

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Cockpit changes raise radar safety concerns

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — On night missions in the 1980s, when the beam from the E-2 Hawkeye's radar swept over the cockpit, pilots could generate electrical arcs by holding the metal bases of their flashlights close to the metal paneling around them.

The arcs "would kind of light up the cockpit at night every time the radar went by," said retired Hawkeye pilot Navy Capt. Ralph Ricardo.

The Hawkeye is an early warning aircraft that is highly recognizable by the large, dome-shaped radar on top of the plane. It is used to protect aircraft carriers by detecting enemy aircraft or missiles and also acts as an airborne command station for the Navy's fighter jets.

In flight, the Hawkeye's dome would complete a full rotation and the beam would sweep above the cockpit about every 10 seconds.

Some pilots at that time wondered what the radar was doing to them when it swept past, if it could create such electrical arcs.

"Then, about halfway through my tour, all the sudden they decided to put the gold coating on all of the windows and the escape hatches," Ricardo said. After that, the pilots couldn't create the same electrical arcs, he said.

"It was obviously to keep the radar out of the cockpit," Ricardo said. "I thought, 'I've been flying for years without it, what's been happening to me in the meantime?'"

Former Navy and Air Force pilots or their surviving spouses have expressed to McClatchy their concerns about the high number of prostate, brain, blood and other types of cancers affecting their community, and some have wondered whether radars on military aircraft might have been a factor.

A McClatchy investigation in October found that four of the commanding officers at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake died of cancer in recent years. It also found that the Air Force was reporting a cluster of urogenital cancers among six of its F-15E Strike Eagle pilots and weapons systems officers between the ages of 33 and 43 at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina and another among its Air Force Special Operations Command C-130 crews.

The E-2 Hawkeye pilots who spoke to McClatchy named other former pilots or crew members who also are facing cancer, or have died from the disease at relatively young ages.

Ricardo, for example, has been treated for dozens of carcinomas since he was 37.

His commanding officer from the 1991 Gulf War, Capt. J.J. George, died in 2011 at age

60 from lymphoma. In 2018, Ricardo lost one of his junior officers, E-2 Hawkeye pilot Cmdr. John Quinlan, who died three days before his 50th birthday from metastatic melanoma.

"I don't think the coating fixed the problem," Ricardo said.

The Navy has said a deeper review is not warranted because there is not enough evidence of an increase in cancers among its aviation community, nor evidence that the radiofrequency radiation emitted from aircraft radars causes cancer. When McClatchy asked the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for copies of any previous Navy studies on radiation in the cockpits of its jets, the Navy said there were no previous studies.

Ricardo said he hopes that by speaking out, and by other pilots speaking out, the Navy will reconsider.

Book by Green Beret's 9-year-old son hits home

By Chad Garland

Stars and Stripes

The 9-year-old son of a Green Beret has written a children's book that gives a glimpse of what military families experience when their loved ones go off to fight. His father is nearing the end of his 10th deployment.

Titled "Brave for My Family," the book tells the story of the Christmas six years ago that young Davidson Whetstone spent with his father, Dave, who was recuperating at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., after being wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade blast in Afghanistan. Whetstone is a

pen name to protect the Special Forces soldier and his family.

Since its release on Veterans Day, the book has risen to No. 1 in Amazon's "children's American history of the 2000s" category.

"We've gotten a lot of response," the young author's mother, Elizabeth, said in a phone interview Tuesday. "I'm just so proud of Davidson."

Now a third grader, Davidson had just finished kindergarten when he began writing "Brave for My Family," working with his father, who illustrated the book.

The two saw the project as something that would give courage to other military chil-

dren when their parents deploy, the family has said.

Some of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to non-profit organizations, such as the Green Beret Foundation, that support Special Forces and special operations troops' families.

An active-duty Special Forces officer, Dave Whetstone has deployed eight times since the birth of Davidson, the oldest of his four children, and 10 times overall. He was serving in Afghanistan on one those overseas tours when shrapnel from an RPG explosion tore through his right side, just missing one of the main arteries in his neck and damaging his right eye.

As he was rushed first to a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then to Walter Reed, his wife flew the family to Maryland to be with him, arriving on Christmas Day 2013. Davidson was 3 at the time.

"My mom cried, and I was pretty scared that my dad was going to die," Davidson writes in the book.

A drawing depicting the father and son reunion at the hospital shows the bearded Green Beret's back and right arm pockmarked with fresh wounds, his eye bandaged, as he hugs a smiling Davidson.

"I hugged him because I was so happy he was alive," the boy writes.

US military probing claim of civilian deaths in Afghanistan

The Washington Post

KABUL — The U.S. military command in Afghanistan said it is aware of allegations of civilian casualties after an airstrike targeted Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan. The strike was conducted Thursday in Khost province's Terezayi district along the border with Pakistan, according to the U.S. military statement.

"We are aware of the allegations of civilian casualties and working with local authorities to determine the veracity of these claims," the statement said, adding that the strike targeted three Taliban fighters.

