

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Dershowitz: Impeachment defense distorted

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz now says his headline-dominating argument against impeaching the president has been distorted.

Meanwhile, Trump's Senate trial headed into a final day of questions and answers before a vote on whether or not to call witnesses — a decision that could send the proceedings to weeks of further action or a relatively abrupt acquittal.

In a day-after tweet, Dershowitz complained Thursday about the portrayal of his testimony Wednesday night that a president, if he believes his re-election is in the "national interest," is essentially immune from impeachment for actions in support of that idea.

That argument left even some of Trump's top allies backing away from the criminal attorney's claim, though Dershowitz was testifying on Trump's behalf at the Senate trial.

"They characterized my argument as if I had said that if a president believes that his re-election was in the national interest, he can do anything," the retired professor said Thursday. "I said nothing like that, as

anyone who actually heard what I said can attest."

Dershowitz testified to the Senate jurors late Wednesday that the quid pro quo charge at the heart of Trump's impeachment — a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven could not be grounds for his impeachment.

"Every public official that I know believes that his election is in the public interest," he said Wednesday night. "And if a president does something, which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment."

That argument was an abrupt turnaround from Trump's own claim of "perfect" dealings with Ukraine.

One key Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said only: "Yesterday was very interesting. That's all I'm going to say."

Meanwhile, Democrats are pressing hard to force the Senate to call more witnesses to testify, but Republicans appear intently focused on bringing the impeachment trial to a vote of acquittal, possibly in a matter of days.

New revelations from former national security adviser John Bolton are being

countered by the president's lawyers, who used Wednesday's unusual question-and-answer session to warn off prolonging the proceeding.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Trump on Thursday that a sham trial is not acquittal of the impeachment charges against him.

"You can't be acquitted if you don't have a trial," said Pelosi, arguing anew that Trump will be "impeached forever."

Said Pelosi, "I just pray that the senators will have the courage and the ability to handle the truth — rather than blocking the truth."

Democrats argued Bolton's forthcoming book cannot be ignored. It contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden — the abuse of power charge that is the first article of impeachment. Trump denies saying such a thing.

The vote on calling witnesses is expected by Friday.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer acknowledged it's "an uphill battle" to bring four GOP senators to vote for witnesses but said, "we're still hopeful."

## Death toll climbs as coronavirus hits more nations

Associated Press

BEIJING — China raised the death toll to 170 on Thursday, and more countries reported infections from a new virus, including some spread locally, as foreign evacuees from China's worst-hit region returned home to medical tests and even isolation.

India and the Philippines reported their first cases, a traveler and a student who had both been in Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the first illnesses appeared in December. South Korea confirmed a case that was locally spread, as a man who had contact with a patient diagnosed the new type of coronavirus earlier.

In Geneva, the World Health Organization convened its coronavirus expert committee to assess whether the outbreak warrants being declared a global emer-

gency. The committee had advised the U.N. health agency last week that it was too early to make that pronouncement.

Locally spread cases outside of China are a worrying concern as potential signs of the virus spreading more easily and the difficulty of containing it.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, another type of coronavirus.

The latest figures for mainland China show an increase of 38 deaths and 1,737 cases for a total of 7,711 confirmed cases. Of the new deaths, 37 were in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, and one was in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

India's health ministry said that a student who had been studying in Wuhan was confirmed to have the virus after return-

ing home to Kerala state during the Lunar New Year break. Philippine health officials say that a woman who traveled there from Wuhan via Hong Kong tested positive.

A second Japanese flight carrying 210 evacuees landed in Tokyo. Reports said that nine of those aboard the flight showed signs of cough and fever. Three of Japan's confirmed cases were among a group of evacuees who had returned on a government-chartered flight the previous day.

A flight arranged between the European Union and China departed Portugal en route to China to bring back 350 Europeans.

The U.S. said that additional flights were being planned for around Monday after it evacuated 195 Americans from Wuhan on Wednesday. They are being tested and monitored at a Southern California military base.

# Security review follows attack on GIs in Kenya

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The top commander of American forces in Africa said Thursday that he has launched a security review of all bases housing U.S. troops on the continent in the wake of an attack on a Kenyan military post that left three Americans dead.

"We were not as prepared there at Manda Bay [Airfield] as we needed to be," Army Gen. Stephen Townsend of U.S. Africa Command said of the attack on the coastal military installations just south of Kenya's border with Somalia. "Al-Shabab managed to penetrate onto that airfield. They were able to get access, kill three Americans and destroy six aircraft. We are digging into that to find out why that is the case."

The surprise attack Jan. 5 by the al-Qaida-aligned Somali terrorist group left Army Spc. Henry Mayfield Jr. and U.S. contractors Dustin Harrison and Bruce Triplett dead. Townsend told the Senate

Armed Services Committee on Thursday that an investigation into the incident was ongoing, but it was clear that the base, in a resort town considered safe from potential attack, should have been better protected.

Townsend vowed AFRICOM would do better to safeguard the roughly 5,100 U.S. troops and 1,000 U.S. contractors working in Africa, warning of a growing threat across the continent from terrorists — including groups aligned with al-Qaida and Islamic State.

