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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Taliban launch major attack in Kunduz

BY RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban launched a large-scale attack on Kunduz, one of Afghanistan's main cities even as the insurgent group continued negotiations with the United States on ending the 18-year war.

The attack killed at least 15 people and wounding more than 75 others, government officials said.

The U.S. envoy in the talks, Zalmay Khalilzad, said in a Twitter post that he raised the Kunduz attack with the Taliban and told them "violence like this must stop." He is expected to visit Kabul on Sunday to brief the Afghan government.

The Taliban launched the "massive attack" from several different points overnight, said Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, spokesman for the provincial police chief, who reported "intense gun battles" around the city.

After hours of efforts by Afghan security forces to push the militants into the city's outskirts, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the main intersection in Kunduz, provincial council member Ghulam Rabani Rabani said.

The blast killed 10 people and wounded

five others, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the bombing, which occurred after the defense and interior ministers visited Kunduz and asserted that Afghan forces had repelled the attackers.

Afghan officials confirmed casualties among security forces in the day of fighting but did not say how many and said at least 60 Taliban fighters had been killed. As night fell, they said gun battles continued on the outskirts of Kunduz, a strategic crossroads with easy access to much of northern Afghanistan as well as the capital, Kabul, about 200 miles away.

Presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi told reporters the attack was "completely against the peace talks."

The militants, who have demanded that all foreign forces leave Afghanistan, now control or hold sway over many parts of the country and are at their strongest since their 2001 defeat by a U.S.-led invasion. Such attacks are seen as strengthening their negotiating position.

Rabani said the insurgents briefly took control of the hospital earlier in the day, but provincial health director Esanullah Fazeli said the fighters left after staffers told them the patients could be hurt in any

cross fire.

"In a way, we are thankful that the Taliban accepted what they were told," he said.

Afghan special forces were sent from Kabul to support local forces in the northern city, but no U.S. ground troops or airstrikes — which are often relied on in similar operations — were called for, Defense Ministry deputy spokesman Fawad Aman said. He said Afghan forces conducted several airstrikes of their own.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan Gen. Scott Miller traveled to Kunduz after the fighting broke out to meet with local security officials, Khalid told reporters. The U.S. military did not comment on Miller's visit or say whether U.S. forces were involved in operations to counter the Taliban's assault.

The Taliban have continued bloody assaults on civilians and security forces even as their leaders meet with U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Qatar to negotiate an end to nearly 18 years of war.

Talks continued Saturday, a Taliban spokesman said. Both sides in recent days have signaled they are close to a deal. The Afghan presidential spokesman said Khalilzad will visit Kabul at some point to brief the government on the details.

Wider target area seen for Hurricane Dorian

The Washington Post

With peak winds of 145 mph, Hurricane Dorian is as imposing and threatening as ever as it churns toward Florida and the Southeast United States. But because of a shift in model forecasts toward the east, it is possible that Florida may miss the full fury of this severe hurricane while areas farther north into coastal Georgia and the Carolinas face an increasing risk.

Even so, the National Hurricane Center is urging Floridians not to let their guard down and to continue preparing for an "extremely dangerous" hurricane. As of 8 a.m. Saturday, the storm was centered 280 miles east of the northwestern Bahamas, headed west at 12 mph.

"Life-threatening storm surge and dev-

astating hurricane-force winds are still possible along portions of the Florida east coast by the early to middle part of next week," it wrote as a key message in its 5 a.m. bulletin. "Residents should have their hurricane plan in place, know if they are in a hurricane evacuation zone, and listen to advice given by local emergency officials."

The Hurricane Center shifted its official forecast track east, just off the Florida coast, but still within striking distance of the state. "It should be noted that the new forecast track does not preclude Dorian making landfall on the Florida coast, as large portions of the coast remain in the track cone of uncertainty," it wrote. "Also, significant impacts could occur even if the center stays offshore."

If the storm makes a close pass to Florida, tropical-storm-force winds could arrive as soon as Sunday or Sunday night. And because the storm is predicted to be a slow mover, effects from wind, rain and storm surge — which is the storm-driven rise in water above normally dry land at the coast — could be prolonged, lingering through the middle of next week.

It now seems more likely that northeast Florida, rather than southeast Florida, will experience hurricane conditions.

Although the risk of a hurricane disaster has decreased some in Florida, it has become more likely that coastal Georgia to the Carolinas will have to deal with serious effects from Dorian by the middle of next week.

Green Beret from Idaho killed in Afghanistan

BY CHAD GARLAND,
COREY DICKSTEIN
AND WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

A Green Beret killed in action Thursday in Afghanistan left behind a pregnant wife and 3-year-old his daughter, his family has announced.

Sgt. 1st Class Dustin Ard, who was officially identified by the military Saturday, became the 15th U.S. combat casualty this year in Afghanistan, as the Pentagon prepares to draw down its forces there after 18 years of war.

Ard, 31, who was from Idaho Falls, Idaho, was on his second deployment to the country,

U.S. Army Special Operations Command said in a statement Saturday.