American forces in Afghanistan have stepped up the air campaign against the Taliban over the past year as the two sides are discussing reopening peace talks to end the war. During a visit Thursday to U.S. service members at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump asserted the Taliban is ready for a cease-fire, but Afghan and Taliban officials said informal discussions aimed at jump-starting the peace talks were still ongoing.

A local lawmaker from Khost, Janmir Zazai, told *The Washington Post* the airstrike hit a vehicle, but he was un-

aware of the number of people killed. The Terezayi district is also known as Alisher.

As the American air campaign has intensified in Afghanistan, civilian casualties have increased. This year the United Nations has recorded record numbers of civilians killed and wounded. According to a U.N. tally released in October, airstrikes have killed 579 civilians and wounded 306, nearly a third more than the previous year.

In September the United States dropped more munitions on Afghanistan than in any other month since 2010.

NATO touts new allied spending

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

NATO touted increased allied spending and announced a new funding formula that reduces the amount the U.S. pays toward its running costs days before President Donald Trump was due to arrive in London for a summit to mark the alliance's 70th anniversary.

The moves appear aimed at addressing criticisms from Trump, who frequently complains the U.S. carries an unfair security and financial burden within the alliance.

While gatherings of NATO heads of state have historically been mundane, with leaders signing off on agreements that have been worked out in advance, this year there is an air of uncertainty over how events will play out — and Trump's skeptical views about NATO have added to it.

At NATO's previous summit in Brussels, Trump caused an uproar when he blasted Germany over its low level of defense spending and threatened that the U.S. would go its own way if allies didn't pull their weight and contribute more.

While NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg trumpeted the tweak to how NATO funds the running of its headquarters, it is a separate financial bucket from defense spending, the issue that has been the focus of Trump's complaints.

The U.S. will reduce its contribution to the so-called common fund from 22% to 16% while Germany increases its expenditure, NATO announced. That means the U.S. and Germany will each pay about 16%, with other allies paying the rest.

But cutting the amount the U.S. pays into the common fund is unlikely to distract Trump's focus on increasing the allies' defense spending. Nor will it smooth over differences between the allies over several security issues.

Freed Taliban prisoner recounts multiple SEAL rescue attempts

Associated Press

SYDNEY — An Australian teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes U.S. special forces tried and failed six times to free them.

Timothy Weeks was released last month in a prisoner swap along with Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their abduction in 2016 outside American University in Kabul, where they worked.

Weeks, 50, told a news conference on Sunday he believed that Navy SEAL teams tried repeatedly to rescue them, sometimes missing them only by "hours" after the two hostages were moved to other locations by their captors.

"I believe — and I hope this is correct — that they came in six times to try to get us, and that a number of times they missed us only by hours," Weeks said.

One attempt came in April this year. Weeks said he was woken at 2 a.m. by his guards, who told him they were under attack from Islamic State fighters and moved him into a tunnel beneath where they were being held.

"I believe now that it was the Navy SEALs coming in to get us," Weeks said. "I believe they were right outside our door."

"The moment that we got into the tunnels, we were 1 or 2 meters underground and there was a huge bang at the front door. And our guards went up and there was a lot of machine-gun fire. They pushed me over the top into the tunnels and I fell backwards and rolled and knocked myself unconscious."

Weeks said he and King were shifted through various remote locations in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan throughout their captivity and were often kept in tiny, windowless

cells.

While their lives were often at risk, he said he never gave up hope of being rescued.

"I never, ever gave up hope, and I think in that sort of situation, that if you give up hope, there is very little left for you," said Weeks, flanked by his sisters Alyssa and Jo Carter.

"I knew that I would leave that place eventually. It just took a little longer than I expected."

While expressing thanks to President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for the work that led to their release, Weeks said some Taliban guards he had encountered were "lovely people."

"I don't hate them at all," he said. "And some of them, I have great respect for, and great love for, almost. Some of them were so compassionate and such lovely, lovely people. And it really led me to think about ... how did they end up like this?"

Powerful winter storm reaches Northeast

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A powerful winter storm that's been tormenting travelers across the U.S. since before Thanksgiving moved to the Northeast on Sunday, packing one last punch of snow and ice as people make their way home after the holiday weekend.

The National Weather Service predicted more than a foot of snow in swaths of upstate New York and New England, as well as ice accumulations in parts of Pennsylvania.

The same weather system has been pummeling the U.S. for days as it moves cross

country, dumping heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

The storm has been blamed for several deaths.

Major highways reopened Sunday in Wyoming and Colorado, a day after blizzard conditions clogged roads with snow drifts.

Road crews were able to reopen all of Interstate 25 and most of I-80 in Wyoming early Sunday after strong winds abated. Major interstates in Colorado were re-

opened. Still, authorities warned travelers to remain alert for slick conditions and blowing snow.

The city of Duluth, Minn., was blanketed with 19.3 inches of snow as of 6 a.m. Sunday.

The city issued a "no travel advisory" at noon Saturday and deemed the storm "historic."

As the storm shifted east, flight delays and cancellations were continuing to pile up — disrupting travelers heading home after Thanksgiving.

