

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Official: Gunman tweeted against US before shooting

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Saudi gunman who killed three people at the Pensacola naval base had apparently gone on Twitter shortly before the shooting to blast U.S. support of Israel and accuse America of being anti-Muslim, a U.S. official said Sunday as the FBI confirmed it is operating on the assumption the attack was an act of terrorism.

Investigators are also trying to establish whether the killer, 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, of the Royal Saudi Air Force, acted alone or was part of a larger plot.

Alshamrani, who was killed by a sheriff's deputy during the rampage at a classroom building Friday, was undergoing flight training at Pensacola, where members of foreign militaries routinely receive instruction.

"We are, as we do in most active-shooter investigations, work with the presumption that this was an act of terrorism," said Rachel J. Rojas, the special agent in charge of the FBI's office in Jacksonville.

Authorities believe the gunman made social media posts criticizing the U.S. under a user handle similar to his name, but federal law enforcement officials are investigating whether he authored the words or just posted them, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Also, investigators believe the gunman visited New York City, including Rockefeller Center, days before the shooting and are working to determine the purpose of the trip, the official said.

All foreign students at the Pensacola base have been accounted for, no arrests have been made, and the community

is under no immediate threat, Rojas said at a news conference. A Saudi commanding officer has ordered all students from the country to remain at one location at the base, authorities said.

"There are a number of Saudi students who are close to the shooter and continue to cooperate in this investigation," Rojas said. "The Saudi government has pledged to fully cooperate with our investigation."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the investigation was proceeding under "the presumption that this was an act of terrorism" and he called for better vetting of foreigners allowed into the U.S. for training on American bases.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday afternoon, DeSantis also said the gunman had a social media trail and a "deep-seated hatred of the United States."

He said he thought such an attack could have been prevented with better vetting.

"You have to take precautions" to protect the nation, DeSantis said.

"To have this individual be able to take out three of our sailors, to me that's unacceptable," the governor added.

Earlier in the week of the shooting, Alshamrani hosted a dinner party where he and three others watched videos of mass shootings, another U.S. official told the AP on Saturday.

Alshamrani used a Glock 9 mm weapon that had been purchased legally in Florida, Rojas said. DeSantis questioned whether foreigners should continue to be allowed under federal law to buy guns in the U.S. and called it a "federal loophole."

Republican DeSantis said he supports the Second Amendment but that it "does not apply to Saudi Arabians."

## N. Korea calls Trump 'erratic old man' in response to tweets

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired back against President Donald Trump on Monday, calling him a "heedless and erratic old man" and warning of "bigger catastrophic consequences" if the U.S. fails to meet an end-of-year deadline to revive nuclear talks.

Two officials issued back-to-back statements in response to tweets by Trump admonishing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un not to resume hostilities amid fears that the communist state might be preparing to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Kim Yong Chol, a senior North Korean official who met with Trump twice last year when diplomatic efforts were at a high point, reiterated that the North might resume calling Trump a dotard, an insult it used frequently as tensions spiked in 2017.

"As he is such a heedless and erratic old man, the time when we cannot but call him a 'dotard' again may come," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

He also said the friendship between Kim and Trump, which the president has frequently touted as progress, was at risk.

"We make clear once again that the [North Korean leader] has not used any irritating expression towards the U.S. president as (of) yet," he said, warning that may change if things continue on their cur-

rent course.

Last year, Trump said he and Kim "fell in love" and he has largely dismissed recent military activity by the North. But he adopted a more threatening tone after the North announced it had conducted a "very important test" at a long-range rocket launching site on Saturday.

"Kim Jong Un is too smart and has far too much to lose, everything actually, if he acts in a hostile way," Trump tweeted on Sunday. "North Korea, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, has tremendous economic potential, but it must denuclearize as promised."

He was referring to an agreement issued by the two leaders after their first summit in Singapore in June 2018 in which they made a vague promise to "work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Diplomatic efforts have stalled as the two sides failed to agree on the details of how to achieve that goal, with many experts saying the North has no intention of giving up its nuclear weapons. Over the weekend, the president also revived his "rocket man" nickname for Kim and threatened to use military force if necessary.

Beyond the name-calling, North Korea has conducted 13 weapons tests this year that experts say shows it is taking advantage of the diplomatic deadlock to make advances in its nuclear weapons program.

"Trump has too many things that he does not know about [North Korea]. We have nothing more to lose," Kim Yong Chol said.

# 4 rockets hit base near airport in Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Four Katyusha rockets hit a military base near Baghdad International Airport early Monday, wounding at least six soldiers, Iraqi security officials said. It was the latest incident in a series of rocket attacks in recent weeks.

Iraqi security forces discovered a rocket launcher and some defused rockets nearby after searching the area following the attack, a statement from Iraqi security forces said.