On Friday the sergeant's father confirmed his son's death in a message posted on Facebook by Idaho state Rep. Rod Furniss.

"My heart has a hole so big, I can hardly stand it," wrote the father, Bruce Ard, former mayor of the Idaho Falls suburb of Ammon. "He was the finest young man I have ever known. Not because he was my son but because of the person he is."

He was "a warrior — an accomplished, respected and loved Special Forces soldier that could strike up a friendship with anyone, anywhere," Col.

Owen G. Ray, 1st SFG(A) commander, said in a post shared on the Chapter 16 Special Forces Association's Facebook page, the Idaho Post Register reported.

The slain soldier is survived by his wife Mary and daughter, Reagan, 3, the newspaper reported, citing Ray. His wife is pregnant and expecting a son, it said.

Ard had joined the Army in Utah to be a Green Beret in 2011 and completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2015, USASOC spokesman Lt. Col. Loren Bymer said. He was then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Washington's Joint

Base Lewis-McChord as a Special Forces communications sergeant.

Dustin Ard died of wounds he received in combat in southern Zabul province, the Pentagon said, saying the incident was under investigation.

The incident follows the deaths of two Green Berets during a raid on Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan's Faryab province on Aug. 21. Special Forces Master Sgts. Jose J. Gonzalez and Luis F. Deleon-Figueroa were killed by small-arms fire. Three U.S. soldiers were also killed in action in July in two separate engagements.

Shooting during training leaves Marine paralyzed

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—A Marine was left paralyzed after being shot during a live-fire training mishap at Twentynine Palms, Calif., according to the Navy and Marine Corps.

A Marine with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment was injured July 28 during

scheduled live-fire training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Maj. Kendra Motz, a Marine spokeswoman, confirmed Friday in a statement. The regiment is a Marine reserve unit based at Fort Devens, Mass., that was training for an upcoming deployment to support U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in conducting exercises across the region, according

to a Marine Forces Reserve news release about the unit's training.

A document on mishap incidents within the service by the Naval Safety Center reported the Marine, a lance corporal, had been shot and paralyzed from the neck down. The service did not identify the injured Marine.

The Marine was treated and

stabilized by a medical support team at the range and was transported to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, Calif., Motz said. He has been transferred to a specialized care facility, remaining in serious but stable condition.

The incident is under investigation, according to 1st Lt. Cameron Edinburgh, a Marine spokesman.

Naval Academy to end alumni tailgate; some not happy

The Capital (Annapolis, Md.)

Dan Lear has been a Navy football season ticket holder for more than 40 years. A 1968 Naval Academy graduate, Lear and his wife trek from Virginia Beach, Va., to attend the Saturday home games.

Since the mid-'90s, Lear estimated, he made sure to stop by the tailgate hosted by the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, tucked away in the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium's north end where alumni gather before games.

This season, the more than 20-year-old tradition will come to an end, the alumni association announced last month.

"It was an opportunity to get together and continue friendships that had been

started," said Lear, a retired captain who at one time was on the alumni association's membership committee that proposed the idea of a tailgate to raise funds.

The tailgate has been incorporated into the Anchor Club at Captain's BBQ, a private tent inside the stadium, and will be hosted by the school's athletic association.

"We're changing up our football hospitality model this year and look forward to seeing you at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium this season," the alumni association wrote on its website.

The event will be held on the southeast end of the stadium on the concourse, giving alumni a "better experience during the game" because the field is visible, said Kristen Pironis, a spokeswoman for the

alumni association.

Event tickets are going for \$65 for fans with a football ticket and \$85 for standing room only for those without. Catered food and a cash bar will be provided through the end of the game, according to the site.

Some alumni, like Eric Mulville, a class of 1995 graduate, feel the new event prices out some alumni who could afford the \$40 charge for the alumni tailgate, which included food and drinks in the price.

"It's a deterrent. If it was \$65 and included everything (like food and drinks) up through the end of the game, that might have been acceptable if you were talking about Jerry's World and the Dallas Cowboys, but this is Navy football," Mulville said.

2nd county preps for 'Storm Area 51' event

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A second rural Nevada county prepared Thursday for a "Storm Area 51" event that began as an internet joke but has drawn millions of social media fans.

Organizers of two festivals are inviting people to gather in tiny towns near the once-top-secret U.S. Air Force test area known in popular lore as a site for government studies of outer space aliens.

An emergency declaration for Nye County took effect a day after county di-

saster preparation and sheriff's officials told county lawmakers they're unsure how many — or where — people might show up for events Sept. 20-22.

"The information we're receiving would suggest ... we could have overwhelming population surges in various parts of the county," emergency manager Scott Lewis said.

Nye County, west and north of Las Vegas, has about 44,000 residents and is nearly the size of Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

Jon Koenig, chairman of the Nye County

Commission, predicted that cellular phone service would crash because towers aren't equipped for a heavy volume of calls.

"There will probably be no water ... or ice available because everything's going to sell out," he said during a Wednesday public meeting. "There will be no gas left in the gas stations. No food. Nowhere to go potty.

"If you're coming, be prepared, because it's not going to be nice," he concluded.