New Orleans shooting leaves at least 11 hurt

The Washington Post

A shooting on New Orleans's Canal Street injured 11 people, according to police.

Law enforcement responded to the sounds of gunshots at 3:21 a.m. Sunday near the French Quarter, where they found 10 people struck by gunfire, said Shaun Ferguson, superintendent of police, in a news conference.

"Our contingency that we

had in place for the Bayou Classic coverage responded to a shooting in the 700 block of Canal," he said. "As such, we had officers right there within that very block that actually thought they were being fired upon and took a position to respond to this."

Ferguson said five people were transported to University Medical Center New Orleans and two others were sent to Tulane Medical Center.

The 11th victim walked into a hospital on their own.

Two people are reported to be in critical condition, with one person suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest and the other with a gunshot wound to the torso, he said.

Police initially reported that a man was detained near the scene, but Ferguson said throngs made it difficult for responding officers to determine who was actually firing the

shots.

Police are investigating the shooting by recovering various video footage and witness statements.

The shooting occurred while many visitors were in town celebrating the Bayou Classic, an annual football game between longtime rivals Grambling State University and Southern University.

9 killed, 3 injured in S. Dakota plane crash

Associated Press

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. — Nine people died and three more were injured when a single-engine plane bound for Idaho crashed shortly after takeoff in South Dakota.

Peter Knudson, with the National Transportation Safety Board, told The Associated Press 12 people were aboard

the Pilatus PC-12 when it crashed about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, shortly after taking off in Chamberlain, about 140 miles west of Sioux Falls.

Knudson said nine people were killed and three were injured. The small plane was bound for Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims.

Brule County emergency

manager Katheryn Benton told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that the passengers ranged in age from 7 to 81. She said the three survivors were three men ages 28, 27 and 17.

Chamberlain and central south-central South Dakota was under a winter storm warning Saturday and Benton said planes were unable to land at Chamberlain at the time of

the crash.

NTSB investigators were expected at the site later Sunday. Weather will be among several factors they will review, although no cause for the crash has been determined, Knudson said.

Inclement weather was making travel to the site difficult, he said.

Confederate statue in Virginia is vandalized again

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — A Confederate statue in Charlottesville that became a rallying point for white nationalists has been vandalized

again, this time with graffiti saying, "Impeach Trump."

News outlets report that the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee was also spray-painted with "This is Racist."

Tarps were put over the graf-

fiti and city officials expect a clean-up effort to start Monday.

The statue was vandalized earlier this year with an explosive directed at President Donald Trump.

White nationalists seized on

a city plan to remove the statue and flocked there in 2017 for a rally that turned violent and deadly. The city's effort to remove the statue have been prevented by a judge amid ongoing litigation.

Officials identify 2 victims in London stabbing attack

Associated Press

LONDON — Three of the five people who were killed or wounded in the London stabbing attack were former Cambridge University students or staff members who had gathered for an event designed to connect graduate students with prisoners to study criminology, police and the university said Sunday.

The two fatalities were identified as Saskia Jones, 23, and Jack Merritt, 25, who had already been named by his family as having perished in the attack Friday near London Bridge.

“Both were graduates of the University of Cambridge and were involved in the Learning Together program — Jack as a coordinator and Saskia as a volunteer,” police said.

Started five years ago, the program was designed to bring Cambridge University gradu-

ate students together with prisoners to study criminology in an effort to reduce stigma and marginalization experienced by many inmates.

One of the wounded was identified as a university staff member. The three survivors were not named. Officials said one was released from the hospital Sunday and the others are in stable condition.

Saskia Jones’ family described her as having “a great passion for providing invaluable support to victims of criminal injustice, which led her to the point of recently applying for the police graduate recruitment program.”

Merritt’s family said, “Jack lived his principles; he believed in redemption and rehabilitation, not revenge; and he always took the side of the underdog.”

The gathering where the attack broke out had been meant

to celebrate the fifth year of the program, university Vice Chancellor Stephen Toope said.

“What should have been a joyous opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this unique and socially transformative program, hosted by our Institute of Criminology, was instead disrupted by an unspeakable criminal act,” Toope said.

The attacker, Usman Khan, was apparently attending the event and had returned for the afternoon session when he started stabbing people. Police believe he acted alone.

Khan was a convicted terrorist who had secured early release from prison. He was shot dead by police after he was restrained by civilians. Police opened fire after he flashed what looked like a suicide vest, but it was a fake device.

Algeria’s presidential race ruined by protests

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — Algeria’s presidential campaign is in trouble. Candidates are struggling to fill rally venues, campaign managers have quit, voters have pelted campaign headquarters with tomatoes and eggs, and the country’s 9-month-old pro-democracy movement calls the whole thing a sham.

The five candidates seeking to replace President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the Dec. 12 election have failed to captivate a disillusioned public. Bouteflika was pushed out in April after 20 years in power amid an exceptional, peaceful protest movement, and now demonstrators want a wholesale change of political leadership.

