring Ethiopia, state television cited the Defense Ministry as saying more than 60 al-Shabab fighters had been killed and that four vehicles loaded with explosives had been “destroyed.” Ethiopia contributes troops to a multinational African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia and has troops there indepen-

dently under Ethiopian army command.

A Somali intelligence officer said al-Shabab had been amassing fighters for more than a week to launch a major attack against Somali and Kenyan forces to disrupt a planned offensive against the extremists. The officer said some 400 extremists, including foreign ones, had been prepared, including two suicide car bombers. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Al-Shabab controls large parts of rural southern and central Somalia and continues to carry out high-profile suicide bombings and other attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, and elsewhere.

The Islamic extremist group claimed responsibility for the deadly attack on a luxury hotel complex in the capital of neighboring Kenya on Tuesday, the latest high-toll assault inside that county in retaliation for Kenya sending troops to Somalia to fight al-Shabab.

The extremist group finds itself under pressure at home on

a number of fronts, including from a small presence of rival fighters linked to Islamic State, which has begun challenging al-Shabab in recent months.

The United States has dramatically stepped up airstrikes against al-Shabab in Somalia since President Donald Trump took office, carrying out at least 47 such strikes last year. Some have targeted top al-Shabab leaders or key financial officials. The extremist group funds its attacks with an extensive network of “taxation” and extortion.

In October, the U.S. said an airstrike killed about 60 fighters near the al-Shabab-controlled community of Harardere in Mudug province in the central part of the country.

The airstrikes hamper the extremist group but have not “seriously degraded al-Shabab’s capability to mount strikes either inside or outside Somalia,” Matt Bryden, of Sahan Research, an expert on the extremists, told The Associated Press after the Nairobi hotel attack.

## US spy satellite launched into orbit from Calif.

Associated Press

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A powerful Delta 4 Heavy rocket carrying a U.S. spy satellite lifted off on Saturday from California.

The rocket-propelled National Reconnaissance Office satellite was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 11:10 a.m. Pacific time, arcing over the Pacific Ocean west of Los Angeles as it headed toward space.

The outer boosters of the rocket separated about four minutes into flight, followed by a successful ignition of the central booster.

As is customary with classified payloads, United Launch Alliance webcast the liftoff only until the aerodynamic fairing covering the payload was discarded.

The launch had been repeatedly delayed since late last year for various reasons including a hydrogen leak, high winds and a problem with ground communication equipment.

The Delta 4 Heavy stands 233 feet tall.

## Pentagon sees China seeking nuclear bomber to compete with US

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — China is likely developing a long-range bomber capable of delivering nuclear weapons and a space-based early warning system it could use to more quickly respond to an attack, according to a new report from the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

The development of the bomber, when combined with China’s land-based nuclear weapons program and a deployed submarine with intercontinental ballistic missile technology, would give Beijing a “triad” of nuclear delivery systems similar to those of the U.S. and Russia, according to the report published Tuesday.

“China is building a robust, lethal force with capabilities spanning the air, maritime, space and information domains which will enable China to impose its will in the region,” the report’s author, Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, said in the introduction.

The report comes as President Donald Trump’s administration focuses on the potential for “great power” conflict with countries like China and Russia as part of its national defense strategy. It also comes amid heightened trade tensions between Washington and Beijing and continuing disputes about China’s posture in the South China Sea.

Beijing’s development of a

nuclear-capable bomber would provide China with “its first credible nuclear triad of delivery systems dispersed across land, sea, and air — a posture considered since the Cold War to improve survivability and strategic deterrence,” according to the report.

Even without the bomber, China is progressing on its new Jin-class nuclear submarines which, armed with JL-2 ICBMs, are “poised to contribute to China’s nuclear deterrent once they begin strategic patrols in the near future,” the DIA said.

The DIA assessment released Tuesday underscores that China maintains a “no first-use” nuclear policy but

adds that there is “some ambiguity, however, over the conditions under which China’s NFU policy would apply.”

Despite a slew of disputes over Taiwan, the South China Sea and global trade, the review also says there is no indication in Chinese military strategic documents that Beijing views war with the U.S. as looming.

Moreover, while China’s defense spending climbed an average of 10 percent per year from 2000 to 2016, total spending remains “significantly below” that of the U.S., the report said. Spending was about 1.3 percent of gross domestic product from 2014 to 2018, compared with more than 3 percent of GDP for the U.S. over the same period.

