

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, December 9, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

USS Wasp to leave Japan for Va. in 2019

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious assault ship will steam out of Japan sometime next year for a new homeport stateside.

The USS Wasp, which arrived at Sasebo Naval Base in January, is expected to leave for Naval Station Norfolk, Va., sometime next year, according to a message posted Tuesday on the ship's official Facebook page.

The short deployment took many by surprise since the Wasp's predecessor, the USS Bonhomme Richard, spent six years patrolling the Western Pacific out of Sasebo.

Lt. Cmdr. Russell Wolfkiel, a spokesman for Wasp parent unit Task Force 76, declined to provide specifics on exactly when the ship will depart or which vessel would

be its replacement. He cited security concerns about troop movements in a phone call with Stars and Stripes on Friday.

The 844-foot flat-deck Wasp is one of two amphibious assault ships capable of embarking the Marine Corps' fifth-generation F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter, which is capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings. The San Diego-based USS Essex is the only other amphibious ship that has conducted F-35B flight operations at sea.

The Bonhomme Richard returned to the United States to be outfitted with a new flight deck that will allow it to handle the F-35B.

The flight deck requires a special coating to handle the heat generated by the fighter's engine during landings.

Over the last year, the Wasp has set some historic milestones for the Navy's amphibious fleet. The F-35B made its deployment debut aboard the Wasp in March during the ship's first mission after arriving in

Japan.

The aircraft, from Marine Attack Fighter Squadron 121 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, helped test the Up-Gunned Expeditionary Strike Group concept that pairs two destroyers and the F-35B with a traditional amphibious readiness group.

During its most recent regional patrol that began in August, the Wasp's sailors and Marines were the first on scene after super Typhoon Mangkhut struck the Northern Marianas in September.

The crew helped restore power and clear roads after 100 mph winds downed trees and power lines across the U.S. commonwealth.

The Wasp made global headlines in late September after being denied a port call to Hong Kong amid a tariff war between Washington and Beijing and sanctions over China's purchase of Russian fighter jets and a surface-to-air missile system.

Sense of fading voices imbues Pearl Harbor remembrance

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

PEARL HARBOR VISITOR CENTER, Hawaii — An atmosphere of fading voices and vanishing time permeated the Friday morning ceremony commemorating the 77th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Oahu by Japan.

For the first time, no survivors from the USS Arizona attended the annual event. The five who remain living, all well into their 90s, were not robust enough to make the journey to Hawaii.

Meanwhile, this was the first commemoration that did not include a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial by attack survivors and other dignitaries. The memorial, which stands in the harbor above the sunken ship upon which 1,177 men died that day, has been closed for most of the year for repairs to the site's

floating dock.

"The voices are fading," Jacqueline Ashwell, superintendent of the World War II Valor in the Pacific Monument, told the audience of about 700 after noting the recent deaths of several men renowned for their connections to Pearl Harbor.

Ray Emory, a former USS Honolulu sailor who fired his .50-caliber machine gun at the attacking Japanese planes, died in August at age 97. In recent decades, he successfully fought to have the graves of unknowns from the USS Oklahoma, which sunk during the attack, exhumed and identified.

Ray Chavez, the attack's oldest survivor, died of pneumonia on Nov. 21 at age 106.

Also, former President George H.W. Bush, a Navy aviator in World War II, died last week. He spoke at Pearl Harbor on the attack's 50th anniversary, telling the audience

that those who died here that day "live forever in our memory, reminding us gently, selflessly, like chimes in the distant night."

"President Bush will forever be a part of the history of Pearl Harbor, a history that is still being written," Ashwell said.

She urged the audience to take a moment to imagine the scene of Pearl Harbor during that attack, a Sunday morning filled with "explosions, chaos, smoke, flames."

"Some of you don't have to imagine," Ashwell said. "You were here and witnessed it firsthand. We are truly blessed to have you here today to help us remember."

Speakers during the ceremony stressed that the sacrifices made by the men who fought and died on Dec. 7, 1941, must not be forgotten as the few remaining survivors fade into history.

"We can never forget the heavy price paid 77 years ago," said Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. "Twenty-one vessels damaged or sunk; 170 planes destroyed; more than 2,400 dead and 1,200 wounded. Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and civilians."

Ashwell closed her remarks by addressing all who died in the attack, all the survivors who have passed on in the 77 years since and all the veterans still alive and able recall the events of that day.

"To all of you I say, please, do not worry," she said. "For so long as there is a United States of America, a flag will fly over the USS Arizona Memorial, and the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will continue to tell your story. Your unconquerable spirits will live forever."

F-35 jets head to base ravaged by hurricane

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — An Air Force base that is recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Michael could be getting 72 new fighter planes.

The Panama City News Herald reported that three squadrons of F-35 fighter jets are expected to come to Tyndall Air Force Base by 2023. Each squadron has 24 planes.

U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn told the News Herald that the number of new airmen coming to the base is unknown but it could be more than 2,000 airmen.

The Category 4 hurricane heavily damaged Tyndall Air Force Base Oct. 10. Tyndall was evacuated before the storm and personnel have been returning over the past several weeks.