Instead, the election is managed by the long-serving power structure of this oil- and gas-rich country with a strategic role in the Mediterranean region. Instead of new faces, two of the candidates are former prime ministers and one is a loyalist of Algeria’s influential army chief.

The Hirak protest movement held their 41st weekly demonstrations Friday, denouncing the presidential election. But for the first time, thousands of pro-government supporters held their own rally Saturday.

The candidates have tried to convince voters that taking part in the election is the only alternative to chaos, an allusion to the civil war that ravaged Algeria in the 1990s. But that argument falls flat among the protesters, who have been overwhelmingly peaceful, with demonstrators calming each other down and ensuring that no one provokes police.

Tensions mounted last week when Algerians started holding evening marches to denounce the elections. Several demonstrators were arrested, and some have already been convicted to prison terms.

Mexican forces chase group from fight

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican security forces on Sunday killed seven more members of a presumed cartel assault force that rolled into a town near the Texas border and staged an hourlong attack, officials said, bringing the death toll to at least 21.

The Coahuila state government said in a statement that lawmen were still chasing remnants of the force that arrived in a convoy of trucks and attacked the city hall of Villa Union on Saturday.

Gov. Miguel Angel Riquelme said at least 14 people had died by that afternoon, four of them police officers. He also said then that several municipal workers were missing. It wasn’t clear if they had since been located.

The new statement did not

give a new death total but said seven more attackers were killed on Sunday in addition to 10 who reportedly died the day before.

The governor said the armed group stormed the town of 3,000 residents in a convoy of trucks, attacking local government offices and prompting state and federal forces to intervene. Bullet-riddled trucks left abandoned in the streets were marked C.D.N. — Spanish initials of the Cartel of the Northeast gang.

The town is about 35 miles south-southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, and 12 miles from the town of Allende — site of a 2011 massacre involving the Zetas cartel in which officials say 70 died.

Videos of the shootout posted on social media showed burned-out vehicles and the

facade of Villa Union’s city hall riddled with bullets. Rapid gunfire could be heard in videos along with frantic people telling friends to stay indoors.

The governor said security forces would remain in the town for several days to restore a sense of calm.

Mexico’s murder rate has increased to historically high levels, inching up by 2% in the first 10 months of the presidency of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Federal officials said recently that there have been 29,414 homicides so far in 2019, compared with 28,869 in the same period of 2018.

The November slaughter by Mexican drug cartel gunmen of three women who held U.S. citizenship and six of their children focused world attention on the rising violence.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man arrested sitting naked in car

NC KNIGHTDALE — Police said they arrested a man on Black Friday after he was spotted sitting naked in a car at a shopping center.

Knightdale police said an officer smelled marijuana coming from vehicles in a parking lot next to a Kohl's store when he spotted Tylik Shawdu Little, 28, sitting nude in a car.

Police said Little tried to drive away after the officer ordered him to get dressed. Police said the man stopped a short distance away and was later taken into custody.

Little, who is from Virginia, was charged with indecent exposure, marijuana possession and resisting arrest.

Police said he was held at a local jail.

Merchants wary after spate of fake bills

NH CONCORD — Holiday shoppers paying with \$100 bills in downtown Concord should be prepared for some extra scrutiny after a spate of transactions involving counterfeit money.

The Concord Monitor reported that at least two store owners have stopped accepting \$100 bills, while others will be taking a closer look or accepting only newer versions that have more security features.

Authorities said at least three local businesses took in false \$100 bills earlier this month.

Wrong-way driver charged with DUI

CT MONTVILLE — State Police arrested a man they alleged was under the influence of drugs or alcohol

when he drove the wrong way on a highway Thanksgiving morning.

State troopers arrested Faisal Awad, of Norwich, 61, early Thursday after receiving several calls about a driver going the wrong way on an interstate in Montville.

Troopers found the vehicle driving north in the southbound lanes of I-395 in Norwich and safely stopped the car around 2 a.m.

Police: Officer's order had 'PIG' on cups

OK GLENPOOL — A police chief said an officer bought Starbucks for 911 dispatchers working on Thanksgiving only to find that the word "PIG" was printed on the cups' labels.

The officer notified Kiefer Police Chief Johnny O'Mara, who called the store and spoke to a manager.

The officer told KTUL-TV that the employee reached out to him personally and apologized, saying it was a joke.

In a Friday statement, Starbucks said the worker who wrote the offending word on the cup "used poor judgment and is no longer a partner" after the violation of company policy.

Gator unwelcome at Thanksgiving dinner

FL FORT MYERS — A Florida family refused to make room at their Thanksgiving table for an uninvited guest, who was so angry at being left out that he repeatedly slammed the front door.

Homeowner Chhaa Behary said she peeked through her window to get a good look at the unwanted visitor and saw what she called a "gigantic" alligator smacking her door with its tail.

Police arrest 3, seize stolen cards, fake IDs

MI OAK PARK — Authorities arrested three people and seized stolen credit cards and fake identification cards from a home.

WXYZ-TV reported that a team of police officers raided a duplex in Oak Park on Friday morning.