According to the security officials, the area targeted by the rockets is frequented by military advisers from the U.S.-led coalition. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Dec. 3, five rockets landed inside the Ain al-Asad airbase, a sprawling complex in the western Anbar desert that hosts U.S. forces, without causing any casualties and with little damage.

On at least two occasions

last month in Baghdad, rockets landed in areas around the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government, causing no casualties or damages.

And near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a barrage of Katyusha rockets targeted an Iraqi air base that houses American troops in early November. No members of the U.S.-led coalition were hurt.

Some hard-line Iraqi militias loyal to Iran have recently threatened to carry out attacks against Americans in the country. The U.S. maintains about 5,000 troops in Iraq.

American forces withdrew from Iraq in 2011 but returned in 2014 at the invitation of the government to help battle Islamic State after it seized vast areas in the north and west of the country, including Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. The U.S.-led coalition provided crucial air support as Iraqi forces regrouped and drove ISIS out in a costly three-year campaign.

# Arkansas police search for motive in ambush on officer

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Investigators are trying to determine why a man “ambushed and executed” a city police officer who was sitting in his patrol car outside police headquarters in a college town in northwest Arkansas.

The Saturday death of Fayetteville Police Officer Stephen Carr was one of three killings of police officers nationwide in a two-day period.

Carr, 27, was a patrol officer in Fayetteville's Dickson Street entertainment district, an area popular with students at the nearby University of Arkansas, police said. Fayetteville Police Chief Mike Reynolds said Sunday that Carr was sitting in his patrol car Saturday night when a man approached the vehicle and shot him several times at point-blank range.

Two officers who were inside the police station heard the gunfire, ran outside and opened fire on the suspect, killing him, police said. Authorities on Sunday identified the suspect as London Phillips, 35, of Fayetteville.

The officers who opened fire

on Phillips — identified Sunday as Cpl. Seay Floyd and Ofc. Natalie Eucce — are on paid leave pending an internal investigation, police said.

Police said they don't know why Phillips shot Carr but they believe Phillips set out to kill a police officer.

“All I know is that this was a cowardly act. I have no information that leads me to believe that he targeted this officer specifically. He was looking for an officer to kill,” Reynolds said during a news conference Sunday.

Reynolds said Phillips used a 9 mm Taurus pistol and had two boxes of ammunition with him.

Fayetteville police had a “brief history” with Phillips, Reynolds said. Police received a call in December 2018 about Phillips impersonating a police officer, he said. In April, Phillips pawned a gun at a local pawn shop. Reynolds said the owner of the shop would not return the gun because Phillips had a medical marijuana card, which disqualifies someone from possessing a gun in Arkansas.

# AFRICOM wants back drone shot down over Libya

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The U.S. wants back a drone that was shot down over Libya last month by a Russian air defense system believed to have been operated by mercenaries or militiamen, U.S. Africa Command said Monday.

“We believe the LNA or Russians didn't know it was a U.S. remotely piloted aircraft when they fired on it,” AFRICOM Gen. Stephen J. Townsend said in a statement. “But they certainly know who it belongs to now and they are refusing to return it. They say they don't know where it is but I am not

buying it.”

The so-called Libyan National Army he was referring to is led by renegade “Field Marshal” Khalifa Hifter, who has been fighting the internationally recognized central government in Tripoli since 2011.

While it's possible that the LNA manned the Russian system that shot down the drone, AFRICOM said it thinks foreign mercenaries, such as the private Russian military contractors who recently began collaborating with Hifter's forces, were more likely responsible.

“The involvement of Russian private contractors or mercenaries is preventing peaceful resolution, prolonging conflict

and helping to fuel the civil war,” said AFRICOM spokesman Col. Chris Karns.

The downing of the drone underscores U.S. concerns about Russian involvement in Libya, which has been in a state of civil war ever since NATO's 2011 bombing campaign helped topple long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

While numerous militia groups operate in Libya, Hifter's army has emerged as the main threat to the U.S.-backed government of National Accord. In April, Hifter's offensive on Tripoli forced the U.S. to pull a small cadre of troops out of Libya.

The U.S. continues to routine-

ly conduct surveillance operations in Libya in coordination with the national government.

In September, a series of airstrikes launched by AFRICOM killed more than 30 militants, at least 17 of whom were identified as Islamic State-aligned terrorists.

The U.S. has raised concerns that the ongoing conflict and overall disorder in Libya could enable terrorist groups such as ISIS to seek sanctuary in the North African country.

“U.S. Africa Command remains committed to monitoring terrorist activity in Libya for the betterment of Libya and the region,” Karns said.

# Partisan clash kicks off hearing on impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House impeachment hearing quickly fell into partisan fighting Monday as lawmakers formally received the investigative findings against President Donald Trump to lay out the case for the charges against him.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler was immediately interrupted by a protester shouting “We voted for Donald Trump!” as the panel was gavelled open. The protester was escorted from the House hearing room by Capitol Police.

Nadler pressed ahead with opening remarks saying, “President Trump put himself before country.”