Dunn said the F-35 jets are a fifth-generation fighter aircraft and “more capable electronically” than other aircraft.

US Navy destroyer conducts operation in disputed waters

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS McCampbell sailed near contested waters claimed by Russia during a freedom-of-navigation operation in the Sea of Japan on Wednesday, according to news reports.

The Yokosuka-based destroyer challenged Russia’s maritime claims by sailing in the vicinity of Peter the Great Bay, the largest gulf in the Sea of Japan and home to Vladivostok, port for the Russian navy’s Pacific Fleet, according to CNN and U.S. Naval Institute News.

The purpose of the operation was to uphold the rights, freedom and lawful uses of the sea for the United States and other nations, said a statement by

U.S. Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Rachel McMarr.

“U.S. Forces operate in the Indo-Pacific region on a daily basis,” she said. “These operations demonstrate the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows. That is true in the Sea of Japan, as in other places around the globe.”

The freedom-of-navigation operation comes amid increased tensions between Washington and Moscow.

Russia on Tuesday was accused by all 29 NATO members of violating the Cold War-era Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty by deploying a missile that could reach Europe, CNN reported.

The purported treaty violation prompted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to announce the withdrawal from

the treaty in 60 days if Russia does not comply.

Russia also recently denied three Ukrainian naval ships access to Mariupol, a Ukrainian port in the Sea of Azov, by blocking the Kerch Strait with a tanker, according to The Guardian. The Russian ships opened fire on the Ukrainian vessels, injuring six crewmembers before seizing the crew and ships.

“We conduct routine and regular freedom-of-navigation operations, as we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future,” McMarr said. “[Freedom-of-navigation operations] are not about any one country, nor are they about current events. All freedom-of-navigation assertions are grounded in principle and the rule of law.”

Cutbacks force changes to tax services for military

By AARON KNOWLES
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Due to cutbacks, U.S. Army Europe tax centers will limit assistance mostly to servicemembers who fall below a certain rank and income level during the 2019 tax season, Army officials said.

“The program is designed to help soldiers and families that need these services most,” said Maj. Shawn Atkins, USAREUR deputy of military and civil law. “Generally speaking, this equates to E-6 and below, and other eligible filers making less than \$54,000.”

In years past, USAREUR had additional resources and could assist those with higher incomes and more complex returns, USAREUR spokeswom-

an Beth Clemons said Friday. “With the resources reduced in 2019, U.S. Army Europe has had to take a hard look at those that need the services most and that we are required to support by regulation.”

In accordance with Army regulations and the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, tax centers must offer “free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking who need assistance in preparing their own returns,” Clemons said.

USAREUR tax centers will not assist individuals with tax returns considered complex, Clemons said. That includes taxpayers with Schedule C profits or losses from busi-

nesses and those who sold stocks and other equities under Schedule D.

It also leaves out anyone with more than one residential rental property, or more than five capital assets transactions. Those with foreign-earned income also are affected, Clemons said.

So far, the Army is the only service to announce reduced tax assistance in Europe.

The Navy is planning no changes in services during the 2019 tax season, said Navy Lt. Tim Pietrack, a spokesman for Navy Region Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

All active-duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents, as well as deployed Defense Department civilians, are eligible to use Navy tax

centers, he said.

Trained IRS volunteers staff the command’s self-service tax centers, he said, adding that they’re available to assist with online tax preparations.

At the largest Air Force base in Europe, no changes in tax services are planned either, said Kilian Bluemlein, a spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing.

The Air Force at Ramstein, Germany, opens its tax center to all DOD ID cardholders, regardless of service, rank or income.

“We do not anticipate any tax services (being) curtailed, reduced or minimized,” Bluemlein said Friday.

Ramstein, which runs its tax center through its base legal office, relies on volunteers for staffing.

GOP defends president amid legal storm

The Washington Post

Republicans on Sunday defended President Donald Trump amid mounting legal woes stemming from the special counsel probe led by Robert Mueller, with some brushing aside new court filings that detail previously unreported contacts between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign and directly implicate the president in plans to buy women's silence.

In an interview on NBC News' "Meet the Press," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., played down the alleged campaign finance violations detailed by prosecutors, arguing that such missteps should not be "over-criminalized."

"I personally think that if someone makes an error in filing paperwork or not categorizing, it shouldn't be jail time; it ought to be a fine," Paul said.

He added that if campaign finance violations are aggressively prosecuted, "we're going to become a banana republic, where every president gets prosecuted and every president gets thrown in jail when they're done with office."

The senator also contended that there was nothing illegal about Trump's efforts to build a hotel in Moscow during the 2016 campaign, so long as he didn't promise anything in exchange for it.

"This is pretty common, and I see no problem with someone

running for president trying to build a hotel somewhere," Paul said.

Buzzfeed News reported last month that conversations about the project also included discussion of giving a \$50 million penthouse to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Friday, federal prosecutors filed new court papers implicating Trump in plans to buy the silence of women who might go public with allegations of affairs with him. The documents also revealed that Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal attorney, told prosecutors about what appeared to be a previously unknown November 2015 contact with a Russian national who offered the Trump campaign "synergy on a gov-

ernment level."