Detroit police Capt. Conway Petty said credit card machines and driver's licenses from several states also were recovered from the home.

Some credit cards were stolen. Others were manufactured by the suspects. They were used at car rental companies, hotels, restaurants and shopping outlets.

The suspects are 20, 27 and 31. Police said they others are involved.

'Purple paint' law will warn trespassers

PA HARRISBURG — The state will allow landowners to legally notify hunters and others that they're trespassing by painting purple stripes on trees or posts.

A bill signed Wednesday by Gov. Tom Wolf is designed to ease a landowners' task of posting "no trespassing" signs that deteriorate over time. The law takes effect in 60 days.

The purple stripes must be vertical lines at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. They must be 3 to 5 feet off the ground, readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart.

The law applies everywhere, except in Philadelphia and Allegheny County.

Numerous other states have adopted a purple paint law, and paint manufacturers have formulated cans of spray and brush paint.

Police: Fleeing man threw kids over fence

GA SMYRNA — Police said a suburban Atlanta man threw his 1-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter over a barbed wire fence while fleeing officers.

The Marietta Daily Journal reported police began chasing Deandra Trevon Leonard, 34, as he walked along the center turn lane of a busy street, pushing the children in a stroller.

Police said Leonard disobeyed commands to stop, throwing the boy and girl over a 7-foot-tall barbed wire fence.

Police said the son landed on his face and suffered scratches. Both children were trapped inside until after police arrested Leonard.

He's charged with two felony counts of cruelty to children, and misdemeanor counts of walking on a roadway, giving a false name and obstructing police.

City puts museum on notice over bills

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The Leonardo art and science museum faces possible eviction if it doesn't cover payment for nearly \$400,000 in unpaid utility bills, city officials said last week.

The mayor's office sent a notice of default to museum staff in October, listing the city's grievances, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Among them are utility fees at least six months past due.

Another is safety-related maintenance problems like a broken window above a children's play area and a check of sprinkler systems. The newspaper obtained the letter through a public records request.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

College football roundup

Auburn ends Alabama's playoff bid

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — J.K. Dobbins ran for four touchdowns, Justin Fields threw four scoring passes and No. 2 Ohio State beat No. 10 Michigan 56-27 on Saturday for a school-record eighth straight win in the series.

The Buckeyes (12-0, 9-0 Big Ten, No. 1 CFP) will head to the Big Ten championship game with a spot in the College Football Playoff in sight against No. 13 Wisconsin next Saturday.

The Wolverines (9-3, 6-3, No. 13 CFP) will have to settle for a second- or third-tier bowl game after coach Jim Harbaugh fell to 0-5 in the rivalry, and the Wolverines lost to Ohio State for the 15th time in 16 years.

Dobbins rushed for 211 yards on 31 carries. Fields was 14 of 25 for 302 yards.

Michigan's Shea Patterson was 18 of 41 for 305 yards and a touchdown. But he also threw an interception and lost a fumble.

No. 16 Auburn 48, No. 5 Alabama 45: Shaun Shivers scored on an 11-yard run with 8:08 left to put ahead and another failed field goal by in the Iron Bowl wiped away the Crimson Tide's playoff hopes at Auburn.

The Tigers (9-3, 5-3 Southeastern Conference) survived a final, marathon Alabama drive when Joseph Bulovas' 30-yard field-goal attempt hit the left upright with 2 minutes left.

Auburn couldn't get a first down on Ja'Tarvious Whitlow's three runs while the Crimson Tide (10-2, 6-2) burned its final two timeouts. But the Tide was called for illegal substitution after the Tigers lined up for a punt, setting off a fist-pumping celebration for coach Gus Malzahn.

No. 1 LSU 50, Texas A&M 7: Joe Burrow padded his Heisman Trophy resume with 352 yards and three touchdowns passing and beat the Aggies for the Tigers' first unbeaten regu-

lar season since 2011.

Burrow's night was highlighted by a deep, pin-point accurate pass on a 78-yard touchdown strike to JaMarr Chase, who had 197 yards and two touchdowns on seven catches.

No. 3 Clemson 38, South Carolina 3: Trevor Lawrence threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Tigers to a 27th straight victory and second consecutive 12-0 regular season.

Travis Etienne ran for two touchdowns to break Atlantic Coast Conference marks for career touchdowns (57) and rushing scores (53) as Clemson dominated on the way to a sixth straight win over the host Gamecocks (4-8).

No. 4 Georgia 52, Georgia Tech 7: Jake Fromm threw four touchdown passes and the Bulldogs cruised into the Southeastern Conference championship game with their biggest win ever at its state rival.

Georgia (11-1) was a 28-point favorite over the Yellow Jackets (3-9) and this one was never in doubt, even as the Bulldogs struggled a bit offensively, fumbled the ball away three times, dealt with injury woes, and failed to cover an on-side kick.

No. 6 Utah 45, Colorado 15: Brant Kuithe scored three touchdowns and the host Utes locked up a spot in the Pac-12 championship game for the second consecutive season with a victory over the Buffs.