# Teens mock Native American at DC rally

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A diocese in Kentucky apologized Saturday after videos emerged showing students from a Catholic boys' high school mocking Native Americans outside the Lincoln Memorial after a rally in Washington.

The Indigenous Peoples March in Washington on Friday coincided with the March for Life, which drew thousands of anti-abortion protesters, including a group from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills, Ky.

Videos circulating online show a youth staring at and standing extremely close to Nathan Phillips, 64, Native American man singing and playing a drum. Other students, some wearing Covington clothing and many wearing "Make America Great Again" hats and sweatshirts, surrounded

them, chanting, laughing and jeering.

In a joint statement, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington and Covington Catholic High School apologized to Phillips. Officials said they are investigating and will take "appropriate action, up to and including expulsion."

"We extend our deepest apologies to Mr. Phillips," the statement read. "This behavior is opposed to the Church's teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person."

According to the "Indian Country Today" website, Phillips is an Omaha elder and Vietnam veteran who holds an annual ceremony honoring Native American veterans at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes who is also known as Chief Queese Imc, said he had been a part of

the march and was among a small group of people remaining after the rally when the boisterous students began chanting slogans such as "Make America great" and then began doing the haka, a traditional Maori dance.

Eventually, a calm fell over the group of students and they broke up and walked away.

State Rep. Ruth Buffalo, a North Dakota state lawmaker and member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, said she was saddened to see students showing disrespect to an elder and a military veteran at what was supposed to be a celebration of all cultures.

She said she hoped it would lead to some kind of meeting with the students to provide education on issues facing Native Americans.

## Winter storm causes airline cancellations, road troubles

Associated Press

BOSTON — A major winter storm that has brought some of the coldest temperatures of the season covered a large swath of the U.S. in snow as it wreaked havoc on air travel and caused slick road conditions throughout New England on Sunday.

Nearly 5,000 flights were canceled Sunday around the country, with Boston Logan Airport being one of the hardest hit, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking company. The

National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings or advisories for part or all of at least 15 states stretching from southeast Missouri to the northern tip of Maine.

The storm was caused by the clash of an Arctic high pressure system with a low pressure system coming through the Ohio Valley, said National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Hofmann.

"It happens that this one is going through a relatively high population area," Hofmann

said.

Parts of northern New England could see up to 2 feet of snow, which was to be followed Sunday night by bitter cold and wind chills as low as 35 below zero in parts of Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Parts of upstate New York got up to 11 inches of snow overnight, according to the Weather Channel.

A plane carrying 129 people skidded from a slick runway at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Saturday. No

injuries were reported on the United Airlines flight as it arrived from Phoenix, Chicago Fire officials said.

Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

President Donald Trump remarked at how large the storm system was in a tweet early Sunday, urging Americans affected by the winter storm to "be careful."

## A scaled-down, but still angry, Women's March returns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid internal controversies and a capital city deeply distracted by the partial government shutdown, the third Women's March returned to Washington on Saturday with an enduring message of anger and defiance aimed directly at President Donald Trump's White House.

The original march in 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration, flooded the city with pink-hatted protesters. The exact size of the turnout remains subject to a politically

charged debate, but it's generally regarded as the largest Washington protest since the Vietnam era.

This year was a more modest affair for multiple reasons. An estimated 100,000 protesters packed several blocks around Freedom Plaza, just east of the White House, holding a daylong rally. The march itself took about an hour and only moved about four blocks west along Pennsylvania Avenue past the Trump International Hotel before looping back to Freedom Plaza.

The original plan was to

gather on the National Mall. But with the forecast calling for snow and freezing rain and the National Park Service no longer plowing snow because of the shutdown, organizers on Thursday changed the march's location and route.

As it turned out the weather was chilly but otherwise pleasant, and the mood among the marchers a now-familiar mix of sister-power camaraderie and defiant anger toward Trump and the larger power structure. As always the Trump administration was the direct target of most of the protests

— with fresh bitterness stemming from more recent events like Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's successful confirmation last fall despite a direct accusation of sexual misconduct when he was in high school.

In Los Angeles, a few hundred demonstrators gathered in Pershing Square downtown and marched to Grand Park as the crowd swelled to thousands.

In San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was in the march, and video on Twitter showed people clapping and cheering as she passed.

# Turkish US Consulate worker indicted

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkish prosecutors are seeking a life sentence for a local employee of the United States consulate in Istanbul accused of attempting to overthrow the government and espionage.