"Al-Shabab has shown their reach, and the danger that they pose," Townsend said. "I think we need to take that seriously. I am looking with a clear eye at every location in Africa now."

The safety assessment comes as the Pentagon considers its force posture globally. Defense Secretary Mark Esper launched a review last year of U.S. missions and troop strength in Africa. He will soon make similar assessments of the other geographic combatant commands, including U.S. Southern Command, which is assigned less

than 10,000 troops like AFRICOM. U.S. Central Command, by comparison, boasts some 80,000 troops, according to the Pentagon.

The review is aimed at aligning global missions with the 2018 National Defense Strategy, which places great-power competition with China and Russia above other national security threats, including international terrorism.

Townsend warned senators of Russia's and China's growing influence throughout Africa, where both countries have worked with local nations to gain influence through military and economic means meant to counter American interests.

Africa is "key terrain" for challenging those nations, the general said.

"I believe Africa offers America a competitive edge over China and Russia and we should take advantage of it," Townsend said, lobbying to keep the bulk of his forces on the continent.

Nonetheless, Townsend said he expected the review to re-

sult in at least some change in tasks assigned to AFRICOM. The command carries out separate missions in two main parts of the continent — a training and assisting mission for local forces in support of the French military in the West African area known as the Sahel, which includes Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, and a train and advise mission in East Africa largely focused on counterterrorism operations aimed at al-Shabab.

Esper said Thursday during a news briefing that his review was ongoing, but it would result in AFRICOM being placed in a better position to counter terrorists and challenge Chinese and Russian influence.

Despite the concerns of several senators who worried the review likely meant pulling troops out of Africa to move into the Pacific region, Esper said it could potentially result in adding forces to Africa.

"We're not going to totally withdraw forces from Africa," the defense chief told reporters. "Economy of force does not mean complete withdrawal."

## Amid Iran tensions, US expands presence at Saudi base

*Associated Press*

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia — Across the vast expanse of this desert air base, hundreds of tents have popped up and a newly arrived squadron of U.S. Air Force F-15E fighters is lined up on the tarmac, flying daily missions over Iraq and Syria. Off in the distance, two American Patriot missile batteries are scanning the skies, prepared to knock down any Iranian attack against the Saudi kingdom.

The U.S. troop presence here has grown to roughly 2,500 since last summer, when the U.S. announced it had begun deploying forces to what once was a major U.S. military hub. The return of U.S. forces to Prince Sultan Air Base is one of the more dramatic signs of

America's decision to beef up troops in the Middle East in response to threats from Iran.

On Wednesday, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East spent a few hours meeting with his commanders and troops here, assessing what he called a "sweet spot" of U.S. force projection in the region.

Prince Sultan Air Base, said Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, presents a complicated target for Iran to hit and provides a remote location for U.S. troops, fighter jets and other assets. It also provides greater security for Saudi Arabia, which asked for U.S. help in the wake of an Iranian drone and missile attack on oil facilities in the kingdom last September.

Right now, the large white tents that flap in the stiff winds give a temporary feel

to the mission. But according to Air Force Col. Jason King, vice commander of the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing here, there is "prudent planning" underway that could lead to the tents being replaced with trailers and other more permanent structures.

Saudi Arabia is a decades-long American ally, a relationship initially built on America's dependence on Middle East oil. The military connection has been strong, even during periods of stress in the broader relationship, including in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in which most of the hijackers were Saudis. The kingdom also has been harshly criticized in Congress for the 2018 killing of Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and for

its role in errant airstrikes in Yemen that have killed or injured many civilians.

McKenzie is careful when asked how long the U.S. will stay.

"I think this is an important part of our architecture right now and we will continue to evaluate that as we go forward," he said. "It's a well defended place and we can put a lot of combat power here."

The base's future, he told reporters traveling with him, is part of a discussion with Defense Secretary Mark Esper about how many forces are needed in the region. That calculation is being made against the backdrop of President Donald Trump's push to get U.S. forces out of the Middle East and end what he calls America's "endless wars."



# Milley: Brain injuries from Iran attack are diagnosed as 'mild'

BY STEVE BEYNON  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The traumatic brain injuries that U.S. troops suffered as a result of the Iranian missile strikes on two military bases in Iraq have all been diagnosed as mild cases, Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday.

"The diagnosis we have so far to date is mild traumatic brain injury," Milley told reporters at the Pentagon, noting the conditions of the injuries could change over time. "Your brain is a very fragile part of your body, the unseen wounds of war can be serious and not serious. It depends on the individual and their proximity to the blast."

On Tuesday, the Pentagon said 50 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury caused by the Iranian missile attack on Jan. 8. The number of troops injured has fluctuated since the attack, which came in retaliation

for a U.S. drone strike in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top military general. The declared number of injured troops increased from the 34 reported last week and the 11 reported on Jan. 17. The total could still rise, according to Milley, because TBIs sometimes take time to manifest.

The injuries undercut President Donald Trump's initial statement hours after Iran's missile barrage that no Americans were harmed in the attack. But Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday defended Trump's original assertion as not being wrong.