The committee is to vote soon, possibly this week, on two or more charges of abuse of power, bribery and obstruction against the Republican president. Democrats say Trump’s push to have Ukraine investigate rival Joe Biden while at the same time withholding U.S. military aid ran counter to U.S. policy and benefited Russia.

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, derided the hearing as a “sham” and said Democrats are racing to jam impeachment

through on a “clock and a calendar” ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

The hearing sets off a pivotal week as Democrats march toward a full House vote expected by Christmas. In drafting the articles of impeachment, Speaker Nancy Pelosi is facing a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution’s bar of “treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Nadler said the case against Trump is clear after “multiple officials testified that the president’s demand for an investigation into his rivals was a part of his personal, political agenda, and not related to the foreign policy objectives of the United States.”

In advance of the hearing, Nadler sent a letter to the White House late Sunday officially forwarding the House Intelligence committee’s report, along with additional evidence supporting impeachment.

The White House is refusing to participate in the process it calls a sham, and Collins asked to postpone the hearing, criticizing Democrats for moving too swiftly.

# Former Federal Reserve chairman dies at age 92

Associated Press

Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chairman who in the early 1980s raised interest rates to historic highs and triggered a recession as the price of quashing double-digit inflation, died, according to his office.

He was 92.

Volcker took charge of the Fed in August 1979, when the U.S. economy was slipping into the grip of runaway inflation. Consumer prices skyrocketed 13% in 1979 and then by the same amount again in 1980.

Volcker worked relentlessly to bring prices under control. He pushed the Fed’s benchmark interest rate from 11% to a record 20% by late 1980 to try to slow the economy’s growth and shrink inflation.

Those high interest rates made it so expensive for people and companies to borrow that the economy weakened steadily. By January 1980, a recession had begun. It lasted six months. But then a deeper and more painful downturn took hold in July 1981. It endured for 18 months and sent unemployment up to 10.8% in November and December 1982, the highest level since the Great Depression.

In the midst of it, Volcker was vilified by the public. Homebuilders put postage stamps on bricks and on two-by-four wooden planks and mailed them to the Fed to protest how super-high interest rates had wrecked their businesses. Auto dealers, stuck with lots full of unsold

cars, did the same with car keys. Angry farmers, struggling with high debts, drove their tractors to Washington and blockaded the Fed’s headquarters.

But the pain eventually paid off. Inflation receded. Once it did, Volcker’s Fed began lowering interest rates. The economy bounded back strongly enough for President Ronald Reagan to declare the arrival of “Morning in America” on his way to a landslide victory in the 1984 presidential election. Volcker left the Fed on Aug. 11, 1987, succeeded by Alan Greenspan.

The Volcker-led victory over inflation is widely credited with beginning what economists call the “Great Moderation” — more than two decades of mostly steady economic growth, relatively low unemployment and modest price increases. The Great Moderation ended with the Great Recession of 2007-09.

Volcker had spent most of his career in the public sector — at the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Fed board in Washington.

After the financial crisis of 2008, President Barack Obama recruited him as an economic adviser. Volcker pressed for restrictions on banks’ ability to trade in financial markets with their own money, rather than their clients’ and to invest in private equity and hedge funds.

The regulations, known as the “Volcker Rule,” were included in a far-reaching financial overhaul bill Congress passed in 2010.

# Court leaves Kentucky’s ultrasound law in place

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday left in place a Kentucky law requiring doctors to perform ultrasounds and show fetal images to patients before abortions.

The justices did not comment in refusing to review an appeals court ruling that upheld the law.

The American Civil Liberties Union had challenged the law on behalf of Kentucky’s

lone remaining abortion clinic. The ACLU argued that “display and describe” ultrasound laws violate physicians’ speech rights under the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati upheld the Kentucky law, but its sister court in Richmond, Va., struck down a similar measure in North Carolina.

Doctors’ speech also has been an issue in nonabortion cases. The federal appeals court in Atlanta struck down parts of a

2011 Florida law that sought to prohibit doctors from talking about gun safety with their patients. Under the law, doctors faced fines and the possible loss of their medical licenses for discussing guns with patients.

In Kentucky, doctors must describe the ultrasound in detail while the pregnant woman listens to the fetal heartbeat. Doctors failing to comply face fines and can be referred to the state’s medical licensing board.

# Paris summit aims to find way to end Ukraine conflict

Associated Press

PARIS — A long-awaited summit in Paris on Monday aimed to find a way to end the war in eastern Ukraine, a conflict that after five years and 14,000 lives lost has emboldened the Kremlin and reshaped European geopolitics.

The leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France were holding a series of meetings at the Elysee presidential palace to try to revive a 2015 peace deal that's been largely ignored. In the years since Ukrainian soldiers and Russia-backed separatists have continued to exchange fire across World War I-style trenches along a front line that slices through eastern Ukraine.