Sheriff Capt. David Boruchowitz said his department was advising people not to come.

Feds: Probe into deaths at VA hospital is 'top priority'

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Federal prosecutors said Friday a sweeping criminal probe into a number of suspicious deaths at a Veterans Affairs hospital in West Virginia would be their "top priority."

Bill Powell, the U.S. attorney in West Virginia, said his office is involved in a "comprehensive federal criminal investigation" into the deaths of up to 11 patients at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg. At least two of the deaths have been ruled homicides, according to attorneys representing families of men who died.

The announcement comes about a week after federal prosecutors indicted a former pathologist at another VA hospital in Arkansas — who is accused of being impaired while on duty — in connection with the deaths of three patients. Authorities say he misdiagnosed the patients and later altered records to conceal his mistakes.

There is no evidence to suggest the cases

are related, but the investigations are yet another black eye for the government's second-largest department, which is responsible for 9 million military veterans in more than 1,700 government-run health facilities.

On the campaign trail in 2016, President Donald Trump repeatedly railed against the care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, promising to fix the agency. He signed legislation that made it easier to fire VA employees and speed disability appeals and expanded the Veterans Choice program, which gives veterans the option to see private doctors outside the VA medical system at government expense.

The agency's former director was fired last year in the wake of a bruising ethics scandal and a mounting rebellion within the agency.

Robert Wilkie, the current Veterans Affairs secretary, who has been in his post since last July, has called for an expedited investigation into the suspicious deaths in West Virginia.

"We fully understand the desire for a speedy resolution and need for closure," Powell said.

Powell said the investigation, being conducted by federal prosecutors and the FBI, would be his office's "top priority" and that the probe began as soon as potential criminal activity was discovered. The Veterans Administration's inspector general is also investigating.

Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia said he spoke directly with Attorney General William Barr about the deaths and was headed to tour the hospital on Friday and meet with hospital staff and veterans. In a letter to the attorney general, Manchin said he had "grave concerns over the pace of the investigation."

Manchin, a Democrat, said the VA inspector general told his office about the opening of a medical and criminal investigation of the hospital in July 2018, after at least nine patients were diagnosed with unexplained low blood sugar.

Many reported vaping illnesses involve THC products

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health officials are recommending people who vape consider avoiding e-cigarettes while they investigate more cases of a breathing ailment linked to the devices.

While the cause remains unclear, officials said Friday that many reports involve e-cigarette products that contain THC, the mind-altering substance in marijuana.

Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they are looking at 215 possible cases across 25 states. All the cases involve teens or adults who have used e-cigarettes or other vaping

devices. Symptoms of the disease include coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, nausea and vomiting.

The CDC and Food and Drug Administration warned the public not to buy vaping products off the street. And officials recommended people concerned about the health risks "consider refraining from using e-cigarette products."

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said in a statement the government is "using every tool we have to get to the bottom of this deeply concerning outbreak."

E-cigarettes generally heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable aerosol.

The products have been used in the U.S. for more than a decade and are generally considered safer than traditional cigarettes because they don't create all the cancer-causing byproducts of burning tobacco.

But some vaping products have been found to contain other potentially harmful substances, including flavoring chemicals and oils used for vaping marijuana, experts say.

The mysterious illness underscores the complicated nature of the vaping market, which includes both government-regulated nicotine products and THC-based vape pens, which are considered illegal under federal law.

GOP takes aim at 'The Squad'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Move over, Nancy Pelosi. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and the “squad” of freshmen women of color are emerging as new stars of Republican attacks against Democrats running for Congress.

The tone is being set from the top as President Donald Trump bashes the four squad members with a strategy Republicans are quick to mimic, modeled on his own rise to the White House. Trump set a new standard in 2016, making some Republicans uneasy, by taunting rivals and branding them with exaggerated nicknames intended to make them unelectable.

The GOP is embracing the tactic for 2020.

A first test will be a Sept. 10 special election in North Carolina, the state where Trump sparked the “send her back!”

rally chant. The Trump-endorsed Republican, Dan Bishop, is portraying Marine veteran Dan McCready and other Democrats as “crazies,” “clowns” and “socialist.”

“These crazy liberal clowns, ... They’re not funny,” Bishop says in one ad that features images of McCready, Pelosi and squad members to a soundtrack of circus music. “They’re downright scary.”

Yet it remains to be seen whether this line of attack will work. For years, Republicans relied on attacks depicting Pelosi, the House speaker, as an out-of-touch San Francisco liberal as they tried to snap GOP voters to attention.

But singling out a new generation of female leaders is risky when Republicans are trying to prevent an exodus of suburban women and independent voters.

The attacks are especially

fraught because two of the women — Reps. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., and Ilhan Omar, D-Minn. — are the first Muslim women elected to Congress, part of the historic freshmen class with more women and minorities than ever. The other two members of the self-described squad are Ocasio-Cortez, of New York, and Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass.

Michael Fauntroy, an associate professor of political science at Howard University, said Republicans down the ballot are taking Trump’s cue with thinly veiled attacks on race and religion.