A 78-page indictment seen by The Associated Press on Sunday against Turkish national Metin Topuz, jailed since October 2017, said he was in “very intense contact” with police officers who led a 2013 anti-corruption investigation that implicated top government officials.

The Turkish government accused U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of attempting a “judicial coup” with that in-

vestigation and labeled his network a terrorism group.

Gulen is also blamed for the 2016 failed coup but he denies the accusations.

The indictment said Topuz, who worked as a translator and fixer for the Drug Enforcement Agency in the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul, told authorities he had been in touch with several police officers with alleged links to Gulen for narcotic investigations.

The prosecutor said this was a “reflexive acknowledgment of his crimes” and claimed Topuz’s communication with the officers was “beyond the limits of consular work.”

The indictment includes telephone calls, text messages and

CCTV frame grabs with suspected police officers as well as testimony from four witnesses and two suspects.

He’s also accused of privacy violations and illegally recording personal data.

A call to Topuz’s lawyer on Sunday was not immediately returned.

A judge will decide whether the case will proceed to trial. Among the 30 complainants are Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and former ministers.

Topuz’s arrest increased tensions between NATO allies the U.S. and Turkey in 2017 and led to the suspension of bilateral visa services for more than two months.

Relations hit rock bottom last summer when President Donald Trump sanctioned two Turkish officials and increased tariffs on aluminum and steel imports, causing a huge loss in the Turkish lira’s value, to pressure the country to release an imprisoned American pastor.

Pastor Andrew Brunson was convicted in October for terrorism links but later allowed to leave the country.

Two other local consular employees are under investigation in Turkey. Jailed translator Hamza Ulucay is accused of terrorism group membership, with alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militants, and staffer Mete Canturk was placed under house arrest.

## IRA dissidents suspected in Northern Ireland car bombing

Associated Press

LONDON — Police in Northern Ireland said Sunday they suspect Irish Republican Army dissidents were behind a car bombing outside a courthouse in the city of Londonderry. Two men in their 20s have been arrested for the attack, which caused no injuries.

Attackers hijacked a pizza delivery vehicle, loaded it with explosives and left it outside the city-center courthouse on Saturday evening, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said. The device exploded as police, who had spotted the suspicious vehicle, were evacuating the area.

The force said a warning call was made to a charity in England and passed on to police minutes before the explosion.

Police released surveillance camera footage of the car being parked in front of the courthouse and of the driver sprinting away. Images also showed a group of young people walking past the car shortly before it blew up.

Assistant Chief Constable

Mark Hamilton said the bomb was a “crude” and unstable device and called the attack “incredibly reckless.”

“The people responsible for this attack have shown no regard for the community or local businesses,” he said. Hamilton said the “main line of inquiry” was that the bomb had been planted by a group known as the New IRA.

More than 3,700 people died during decades of violence before Northern Ireland’s 1998 peace accord.

Most militants have renounced violence, but small groups of IRA dissidents have carried out occasional bombings and shootings.

Northern Ireland’s power-sharing government has been suspended for two years because of a dispute between the main Protestant and Catholic political parties. Uncertainty about the future of the Irish border after Brexit is adding to tensions.

Politicians from both sides of Northern Ireland’s political divide condemned the attack.

## Death toll rises following Mexican gas pipeline fire

Associated Press

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico — They were warned to stay away from the geyser of gasoline gushing from the illegally tapped pipeline in central Mexico, but Gerardo Perez said he and his son joined others in bypassing the soldiers. As they neared the spurting fuel he was overcome with foreboding.

Perez recalled telling his son, “Let’s go ... this thing is going to explode.”

And it did, with a fireball that engulfed locals scooping up the spilling gasoline and underscored the dangers of an epidemic of fuel theft from pipelines that Mexico’s new president has vowed to fight.

By Sunday morning the death toll from Friday’s blaze had risen to 79, with another 81 hospitalized in serious condition, according to federal Health Minister Jorge Alcocer. Dozens more were missing.

Perez and his son escaped the flames. On Saturday, he returned to the scorched field in the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo state to look for missing friends. It was a fruitless task. Only a

handful of the remains still had skin. Dozens were burned to the bone or to ash when the gusher of gasoline exploded.

State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said the pipeline, had just reopened after being shut since Dec. 23 and that it had been breached 10 times over three months.

The tragedy came just three weeks after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day.

The crackdown has led to widespread fuel shortages at gas stations throughout the country as Pemex deviates distribution, both licit and illicit.

Lopez Obrador vowed on Saturday to continue the fight against a practice that steals about \$3 billion per year in fuel.