A major breakthrough at the summit is unlikely, and Ukrainian protesters in Kyiv are heaping pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy not to surrender too much to Russian President Vladimir Putin at their first face-to-face meeting.

Whatever happens, the sum-

mit is the biggest test yet for Zelenskyy, a comic actor and political novice who won the presidency this year in a landslide — partly on promises to end the war.

While Zelenskyy still enjoys broad public support, he has been embarrassed by the scandal around his discussions with President Donald Trump that unleashed an impeachment inquiry. The U.S. is an important military backer for Ukraine, which is hugely out-gunned by Russia.

Some Ukrainians fear Zelenskyy will be out-manuevered by Putin in Monday's meeting. Around 100 opposition activists set up protest tents outside government buildings Monday in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. Activists were offering free food in the tents and building a stage in front of Zelenskyy's office, with banners reading "No to capitulation!"

"Russia started the war, and any negotiations with the aggressor elicit our suspicion and vigilance, especially when we're being forced into peace

on Russian terms," one protester, student Igor Derbunov, 21, told The Associated Press.

Russia wants to use the summit to increase pressure on Zelenskyy to fulfill the 2015 Minsk peace accord, which gives the rebel-held regions more autonomy in exchange for ending the fighting.

Zelenskyy wants to tweak the timeline laid out in the Minsk accord, which calls for Ukraine to be able to regain control of its border with Russia only after local elections are held in the separatist regions and the regions receive autonomous status. Zelenskyy says Ukraine must get control of its border first before local elections are held.

The Kremlin insists that's not an option, and the separatists hope that Russia, France and Germany refuse Zelenskyy's requests.

French officials say potential changes to the timeline will be discussed Monday but stressed that the summit is aimed at fulfilling the Minsk accord — not writing a new peace deal.

# Volcano erupts in New Zealand

Associated Press

WHAKATANE, New Zealand — A volcanic island in New Zealand erupted Monday in a tower of ash and steam while dozens of tourists were exploring the moonlike surface, killing at least five people and leaving many more missing.

Police said the site was still too dangerous hours later for rescuers to search for the missing.

Police Deputy Commissioner John Tims said the number of missing was in the double digits but he couldn't confirm an exact number. He said there were fewer than 50 people on the island when it erupted and 23 had been taken off, including the five dead.

Tims said experts had told them the island remained unstable but search and rescue teams wanted to get back as quickly as they could. He said there had been no contact with any of those who were missing.

He said both New Zealanders and overseas tourists were among those who were dead, missing or injured. He said most of the 18 who survived were injured and some had suffered severe burns.

Some of those involved were tourists from the Royal Caribbean International cruise ship Ovation of the Seas.

"A number of our guests were touring the island today," the company said. "We will offer all possible assistance to our guests and local authorities. Please keep all those affected in your prayers."

White Island sits about 30 miles offshore from mainland New Zealand. Already people are questioning why tourists were still able to visit the island after scientists recently noted an uptick in volcanic activity.

# Japan's PM: Visit by Iran's president planned

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday his country is arranging a visit by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani because it wants to play a greater role in resolving a nuclear impasse between Tehran and Washington and in relieving tensions in the Middle East, the source of more than 80% of Japan's oil.

Japan, a U.S. ally that has traditionally had friendly relations with Iran, seeks to serve as a mediator between the U.S. and Iran, a role that is also expected by the international community, Abe said.

He did not give details of the visit. Local media have reported that it is being arranged for later this month, before or after Rouhani's planned visit to Malaysia to attend an Islamic leaders' conference.

Tensions have escalated between Tehran and Washington since President Donald Trump's decision last year to withdraw from Iran's 2015

nuclear deal with world powers.

Abe, who has developed friendly ties with Trump, traveled to Iran in June in an unsuccessful effort to encourage Iran and the U.S. to hold talks to reduce tensions. Sanctions imposed by Washington on Iran which block it from selling crude oil abroad have crippled its economy, and Tehran has gradually reduced its commitment to the nuclear deal.

"Japan will do its utmost to relieve tension in the region and stabilize the situation through persistent efforts to hold a dialogue," Abe said. "From the point of view of energy security, it is only natural for Japan to play a role to contribute to the peace and stability in the Middle East while securing safe navigation for Japanese vessels."

Abe's government is also set to approve a contentious plan to send its military to the Middle East to ensure the safety of Japanese vessels transporting oil from the region.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### NYC set to require 'bird-friendly' glass

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City lawmakers are poised to adopt legislation requiring "bird-friendly" glass on all new construction in an effort to cut down on the tens of thousands of birds who die flying into the city's buildings every year.

New York will be the largest city in the nation to require glass that is visible to birds if the measure passes.

Groups that monitor bird populations said they are thrilled at the prospect of the legislation's adoption in New York City.

### Manure spill that killed fish draws fine

**WA** BELLINGHAM — U.S. officials have fined a northwestern Washington farmer \$6,750 after a manure spill killed threatened steelhead.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last week announced the fine against Harold Carbee, of Bellingham.