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said Sunday on CBS News' "Face the Nation" that "there's no reason to not stand by anybody in this moment," drawing a distinction between individuals who have been accused of crimes and pleaded guilty and others, presumably Trump. Rubio emphasized "the right of someone to argue that the evidence is not what you say it is."

"Just like no one is above the law in this country, no one is beneath it, either. ... I believe that Mr. Mueller's probe should continue and move forward unimpeded," he said.

Democrats and other Trump critics, meanwhile, argued that Friday's court filings are a dire sign for the president.

Voter fraud like movie script in Miss. town

Associated Press

CANTON, Miss. — In a town that calls itself the Hollywood of Mississippi, people say for years they've been hearing tales of dirty politics worthy of a movie script, like campaigns buying votes with cash or beer.

But it wasn't until the past few days when the former police chief, a former fire chief and some others were arrested on voter fraud charges that locals realized just how deep the problems might go.

"It's always been kind of fishy business dealing with elections in Canton, Miss.," said resident Laselven Harris, 21, who is black and worked in the 2017 city campaign for a white Republican who lost the race for mayor.

Six people were arrested Thursday and one was arrested Friday after a grand jury indicted them on a variety of election fraud charges. They face accusations of bribing voters, improperly helping people

fill out absentee ballots, voting despite being convicted of disqualifying felonies and voting even though they lived outside the city or voting district.

The indictments come at a time when a disputed North Carolina congressional race is bringing attention to alleged election misdeeds nationwide.

The heaviest charges are against Courtney Rainey, 38, who is appointed to the city school board and is Canton's director of human and cultural

needs. Rainey was indicted on 10 counts of voter fraud, two counts of conspiring to commit voter fraud, two counts of voting by an unqualified person and one count of intimidating a witness.

The indictments allege Rainey paid four people for their votes in cash and one with a Walmart gift card. A lawyer for Rainey didn't immediately respond to a phone call and email seeking comment. Rainey is free on \$15,000 bail.

Dangerous winter storm paralyzes parts of South

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A massive storm brought snow, sleet and freezing rain across a wide swath of the South on Sunday — causing dangerously icy roads, immobilizing snowfalls and power losses to hundreds of thousands of people.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper strongly urged residents to stay off the roads Sunday, asking drivers not to put lives of

first responders needlessly at risk. Cooper said emergency crews, including the National Guard, had worked overnight to clear traffic accidents on major roadways.

One tractor-trailer ran off a road and into a river, Cooper said.

"Stay put if you can," Cooper said. "Wrap a few presents, decorate the tree, watch some football."

Governors and local officials in several states declared emergencies ahead of the storm crossing several Southern states. It is hitting portions of North Carolina and Virginia particularly hard.

Officials have warned residents to prepare emergency kits and stay off roads in affected areas.

"Virginians should take all necessary precautions to ensure

they are prepared for winter weather storm impacts," said Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam.

The National Weather Service said a "prolonged period of snow" began late Saturday and would last until Monday in the region, with the heaviest snow expected in northwest North Carolina and southern Virginia. Forecasters have said some mountain areas of North Carolina could get up to 12 inches of snow or more.

SC requesting more hurricane relief funds

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina's congressional delegation will be able to ask for more funds to provide relief following Hurricane Florence, thanks to a move by the state's governor.

In a letter obtained Saturday by The Associated Press, Gov. Henry McMaster told U.S. Rep. Tom Rice that he was increasing the estimate for community development block grant relief from \$108 million to \$435 million at Rice's request.

Thousands of residents along the coasts of North and South Carolina were evacuated as Florence slowly swirled in the Atlantic Ocean in September.

As the storm gradually came ashore near the border of the two states, Florence dumped days' worth of rain on the Carolinas, leaving widespread flooding in which dozens of people were killed.

Officials initially estimated Florence did more than \$1 billion in damage to South Carolina, a number based on assessments made while catastrophic flooding was still ongoing in many areas.

In a letter last month to the state's congressional delegation, McMaster said a new, \$607 million damage figure was based on actual damage reports and on-the-ground assessments by federal, state and local officials.

That figure included about \$125 million in agricultural damage and \$111 million in flood insurance-related claims.

The increased block grant request in McMaster's letter Saturday brought the total of estimated storm damage to more than \$930 million. It also allows the opportunity for more relief for homeowners in a federal floodplain area who have no flood insurance.

McMaster wrote that an appropriation request should note the increase is "in response to the number of homes affected by Hurricane Florence and the substantive flooding that followed."

Dog protects Calif. home for month after it burned in fire

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A dog that survived the catastrophic wildfire in Northern California apparently protected the ruins of his home for almost a month until his owner returned.

Madison was there waiting when Andrea Gaylord was allowed back to check on her burned property in Paradise last week.

Gaylord fled when the Nov. 8 fire broke out and decimated the town of 27,000.

An animal rescuer who responded to Gaylord's request to check on Madison first spotted

the male Anatolian shepherd mix several days later.

Shayla Sullivan said the outdoor guard dog was apprehensive and kept his distance. Sullivan left food and water for him regularly until Gaylord got back on Wednesday.