He said the attorney general’s office will investigate whether the explosion was intentional — caused by an individual or group — or whether the fireball occurred due to the inherent risk of clandestine fuel extraction.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Troopers seize 1,000 Xanax pills at home

**NE** OMAHA — The Nebraska State Patrol said about 1,000 illegally held anti-anxiety pills were seized from an Omaha home.

The patrol said the Xanax pills were found Thursday after investigators served a search warrant at the southwestern Omaha home.

A 21-year-old resident was arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

### Official: Boy wrongly punished for fake bills

**GA** MCDONOUGH — A school superintendent in Georgia said a boy who tried to buy lunch with a counterfeit \$20 bill appears to have been unaware the bill was fake and should not have been punished.

Christian Philon, 12, said administrators at Austin Road Middle School in metro Atlanta gave him 10 days of in-school suspension after a lunch room cashier discovered his lunch money was fake. The boy and his parents said he was given the bogus bill by his father, and both thought it was real.

Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis reviewed the findings and decided the punishment wasn't warranted. Henry County Schools said in a statement Friday the boy has returned to class.

### Nazi-themed dance invitation 'offensive'

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Officials at a Minnesota high school wrote to parents after two students were pictured in a social media post doing a Nazi salute and holding a sign with references to Adolf Hitler.

Jeff Erikson, principal at suburban Minnetonka High School, called the post "deeply offensive" in his note to parents.

The Star Tribune reported the photo on a private Instagram account showed a teenage girl and boy doing the salute as they held an apparent invitation to the school's annual Valentine's Day dance called Sweethearts.

The newspaper reported the poster read: "Sweethearts would be a Hit(ler) w/you, and I could Nazi myself going w/anybody else. Be Mein? Yes or Nein."

### Lamb stolen from Big Island shelter

**HI** KAILUA-KONA — A lamb named Loa was stolen from a Big Island animal shelter and another sheep injured in the theft had to be euthanized, officials said.

Hawaii Island Humane Society staff discovered the month-old lamb was missing from the Waimea shelter Jan. 14, West Hawaii Today reported.

Someone likely jumped over the entrance gate, the organization said. Staff members found a broken inner fence leading to the shelter's pasture, which was home to the male lamb, two goats and three other sheep.

### Commission considers historical race betting

**NE** GRAND ISLAND — A commission will consider approving a racetrack's request to allow wagering on historical horse races, even as the state attorney general challenges its legality.

The Nebraska Racing Commission last week revisited a request from Fonner Park in Grand Island to allow historical horse racing, which allows gamblers to bet on previously run races, with the identities of horses and riders changed.

The five-member commission originally approved the request in October, but it rescinded that decision Wednesday following concerns from Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson.

Peterson said the commission's original decision was made during a meeting that violated open-meeting rules. He said the commission also doesn't have the legal authority to approve the betting machines because it's a new form of gambling.

### Vandalism at museum costs nearly \$2M

**CO** DENVER — An official told police the Denver Art Museum sustained nearly \$2 million in losses when a vandal shattered glass and damaged other artwork last month.

The Denver Post reported police arrested Jake Siebenlist, 18, on suspicion of felony criminal mischief in the amount of \$1 million or more following the vandalism spree at the museum in downtown Denver on Dec. 9.

Siebenlist is scheduled to be arraigned in March.

### Officials declare measles emergency

**WA** VANCOUVER — County officials declared a public health emergency in response to a measles outbreak in southwestern Washington.

Clark County Council Chair Eileen Quiring made the declaration Friday afternoon to ensure the county's public health office has adequate resources from outside the region if necessary to continue its response. Officials will keep providing daily updates on its measles investigation webpage.

Officials said the number of confirmed measles cases had

increased to 19, with seven more cases suspected. The confirmed cases include 15 children under the age of 10, three people between 10 and 18 and one older adult.

Officials said 16 were not immunized against the disease.

### New York City giving grades for food carts

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City's iconic food carts are starting to get health department letter grades, giving on-the-go workers and tourists alike a quick reference for cleanliness and safety.

The city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene handed out the first batch of grades on Friday to about two dozen of the city's more than 5,000 food carts and trucks.

They're the same style placards that have been commonplace at restaurants, coffee shops and other establishments around the Big Apple for about a decade. The city has always inspected food carts and flagged violations. The new report cards are the result of a law passed last June.

### Bar offers reward for its stolen party bus

**PA** BETHLEHEM — A Pennsylvania bar is offering a \$2,500 reward to get back its stolen party bus.

Bethlehem police said the owners of the Revel Social Lounge and Restaurant reported the black mini bus stolen from its parking lot on Jan. 10.