Officials said a hose broke in May and spilled manure into Anderson Creek.

The spill killed more than 300 fish, including 89 young steelheads protected under the Endangered Species Act.

### Man faces prison for defying 'red flag' law

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — A Florida man faces up to five years in prison for refusing to surrender his weapons to authorities under the state's "red flag" law.

It took a Broward County jury less than an hour to find Jerron Smith, 33, guilty, the

South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

The law went into effect following last year's Parkland high school shooting.

Smith refused to surrender his weapons to law enforcement officials in March 2018 following an incident in which Smith was accused of shooting at a car during an argument, authorities said.

### Woman: Drugs found in car a birthday gift

**NE** KEARNEY — Two people from Minnesota face felony drug charges after a traffic stop in Nebraska turned up more than 2 pounds of marijuana, several packages of THC concentrate wax, vape pen cartridges and concentrated marijuana edibles.

The Nebraska State Patrol said a woman in the car told them all the drugs were bought in Colorado as a 21st birthday present to her.

The drugs were found Dec. 1 when the couple's vehicle was stopped for speeding, the Kearney Hub reported. The vehicle was searched after the trooper who stopped it said he smelled a strong odor of marijuana.

A 32-year-old man and the 21-year-old woman, both of Mankato, Minn., were arrested on suspicion of distribution and possession of more than a pound of marijuana, possession of concentrated cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia.

### Wrong-way RV gets stuck in drive-thru

**WA** KENNEWICK — A woman driving a large RV entered a fast-food drive-thru the wrong way and got stuck, police in eastern Washington said.

Kennewick police said

Anastacia Etwiler, 56, was taken into custody on suspicion of driving under the influence early Friday.

The large RV became wedged against the corner of a Taco Bell restaurant after getting stuck making a sharp right turn on the narrow drive-thru.

### State may allow dogs on restaurant patios

**DE** DOVER — A state agency in Delaware is proposing a change in regulations that would allow people to bring their dogs onto restaurant patios and decks.

The Delaware State News reported Thursday that the proposed change follows an uproar from some over the state stepping up enforcement of a policy that prohibits most dogs from food establishments.

The Division of Public Health increased enforcement in August after a weekly paper published an article on pet-friendly eateries. The agency said animals can pose a risk to public health because they shed hair continuously and may deposit liquid or fecal waste.

### 3 puppies abandoned in mountains rescued

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Search and rescue workers and wildlife officers in northern Utah rescued three Great Pyrenees puppies abandoned in frigid temperatures in the mountains, authorities said.

Snowmobilers near Monte Cristo found the puppies Dec. 1 hiding in an animal carcass, Weber County search and rescue crew members and the state Division of Wildlife Resources said.

"They were little frozen ice balls; they had ice frozen in their fur," snowmobiler Kat

Perry told KUTV-TV. "They were eating anything they could find."

Perry and Corey Holt found a female Great Pyrenees wandering in the area Nov. 30 and, after failed attempts to capture her, they went back the next day and found the puppies, they said.

### Wreaths headed for National Cemetery

**ME** HARRINGTON — Thousands of Maine-made wreaths are starting the long journey to Arlington National Cemetery.

A caravan of trucks loaded with wreaths departed Saturday from a high school parking lot in Harrington. Mona Gunn, the national president of American Gold Star Mothers Inc., will lead the caravan as grand marshal.

Her son died in a terrorist attack on the USS Cole.

About 250,000 wreaths on 10 tractor-trailers are headed to the cemetery in Arlington, Va., where they will be placed on headstones this Saturday.

### Woman hurt jumping from moving vehicle

**MA** BOSTON — A woman was seriously injured when she seems to have exited through a passenger-side window of a moving vehicle on a Massachusetts highway early Sunday, according to Massachusetts State Police.

The driver of the car, Joseph Monsini, 25, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

State Police said the woman, a 26-year-old Taunton, Mass., resident, was found by police in the roadway with serious injuries. She is expected to survive.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

## NFL roundup

## Ravens first in AFC to clinch playoffs

Associated Press

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Lamar Jackson threw three touchdown passes and the Baltimore Ravens became the AFC's first team to clinch a playoff berth following a 24-17 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Baltimore extended its franchise-best winning streak to nine and improved to 11-2, its best record through 13 games in team history.

Jackson finished 16 of 25 for 145 yards and appeared to blow open the game by putting the Ravens up 24-9 following a 4-yard touchdown pass to Willie Snead with 9:49 left.

Buffalo's Josh Allen responded with a seven-play, 78-yard touchdown drive capped by his 3-yard pass to Cole Beasley, who dived inside the left pylon. The same two then hooked up on a 2-point conversion.

The outcome wasn't decided until there were 63 seconds remaining. Facing fourth-and-8 at the Baltimore 16, Allen's pass over the middle intended for John Brown was broken up by Marcus Peters at the goal line.