“Beating up on Pelosi isn’t such a big deal because she’s been around forever,” he said. “This ‘squad’ is perceived as a new threat and it’s this perfect collection of religion, race and policy position all tied up in a neat little bow, if you will.”

Sanders: More taxes for better health care

Associated Press

FLORENCE, S.C. — Health care was the focus of Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders’ second day of campaigning in the early voting state of South Carolina, where lack of Medicaid expansion has left thousands unable to obtain health coverage.

The Vermont senator visited Florence on Friday for a town hall meeting on “Medicare for All.” His signature proposal, relaunched in the Senate earlier this year, would replace job-based and individual private health insurance with a government-run plan that guarantees coverage for all with no premiums, deductibles and only minimal copays for certain services.

“While this health care system is not working for working families, it is working for one group of people,” Sanders told a crowd gathered in the afternoon sun at an outdoor amphitheater. “The function of a rational health care system is not to make billions for insurance companies and drug companies. It is to provide health care to every man, woman and child as a human right.”

Health care and how to reform the nation’s system is a critical debate among the candidates vying for the Democratic nomination.

Sanders’ legislation does not specify new revenues, instead providing a separate list of “options” that include higher taxes on the wealthy, corporations and employers while promising the middle class will be better off.

“You’re going to be paying more in taxes,” Sanders said Friday to a man asking how he’d benefit from Medicare for All if his employer currently pays for most of his premiums. “But at the end of the day, you’re going to be paying less for health care than you are right now. It will be comprehensive.”

Hong Kong activists defy protest ban

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Protesters in Hong Kong threw gasoline bombs at government headquarters and set fires in the street on Saturday, while police fired tear gas and blue-colored water from truck-mounted cannons in the 13th consecutive weekend of anti-government and anti-police demonstrations.

Police denied permission for a march to mark the fifth anniversary of a decision by China against fully democratic elections in Hong Kong, but protesters took to the streets anyway, as they have all summer. They provoked and obstructed the police repeatedly but generally retreated once riot officers moved in, avoiding some of the direct clashes that characterized earlier protests.

Hong Kong, a city of 7.4 million people, has been riven by protests for nearly three months. A now-shelved extradition bill brought to the fore simmering concerns about what

many in Hong Kong see as an erosion of the rights and freedoms that the semiautonomous Chinese territory is supposed to have under a “one country, two systems” framework.

The mostly young, black-shirted protesters took over roads and major intersections in shopping districts on Saturday as they rallied and marched with no obvious destination in mind.

Authorities closed streets and a subway stop near the Chinese government office and parked water cannon trucks and erected additional barriers nearby, fearing protesters might target the building. The office would have been the endpoint of the march that police did not allow.

Instead, a group of hard-line protesters decided to take on police guarding government headquarters from behind large barriers that ring the building to keep demonstrators at bay.

While others marched back

and forth elsewhere, a large crowd wearing helmets and gas masks gathered outside. They pointed laser beams at the officers’ heads and threw objects over the barriers and at them. Police responded with tear gas, and protesters threw gasoline bombs into the compound.

Then came the blue water. A water cannon truck fired regular water, then returned with repeated bursts of colored water, staining protesters and nearby journalists and leaving blue puddles in the street.

Protesters regrouped and blocked a major commercial street by piling up barricades and setting a large fire. Smoke billowed into the air as hundreds of protesters waited on the other side of the makeshift barrier, many pointing laser beams that streaked the night sky above them.

Firefighters made their way into the congested area on foot to put out the fire. Police in riot gear removed the barricades and moved in quickly.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Court: Making gun hand gesture is crime

PA MANOR — A Pennsylvania man convicted of disorderly conduct for making a shooting gesture with his hand has lost his bid to have it overturned.

A state appellate court made the ruling Tuesday on the appeal brought by Stephen Kirchner.

The Manor man made the gesture while walking past a neighbor's home in June 2018. The man allegedly made an obscene gesture toward Kirchner, who responded with his gesture.

Deputy kills dog after it attacks partner

NC GREENVILLE — A North Carolina sheriff's deputy shot and killed a dog after investigators said the owner intentionally set it on him and his fellow deputies as they tried to serve arrest warrants.

The Pitt County Sheriff's Office told news outlets that three deputies sent to the owner's home on Sunday to serve domestic violence-related arrest warrants found the man sitting in front of his house.

His pit bull then charged and bit one deputy on the leg, and continued the attack until another deputy shot and killed it.

The sheriff's office said Stanley Tyson, 27, of Farmville is charged with assault with a deadly weapon on a government official.

Fissure created by an eruption to be named

HI HILO — A Hawaii naming agency has scheduled a public meeting to narrow down potential names for a new

state landmark formed during last year's Kilauea volcanic eruption, officials said.

The Hawaii Board of Geographic Names and a Permitted Interaction Group has tentatively scheduled a public meeting Sept. 19 for residents to discuss 21 proposed names made public Tuesday for Fissure 8, The Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported Wednesday.

The fissure formed during the eruption is a cone-shaped crack about 200 feet high on the Big Island, scientists said.