Police said the bus can hold 15 passengers, and it has been outfitted with DVDs and lasers among other features.

Anyone with information on the theft is asked to call the restaurant.

From wire reports

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# Tsitsipas, 20, stuns Federer in Australia

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

*Associated Press*

MELBOURNE, Australia — Even as his uninterrupted dominance of yore dissipated, even as he took the occasional break, Roger Federer always mattered more often than not in the closing days of Grand Slam tournaments.

Until lately, that is.

Until, at age 37, he was outplayed in the Australian Open's fourth round by a much younger man, 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas, during a 6-7 (11), 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-6 (5) surprise that ended Federer's bid for a third consecutive championship at Melbourne Park.

"I have massive regrets," said Federer, who failed to convert any of the 12 break points he earned against Tsitsipas, the first player from Greece to reach a major quarterfinal.

This loss makes it a fourth straight Slam without Federer in the semifinals: He skipped the 2018 French Open, was beaten at Wimbledon in the quarterfinals and exited the U.S. Open in the fourth round.

That is his longest such drought since he claimed the first of his men's record 20 major titles, all the way back in 2003 at Wimbledon.

"Roger is a legend of our sport. So much respect for him. He showed such good ten-

nis over the years. I've been idolizing him since the age of 6," said Tsitsipas, who has worked with Serena Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou.

"It was a dream come true for me ... just facing him," Tsitsipas said about Federer. "Winning at the end? I cannot describe it, you know."

Federer was the oldest man left in the field and would have been the oldest quarterfinalist in Australia since Ken Rosewall at 43 in 1977.

Tsitsipas, a lanky guy who kept his scraggly hair in place with a pink headband, was the youngest to make the fourth round this year. He lost his opening match in Melbourne a year ago, when Federer picked up his sixth Australian Open championship.

"For sure, it's a good win against Roger. I mean, we all know who Roger Federer is, what he has done in tennis. But I still have to keep my focus, keep my concentration on further goals that I want to achieve. That's a very good beginning. I need to stay humble," said Tsitsipas, who next faces another player making his quarterfinal debut at a major, No. 22 Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain. "This win is a good milestone, let's say good first step, as I said, to something bigger."

At least Federer was able to crack a joke when asked whether Tsitsipas reminds him of a younger version of himself, replying:

"He has a one-handed backhand. And I used to have long hair, too."

After this setback, Federer announced that he would return to playing the clay-court circuit this season, including the French Open after missing it the past three years. This match was a thriller from beginning to end, both in terms of the high quality and entertaining style of play from both men — something long expected of Federer. The world is still learning what the 14th-seeded Tsitsipas can do.

He is that rare man who will press forward as often as Federer and have nearly as much success. On this cool evening, Tsitsipas won the point on 48 of 68 trips to the net, while Federer went 50-for-66.

The kid served well, too, compiling a 20-12 edge in aces and, more significantly, staving off all of those break chances that Federer earned: two in the first set, eight in the second, two in the third.

"Hung in there, gave himself chances at some points, stayed calm. It's not always easy, especially for younger guys," said Federer, who was trying to reach his 54th Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Tsitsipas never even collected a break point of his own until the third set, and the match was nearly 3 hours old when he finally cashed one in, the only one he would need, when Federer pushed a forehand into the net.

## Vonn ponders retirement after DNF; Shiffrin wins

BY ANDREW DAMPF

*Associated Press*

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — Lindsey Vonn might have competed in her last ski race.

After failing to finish a World Cup super-G on Sunday as she battles pain in both of her knees, Vonn said immediate retirement "is a possibility."

"But I'm emotional right now," Vonn quickly added. "I have to really think clearly about that. It's not a decision I make lightly or quickly."

Vonn added to reporters, "I'll let you guys know."

Vonn was planning on retiring in December. She returned this weekend from her latest injury — to her left knee — but her best result in three races was ninth in Saturday's

downhill.

Vonn needs five more wins to break the World Cup record of 86 career victories held by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark but that seems far from her mind now.

"I really don't know what to think at this point," she said. "Definitely isn't the way I had hoped that things would go. I've been able to fight through a lot of injuries in my career but I think my injuries might get the best of me at this point. ... I'm not sure. I'm going to give it a couple of days and make some decisions."