"The reporting [of no injuries] was accurate, at that time," Esper said at the Pentagon news briefing. "I think we did our best to report the casualties."

Milley said initial assessments of casualties focus on easily identifiable flesh wounds and loss of life, meaning a brain trauma injury could slip through the cracks at first.

# Pentagon ID's aviators killed in Afghan crash

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

One of two aviators killed Monday when their Bombardier E-11A crashed in Afghanistan was a grass-to-brass lieutenant colonel in his 25th year of Air Force service. The captain he flew beside was an experienced B-1 bomber pilot.

The Pentagon on Wednesday identified the pair as Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, 46, of Yigo, Guam, and Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, of Hudson, N.H. Voss was assigned to Headquarters Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., and Phaneuf was with the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

The cause of the crash, which happened in Ghazni province, about 80 miles southwest of Kabul in a Taliban-controlled area of Afghanistan, is under investigation, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Voss and Phaneuf, who were flying in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, were the only people aboard the plane, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

Voss had served 25 years in active duty with the Air Force and was stationed at Joint Base

Langley-Eustis for about the past four years, the Air Combat Command said in a statement Wednesday.

Phaneuf was a B-1 heavy bomber pilot, the 28th Bomb Wing said in a statement Wednesday.

He dreamed of becoming an Air Force pilot and wrote about that goal in his high school yearbook, according to a Wednesday report by ABC affiliate WMUR in Manchester, N.H.

A Hudson police procession carrying Phaneuf's body will pause in front of Alvirne High School, where he was a member of JROTC before graduating in 2007, at 1 p.m. Thursday.

U.S. forces arrived at the crash site overnight Monday and no insurgents were then present, Arif Noori, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said Tuesday.

U.S. officials said the plane's flight recorder was recovered from the crash scene.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for bringing down the aircraft, which is used as a communications platform. However, the Pentagon said there are no indications that the crash was caused by enemy fire.

# SEAL promoted after charged in Green Beret's death

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Navy SEAL charged with murder and other crimes in the 2017 hazing death of a Green Beret in Mali was promoted to chief petty officer even after investigators suspected he was involved in the killing, according to officials and documents.

The Navy promoted SEAL Team 6 member Tony DeDolph from petty officer first class just weeks after Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar died June 4, 2017, during an incident in which fellow service members said DeDolph placed the Green Beret in a chokehold. Navy records show DeDolph was officially selected for promotion to E-7 in August 2017.

DeDolph is scheduled to appear in court for a pre-trial hearing Thursday at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. His court-martial is scheduled to begin March 23. He faces charges including assault, felony murder and obstruction of justice in the death of Melgar, a member of the Army's 3rd Special Forces group. Three other special operators were charged, including two who have received prison sentences.

The Navy had previously acknowledged — including during court proceedings for the other service members involved in the case — that DeDolph had been promoted since Melgar's death, but the timing and some details about that advancement were first reported Wednesday by The Daily Beast.

An announcement from the chief of naval

operations' office dated August 2017 identified selectees at that time for promotion to E-7, including DeDolph, who was named the 15th best qualified petty officer first class for promotion among Naval Special Warfare personnel. More than 70 of those individuals were chosen for advancement, according to the announcement.

DeDolph was serving in Mali on a counterterrorism mission. But he was removed from the West African nation just days after Melgar's death and returned to the Virginia Beach headquarters of SEAL Team 6, officially the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. In September, he was allowed to wear E-7 rank insignia, and he began receiving chief petty officer pay in December, The Daily Beast reported, citing unnamed officials.

# Marines honored for saving mom, daughters

BY CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

Four Marines who saved a woman and her two daughters from a dangerous riptide over Father's Day weekend in 2018 were recognized on Tuesday for their heroism.

Cpl. Austin McMullen, Cpl. Timothy R. Watson, Sgt. Anders K. Larson and Staff Sgt. Leary K. Reichartwarfel each received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal in a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., for putting their own lives in danger to save Ali Joy and her twin girls.

The Marines had been enjoying a day at North Carolina's Atlantic Beach on June 15,

2018, when a woman came up and "told us that she thought that there was somebody out in the water that needed help," recalled McMullen in a Marine Corps video. "I just remember the only thing that I said was, 'Where?'"

McMullen swam 150 yards through dangerous surf to reach Ali Joy and her two 7-year-old daughters. Two Marines stabilized the mother and girls on a surfboard, saving them from drowning, another citation said.

The rescuers also pulled the father of the family, Charles Joy Jr., 48, out of the water, but he later died in a hospital.

Ali and her husband had run into the water after noticing the

girls were being pulled too far out into the ocean, the mother said in a Marine Corps statement about a month after the incident.

"I got out to the girls and I couldn't touch (the bottom), the waves were breaking over us," she said. "My girls were panicking and I was having trouble staying afloat."

After the incident, she started a foundation called Float Don't Fight aimed at educating people on how to survive rip currents and tides or help someone caught in them.

"The human instinct is to fight, to struggle, but you need to float," she was quoted as saying in the 2018 Marine statement.