Utah (11-1, 8-1, No. 6 CFP) needed a quarter to get rolling, but romped to its eighth straight victory. Tyler Huntley was 14-for-17 for 165 yards and connected with Kuithe twice for touchdown receptions.

No. 7 Oklahoma 34, No. 21 Oklahoma State 16: Kennedy Brooks rushed for 160 yards and a touchdown to help the visiting Sooners.

Jalen Hurts passed for 163 yards and a touchdown, rushed for 63 yards and a score and caught a touchdown pass for

Oklahoma (11-1, 8-1 Big 12, No. 7 CFP) in their fifth straight victory in the series.

No. 8 Florida 40, Florida State 17: Kyle Trask threw three first-half touchdown passes, including two to Freddie Swain, and the Gators hammered the rival Seminoles to end a four-game, home losing streak in the series.

Florida (10-2, No. 11 CFP) locked up consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time in a decade, finished unbeaten at home for the first time in four years and celebrated their first winning streak against the Seminoles (6-6) since 2009.

No. 13 Wisconsin 38, No. 9 Minnesota 17: Jack Coan delivered two momentum-shifting touchdown passes in the snow for the visiting Badgers, Jonathan Taylor added three touchdowns to his FBS-leading total and Wisconsin forcefully repossessed Paul Bunyan's Axe to win the Big Ten West Division.

Quintez Cephus caught five passes for 114 yards, including a 47-yarder for a score midway through the third quarter that gave the Badgers (10-2, 7-2, No. 12 CFP) a 17-7 lead. Coan connected with Taylor for a 28-yard touchdown strike late in the second quarter that gave Wisconsin the lead after a slow start, sending it to the Big Ten championship game for a rematch with Ohio State.

No. 11 Baylor 61, Kansas 6: Ja'Mycal Hasty rushed for three touchdowns and the visiting Bears forced six turnovers.

No. 12 Penn State 27, Rutgers 6: Journey Brown ran for 103 yards with three touchdowns and the Nittany Lions pulled away from the visiting Scarlet Knights.

Will Levis played quarterback for Penn State (10-2, 7-2 Big Ten, No. 10 CFP) in place of injured started Sean Clifford and added 108 rushing yards on 17 carries and a 42-yard touchdown pass to Jahan Dotson in the fourth quarter.

No. 14 Oregon 24, Oregon State 10: Justin Herbert threw for 174 yards and a touchdown in his final game at Autzen Stadium and the host Ducks held off the Beavers in the 123rd Civil War rivalry game.

No. 15 Notre Dame 45, Stanford 24: Ian Book threw for 255 yards and four touchdowns and the visiting Irish reached double-digit wins for the third straight season.

No. 24 Navy 56, Houston 41: Jamale Carothers rushed for career highs of 188 yards and five touchdowns, Malcolm Perry ran for 146 yards and a touchdown and the Midshipmen defeated the host Cougars.

Carothers scored on runs of 8, 17, 19, 29 and 75 yards, and CJ Williams and Tyreek King-El also rushed for touchdowns for Navy (9-2, 7-1 American). The Midshipmen ran for 447 yards and Navy outgained Houston (4-8, 2-6) 554-527.

Air Force 20, Wyoming 6: g 20-6 Donald Hammond III ran for one touchdown and threw for another, Jeremy Fejedelem led a strong defensive effort with two interceptions and the host Falcons rolled to their seventh straight win.

Hammond was 5-for-6 for 121 yards passing, including a 75-yard touchdown pass to Ben Waters in the closing minutes. He also ran 15 times for 35 yards, including a short touchdown run for Air Force (10-2, 7-1 Mountain West).

Hawaii 52, Army 31: Cole McDonald came off the bench to pass for 250 yards and three touchdowns and the host Rainbow Warriors rallied to a 52-31 win over the Black Knights.

Hawaii (9-4) overcame 411 yards rushing by Army (5-7) to extend its winning streak to four games.

McDonald entered the game late in the second quarter after an injury to starting quarterback Chevan Cordeiro and finished 19-for-29 passing without an interception.

Playoff implications for Vikings-Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Just like a year ago, there's no avoiding the importance of this Monday night matchup in the Pacific Northwest between Minnesota and Seattle.

Except this time around, a division title is still very much in play for both teams.

"This is a huge game for both of us. We know the stakes. Everybody knows the stakes," Vikings linebacker Eric Kendricks said. "Monday night makes it a little bit bigger, in Seattle. But I mean, you've got to live for these kind of moments, you know what I mean?"

For the second straight year, the Seahawks will host the Vikings in a late-season, prime-time matchup filled with playoff implications. But unlike that last meeting — won by Seattle 21-7 — when a wild-card berth was the target, the Vikings and Seahawks are in the middle of

division title races this time.

Seattle (9-2) is one game behind San Francisco in the NFC West and trying to avoid any stumbles prior to a Week 17 meeting with the 49ers at home. The Vikings (8-3) are even with Green Bay in the NFC North, but the Packers already have a win over Minnesota with a Week 16 matchup still to come.