She also helped locate Madison's brother Miguel, another Anatolian shepherd mix that was taken to a shelter 85 miles away in the confusing aftermath of the wildfire.

"If [the evacuees] can't be there I'm going to be and I'm not going to give up on their animal until they can get back in," Sullivan said.

The dogs reunited Friday when Gaylord came back to the property with Miguel and brought Madison his favorite treat: a box of Wheat Thin crackers.

Gaylord told news station ABC10 she couldn't ask for a better animal.

"Imagine the loyalty of hanging in in the worst of circumstances and being here waiting," she said.

"Their instinctual job is to watch the flocks, and we're part of them," Gaylord said about her dogs. "It's a comforting feeling."

Paris cleans up after riots as pressure builds

Associated Press

PARIS — Paris tourist sites reopened, workers cleaned up broken glass and shop owners tried to put the city on its feet again Sunday, a day after running battles between "yellow vest" protesters and police that left at least 71 injured in the French capital and caused widespread damage in cities around France.

The man at the focus of protesters' anger, President Emmanuel Macron, broke his silence to tweet his appreciation for the police overnight. However, pressure mounted on him to propose new solutions to calm the anger dividing France.

Macron will address the nation "at the very beginning of the week," government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said Sunday, without specifying a day.

The economy minister lamented the damage to the economy.

"This is a catastrophe for commerce, it's a catastrophe for our economy," Bruno Le Maire said Sunday while visiting merchants around the Saint Lazare train station, among

areas hit by vandalism as the pre-Christmas shopping season got underway.

After the fourth Saturday of nationwide protests by a grassroots movement with broadening demands, officials said they understood the depth of the crisis. Le Maire said it was a social and democratic crisis as well as a "crisis of the nation" with "territorial fractures."

Griveaux, speaking on LCI TV station, said he was "sure [Macron] will know how to find the path to the hearts of the French, speak to their hearts."

The president must also speak to their pocketbooks. Among myriad demands voiced by protesters, measures to increase buying power were a bottom line.

The number of injured in Paris and nationwide was down Saturday from protest riots a week ago, and most of the capital remained untouched. Still, TV footage broadcast around the world of the violence in Paris neighborhoods popular with tourists has tarnished the country's image.

A number of tourists at the Eiffel Tower, which reopened Sunday after closing Saturday, said they were avoiding the

Champs-Elysees, Paris' main avenue that is lined with shops and cafes and normally a magnet for foreign visitors.

France deployed some 89,000 police but still failed to deter the determined protesters. Some 125,000 yellow vests took to the streets Saturday around France with a bevy of demands related to high living costs and a sense that Macron favors the elite and is trying to modernize the French economy too fast.

Thierry Paul Valette, who helps coordinate yellow vest protesters who come to Paris, said the president must announce concrete measures to quell the fury.

Wind and rain pummeled Paris overnight, complicating efforts to clean up debris left by protesters, who threw anything they could at police and set whatever they could on fire. Protesters ripped off the plywood protecting Parisian store windows and threw flares and other projectiles. French riot police repeatedly repelled them with tear gas and water cannon.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man yells 'There's no Santa!' at event

FL CAPE CORAL — It wasn't the Grinch who stole Christmas. It was a man who screamed "There's no Santa Claus!" over and over during a Dec. 1 holiday festival in Florida.

A southwest Florida woman shared cellphone footage of the man yelling during the Cape Coral Festival of Lights.

Cape Coral police said officers at the event couldn't do anything because the man was exercising his right to freedom of speech. They added they could have intervened had he used a voice enhancer, such as a megaphone, or started a riot.

Auction of Sinatra treasures a big hit

NY NEW YORK — The private treasures of Frank Sinatra and his wife, Barbara, were a multimillion-dollar hit at auction.

Sotheby's reported Friday that the couple's entertainment memorabilia, art, jewelry, books and other personal items sold for \$9.2 million — about twice their presale estimates.

Nine paintings by the legendary crooner went for more than \$850,000, against a high estimate of \$120,000.

The 20-carat diamond engagement ring Frank Sinatra presented to his fiancée in a glass of champagne fetched nearly \$1.7 million.

Cougar blamed for 8 alpaca deaths

WA SPOKANE — Officials said a young male cougar attacked and killed at least eight alpacas northwest of Spokane last week.

The Spokesman-Review reported that a nearby llama also

died, possibly of stress from the attack.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officials responded Wednesday to the area near Riverside State Park. Dogs tracked the cougar, and a state shooter killed the animal.

Mom of teen in fatal accident not charged

PA PHILADELPHIA — The mother of a teenage girl who struck and killed two people during a driving lesson at a Philadelphia shopping center earlier this year is no longer charged in the deaths.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported a municipal court judge dropped vehicular homicide and involuntary manslaughter counts filed in July against Stephanie Hernandez, 32.

Authorities said Hernandez allowed her daughter, 15, to drive June 4 at the Aramingo Village shopping center parking lot in northeast Philadelphia. Officials said the sport utility vehicle lunged forward and jumped a curb, killing David Abshire and Thomas Papineau, both 55.