Ali was able to thank her rescuers last August during a national lifeguard competition in Virginia Beach, Va., where three of them were recognized for their heroism.

The military award pinned they received this week is the Navy's "highest peacetime decoration for heroism," Maj. Gen. Karsten Heckl, commander of the Cherry Point-based 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, said during the ceremony.

The award "means more than the individual receiving it," McMullen said. "I'm humbly honored to be a part of something that can reach the eyes and the ears of other people and maybe serve as an inspiration."

## Weinstein excused lewd acts as norm

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Two women who say they met Harvey Weinstein when they were aspiring actresses in their 20s testified at his rape trial on Wednesday that the one-time Hollywood titan preyed on their dreams to sexually assault them.

Dawn Dunning told jurors that Weinstein put his hand up her skirt and fondled her genitals during what was supposed to be a 2004 meeting about her fledgling career and later tried trading movie roles for three-way sex with him and his assistant.

She said that Weinstein claimed the lewd offer was the kind of thing that always happened in the film business, and that he mentioned the names of several big stars in hopes of convincing her to do it.

Tarale Wulff testified that Weinstein raped her at his New York City apartment after luring her there in 2005 with promises of an audition for a film role.

Wulff choked back tears as

she described the much larger Weinstein grabbing her by the arm, pushing her onto a bed and spurning her pleas to stop with reassurances that she shouldn't worry because he'd had a vasectomy.

Wulff, now 43 and a model, said she froze as he continued, thinking that would make it "easier to get through, to get past it."

Their allegations against Weinstein are not part of the criminal charges against him, but their testimony could be a factor in whether he goes to jail at the end of his #MeToo-era trial.

Prosecutors called them as witnesses under a state law that allows testimony about so-called "prior bad acts," enabling them to explore things like motive, opportunity, intent and a common scheme or plan. In this case, prosecutors allege that Weinstein has long used the promise of career advancement to take advantage of young, vulnerable women.

## Poll: GOP more fired up for 2020, Dems anxious

*Associated Press*

When it comes to the 2020 presidential election, Democrats are nervous wrecks and Republican excitement has grown.

That's according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as Americans look ahead to a high-stakes election that is 10 months away but still very much at the top of people's minds. While emotions could change in the coming months, the findings give Democrats one more worry to add to the list: Will anxiety or enthusiasm be a bigger motivator come November?

On the verge of the first votes being cast in a primary contest with no clear leader, 66% of Democrats report anxiety about the election, compared with 46% of Republicans. Republicans are also more likely than Democrats to declare excitement about the race, and the share of enthusiastic Republicans appears to be rising.

The findings aren't surprising to anyone who's talked to

an undecided Democrat about the crowded primary field. Behind an intense desire to oust President Donald Trump, Democrats often describe deep uncertainty about what sort of candidate has the best chance and whether the party will be able to win the votes. There's also hard division over policy and whispers about a contested convention. It can all feel a bit too much for some.

"I'm anxious and not really in a good way," said James Horinek, 32, a Democrat in Lawton, Okla. "There's division across the board — there's too much on the Democratic side and too little on the Republican one."

Republicans, meanwhile, appear to share less of that angst, while their party hangs together on impeachment, the economy and other major issues on Trump's agenda.

"I am not nervous at all. I think Donald Trump will win it in a landslide," said Clinton Adams, 39, a custodian in the Florida Panhandle.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Sheriff: Man stirs pot by lighting joint in court

**TN** LEBANON — The rapper Afroman famously sang about how getting high on marijuana prevented him from going to court. A Tennessee man decided to combine the two when he lit a marijuana cigarette in a courtroom, authorities said.

Spencer Alan Boston, 20, was arrested Monday and charged with disorderly conduct and simple possession after sparking up in court, news outlets reported.

Wilson County Sheriff Robert Bryan said Boston was in court Monday on a simple drug possession charge. Boston approached the bench to discuss his sentence but instead expressed his views on legalizing marijuana. Boston reached in his pocket, pulled out a marijuana cigarette, lit it, smoked it and was immediately taken into custody, Bryan said.

## Suit: Winter wonderland is a spring nightmare

**NH** NORTH WOODSTOCK — A New Hampshire woman said the operators of a seasonal attraction of ice structures failed to control runoff and flooded her basement with over 15,000 gallons of water — and she worries it will happen again this spring.

Kelly Trinkle alleges in a lawsuit against Ice Castles that last April, snow and ice melt from the attraction pooled in her backyard in North Woodstock and flooded her basement with 16 inches of water, New Hampshire Public Radio reported Tuesday.

Trinkle is seeking \$100,000 in damages but said her largest concern is not the lawsuit or the flooding, but what will happen

this spring.

A lawyer for Ice Castles denied that the structures flooded Trinkle's basement.

"Due to the topography of the land, the water that flooded the Trinkles' basement came from a large watershed," the lawyer wrote to NHPR.

Trinkle claims to have a video showing her walking the path of the water from her yard to the eastern edge of the Ice Castles property. She said she plans to submit it as evidence.