Both teams would need to suffer a significant slide in the final month to put their playoff hopes in jeopardy. The Vikings have a two-game lead on the Los Angeles Rams in the wild-card race. Seattle is a game better.

But the shot at a division title raises the stakes significantly.

"We got a terrific schedule coming up, challenges and all that," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We're going to have to play really well. I do think, though, that it leads us to our best football still ahead of us."

QB battle

While the playoff implications are the primary focus, the quarterbacks will certainly get their share of attention. Both Seattle's Russell Wilson and Minnesota's Kirk Cousins have been among the best in the league this season. Cousins leads the league in passer rating; Wilson is second. Wilson has 24 TD passes; Cousins 21. Both have thrown just three interceptions. Both are completing better than 67% of their passes.

Time for a refresher

After missing four starters in their previous game against Denver on Nov. 17 — wide receiver Adam Thielen, right guard Josh Kline, nose tackle Linval Joseph, free safety Anthony Harris — the Vikings had the advantage of the latest possible bye week to heal for the most challenging game of

the final stretch. This was the second-latest bye week in team history, with only the break in 1991 falling later on the calendar. The Vikings are 2-7 in the last nine seasons in their games immediately after the bye.

"Give your body a rest, give your mind a rest. I think it came at a good time," linebacker Anthony Barr said. "Hopefully we get some guys back healthy and be strong for this last five-game push we have."

Carrying the load

For most of the season, Chris Carson has carried the load for Seattle's run game, while Rashaad Penny took on a complementary role, only getting a handful of carries.

That changed last week against the Eagles. Penny was the star, rushing for a career-high 129 yards and a clinching 58-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

College basketball roundup

Turner's clutch three lifts Vols past VCU

Associated Press

NICEVILLE, Fla. — Tennessee coach Rick Barnes saved a timeout in the waning seconds against VCU, allowing the Volunteers to get to the frontcourt and inbound the ball with 1.7 seconds remaining in a tie game. And he knew he had a player he could count on in that situation.

Lamonte Turner hit a three-pointer at the buzzer from the right corner, giving the 17th-ranked Volunteers a 72-69 victory over No. 20 VCU in the Emerald Coast Classic third-place game on Saturday.

"He's got a feel for it," Barnes said. "He's competitive. That's what we always thought his biggest talent is. He's competitive, spirited, and he's not afraid to make the play in that kind of situation. There's no doubt that in late-game situations, it's not as much about plays as it is about

players."

VCU's De'Riante Jenkins hit a three-pointer with 5 seconds left to tie the game at 69-all. After the timeout, the Vols' point guard took a pass from James Joshua-Jordan and got the shot off as the clock ran out.

"I leaned back so I could see the rim," Turner said. "I knew it was good the second it left my hand."

Turner's shot spoiled a dramatic comeback by the Rams (6-2), who trailed by as many as 13 points in the second half.

John Fulkerson led Tennessee (6-1) with 17 points and seven rebounds.

Marcus Santos-Silva led VCU with 22 points.

No. 21 Colorado 59, Sacramento State 45: Tyler Bey pulled down 17 rebounds and scored 11 points and the host Buffaloes fended off scrappy Sacramento State.

Colorado improved to 6-0 for the second time in three seasons, but it wasn't easy. The Hornets (4-1) were within striking distance at 45-40.

Evan Battey added 11 points and McKinley Wright IV scored 10 for Colorado, which closed the game on a 14-5 run, the Buffs' only dominant stretch of the night.

No. 25 Xavier 87, Lipscomb 62: Tyrique Jones had his fourth double-double of the season, Paul Scruggs scored 15 points, and the host Musketeers recovered from their first loss by beating Lipscomb.

Jones finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, leading a surge late in the first half that put Xavier (7-1) in control. Naji Marshall scored nine consecutive points for Xavier in the second half and finished with 13.

Army 66, Marist 64 (OT): Matt Wilson fed Alex King for

a dunk to tie the game in overtime, then hit two free throws to lift the Black Knights over Marist.

The teams combined for just six points in the extra period. Braden Bell hit a jumper a half-minute into overtime to put the Red Foxes in front, but they could not manage another point the rest of the way.

Army's Tommy Funk scored at the basket with 11 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 62-62 and Wilson made a steal to force overtime.

Wilson finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead the Black Knights (3-3).

Navy 76, Brown 56: John Carter Jr. matched his career-best with 26 points and Cam Davis added 24 points for the visiting Midshipmen (4-3). Carter, Greg Summers and Luke Loehr each had a team-high six rebounds.

NBA roundup

Rockets' Harden scores 60 in 3 quarters

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden's performance on Saturday night was enough to make even those who see him put up gaudy numbers night after night step back and marvel at his work.

Harden scored a season-high 60 points in 31 minutes and the Houston Rockets sent the struggling Atlanta Hawks to their 10th straight loss with a 158-111 romp.