Fissure 8 has become one of the most prominent landmarks formed during the volcanic eruption, the newspaper reported.

County bans release of helium balloons

MD CENTREVILLE — A Maryland county has voted to ban the release of environmentally harmful helium balloons.

WBAL reported that on Tuesday, Queen Anne's County commissioners unanimously passed an ordinance that prohibits the release of nonbiodegradable helium balloons into the air.

Those who deliberately violate the ordinance can be fined up to \$250.

Queen Anne's Conservation Association Director Jay Falstad told WBAL the balloons pose an environmental threat. He said they can get stuck in trees, in the Chesapeake Bay or in off-shore clusters in the Atlantic Ocean.

Giant grapefruit wins 2 world records

LA BATON ROUGE — A basketball-sized grapefruit has brought two world records to a Louisiana couple.

The giant citrus grew in the yard of Mary Beth and Doug Meyer of Slidell.

The Guinness Book of World Records said it's the world's heaviest and largest in circumference.

It weighed 7 pounds, 14.6 ounces and measured 28 inches around. That's almost as big around as an NBA basketball.

Man's wife, mom use girls to pay bond

NC CHARLOTTE — Federal prosecutors announced long sentences for the wife and mother of a man jailed in North Carolina. All three pleaded guilty to trafficking underage girls for sex to raise money for his bond.

A Monday statement by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of North Carolina said Brianna Leshay Wright has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for sex trafficking a minor. Her mother-in-law, Tanya Fuentes, has been sentenced to two years for conspiracy.

Prosecutors said Wright's husband, Zerrell Fuentes, arranged the scheme in jail, recruiting girls to engage in prostitution to earn money for his bail. The women then carried out the plan.

Owner faked abused dog story for free care

OH HAMILTON — An Ohio sheriff said the person who told veterinarians a dog was found with its nose and mouth duct-taped and its throat slit was actually its owner, who made up the story to get the animal free care.

Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones said his office's investigation and interviews with the owner determined the unintentional cut to the dog's throat

was from a barbed wire fence. The sheriff's statement said what appeared to be injuries to the snout area were from a muzzle the owners used to keep the dog from chewing things and attacking other animals.

Man brought gun, ammo, knife to school

TN CLARKSVILLE — Authorities said a man attempted to pick up a student from a Tennessee elementary school while armed with a gun, two loaded magazines and a knife.

News outlets reported George A. Kennedy, 53, was arrested Monday and charged with possessing a firearm inside an elementary school.

A Montgomery County sheriff's statement said Kennedy entered the school that afternoon and front office staff noticed what appeared to be the outline of a firearm under his clothing.

It said staff notified school resource officer Deputy Ashley Grimes, who then disarmed Kennedy.

Ex-NYC detectives get probation for van sex

NY NEW YORK — A judge said he's choosing probation over jail for two ex-New York City detectives accused of having sex in a police van with an 18-year-old woman they arrested.

Eddie Martins and Richard Hall pleaded guilty Thursday to official misconduct and other charges stemming from the September 2017 encounter.

Judge Danny Chun said he'll sentence the men in October to five years of probation.

Martins and Hall resigned in November 2017 before facing an administrative proceeding.

From wire reports

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Taylor, No. 18 Wisconsin hammer USF

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Jonathan Taylor is off and running.

Catching, too.

Taking up where he left off a year ago, when he led the nation in rushing with 2,194 yards and 16 touchdowns, Taylor ran for 135 yards and accounted for four TDs to help No. 19 Wisconsin open the season with a 49-0 rout of South Florida on Friday night.

The junior scored on runs of 37 and 38 yards and also had the first two receiving TDs of his career as the Badgers strive to become a more balanced team on offense.

"You work all offseason like I did, and to have that receiving touchdown come to life, I'm really excited about that," said Taylor, who scooted 36 yards up the left sideline after taking a quick flip from Jack Coan in the second quarter. "It motivates you to see that hard work pay off."

Taylor's second TD reception gave the Badgers a 28-0 lead just before halftime. He

finished with two catches for 48 yards after having just eight for 60 yards last season.

"Jonathan was good in a lot of different ways. He was awfully patient on one run, and he had the little screen that he took," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said. "You get him in space and he's pretty good."

Wisconsin's defense delivered a dominating performance, too, limiting South Florida to 157 yards of offense and forcing three turnovers, including a fumble that Matt Henningsen returned 16 yards for a second-quarter touchdown.

The loss was the seventh straight for USF, which dropped the final six games of 2018 after starting 7-0 and climbing into the Top 25.

"A very disappointing, very embarrassing loss," USF coach Charlie Strong said. "As a head coach, I thought I had them ready to play and I guess I didn't. And we showed it."

Blake Barnett completed 13 of 30 passes for 109 yards for the Bulls. He was intercepted twice.

"The team that played out there tonight is not the team that we are," the quarterback said. "A lot of mental errors, lack of execution, lack of effort. It stems from everyone, that's myself included."