## Residents find boa constrictor in couch

**KS** ROSE HILL — Firefighters are looking for anyone who might be missing a boa constrictor after some Kansas residents found the 6-foot snake in their living room couch.

Police officers responding to a 911 call Monday from a resident in Rose Hill, about 20 miles southeast of Wichita, requested assistance from Butler County firefighters. The Wichita Eagle reported deputy Fire Chief Melvin Linot, the department's "snake charmer," wrangled the nonvenomous snake from the couch with the help of another firefighter.

## 11 arrested in vast recycling scheme

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities have arrested 11 suspects they say ran a multi-state recycling fraud operation that smuggled empty cans and bottles into California in a scheme that cost the state's recycling fund more than \$2 million, state officials said Monday.

The suspects allegedly brought cans and bottles from Arizona and Nevada into Los Angeles-area recycling centers to illegally redeem deposits.

It's illegal because consumers in Nevada and Arizona do not pay the 5- or 10-cent California redemption value deposit, so those containers are not eligible for refunds.

The suspects were charged with felony recycling fraud, conspiracy and grand theft after a four-month investigation by the California Department of Justice and CalRecycle.

## Wienermobile pulled over for not giving room

**WI** WAUKESHA — Oscar Mayer's iconic Wienermobile got a grilling from a Wisconsin sheriff's deputy because the driver failed to give enough room to another car on the road with emergency lights.

The deputy pulled over the Wienermobile and gave the driver a verbal warning for not following the law, the Waukesha Sheriff's Office said in a tweet posted Monday. It showed a picture of the sheriff's deputy's SUV parked behind the Wienermobile with the hashtags #MoveOver #SlowDown #Wienermobile. Traffic laws require vehicles to move out of the lane closest to another car that is on the side of the road with emergency lights flashing.

The first Wienermobile was created in 1936.

## Mother sues hotel after bottle strikes son

**TX** SAN ANTONIO — A mother who said her 2-year-old son was seriously injured when a glass ketchup bottle fell on his head from a fifth floor balcony of a San Antonio hotel is suing the establishment for at least \$1 million.

Cassandra DeLa Cruz's lawsuit said her son, Jacob Francisco, suffered serious injuries to his neck, brain and other

parts of his body on Aug. 18, 2018, when he was struck by the bottle as she pushed him past the Omni La Mansion Del Rio hotel in a stroller.

The lawsuit says Jacob has received medical treatment since the bottle fell on him and that his "injuries may be permanent in nature."

The San Antonio Police Department said the mother and a witness reported the incident to two hotel managers. A police officer interviewed two people in a hotel room who said they had been eating burgers on the balcony, and one of them said he may have accidentally knocked the 2.25-ounce Heinz ketchup bottle over the edge, according to the SAPD.

## Groups to remove, help stray dogs from village

**AK** BETHEL — Two animal groups plan to help a southwestern Alaska village clear out all its stray dogs, officials said.

Bethel Friends of Canines and Alaskan Animal Rescue Friends hope to catch and remove the wandering animals from Tuntutuliak on Friday, Alaska's Energy Desk reported. After volunteers vaccinate the dogs, some will be given to homes in Bethel while most will be transported to Anchorage, officials said.

"It's such a high volume of dogs that we're expecting to bring in that we'll probably ship most of them to our rescue partners in Anchorage," Bethel Friends of Canines Vice President Theresa Quiner said.

Tuntutuliak residents should keep their pets inside during the sweep so they are not mistaken for strays, coordinator Jesslyn Elliott said.

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# QB Mahomes tough test for Niners 'D'

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — With a fearsome front four capable of pressuring quarterbacks without blitzes, a lockdown cornerback in Richard Sherman and the speed at linebacker and safety to limit big plays, the San Francisco 49ers had the league's stingiest pass defense in a decade.

Shutting down Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs' passing game in the Super Bowl will be a far tougher challenge than anything the Niners have faced this season.

"His mobility is unique. His arm strength is ridiculous. He's very, very accurate," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "But what I don't think people give him enough credit for is that he actually plays quarterback."

"There's a lot of people, there's a lot of quarterbacks in this league that will say no to number one and then it just becomes street ball," Saleh continued. "He gets rid of the ball on time. He puts it where it needs to be. He hits a lot of throws in rhythm. And when he needs to take his shot, he knows how to buy time in the pocket and do it. So he is a superstar in every way you can possibly imagine and he's going to be

tough to deal with."

Mahomes leads the NFL with 76 completions the past two seasons on throws at least 20 yards downfield, an aspect San Francisco's defense is designed to stop.

It allowed the second fewest deep completions in the regular season, with only eight on 48 attempts, thanks in large part to Sherman's coverage skills and Ward's ability as a free safety to cover ground deep downfield.

The 49ers had to deal with Mahomes already in his brief but brilliant career. Back in Week 3 of the 2018 season in Mahomes' first year as starter in Kansas City, he threw for 314 yards and three TDs and led touchdown drives on all five possessions in the first half of the Chiefs' 38-27 win.

That marked the only time in the past 20 seasons that the Niners allowed five straight TD drives to open a game. They had no answer for Mahomes' play-making ability.