While Vonn's most recent injury was to her left knee — she hyperextended it and sprained a ligament while training in November — the American's right knee is permanently damaged from previous crash-

es. She's racing with braces on both knees and goes through an extensive rehab process each evening to keep competing.

"I've had four surgeries on my right knee. I've got no LCL (lateral collateral ligament) on my left knee. I've got two braces on. There's only so much I can handle and I might have reached my maximum," Vonn said. "I'm not sure. I've got to take a couple days' time and really think about things."

Mikaela Shiffrin, Vonn's American teammate, won Sunday's race.

With her 54th World Cup win, Shiffrin matched Hermann Maier for sixth place on the all-time list.

Vonn, who failed to clear a gate midway down, was met by Olympic downhill champion Sofia Goggia in the finish area.

When Goggia presented her with a bouquet of flowers, Vonn broke down into tears.

"I was charging today but then when I got to the finish and Sofia was there I was just overwhelmed with emotions — and it was really special that she came," said Vonn, who has developed a friendship with her Italian rival in recent seasons. "It really means a lot to me."

Vonn was one of Shiffrin's idols growing up.

"She's been inspiring for a lot of young racers and a lot of athletes coming out of the U.S. Ski Team and a leader in the sport all over the world for a long time," Shiffrin said.

Taking advantage of a tricky course set by one of her coaches, Shiffrin finished 0.16 seconds ahead of Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein.

# No. 1 Duke gets by No. 4 Virginia

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — No. 1 Duke and fourth-ranked Virginia kept trading baskets — and the lead — down the stretch of another classic at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Here's the difference: The Blue Devils had RJ Barrett, Zion Williamson and a defense that — even without key on-the-ball defender Tre Jones — flipped the script on the Cavaliers.

Barrett scored 30 points, Williamson had 27 and Duke gave Virginia its first loss of the season by beating the Cavaliers 72-70 on Saturday.

“We did a lot of switching tonight, and we were able to move their defense enough — just enough, not every time — to get some driving

lanes,” coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

The Blue Devils (15-2, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) bounced back from an overtime loss to Syracuse that could cost them their top ranking. They avoided their first two-game losing streak at home since 2016 and proved they can win without Jones.

DeAndre Hunter scored 18 points, and Ty Jerome and Kyle Guy had 14 apiece for the Cavaliers (16-1, 4-1). Virginia allowed Duke to shoot 63 percent in the second half — and hit 12 of 15 shots inside the three-point arc — while giving up a season-high point total.

“We're a solid defensive team,” coach Tony Bennett said, “but tonight, we were not solid enough.”

# Pacquiao tops Broner, retains title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Manny Pacquiao showed Saturday night he's still got plenty of fight for a fighter on the wrong side of 40.

Whether Pacquiao's dominating win over Adrien Broner gets him a rematch with Floyd Mayweather, though, is a question that will have to be answered another night.

With Mayweather watching from ringside, Pacquiao showed flashes of his old speed in winning a unanimous 12-round decision over Broner to easily defend his piece of the welterweight title. It was the 61st win of a remarkable career in which Pacquiao has won titles in eight weight classes.

And it put to rest any thoughts of retirement after 24 years as a pro.

“The Manny Pacquiao journey will still continue,” Pacquiao said.

Fighting for the first time at the age of 40, the senator from the Philippines won a lopsided decision that was never in doubt before a crowd that roared at every punch he landed. The decision was never in doubt, but Pacquiao pressed the fight into the later rounds as he tried unsuccessfully to score a knockout.

Two judges favored Pacquiao by a 116-112 score, while the third had it 117-111. The AP scored it a shutout 120-108 for Pacquiao.

There were no knockdowns, but Pacquiao landed the heavier punches — and lots of them. He caught Broner in the seventh and ninth rounds with big left hands that sent him backward, while Broner spent most of the fight looking for one big counter that never came.

“At the age of 40 I can still give my best,” Pacquiao said. “Although I wanted to be aggressive more, my camp told me don't be careless and to counter him and wait for opportunities.”

Both fighters were cautious late, as the fight slowed in the final two rounds.

## College basketball roundup

# Wisconsin holds off No. 2 Michigan

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Ethan Happ had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Wisconsin broke away in the final minute to hand Michigan its first loss of the season.

Fans rushed the floor after the Badgers (12-6, 4-3 Big Ten) finished off the 64-54 upset.

The Wolverines (17-1, 6-1) closed within 57-54 on Isaiah Livers' three-pointer with just under a minute to play. Michigan put on a full-court press that the Badgers broke, and Ignas Brazdeikis was whistled for an intentional foul on Happ, who was across the court from the ball.