Hernandez still faces a charge of allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a vehicle. Her daughter was charged as a juvenile with vehicular homicide and related offenses.

Bacon vending machine a big hit

OH COLUMBUS — Many Ohio State University students are taking a break from studying for final exams by making a bacon run.

Senior Sarah Page, who studies meat science, said the bacon vending machine at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has turned out to be even more popular than expected. It has to be restocked four or five times a day

and offers cooked bacon strips and bacon bits for \$1.

Proceeds will benefit the meat science program, members of which are responsible for the bacon machine operation on the Columbus campus.

Man who beat woman calls her from jail

NC ASHEVILLE — A North Carolina man charged with beating a woman who had a protective order against him and then calling her 223 times from jail has been sentenced to a minimum of 3½ years in prison.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Thursday that Lewie Robinson pleaded guilty to assault inflicting serious injury, assault by strangulation, misdemeanor assault and violating the order.

Police said Robinson, 54, was initially charged in May with assaulting the woman and was later served in jail with 28 more arrest warrants for having violated the domestic violence protection order. Even then, he kept it up, calling her hundreds of times over four months from the Buncombe County Detention Center.

Lemur surprises trooper during arrest

FL SANFORD — A lemur surprised a Florida Highway Patrol trooper when it crawled from a trailer being pulled by a pickup truck that had been stopped for driving erratically and hitting other cars.

Dashcam video shows the lemur peeking out of the trailer before hopping to the ground and leaping around the trooper, who was talking to the driver along Interstate 4 in Sanford on the night of Dec. 1. The video shows the trooper doing a double take as the lemur runs around and stands on its hind legs.

Driver Shane Taylor, 27, was arrested on several charges, including DUI. State wildlife officers took custody of the lemur and other exotic animals including a tortoise, a goat, a parrot and a wallaby.

Train car where 6 killed still in service

NY NEW YORK — A train car that became a massacre scene when a gunman killed six people and wounded 19 more is still in service 25 years after the deadly rampage.

Newsday reported that the Long Island Rail Road train where Colin Ferguson opened fire on Dec. 7, 1993, still provides daily rides to hundreds of commuters.

LIRR spokesman Aaron Donovan said the decision to retain the car was not made lightly. The train's cars were less than 10 years old when the shooting occurred.

Police seek man in shooting at Popeyes

MO ST. PETERS — Police in the St. Louis suburb of St. Peters are searching for a man who fired at a Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen restaurant worker after being angered that the kitchen closed early.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported the man pulled up to the drive-thru window about 9:50 p.m. The restaurant was open until 10 p.m., but a female worker told him the kitchen was closed. The man began cursing at the woman. A male employee came out to the parking lot and confronted the driver, who drove away.

Police said that less than a minute later, the man returned and fired a gun at the male employee, who was not hurt.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

No. 22 Army snuffs out late Navy rally

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Army coach Jeff Monken hopped on top of a wall and pumped his fist toward stoked cadets set to belt out the alma mater. Monken brought the party to locker room and waved an “Army Football” flag as the Black Knights bounced around him.

Army ditched its mundane routines and cut loose like a bunch of rowdy civilians. And why not? The setting was right after Army beat Navy for the third straight game, this time in front of a packed house and the president.

“I don’t ever want our guys to stop celebrating,” Monken said. “I promise you, I’ll be celebrating every year if we win this thing because I know how hard it is.”

Monken resuscitated the Black Knights and turned a program that suffered annual losses to the Midshipmen into a bowl-bound team that can keep the Commander in Chief’s Trophy back at West Point.

The No. 22 Black Knights recovered two fumbles in the fourth quarter, Kelvin Hopkins Jr. had two rushing touchdowns and Army beat Navy 17-10 on Saturday to win its third straight game in the series.

President Donald Trump attended the 119th game between the rivals and flipped the coin before spending a half on each side in a show of impartiality.

No matter his view, Army (10-2) always had the edge.

Army retained the CIC Trophy — awarded to the team with the best record in games among the three service academies — after winning it for the first time in 22

years last season and snuffed a late Navy (3-10) rally to retain possession of the patriotic prize

With Navy down 10-7, quarterback Zach Abey lost a fumble on fourth-and-12 deep in its own territory. Hopkins scored on a 1-yard run to make it 17-7 and give Army the cushion it needed to win in front of 66,729 fans at Lincoln Financial Field.

Army hopped and waved hands in celebration during a replay timeout and got the cadets in the stands to bounce along. They had good reason to celebrate: Army has regained its grip in a series that had gotten out of hand. Navy had a series-best 14-game winning streak from 2002-2015 and leads the series 60-52-7.

“It’s been hard on all of us. Our players, our coaches, our staff, our school,” coach Ken Niumatalolo said. “We like to win. We’ve been winning a lot of games. Losing sucks.”

Trump sat on the Army side in the first half and crossed the field to the Navy side at halftime. Trump officiated the coin toss and was introduced by public address announcer Dan Baker to a cheering crowd.

Navy won Trump’s toss and elected to kick off.

That was a mistake.

Kell Walker ran 51 yards to the 10 on the fourth play from scrimmage and Hopkins dashed in for the TD on the next play for a 7-0 lead.