Jackson upped his record to 17-3 since being selected with the final pick of the first round in the 2018 draft. Allen, drafted with the seventh pick overall, dropped to 14-10.

Buffalo (9-4) had a three-game winning streak snapped, and fell short 10 days since grabbing national attention following a 26-15 win at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day.

**Chiefs 23, Patriots 16:** Visiting Kansas City clinched the AFC West when Bashaud Breeland knocked away Tom Brady's fourth-down pass attempt to Julian Edelman in the end zone.

The Chiefs survived a series of mistakes and questionable calls by the officials to hold off the Patriots. Combined with Oakland's loss to Tennessee, the Chiefs (9-4) took their division. And the loss ended the Patriots' 21-game home win

streak in the regular season and playoffs, which was tied for the longest in team history. It also was the third-longest string in NFL history.

New England (10-3) has lost two in a row.

**49ers 48, Saints 46:** At New Orleans, Jimmy Garoppolo passed for 349 yards and four touchdowns, and Robbie Gould kicked a 30-yard field goal as time expired. Garoppolo's clutch completion to tight end George Kittle for a 39-yard gain — plus a defensive face-mask penalty — on fourth-and-2 from the San Francisco 33 helped set up Gould's winning kick.

The Saints took their last lead on Drew Brees' fifth touchdown pass of the game — an 18-yarder to Tre'Quan Smith with 53 seconds left. But Brees' pass on an attempted two-point conversion fell incomplete, leaving New Orleans' lead at one point.

The victory kept San Francisco (11-2) in strong position to capture the top seed in the NFC playoffs. The Niners clinched a playoff berth with Seattle's loss to the Rams.

**Rams 28, Seahawks 12:** Jared Goff passed for 293 yards and two touchdowns, Todd Gurley ran for 79 yards and a fourth-quarter TD and host Los Angeles prevented Seattle from clinching a playoff berth.

Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp caught TD passes while the Rams (8-5) kept their playoff hopes burning and ended the Seahawks' five-game winning streak.

The Rams won for the fifth time in seven games, while the Seahawks (10-3) fell out of first place in the NFC West with just their second loss since Sept. 22 and their first road defeat of the season.

**Titans 42, Raiders 21:** Ryan Tannehill threw for 391 yards and three touchdowns, Derrick Henry ran for two scores and visiting Tennessee won its fourth straight game.

The Titans (8-5) bounced back from a deflected inter-

ception on the opening drive to score TDs on five of their next seven possessions to improve to 6-1 with Tannehill as the starting quarterback. The win moved them into a tie for first place in the AFC South with Houston, with the teams set to meet twice in the final three weeks.

**Steelers 23, Cardinals 17:** At Glendale, Ariz., Diontae Johnson returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown and caught a pass for another score.

Pittsburgh (8-5) won for the seventh time in eight games to stay in the AFC playoff race. Rookie free agent quarterback Devlin Hodges made his third career start, completing 16 of 19 passes for 152 yards and a touchdown.

**Chargers 45, Jaguars 10:** Philip Rivers threw for 314 yards and three touchdowns, including an 84-yarder to Austin Ekeler that was the longest completion of the quarterback's 16-year NFL career.

It was host Jacksonville's fifth consecutive lopsided loss, all by at least 17 points. The 1986 Tampa Bay Buccaneers were the last NFL team to drop five straight by at least 17.

**Packers 20, Redskins 15:** Aaron Jones rushed for a season-high 134 yards and a touchdown on just 16 carries. Jones had his third 100-yard rushing game of the season and hauled in six catches for 58 yards. With fewer than three minutes left in the game, the third-year running back had more total yards (192) than visiting Washington (187).

Dwayne Haskins completed 16 of 27 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown with an interception the Redskins (3-10), who were officially eliminated from playoff contention.

**Buccaneers 38, Colts 35:** Jameis Winston threw for 456 yards and four touchdowns, helping host Tampa Bay rally to beat reeling Indianapolis.

The Colts (6-7) have dropped five of six following a 5-2 start, falling from first place to third in the AFC South.

**Falcons 40, Panthers 20:** Matt Ryan threw the longest touchdown pass of his career and became the 10th quarterback in NFL history to reach 50,000 yards.

Visiting Carolina (5-8) was officially eliminated from playoff contention with its fifth straight loss.

**Broncos 38, Texans 24:** At Houston, rookie Drew Lock threw for 309 yards and three touchdowns, Kareem Jackson had an interception and returned a fumble 70 yards for a touchdown against his former team.

Houston's hold on the AFC South took a hit as the Texans (8-5) came out flat in a terrible first half a week after downing the Patriots 28-22 for their first win in the series since 2010. The Texans are one-half game ahead of the Titans (7-5), who play in Oakland later Sunday.

**Browns 27, Bengals 19:** At Cleveland, Nick Chubb ran for 106 yards — 99 after half-time — and Baker Mayfield and Kareem Hunt had rushing touchdowns.