Happ hit the first shot as an incensed Michigan coach John Beilein argued with the officials, but missed the second. On the ensuing Wisconsin possession, Happ put back his own miss for a 60-54 lead, then hit a streaking Nate Reuvers following a Michigan turnover for a dunk that sealed it.

**No. 3 Tennessee 71, Alabama 68:** Grant Williams scored 21 points and the host Volunteers rallied past the Crimson Tide for their 12th straight win and a chance to climb atop the AP Top 25.

**No. 5 Gonzaga 89, Portland 66:** Rui Hachimura had 17 points and nine rebounds and the visiting Bulldogs extended their winning streak to nine games.

**West Virginia 65, No. 7 Kansas 64:** Jermaine Haley hurried up the court and hit a layup with 8.5 seconds left, completing a late rally that lifted the host Mountaineers over the Jayhawks.

**Baylor 73, No. 8 Texas Tech 62:** Bears freshman Jared Butler scored 14 of his 19 points after halftime and host Baylor handed the Red Raiders their second loss in four days.

**No. 9 Virginia Tech 87, Wake Forest 71:** Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 24 points and the Hokies used a 14-4 first-half run to pull away from the visiting Demon Deacons.

**No. 10 Nevada 67, Air Force 52:** Jordan Caroline scored 19 points and the host Wolf Pack overcame a poor offensive performance to beat the Falcons.

**No. 12 Kentucky 82, No. 14 Auburn 80:** Tyler Herro made two free throws with 24 seconds left and Immanuel Quickley added another to help the visiting Wildcats survive a big rally from the Tigers.

**No. 13 North Carolina 85, Miami 76:** Cameron Johnson scored 22 points, including three-pointers on consecutive possessions in the final minutes as the Tar Heels won on the road.

**No. 17 NC State 77, Notre Dame 73:** C.J. Bryce scored 23 points and the Wolfpack withstood several second-half challenges from the host Fighting Irish.

**No. 18 Mississippi 84, Arkansas 67:** Brein Tyree scored 22 points, Terence Davis added 18 and the host Rebels never trailed.

**Texas 75, No. 20 Oklahoma 72:** Kerwin Roach II scored 23 points, and the host Longhorns ended a three-game skid with a win over the Sooners.

**No. 21 Houston 69, South Florida 60:** Breon Brady scored 13 points to lead the visiting Cougars over the Bulls.

**No. 24 Mississippi State 71, Vanderbilt 55:** Quindary Weatherspoon scored 17 points and the Bulldogs routed the host Commodores.

**Purdue 70, No. 25 Indiana 55:** Carsen Edwards scored 20 points to send the Boilermakers past the Hoosiers for host Indiana's fourth straight loss.

### Service Academies

**Army 72, Navy 61:** Tommy Funk led the way with 22 points and seven assists and Matt Wilson scored 17 with 11 rebounds and the host Black Knights slipped past the Midshipmen thanks to a strong closing run on Saturday.

# Cejudo TKOs Dillashaw in 1st round

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Henry Cejudo needed only a record 32 seconds to defend his 125-pound title in New York. Cejudo's next defense was a passionate one for the flyweights — and the hope that the pounding he put on T.J. Dillashaw early Sunday was enough to keep a sparkling new UFC title belt around his waist for more than one fight.

Cejudo turned champ vs. champ into a super quick mismatch.

Cejudo made the first main event on ESPN-plus the fastest finish ever in a flyweight championship fight. Cejudo was a buzzsaw at Barclays Center and never let Dillashaw, the 135-pound champ, catch his

breath in a blink-and-miss it finish.

UFC President Dana White wrapped the new title belt — created to signify the company's new era on ESPN — around Cejudo's waist as the crowd booed the quick end.

Cejudo might not get another title defense. He defeated long-time champion Demetrious Johnson to win the belt and reign in a division that has drawn scant interest with fans or serious contenders in the class.

The division is on the brink of extinction and Cejudo made his case all week to keep the 125 pounders fighting. He dedicated the victory to the flyweights in an octagon inter-

view that lasted longer than his fight.

Dillashaw, the 135-pound champ, used a program devised by a triathlete math professor and performance specialist to cut some serious weight in his attempt to hold championships in two weight classes.

Dillashaw, who had a four-fight win streak snapped, complained of the quick stoppage and said he was ready to keep fighting.

"I came in, I felt great. Energy level was good," Dillashaw said. "I thought it was going to be fireworks tonight."