"It's like everything else he does — unbelievable," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Harden came one point shy of matching his career high and franchise record on a night he made eight three-pointers and 20 free throws. He watched the entire fourth quarter from the bench with Houston up 127-73 at the end of three.

"What he's doing has not been seen," teammate Austin Rivers said. "My man had 60 and didn't play the fourth quarter.

Name another player who could do that right now."

It was Harden's fourth career 60-point game, tying him with Michael Jordan for third-most in NBA history, trailing only Kobe Bryant (six) and Wilt Chamberlain (32). Harden is the only active player who has scored 60 points more than once.

Bucks 137, Hornets 96: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 26 points but his double-double streak ended at 19 games when he grabbed nine rebounds while playing only 20 minutes as host Milwaukee coasted over Charlotte.

The Bucks (17-3) won their 11th straight game and matched their highest point total of the season.

76ers 119, Pacers 116: Joel Embiid had 32 points and 11 rebounds and Ben Simmons had three steals in the final 13.9 seconds to lead Philadelphia.

Simmons finished with 15 points, 13 assists, six rebounds and four steals. Tobias Harris scored 22 points for the 76ers, who won their third straight while improving to 9-0 at home.

T.J. Warren had 29 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 28 for Indiana, which had won five straight.

Kings 100, Nuggets 97 (OT): Harrison Barnes scored six of his season-high 30 points in overtime, Buddy Hield hit two free throws with 9.5 seconds left and host Sacramento rallied to beat Denver.

The Kings trailed by 17 at halftime and didn't lead until Barnes made a jumper early in overtime. Gary Harris' three-pointer put the Nuggets up 95-94, but Barnes answered with two free throws and scored on a short lean-in shot.

The Nuggets failed to get off a shot in the final 15 seconds.

NHL roundup

Provorov lifts Flyers past Canadiens in OT

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Ivan Provorov got Philadelphia another win with one impressive move.

Provorov scored 31 seconds into overtime, and the Flyers beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-3 Saturday for their fourth straight victory.

Oskar Lindblom, Kevin Hayes and Travis Konecny also scored for the Flyers (15-7-5), who were coming off a 6-1 win over Detroit on Friday. Brian Elliott made 39 saves.

Provorov got past Max Domi with a nifty dangle in the offensive zone, and then beat Keith Kinkaid for his sixth of the season. It was the 36th career goal for the 22-year-old defenseman.

Rangers 4, Devils 0: Alexander Georgiev stopped 33 shots for his third career shutout, leading surging New York to a win at New Jersey.

New York improved to 4-0-1 in its past five games. Mika Zibanejad had a goal and an as-

assist, and Jesper Fast, Adam Fox and Brady Skjei also scored.

Maple Leafs 2, Sabres 1 (OT): John Tavares scored at 1:45 of overtime and picked up his 400th NHL assist as host Toronto split a home-and-home series with Buffalo.

Tavares' 10th goal of the season helped the Maple Leafs improve to 4-1-0 in their last five games. William Nylander also scored for Toronto (13-11-4). Frederik Andersen made 29 saves in victory.

Flames 3, Senators 1: Elias Lindholm scored the deciding goal late in the third period and added an empty-netter, leading host Calgary to a win over Ottawa.

New Flames coach Geoff Ward won for the second time in as many games. He was also a winner on Wednesday night, when Calgary beat Buffalo 3-2 in overtime.

Hurricanes 3, Lightning 2: James Reimer made 36 saves, Sebastian Aho and Jacob Slavin each had a goal and

an assist, and Carolina won at Tampa Bay.

The Hurricanes also got a goal from Jordan Martinook. Dougie Hamilton had two assists.

Islanders 2, Blue Jackets 0: Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist, Semyon Varlamov got his second shutout of the season, and host New York beat Columbus.

Panthers 3, Predators 0: Chris Driedger posted a shutout in his first career start, Anton Stralman scored his first two goals of the season and host Florida beat Nashville.

Capitals 5, Red Wings 2: Alex Ovechkin completed a hat trick with two empty-net goals and Washington dealt host Detroit its ninth straight loss.

Blues 4, Penguins 1: Justin Faulk and Nathan Walker each scored for the first time with host St. Louis.

Jaden Schwartz had a goal and an assist and Ivan Barabash and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored for the Blues,

who won their third straight game and have points in their last four. Jordan Binnington made 28 saves and improved to 13-4-4.

Sharks 4, Coyotes 2: Logan Couture scored twice and San Jose got four unanswered goals to rally to a win at Arizona for its 11th win in 13 games.

Avalanche 7, Blackhawks 3: Mikko Rantanen had a goal and three assists in his return to Colorado's lineup after missing 16 games due to injury, and Nazem Kadri and Joonas Donskoi each scored twice in the win over visiting Chicago.

Kings 2, Jets 1: Joakim Ryan and Nikolai Prokhorin each scored and host Los Angeles beat Winnipeg.

Jack Campbell made 33 saves for the Kings, who have won six of their past eight home games.

Canucks 5, Oilers 2: Tanner Pearson recorded the first four-point game of his career, leading Vancouver to a win at Edmonton.