The takeaway

Taylor joined Melvin Gordon (2014) and Ron Dayne (1996, 1999) as the only Badgers to top 2,000 yards rushing in a season in 2018, and he looks like he's primed for another big year after gaining 100-plus for the 23rd time in 28 career games. Coan carried his share of the load, too, rebounding from overthrowing a couple of open receivers deep in the first half to finish 19-for-26 for 199 yards without an interception.

Last season's collapse prompted Strong to make several changes, including hiring NCAA Division II national championship-winning coach Kerwin Bell as offensive coordinator. The Bulls were held to 26 yards rushing and outgained 433 to 157 overall.

Weather delay

The start of the game was delayed 55 minutes because of lightning.

Rare company

Taylor rushed for 4,171 yards as a freshman and sophomore, the most ever by a Football Bowl Subdivision player in the first two years of a career. With 135 Friday night, he moved within 694 of joining Dayne, Georgia's Herschel Walker and Oregon's LaMichael James as the only players to rush for over 5,000 through their junior season.

Poll implications

Realistically, minimal. The Badgers opened with a true road game for the first time since beating UNLV 41-21 in Las Vegas in 2010. And while Chryst welcomed what he anticipated would be a good test from USF, the Bulls were overmatched from the start.

Long, fourth-quarter TD drive helps Army edge Rice

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Sty-mied off and on by a swarming Rice defense in a tight game, Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. finally did what he's become so accustomed to doing — guiding a time-consuming scoring drive that sank the hard-luck Owls.

Army converted five third downs on an 18-play, game-winning drive that took over 9 minutes of the fourth quarter and left the Owls in a hole they couldn't climb out of in the season opener for both teams. Hopkins hit Kell Walker with a 17-yard touchdown pass with 3:48 left and Army escaped with a 14-7 victory on Friday night at Michie Stadium.

A false start on third down had pushed the ball back to a third-and-8 at the 17 before

Hopkins found Walker all alone on the left side near the goal line with 3:58 left in the game.

"Honestly, it was just the mindset of the offense," Hopkins said. "We knew that we were going to have to make a drive, make a push, especially with time winding down. Thirteen minutes, that's right around where we want to get the ball and hold it as long as possible. The defense was carrying us a lot at points. We were putting them in some bad spots."

The Owls threatened one last time, driving into Army territory. Quarterback Wiley Green lost the ball while scrambling and Army's Jacob Covington nearly covered it before Aston Walter fell on it for Rice with just over a minute left. A last-gasp sideline pass on fourth down by Green was broken

up by Jaylon McClinton at the Army 15 with seconds to play.

"It's all about staying composed," Army linebacker Cole Christiansen said. "We're used to things like that happening. We thought we had won the game. I think it's a testament to our team."

The Black Knights have won 14 straight games at home and 10 straight overall, the second-longest active winning streak in college football, behind only national champion Clemson.

"That game could have gone either way," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "Our guys in the end found a way. We just overcame a lot."

Hopkins, who last year became the first player in academy history to run for 1,000 yards and pass for 1,000 yards in a season, finished with 80 yards rushing on 21 carries

and was 3-for-8 passing for 53 yards as he operated with a new center and a new backfield.

Army, which finished last season ranked No. 19, lost a key part of its offense to graduation with the departure of fullbacks Darnell Woolfolk and Andy Davidson. Woolfolk was the workhorse, accounting for 956 yards and 14 TDs. Senior Connor Slomka (74 carries for 324 yards, 4.4 average and five TDs) and junior Sandon McCoy (16-65, 4.1) were being counted on to carry much of the load this season, but Slomka has been hobbled by an undisclosed injury and did not play.

The Owls, who started preparing for this game in the spring, held the Black Knights in check in the first half, limiting them to 120 yards on 30 plays, 103 of it on the ground on 27 carries, a 3.8-yard average.

Federer eases into 4th round of US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — There was no slow start to this U.S. Open outing for Roger Federer, who bristled at the suggestion that he might have played a role in some favorable scheduling.

After dropping the opening set in each of his initial two matches for the first time in 19 appearances at Flushing Meadows, the No. 3-seeded Federer was back at his absolute best Friday in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Dan Evans, accumulating a 48-7 edge in winners as the opening act in the Arthur Ashe Stadium day session that began at noon.

Evans acknowledged 20-time major champion Federer's superiority. How couldn't he?

But the 58th-ranked player from Britain also thought the timing was "a bit disappointing," because his rain-postponed second-round match was played Thursday, whereas Federer got to play Wednesday

under the Ashe roof.

Being first up on Friday's program meant Evans had to be back on court about 18 hours after he'd left the tournament grounds.

"It was always going to be a competitive advantage for me. ... Luck was on my side," Federer said, although he did add that his team was asked about whether it had a preference for when to play.

"But that doesn't mean, like, 'Roger asks, Roger gets.' Just remember that, because I have heard this (stuff) too often now," he said, with a more colorful word choice. "I'm sick and tired of it, that apparently I call the shots; the tournament and the TV stations do. We can give our opinion. That's what we do. But I'm still going to walk out (on court), even if they schedule me at 4 in the morning."