“I think anything I did was just within the game plan,” said Hopkins, the game’s MVP.

In a series steeped in tradition — the “March On” and drumline battles, among

them — perhaps none is more ingrained than the running game. Last year’s game had a combined three pass attempts and quarterbacks for each team are usually the leading rushers. But Army and Navy passed on the rush and tried to throw, with mixed results. Army safety Jaylon McClinton had an interception in the first half. Army also dropped a key third-down pass that led to John Abercrombie’s missed 33-yard field goal in the second quarter.

Abercrombie rebounded to kick a 33-yarder in the third for a 10-0 lead.

Last season’s game was an instant classic and was decided by a field goal: Bennett Moehring narrowly missed a 48-yarder in the snow on the final play and Army held off Navy 14-13.

Moehring made the extra point on Lewis’ score and he kicked a 45-yard field goal with 29 seconds left. Malcom Perry’s 43-yard run to the 5 set up Garret Lewis’ 1-yard rushing TD with 7:10 left in the game that pulled Navy to 10-7.

There were reminders all around the Linc, home of the Super Bowl champion Eagles, that this was no ordinary game. The Navy “Leap Frogs” parachute team earned a roar from the crowd with each safe landing on the field. Bill the Goat, Navy’s mascot, was safely leashed and secured from a possible abduction attempt from overzealous cadets. And each side safely returned “captives” in the Prisoner Exchange — when seven midshipmen and seven cadets swap service academies for a semester. The Army prisoners spelled out “3-PEAT on the back of their uniforms.

Oklahoma QB Murray wins Heisman Trophy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kyler Murray waited three years to fulfill the five-star potential he brought to college football. With one shot to deliver, Murray replaced a Heisman Trophy winner by becoming a Heisman Trophy winner.

The Oklahoma quarterback won college football’s most prestigious individual award Saturday night, beating out Alabama’s Tua Tagovailoa and setting up a College Football Playoff matchup of Heisman winner versus runner-up.

“This is crazy,” Murray said in his acceptance speech. “This

is an honor, something that I’ll never forget. Something that I’ll always cherish for the rest of my life.”

The fourth-ranked Sooners play the top-ranked Crimson Tide in the Orange Bowl semifinal Dec. 29 in the seventh bowl matchup of Heisman winner and runner-up, and first since second-place finisher Vince Young and Texas beat Reggie Bush and Southern California in the 2006 Rose Bowl.

This season, Murray stepped into the starting job at Oklahoma held by last year’s Heisman winner and first overall NFL draft pick, Baker Mayfield.

Oklahoma is the first school with have Heisman-winning quarterbacks in consecutive seasons and the fifth overall with back-to-back winners. Mayfield was also a finalist in 2016.

“Luckily, we’ve been here three years in a row,” Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. “We’re going to have to start paying taxes here.”

Unlike most seasons, the winner was no foregone conclusion, but Murray (517 first-place votes and 2,167 points) ended up with a fairly comfortable margin of 296 points over Tagovailoa. Ohio State quar-

terback Dwayne Haskins, the other finalists, was a distant third with 783 points. Three more quarterbacks followed: Will Grier of West Virginia, Gardner Minshew II of Washington State and McKenzie Milton of Central Florida.

Murray appeared on 92 percent of the Heisman ballots, third most all time. Tagovailoa’s 1,871 points was the most for a runner-up in the 84-year history of the Heisman.

“This didn’t just happen,” Murray said later during a news conference. “I’ve put so much time and effort into this game.”

Holloway, Shevchenko prevail in title bouts

Associated Press

TORONTO — Featherweight champion Max Holloway stopped top contender Brian Ortega by TKO at UFC 231 on Saturday night.

The fight was stopped by the doctor after four rounds. Ortega's left eye was almost closed, his face bloodied.

The skills of Holloway, who was returning from an injury-plagued year, were too much for Ortega, who had rallied in the third round but was unable to take Holloway down or use his vaunted jiu-jitsu. "Kudos to him," Holloway said of Ortega. "On to the next (opponent)."

UFC president Dana White

applauded the decision to end the fight.

"That fifth round should never have happened and I'm glad it didn't," he said. "The fight needed to be stopped. For us all of in here that have been in the fight game for a long time, that's what you call too tough for your own good."

"I believe he could have done the fifth round. I believe he would have done the fifth round. But it should have never happened ... He's a young talented guy and I think going into that fifth round would have been very bad for him health-wise. The fourth round wasn't good for him health-wise."

Holloway improved to 20-3-

0, adding to his impressive credentials, while Ortega slipped to 14-1-0 with one no contest.

It could be Holloway's last fight at 145 pounds. White wants him to move up to lightweight (155) to avoid the grueling weight cut.

Valentina Shevchenko, a native of Kyrgyzstan fighting out of Peru, overpowered a game, but outmatched Joanna Jedrzejczyk, of Poland, for the vacant women's flyweight title in the co-main event. Shevchenko won an unanimous five-round decision.

"I have been waiting so long for this moment," the 30-year-old Shevchenko said.

Jedrzejczyk (15-3-0) and

Shevchenko (16-3-0) met at 125 pounds.