The Bengals have lost 10 straight AFC North games.

**Jets 22, Dolphins 21:** Sam Ficken kicked a 44-yard field goal as time expired after host New York benefited from a pass interference call determined by the league's officiating office.

The Jets — who lost to the previously winless Cincinnati Bengals last week — overcame a Dolphins franchise-record seven field goals by Jason Sanders, including a 37-yarder that gave Miami the lead with 1:33 left.

**Vikings 20, Lions 7:** Danielle Hunter had three of Minnesota's five sacks to spearhead a resurgence by the defense to stick visiting Detroit with its sixth consecutive loss.

Kirk Cousins passed for 242 yards and a touchdown in an efficient if unspectacular performance. Dalvin Cook had 75 yards from scrimmage and a rushing score on 20 touches over three quarters.

## Top 25 roundup

# No. 3 Cavaliers knock off No. 7 Tar Heels

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Mamadi Diakite scored 12 points and No. 5 Virginia rebounded from a blowout loss to beat No. 7 North Carolina 56-47 on Sunday.

Tomas Woldetensae added 11 points and Francisco Caffaro had 10 and six rebounds for the Cavaliers (8-1, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference). They lost 69-40 at Purdue in the Big Ten-ACC Challenge on Wednesday night.

Freshman Cole Anthony led North Carolina (6-3, 0-1) with 12 points and fellow freshman Armando Bacot had 11. The Tar Heels became the seventh team held below 50 points by Virginia this season.

Virginia led 39-35 before

two free throws by Kihei Clark sparked a 10-0 run just past the midpoint of the second half. Woldetensae and Justin McKoy each added a pair of free throws and redshirt freshman Caffaro finished the burst with a pair of inside baskets. The second came after a rugged scrum under the basket and drew roars from the crowd.

**No. 9 Gonzaga 83, No. 22 Washington 76:** At Seattle, Killian Tillie made a three-pointer as the shot clock expired with 2:55 remaining and finished with 15 points, Joel Ayayi hit another three with 24 seconds left and Gonzaga held off Washington.

Control of the in-state rivalry remained on the east side of

the state as the Bulldogs (10-1) could never pull away but made the key plays in the closing minutes to hold off the young Huskies (7-2). Gonzaga has won six straight in the series, with Washington's last win coming in 2005.

**No. 11 Michigan State 77, Rutgers 65:** Cassius Winston had 23 points and seven assists, helping Michigan State pull away to beat visiting Rutgers in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

The Spartans (6-3) led by just two points midway through the second half before outscoring the Scarlet Knights 16-7 to take control. Michigan State's Gabe Brown scored a season-high 14 points, starting in place of Rocket Watts, who is expected

to be out for about a week with a leg injury.

**Iowa State 76, No. 16 Seton Hall 66:** Tyrese Haliburton scored 17 points, George Condit had a season-high 17 off the bench and host Iowa State knocked off Seton Hall for its second straight victory.

**No. 17 Florida State 72, Clemson 53:** Devin Vassell had 14 points and nine rebounds and Florida State made 15 three-pointers against visiting Clemson.

**No. 19 Dayton 78, Saint Mary's 68:** Jalen Crutcher had a season-high 21 points and tied a career high with five three-pointers in Dayton's victory in the Jerry Colangelo Classic at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix.

# Russia gets 4-year ban for doping scandal

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Russia was slapped Monday with a four-year ban from international sports events, including next summer's Tokyo Olympics, over a longstanding doping scandal, although its athletes will still be able to compete if they can show they are clean competitors.

The ruling by the World Anti-Doping Agency's executive committee means that Russia's flag, name and anthem will not appear at the Tokyo Games, and the country also could be stripped of hosting world championships in Olympic sports.

The sanctions are the harshest punishment yet for Russian state authorities who were accused of tampering with a Moscow laboratory database. Russia's anti-doping agency can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days — an action it has signaled it would take.

"Russia was afforded every opportunity to get its house in order ... but it chose instead to

continue in its stance of deception and denial," WADA president Craig Reedie said.

Russian athletes can compete in major events only if they are not implicated in positive doping tests or if their data was not manipulated, according to the WADA ruling.

For soccer's 2022 World Cup, WADA said the Russian team will play under its name in the qualifying program in Europe. If it qualifies to play in Qatar, the team name must be changed to something neutral that likely would not include the word "Russia."

At the past two track and field world championships, Russians competed as "Authorized Neutral Athlete." A softer line was taken ahead of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games, when the International Olympic Committee suspended the Russian Olympic body yet allowed athletes and teams to compete as "Olympic Athlete from Russia."

Going forward, "they cannot use the name of the country in the name of the team," WADA

president-elect Witold Banka told The Associated Press.

Legal fallout from the WADA ruling at CAS seems sure to dominate preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which open July 24.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev urged sports organizations to appeal and said WADA's ruling was "a continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria which has already become chronic."