Tournament spokesman Chris Widmaier would not discuss specifics of conversations between tournament officials

and representatives of any player.

"That was the schedule we put forth, and we're comfortable with the decision," Widmaier said.

In the last match in Ashe at the end of the night, defending champion and No. 1 seed Novak Djokovic's left shoulder looked just fine in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Denis Kudla of the United States.

During his win Wednesday, Djokovic was visited several times by a trainer for treatment on the shoulder, which he said was hurting quite a bit. But that did not appear to be an issue at all against Kudla.

Whether or not he had any input — wink, wink — Djokovic surely must have been pleased to get such a late start.

"I managed to play almost pain-free," Djokovic said. "That's a big improvement."

Drama of the highest order was going on across the way at Louis Armstrong Stadium,

where No. 5 Daniil Medvedev seemed to relish the booing he heard during and after his four-set victory over Feliciano Lopez, negativity from spectators that bubbled up after the Russian snatched a towel from a ball person, chucked his racket and later held his middle finger against his face.

Other women's winners Friday included No. 2 Ash Barty, No. 3 Karolina Pliskova, No. 5 Elina Svitolina, No. 10 Madison Keys and No. 16 Johanna Konta.

Men who advanced included 2016 champion Stan Wawrinka; Alex de Minaur, who knocked off 2014 runner-up Kei Nishikori; and Dominik Koepfer, a German ranked 118th who defeated No. 17 Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-1 to become only the second qualifier in the last decade to reach the men's fourth round at the U.S. Open.

College football roundup

No. 18 Michigan State uses defense to shut down Tulsa

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Raequan Williams knocked the ball out, and Kenny Willekes recovered it in the end zone.

When Michigan State's defensive linemen are playing like this, the Spartans' offense has plenty of margin for error.

Willekes recovered two fumbles, including one for a touchdown, and No. 18 Michigan State manhandled Tulsa 28-7 on Friday night. Willekes, back on the field after breaking his leg in last season's Redbox Bowl, was part of a swarming Michigan State defense that held the Golden Hurricane to minus-73 yards rushing.

The touchdown by Willekes came after he and Williams sacked Zach Smith near the goal line. The ball came free, and Willekes came up with it to put Michigan State up 22-0.

Oklahoma State 52, Oregon State 36: Chuba Hubbard rushed for 221 yards and three touchdowns, and redshirt freshman Spencer Sanders threw for 203 yards and three more scores to lead the visiting Cowboys past the Beavers.

Tylan Wallace, an Associated Press preseason first-team All-America selection, caught five passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns for Oklahoma State, which finished with 555 yards of total offense.

Sanders, a highly touted recruit out of Denton, Texas, had competed throughout the spring and preseason camp with Hawaii graduate transfer Dru Brown for the starting nod.

Nevada 34, Purdue 31: After trailing 24-7 at halftime, Carson Strong, the first freshman quarterback to start a

season opener for the host Wolf Pack since 1998, led his team to a victory over the Boilermakers for the second win against a Big Ten team in program history.

Nevada capped the comeback on a 56-yard field goal from freshman kicker Brandon Talton as time expired. The 17-point Nevada comeback tied the second largest comeback for the program since 1996.

With the game tied and 32 seconds remaining, Purdue quarterback Elijah Sindelar threw an interception to defensive back Daniel Brown. Nevada tied the game with 52 seconds left on Strong's 20-yard pass to Elijah Cooks.

Colorado 52, Colorado State 31: At Denver, Tailback Alex Fontenot scored three second-half touchdowns and safety Mikial Onu intercepted two passes as the Buffaloes beat the Rams and gave Mel

Tucker a victory in his debut as head coach.

Fontenot finished with 125 yards rushing to help Colorado win its fifth straight over Colorado State in what was the final Rocky Mountain Showdown held in Denver. The 83 combined points were the most in the rivalry's 91-game history.

Wake Forest 38, Utah State 35.: Jamie Newman threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Kendall Hinton with 1:08 remaining, and the host Demon Deacons held on to beat Jordan Love and the Aggies.

Newman finished with three touchdown passes, and his 70-yard pass to Sage Surratt to the Utah State 1 set up the fourth-down scoring pass after the Aggies stuffed three straight runs by Cade Carney.

It helped the Demon Deacons earn a wild win that featured a combined 1,175 total yards.

Profar's tiebreaking hit lifts Athletics

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sold-out Yankee Stadium cheered when crew chief Jim Reynolds took off his headset, pointed to second base and signaled safe. Then he looked toward first and did the same, and the Bronx reached another level of bedlam.

"That wasn't ideal," Oakland starter Brett Anderson said.

Wasn't enough to cool the A's recent run against New York, either.

Jurickson Profar delivered two tiebreaking hits to atone for his role in the double-reversal of a double play, and the Athletics beat the Yankees 8-2 Friday night.

Profar connected in the second for a 1-0 lead and added a two-run double in the sixth for a 4-2 edge. That made up for his flawed footwork as the

pivot on a blown double play in the fourth that led to a Yankees run.