Cejudo offered to move up to 135 pounds to fight Dillashaw again — this time for Dillashaw's title.

## NBA roundup

# Rockets rally past LA in OT

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden scored 48 points, Eric Gordon added 30 and the Houston Rockets overcame a 21-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 138-134 in overtime Saturday night.

**Thunder 117, 76ers 115:** Paul George converted a four-point play with 5.1 seconds left, sending Russell Westbrook and visiting Oklahoma City past Joel Embiid and Philadelphia.

**Raptors 119, Grizzlies 90:** Danny Green had a season-high 24 points and hit a franchise record 7 three-pointers in the third to help host Toronto beat Memphis.

**Bucks 118, Magic 108:** Eric Bledsoe scored 30 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Milwaukee won at Orlando for its fourth straight victory.

**Nuggets 124, Cavaliers 102:** Nikola Jokic had 19 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds in his sixth triple-double this season and host Denver beat Cleveland.

**Celtics 113, Hawks 105:** Kyrie Irving scored 32 points and Boston rallied to win at Atlanta for its third straight win.

**Kings 103, Pistons 101:** Buddy Hield made an off-balance, fadeaway three-pointer just before time expired and scored 35 points in Sacramento's victory at Detroit.

**Heat 117, Bulls 103:** Dwyane Wade had 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in his final game in his hometown, helping visiting Miami hand Chicago its 10th straight loss.

**Pacers 111, Mavericks 99:** Tyreke Evans scored 19 points as host Indiana beat Dallas for its third victory in four games.

**Hornets 135, Suns 115:** Kemba Walker scored 21 points to lead host Charlotte past Phoenix for the Hornets' third straight victory.

## NHL roundup

# Marchessault lifts Knights over Pens

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jonathan Marchessault and William Karlsson have struggled to find the back of the net since Dec. 22, scoring a combined three goals in 12 games.

Vegas' dynamic top-line forwards topped that Saturday night.

Marchessault scored three goals for his second career hat trick and Karlsson got his 16th of the season to help lead the Golden Knights to a 7-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"Our first period we weren't necessarily happy; as a line we take a lot of pride playing well defensively and we gave a little too much chances, but we played better in the second half of the game," Marchessault said. "Hopefully [I] get going a little bit more here. It's definitely been a tough stretch."

Marchessault scored twice less than four minutes apart in the second period to give Vegas a 5-3 lead. His empty-netter with 21 seconds left in the game completed the scoring with the Golden Knights' first hat trick of the season and third in franchise history.

Shea Theodore, Max Pacioretty and Oscar Lindberg also scored as the Golden Knights improved to 16-4-3 at home this season. Marc-Andre Fleury, who spent his first 13 seasons with the Penguins, stopped 34 shots to earn his league-leading 27th victory.

**Ducks 3, Devils 2:** John Gibson made 29 saves and Troy Terry scored his first NHL goal and set up another, helping send new-look Anaheim past

host New Jersey.

**Lightning 6, Sharks 3:** Steven Stamkos scored twice and NHL points leader Nikita Kucherov added a pair of assists to lead NHL-best Tampa Bay.

**Rangers 3, Bruins 2:** Mika Zibanejad scored two goals, Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves to take over sole possession of sixth place on the NHL's career wins list and visiting New York won for the fourth time in five games.

**Stars 4, Jets 2:** Brett Ritchie, Blake Comeau and Radek Faksa scored their first goals of the new year and host Dallas beat Central Division-leading Winnipeg.

**Panthers 4, Predators 2:** Aaron Ekblad and Vincent Trocheck each had a goal and an assist to lead visiting Florida.

**Blues 3, Senators 2:** Carl Gunnarsson scored the go-ahead goal with 7:44 left in the third period, lifting host St. Louis.

**Avalanche 7, Kings 1:** Mikko Rantanen scored two of Colorado's franchise record-tying six second-period goals, Semyon Varlamov stopped 30 shots and the host Avalanche routed Los Angeles.

**Flyers 5, Canadiens 2:** Nolan Patrick scored twice in the third period and Philadelphia beat host Montreal for its third straight win.

**Flames 5, Oilers 2:** Mark Giordano, Johnny Gaudreau, Sean Monahan and Mikael Backlund each had a goal and an assist as Calgary beat host Edmonton.

**Wild 2, Blue Jackets 1:** Zach Parise scored his team-leading 20th goal and Devan Dubnyk had 19 saves as host Minnesota held off Columbus.