In the rematch next Sunday in the Super Bowl in Miami, San Francisco should be better equipped at least to try to slow Mahomes down.

It added a dynamic edge rushing duo in the offseason, acquiring Dee Ford in a trade with the Chiefs and drafting Nick

Bosa second overall. That led to the team allowing the fewest yards in a season since the 2009 New York Jets.

"When you have edge rushers it speeds up the process of the quarterback, and, not that he needs speeding up, he already gets rid of it pretty quick. But it changes the game," Saleh said. "It unlocks the offensive line so it creates a little bit more space and it gives the guys inside more space to operate. So having those guys out there, having them at full speed, will do nothing but help."

Bosa and Ford transformed the entire defense as the added pressure helped San Francisco create more turnovers after having a record-low seven takeaways in 2018.

The Niners have 57 sacks including the playoffs, with Ford, Bosa, Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner all recording at least 7½, making it difficult for offenses to key on one spot.

"If we're covering and that guy takes two or three hitches most likely he'll be laying on his back," safety Jimmie Ward said. "But Patrick Mahomes is a mover in the pocket. I'm pretty sure he'll make some guys miss and he'll make some plays. We just have to make more plays than he does."

## Djokovic tops Federer for sixth straight time

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic was wondering, right along with everyone else, what sort of shape Roger Federer would be in for their Australian Open semifinal.

At age 38, despite dealing with a painful groin muscle and coming off a draining five-setter, Federer came out just fine, it seemed, and soon was up 4-1 and love-40, holding a trio of break chances as Djokovic served.

Didn't last. Federer couldn't sustain that level. Neither his body nor Djokovic would let him.

Casting aside a bit of a poor start during the rivals' 50th meeting, Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam winning streak against Federer to six in a row with a 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3 victory Thursday night that earned the defending champion a record

### Kenin ousts Barty, will face Muguruza

MELBOURNE, Australia — Sofia Kenin never flinched.

Not when she was twice a point from dropping the opening set of her first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open. Not when she was twice a point from dropping the second set, either.

And the American is into her first major final at age 21 — beating the woman ranked No. 1, Ash Barty, to get there. Now Kenin will need to beat a former No. 1, Garbine Muguruza, to grab the trophy.

Kenin saved a total of four set points to stop Barty's bid to give Australia a long-awaited singles champion at Melbourne Park, pulling out a 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory

on a stiflingly hot Thursday.

Muguruza fended off four set points in the opener of her semifinal and wound up defeating No. 4 Simona Halep 7-6 (8), 7-5 in a matchup of players who have won Wimbledon and the French Open but not the Australian Open.

It was a streaky contest: Muguruza led 5-3 in the first set before Halep took 15 of 17 points to earn a pair of set points. Muguruza then took seven consecutive points. And so on, until Halep put a shot in the net to relinquish that set, then smashed her racket and sat on the sideline, shaking her head.

— Associated Press

eighth trip to the final at Melbourne Park.

"Today was horrible, to go through what I did. Nice en-

trance. Nice sendoff. And in between, it's one to forget, because you know you have a 3% chance to win," Federer said, adding that he discussed beforehand with his team how bad things would need to get for him to stop playing. "Once you can see it coming, that it's not going to work anymore, it's tough."

Djokovic now leads their head-to-head series 27-23, including 11-6 at majors. Federer hasn't beaten him at one of the sport's four most important tournaments since 2012.

"I just want to say, respect to Roger for coming out tonight. He was obviously hurt," Djokovic said. "Wasn't at his best."

The No. 2-seeded Djokovic will try to collect a record-extending eighth Australian Open title on Sunday against Dominic Thiem or Alexander Zverev.



## College basketball roundup

# Red Raiders bump off No. 12 Mountaineers

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech went through some hard practices after consecutive losses. The Red Raiders were plenty tough enough against No. 12 West Virginia.

“We had to bounce back,” Davide Moretti said.

“We get testy every afternoon at 3:30 in Lubbock, Texas,” coach Chris Beard said. “We strap it on. That’s what we do. All sorts of things to be concerned about when you’re playing West Virginia, but the testiness of it wasn’t an issue tonight.”

Moretti had a career-high 25 points and a pair of Texas Tech freshmen also scored more than 20 in an 89-81 win over the physical Mountaineers on Wednesday night.

**No. 1 Baylor 67, Iowa State 53:** MaCio Teague scored 15 points, Mark Vital had 10 rebounds and seven assists, and the visiting Bears beat the Cyclones.

Baylor (17-1, 7-0 Big 12) used a 17-2 run midway through the second half to turn a five-point lead into a 59-41 edge with 7:43 left. Devonte Bando scored seven of his 12 points off the bench during the spurt, which came after Iowa State coach Steve Prohm was assessed a technical foul.

**No. 4 San Diego State 85, New Mexico 57:** KJ Feagin scored 18 points as the No. 4 Aztecs won easily on the road to remain the lone unbeaten team in the country.

San Diego State (22-0, 11-0 in Mountain West) got off to a 17-0 lead, holding the Lobos (16-7, 5-5) scoreless for the first 4:44 before Corey Manigault, who finished with 12 points, hit a turnaround jumper from the paint.