Oakland pulled within a half-game of Cleveland for the top AL wild card and held its one-game edge over Tampa Bay for the second. The A's swept a three-game series against the AL East-leading Yankees in Oakland last week.

"We just played some good games against them," manager Bob Melvin said.

New York ended a four-game winning streak hours after placing Gio Urshela on the 10-day injured list, giving the club a record 29 players on the IL this season. CC Sabathia was pulled after three innings with a recurrence of his on-going knee issues, and Tommy Kahnle (3-1) allowed three runs in the sixth.

New York went ahead 2-1

after the unusual replay challenge in the fourth. Austin Romine hit into an apparent 6-4-3 double play, but replays showed Profar pulled his foot off the bag before catching a feed from shortstop Marcus Semien. Profar was flipped by a hard, clean slide from Brett Gardner, and his throw was shown to be a hair late to first.

"That's the first time I've seen that before where they're challenging two plays," Melvin said.

The Yankees took the lead on Mike Tauchman's ground-ball double play the next at-bat but only scored one run that inning.

"I think the game was kind of decided in that inning there," Anderson said. "It could've spiraled out of control."

Profar said he moved too quickly on the turn because he

could sense Gardner charging. His instincts — honed before video reviews eliminated the neighborhood play — told him to get off the bag, and he was worried about getting crushed.

"That's the only play I had," Profar said. "If I stood a little bit longer, maybe I'm gone."

Profar's homer off Sabathia was his 18th of the season and second in two games. The 26-year-old has struggled through most of his first season with Oakland but has five hits over the past two nights.

Anderson (11-9) pitched two-run ball over six innings. He allowed six hits, struck out one and induced 14 groundouts.

Kahnle blew New York's advantage two innings later. Seth Brown delivered a pinch-hit, RBI double to tie it before Profar's two-run knock.

MLB roundup

Mets snap six-game losing streak with rout of Phillies

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Todd Frazier hit a pair of three-run homers and tied his career-best with six RBIs, and New York beat Philadelphia 11-5 to snap a six-game losing streak.

Michael Conforto also went deep for the Mets, who also snapped a six-game losing streak in Philadelphia.

The Phillies fell 3½ games behind the Cubs for the second wild-card spot in the NL. The Mets are five games back.

Mets starter Zack Wheeler and Phillies ace Aaron Nola pitched well before turning it over to the bullpen. Philadelphia's imploded, allowing 10 runs while recording eight outs.

Mike Morin (1-1) took the loss.

Justin Wilson (4-1) tossed a scoreless inning for the win after Wheeler gave up one run and seven hits in six innings.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 4: A balk by reliever Yimi Gar-

cia sent home the tiebreaking run in the bottom of the eighth inning and helped Arizona beat visiting Los Angeles.

The Diamondbacks stalled the Dodgers' push to clinch the NL West with their fifth straight win.

Rays 4, Indians 0: Austin Pruitt and three relievers combined on a five-hitter, Jesus Aguilar had a three-run homer during a four-run seventh inning and host Tampa Bay beat Cleveland in a matchup of play-off contenders.

Astros 7, Blue Jays 4: George Springer homered and drove in four runs as visiting Houston beat Toronto.

The Astros won for the 10th time in 12 games following a five-game losing streak.

Twins 13, Tigers 5: C.J. Cron homered and Jorge Polanco had three hits as Minnesota beat host Detroit.

The Twins have won five straight, including the first four of a 10-game road trip, and lead

the Cleveland Indians by 4½ games in the AL Central.

Cubs 7, Brewers 1: Nicholas Castellanos hit a pair of two-run homers, Jose Quintana took a shutout into the sixth inning, and host Chicago cruised to its fourth straight win.

The Brewers dropped their fourth game in five and fell five games behind the Cubs, who hold the second wild-card slot.

Braves 10, White Sox 7: Max Fried pitched six-plus innings and won his sixth straight decision, Tyler Flowers hit a three-run homer and host Atlanta beat Chicago.

Freddie Freeman drove in two runs and Ozzie Albies went 4-for-5 to help the NL East-leading Braves, who have won 10 of 12 to stay 5½ games up in the division.

Nationals 7, Marlins 6: Anthony Rendon lined a two-run single with one out in the ninth inning and Washington rallied past visiting Miami for its seventh win in eight games.

Rangers 6, Mariners 3: Rougned Odor snapped an 0-for-28 slump with an early game-tying RBI double, Danny Santana hit his 24th homer and host Texas beat Seattle.

Orioles 14, Royals 2: Local product John Means won back home with seven strong innings, Hanser Alberto got a career-high five hits and visiting Baltimore defeated Kansas City.

Pirates 9, Rockies 4: Dario Agrazal pitched three-run ball into the sixth inning, Melkey Cabrera hit a three-run homer, and Pittsburgh beat host Colorado.

Giants 8, Padres 3: Madison Bumgarner allowed one run over seven innings to tie Matt Cain for the most pitching wins at Oracle Park, and host San Francisco beat San Diego.

Red Sox 7, Angels 6 (15): Mookie Betts' went deep with two out in the 15th inning and Boston outlasted host Los Angeles.