Shevchenko looked bigger and bulkier, taking Jedrzejczyk down a minute into the fight. Jedrzejczyk got back to her feet but had trouble gauging her striking distance early.

While she tried to find it, Shevchenko was content to counter. Shevchenko bodied Jedrzejczyk to the ground in the second, got side control and did damage as the round ended.

Shevchenko came on the third, bloodying Jedrzejczyk's nose. Jedrzejczyk was taken down again in the fourth.

Top 25 roundup

No. 2 Kansas holds off New Mexico State

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Deric Lawson's second-half performance was invaluable for No. 2 Kansas.

Lawson had 20 points and 10 rebounds and scored Kansas' final 14 points as the undefeated Jayhawks got past New Mexico State 63-60 in the Jayhawk Shootout on Saturday night.

The Jayhawks' offense stalled after a hot start in their first game without injured center Udoka Azubuike, going scoreless for over five minutes in the first half. Lawson, their offensive anchor, had just two points at halftime, but scored 18 in the second half as they put it together and escaped with a win.

"He didn't get a lot done in the first half, and he's better than that. But he did make some key plays late," coach Bill Self said. "We don't win the game, obviously, unless he made those plays."

Lawson began to heat up when he tied the score with a layup with six minutes to go. He hit a three-pointer — just his second of the season — with under four minutes left to open a 60-57 lead, and then hit three free throws in

the last minute to seal the victory for Kansas (8-0).

No. 3 Duke 91, Yale 58: RJ Barrett had 30 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and the host Blue Devils pulled away for the win.

Zion Williamson scored 20 points for Duke, which led 41-32 at halftime but hit its first six shots after the break to finally stretch out the lead. Duke (9-1) shot 57 percent after halftime and 49 percent overall for its fourth straight win.

No. 5 Michigan 89, South Carolina 78: Jordan Poole scored 19 of his 26 points in the second half, and the host Wolverines remained unbeaten.

The Gamecocks (4-5) scored more points than any team all season against Michigan. But the Wolverines (10-0) were ahead by six at halftime, and they led comfortably for most of the second half.

No. 8 Auburn 82, Dayton 72: Bryce Brown scored a career-high 34 points and made six three-pointers to lead host Auburn to the win.

Jared Harper had 20 points and seven assists for Auburn (8-1).

Seton Hall 84, No. 9 Kentucky 83 (OT): Myles Cale hit

a go-ahead three-pointer with 9.5 seconds left in overtime and Seton Hall overcame Keldon Johnson's half-court heave that tied the score at the regulation buzzer.

Johnson had a chance to win it for the Wildcats (7-2), but his three-point try with a second remaining was blocked by Quincy McKnight.

Myles Powell scored 25 of his 28 points after halftime for Seton Hall (6-3), including a tiebreaking three in the final seconds at Madison Square Garden.

No. 10 Michigan State 63, Florida 59: Kyle Ahrens scored visiting Michigan State's final seven points, including a two-handed jam with 8.7 seconds remaining.

No. 11 Florida State 79, Connecticut 71: At Newark, N.J., Terance Mann scored 20 points, reserve David Nichols had 16 and Florida State beat Connecticut in the second game of the Never Forget Tribute Classic.

Marquette 74, No. 12 Wisconsin 69 (OT): At Milwaukee, Markus Howard scored 27 points, freshman Joey Hauser added 15 and Marquette grind-ed out the win.

Tulsa 47, No. 16 Kansas

State 46: Martins Igbanu made a go-ahead jump hook with 1:51 remaining, lifting host Tulsa to the victory.

No. 17 Buffalo 80, St. Bonaventure 62: Jayvon Graves hit a career-best five three-pointers and scored 19 points, helping visiting Buffalo to another win.

No. 21 Villanova 70, Saint Joseph's 58: Eric Paschall had 14 points and nine rebounds, and the host Wildcats earned their 25th straight Big 5 victory.

No. 22 Mississippi State 82, Clemson 71: At Newark, N.J., Lamar Peters scored 28 points to lead Mississippi State to its fifth straight win.

No. 23 Maryland 55, Loyola of Chicago 41: At Baltimore, Anthony Cowan scored 17 points and Maryland overcame a sluggish start.

No. 24 Nebraska 94, Creighton 75: James Palmer scored 30 points, Thomas Allen had a career-high 18 and host Nebraska stopped a seven-game losing streak to its in-state rival.

No. 25 Furman 74, South Carolina Upstate 60: Jordan Lyons had 20 points and Noah Gurley added 15 points and six rebounds, powering visiting Furman.

NBA roundup

Doncic helps Mavericks extend home streak

Associated Press

DALLAS — Luka Doncic started with a routine three-pointer from the corner.

Then the Dallas rookie skipped back several feet behind the arc to hit one over Houston center Clint Capela, followed by a floater in the lane for a tie.

After faking a drive that sent Capela scrambling toward the basket, the 19-year-old Slovenian settled behind the three-point line one more time, connecting again for the 26th lead change between the Mavericks and Rockets.

So much for a rough shooting night.