**No. 6 Louisville 86, Boston College 69:** Jordan Nwora scored a career-high 37 points — two shy of Richard Hamilton’s record for an opponent at Boston’s Conte Forum — and the Atlantic Coast Confer-

ence preseason player of the year added nine rebounds to pace the Cardinals.

Darius Perry scored 14 points and Malik Williams had 13 rebounds for Louisville (18-3, 9-1 ACC), which has won seven straight and is off to its best start since the 2008-09 team also won nine of its first 10 conference games while a member of the Big East.

**No. 7 Dayton 73, Duquesne 69:** Obi Toppin had 22 points and 10 rebounds to help the Flyers win on the road.

Dayton (19-2, 8-0 Atlantic 10) led by as many as 19 points in the second half, but the Dukes (15-5, 5-3) used a 15-2 run to close the gap.

**No. 10 Seton Hall 64, DePaul 57:** Myles Powell scored 24 points despite a woeful shooting effort and the host Pirates won their 10th straight game.

Jared Rhoden added 14 points and 11 rebounds as Seton Hall (16-4, 8-0 Big East) rallied from a nine-point, second-half deficit to beat the Blue Demons (13-8, 1-7) for the second time this season.

**No. 13 Kentucky 71, Vanderbilt 62:** Tyrese Maxey scored 10 of his 17 points in the second half, and the host Wildcats used a 23-12 run to hand the Commodores their record 25th consecutive Southeastern Conference regular-season loss.

Kentucky (16-4, 6-1 SEC) trailed 40-30 early in the second half before mounting the big run over 8:45 to lead for good at 53-52 on two Immanuel Quickley free throws with 8:33 remaining.

**No. 14 Michigan State 79, Northwestern 50:** Cassius Winston scored 18 points and Xavier Tillman had 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists to lead the host Spartans to the win.

Michigan State (16-5, 8-2 Big Ten) broke a tie for first place in the conference with No. 19 Illinois, which plays Minnesota on Thursday night.

**No. 21 Houston 69, East Carolina 59:** Caleb Mills scored 18 points to lead the Cougars to a road win.

Quentin Grimes added 15 points for Houston (17-4, 7-1 American Athletic Conference), which continued its shaky shooting in league play but still remained in control of the game.

**No. 22 LSU 90, Alabama 76:** Emmitt Williams had 23 points and 11 rebounds as the host Tigers won their ninth straight.

Skylar Mays scored 18 points for LSU (16-4, 7-0 SEC), which has won its first seven conference games for a second straight season and is the only SEC team unbeaten in league play.

**No. 24 Penn State 64, Indiana 49:** Lamar Stevens scored nine of his 17 points in the second half and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the host Nittany Lions past the Hoosiers.

Curtis Jones Jr. scored 12 points for Penn State (15-5, 5-4 Big Ten), which recovered from an 11-for-32 first-half shooting skid to pull away and hold Indiana to its worst offensive output of the season. The Nittany Lions notched three steals, added three blocks and forced 18 turnovers.

**Army 68, Bucknell 59:** Tommy Funk had 19 points to lead five Black Knight players in double figures as host Army earned its fifth straight victory.

Matt Wilson added 16 points, Josh Caldwell chipped in 11, and Lonnie Grayson and Alex King each had 10 for the Black Knights (10-10, 5-4 Patriot League). Funk also grabbed six rebounds in his final regular-season game against his brother.

**Navy 81, Holy Cross 66:** Evan Wieck scored a career-high 24 points on a perfect night shooting to lead the host Midshipmen (12-8, 6-3 Patriot League).

Wieck made all 10 of his field-goal attempts and all four foul shots with four rebounds, three assists and no turnovers.

## Astros make it official, tap Baker as new manager

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Dusty Baker has been hired to replace AJ Hinch as the manager of the Houston Astros.

The team announced the hiring Wednesday.

The 70-year-old becomes the oldest manager in the big leagues. Hinch was fired Jan. 13 just an hour after he was suspended for the season by Major League Base-

ball for his role in Houston’s sign-stealing scandal.

“Throughout his successful career, Dusty has embodied the qualities that we were looking for in a manager,” Astros owner Jim Crane said in a statement. “He’s a winner, and more importantly, a strong leader who has earned the respect of not only his players, but of virtually everyone that he has touched in baseball.”

Baker’s hiring was a sign the AL champions wanted to add a veteran presence to a franchise reeling from the dismissal of Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow. Baker has 22 years of managerial experience, starting in 1993 with the San Francisco Giants. A three-time National League Manager of the Year, Baker last managed the Washington Nationals, who let him go after a 97-65 season in 2017.

## NBA roundup

# Oladipo helps Pacers rally past Bulls

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Victor Oladipo's only three-pointer tied the score with 10 seconds left in regulation, and Malcolm Brogdon scored seven of his 15 points in overtime, helping the Indiana Pacers rally for a 115-106 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night.

Oladipo had nine points in his first game back since suffering a season-ending knee injury last January. T.J. Warren had 25 points to lead the Pacers, who have won eight of their last 10. Brogdon also had eight rebounds and nine assists.

Chandler Hutchinson finished with a career-high 21 points, while Zach LaVine added 20 for Chicago, which lost its eighth straight in the series.

Clearly, Oladipo was rusty. He was 2 of 8 from the field and 1-for-7 on threes in 21 minutes. He had two rebounds, four assists and two turnovers.

**Nets 125, Pistons 115:** Spencer Dinwiddie scored 28 points in his first game with his new jersey number, Kyrie Irving returned to the lineup to score 20 and host Brooklyn beat Detroit.

Irving didn't play Sunday at New York after learning of Kobe Bryant's death, and Dinwiddie, a Los Angeles native, was in tears after the game talking about what the Lakers star meant to him.

**Grizzlies 127, Knicks 106:** Dillon Brooks scored 27 points, Ja Morant had 18 points and 10 assists, and Memphis cruised to a win at New York for its fourth straight victory.

Tempers flared with 48 seconds left in regulation when Knicks guard Elfrid Payton knocked the Grizzlies' Jae Crowder into the first row after Crowder attempted a three-pointer following the steal of an errant inbound pass by Julius Randle.

**Spurs 127, Jazz 120:** DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 38 points and San Antonio snapped a three-game losing streak with a win at Utah.

DeRozan was 11-for-19 shooting, surpassing 1,000 points for the 10th straight season. He had 21 points in the second half, including a pair of mid-range jumpers from the right baseline in the final three minutes to help seal the victory.

**Thunder 120, Kings 100:** Luguentz Dort set season-highs

with 23 points and five three-pointers, Dennis Schroder delivered another big game off the bench, and Oklahoma City won at Sacramento.

Schroder had 24 points and nine assists as the Thunder led the entire way and won for the sixth time in seven games. Chris Paul added nine points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, Danilo Gallinari had 19 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17.

**Trail Blazers 125, Rockets 112:** Damian Lillard had 36 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and host Portland beat Houston to spoil James Harden's return after a two-game absence.

Lillard scored 30-plus points for his sixth straight game, a franchise record.

## NHL roundup

# Predators overcome gaffes, storm back to beat Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Juuse Saros handed the puck to Alex Ovechkin for an easy goal. Nick Bonino then shot the puck off Saros and into his own net.

It looked like one of those games in a season full of them for the Nashville Predators.

Instead, Saros made 29 saves, Ryan Johansen tied it off a turnover and Yannick Weber scored the go-ahead goal to beat the NHL-leading Washington Capitals 5-4 Wednesday night. It was a weird game with plenty of mistakes on both sides but one that showed the Predators still have some fight left in their uphill climb to make the playoffs.

"That could've been a time where we could've been frustrated like: 'You've got to be kidding me. Here we go again,'" Predators goal-scorer Rocco Grimaldi said. "It was

a good job, a good response for our team. We know what kind of a hole we're in and we know we've got to get two points just about every night to make the playoffs. I thought this was a great first step."

The Predators blew a 3-1 lead but rallied back thanks to Johansen's goal off a giveaway by Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby and Weber's shot with 4:37 left that deflected in off Capitals defenseman Michal Kempny.

**Maple Leafs 5, Stars 3:** Mitchell Marner set up his team's first two goals and kept up Toronto's high-scoring ways on the road to beat Dallas.

Marner's fancy passes to Auston Matthews and Zach Hyman started the Maple Leafs on the way to their seventh win in the past eight road games. Toronto never trailed and set a franchise record with four or more goals in eight straight games

away from home.

**Ducks 4, Coyotes 2:** Adam Henrique scored twice, Carter Rowney had a short-handed goal and host Anaheim defeated Arizona.

Hampus Lindholm also scored for the Ducks, who have won three of four. Derek Grant added two assists and John Gibson stopped 25 shots.

**Canucks 5, Sharks 2:** Quinn Hughes had a goal and an assist, Jake Virtanen put his team ahead and first-place Vancouver scored four unanswered goals in the third period to extend its winning streak to four games with a victory at San Jose.

Tyler Myers, Brandon Suter and Tanner Pearson also scored for Vancouver, which has won six of seven and 13 of 16. Jacob Markstrom made 38 saves.

**Flames 4, Oilers 3 (SO):** Sean Monahan scored the

shootout winner and host Calgary snapped a two-game skid by beating rival Edmonton.

Andrew Mangiapane had a pair of goals and Elias Lindholm also scored for the Flames.

Kailer Yamamoto, Alex Chiasson and Matt Benning scored for the Oilers.

**Lightning 4, Kings 2:** Steven Stamkos had two goals and an assist, and Eric Cernak scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period of Tampa Bay's victory over Los Angeles in the first sporting event at Staples Center since Kobe Bryant's death.

The arena held a somber pre-game ceremony honoring Bryant and the other eight victims of Sunday's helicopter crash. Bryant's two retired jersey numbers hang high on the walls of the building, which was the retired Los Angeles Lakers superstar's home for the final 17 years of his two-decade career.