Doncic scored 11 straight points to erase an eight-point deficit late in the fourth quarter and the Mavericks went on to their ninth consecutive home victory, 107-104 over the Rockets on Saturday night.

“It’s pretty clear that he’s got a flair for the moment,” Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. “He’s unafraid. You don’t see that every day. It’s a unique three or four minutes, whatever he put together there.”

James Harden shrugged off early foul trouble to score 35 points, but missed all four of his three-point tries in the fourth quarter.

Cavaliers 116, Wizards 101: Rookie Collin Sexton matched a career high with 29 points, Tristan Thompson had 23 points and 19 rebounds and host Cleveland beat Washington.

Wizards guard John Wall was held to a career low one point in 26 minutes — a free throw early in the third quarter with Cleveland holding a 74-48 lead.

Celtics 133, Bulls 77: Jaylen Brown scored 23 points, Daniel Theis added a career-high 22 points and grabbed 10

rebounds, and visiting Boston routed Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

The 56-point loss was the worst in Bulls’ history, eclipsing a 53-point (127-74) defeat at Minnesota on Nov. 8, 2001.

The Celtics used a 17-0 start and a balanced attack to roll their second straight lopsided win.

Lakers 111, Grizzlies 88: LeBron James had 20 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, Kyle Kuzma added 20 points and nine rebounds, and visiting Los Angeles dominated Memphis.

Pacers 107, Kings 97: Thaddeus Young had a season-high 20 points and nine rebounds, and Bojan Bogdanovic added 18 points to help host Indiana beat Sacramento.

Playing their 10th straight game without injured All-Star Victor Oladipo, the Pacers relied on defense and scoring

balance.

Heat 121, Clippers 98: Dwyane Wade scored 25 points in his 1,000th career game, leading visiting Miami past the Clippers.

Hawks 106, Nuggets 98: John Collins scored a career-high 30 points and reserves Vince Carter and DeAndre’ Bembry fueled a third-quarter rally to help host Atlanta beat Denver.

Collins also had 12 rebounds and five assists.

Nets 112, Knicks 104: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 20 in visiting Brooklyn’s victory over New York.

Trail Blazers 113, Timberwolves 105: Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each hit three-pointers in the final minute to give host Portland a victory over Minnesota.

NHL roundup

Stamkos, Lightning roll to sixth straight win

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The NHL-leading Tampa Bay Lightning beat one of the Western Conference’s top teams in very convincing fashion.

Steven Stamkos had two goals and two assists as the Lightning won their sixth consecutive game, romping over the Colorado Avalanche 7-1 on Saturday night.

“It was fun to be a part of,” Stamkos said. “I just thought that we deserved everything that we got today, including some bounces and some breaks. But when you’re on top of the puck like we were tonight, it’s going to be tough for the other team.”

Stamkos scored twice in the first period and had two second-period assists. It was his franchise-best 13th four-point game.

Tampa Bay also got two goals from Ondrej Palat, and Louis Domingue made 29 saves.

Nathan MacKinnon had a goal for the Avalanche, who are 10-2-2 in their past 14 games.

Capitals 4, Blue Jackets 0: Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 22nd goal and Braden Holtby got his 34th career shut-out in visiting Washington’s victory over Columbus.

Ovechkin extended his points streak to 11 straight games, with 10 goals and six assists during the stretch.

Flyers 6, Sabres 2: Claude Giroux had a goal and three assists to lead visiting Philadelphia past Buffalo.

James van Riemsdyk added a goal and an assist to help the Flyers open a five-game trip with their third win in 10 games.

Kings 5, Golden Knights 1: Derek Forbort had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Quick made 29 saves and host Los Angeles beat Vegas.

The Kings have two wins in

their past five games, and have a league-low 23 points and 65 goals.

Rangers 5, Panthers 4 (SO): Kevin Hayes had the deciding goal in the third round of the shootout, lifting visiting New York past Florida.

After Mika Zibanejad and Kevin Shattenkirk scored in the shootout for New York and Jonathan Huberdeau tallied for Florida, Hayes beat Roberto Luongo to end the Rangers’ three-game losing streak.

Bruins 6, Maple Leafs 3: David Krejci had a goal and assist to move past Hall of Famer Cam Neely for 10th on the Bruins’ career scoring list, and host Boston beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

Senators 2, Penguins 1 (OT): Ryan Dzingel scored on a power play at 1:20 of overtime to lift host Ottawa past Pittsburgh.

The Penguins were called for

too many men on the ice, setting up the winning power play.

Sharks 5, Coyotes 3: Lukas Radil scored his first NHL goal to break a tie with 5:47 to play in visiting San Jose’s victory over Arizona.

Islanders 3, Red Wings 2: Matt Martin broke a tie with 16:36 remaining, capping visiting New York’s comeback victory over Detroit.

Down 2-0, New York rallied on goals by Casey Cizikas and Ryan Pulock.

Flames 5, Predators 2: Oliver Kylington scored his first NHL goal and helped set up Garnet Hathaway’s tiebreaking score in the third period to lead host Calgary.

The Pacific Division-leading Flames won their fifth straight and moved one point ahead of Central-leading Nashville into first place in the Western Conference.