The latest round of sanctions were imposed because tampering with the Moscow data was a new violation of anti-doping rules committed as recently as January.

Handing over a clean database to WADA was a key requirement given to Russia 15 months ago to help bring closure to a scandal that has tainted the Olympics over the last decade.

WADA investigators and the IOC agreed that evidence showed Russian authorities corrupted data from the Moscow lab that was long sealed by security forces. Hundreds of potential doping cases were

deleted and evidence falsely planted to shift the blame onto whistleblowers.

"Flagrant manipulation" of the data was "an insult to the sporting movement worldwide," the IOC said last month.

Athletes whose data was manipulated in the 2012-15 testing period now face disciplinary cases by their sport's governing body.

"Yes, we do know who those athletes are. They will be kept out of the (Tokyo) Games," said British lawyer Jonathan Taylor, chairman of the WADA panel whose proposed sanctions were unanimously approved Monday.

However, the doping watchdog's outgoing vice president was left frustrated by an unwillingness to fully expel Russia from the Tokyo Olympics and 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

"I'm not happy with the decision we made today. But this is as far as we could go," said Linda Helleland, a Norwegian lawmaker who has long pushed for a tougher line against Russia.

## NBA roundup

## Davis' 50 powers Lakers past T-Wolves

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Anthony Davis had a season-high 50 points and the Los Angeles Lakers improved to a league-best 21-3 with a 142-125 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday night.

Davis hit a floater with 4:39 remaining to reach 50 points for the fourth time in his career. He was 20 of 29 from the field and made all 10 of his free throws to go along with seven rebounds and six assists.

LeBron James had 32 points and 13 assists despite committing four fouls in the first half. Alex Caruso added 16 points as the Lakers won their fourth straight and improved to 10-2 at home.

Each of the Timberwolves' starters had at least 12 points. Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins each had 19 points as Minnesota lost its fourth straight game.

**Heat 110, Bulls 105:** Game

on the line, perfect home record on the line, and the Miami Heat turned to their teenager.

Tyler Herro came through.

The rookie guard scored 27 points — including 16 of Miami's final 18 — and Miami held off Chicago. They improved to 10-0 at home this season, extending the best home start in franchise history.

**76ers 110, Raptors 104:** Tobias Harris scored 26 points and rookie Matisse Thybulle had a career-high 20 points, including a pair of free throws with 23 seconds left, to lead Philadelphia past Toronto for its 12th straight home win.

Ben Simmons had 16 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists as the Sixers remained unbeaten at home this season.

**Clippers 135, Wizards 119:** Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 11 rebounds and Los Angeles bounced back from its worst loss of the season with a win over Washington.

Paul George scored 27 points and Montrezl Harrell had nine of his 20 in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who improved to 4-6 away from home two games into their six-game trip.

The victory came two days after Los Angeles opened the trip with a 119-91 loss at Eastern Conference-leading Milwaukee.

**Nets 105, Nuggets 102:** Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points and Brooklyn held off visiting Denver for its third straight victory.

The Nuggets had a chance to force overtime, but Jamal Murray missed a three-pointer from the wing as time expired.

Jarrett Allen added 19 points and 11 rebounds for Brooklyn. Star guard Kyrie Irving missed his 12th straight game because of a right shoulder impingement.

**Kings 110, Mavericks 106:** Nemanja Bjelica matched his career best with 30 points and

Luka Doncic missed a game-tying attempt in the final seconds as Sacramento withstood a furious rally and beat host Dallas.

Buddy Hield scored 26 points, including five three-pointers, for Sacramento.

**Thunder 108, Trail Blazers 96:** Dennis Schroder and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander each scored 21 points and Oklahoma City opened a four-game road trip with a win over Portland.

The Thunder have won four of their last five games, the team's best stretch of the season. Chris Paul finished with 20 points.

**Hawks 122, Hornets 107:** Trae Young had 30 points and nine assists and Atlanta beat host Charlotte for its second win in 13 games.

Jabari Parker added 19 points and Vince Carter had 17 off the bench on 7-for-9 shooting.

## NHL roundup

## Coyotes rally for shootout win over Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — After falling behind early, the surprising Arizona Coyotes came back to pull out a win and grab a share of first place in the Pacific Division.

Conor Garland and Nick Schmaltz scored on the Coyotes' first two attempts against Robin Lehner in the shootout, and Arizona rallied from two goals down to beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 on Sunday night.

Only Patrick Kane connected against Darcy Kuemper in the tiebreaker as the Coyotes improved to 5-2 in shootouts this season and finished a 3-1 road trip.

Arizona trailed 2-0 and 3-1 in the first period, before tying the score in the second. Coach Rick Tocchet liked what he saw as the game went on.

"We talked after the second," Tocchet said. "If we win this period, it's a hell of a trip instead of just an OK trip."

With 40 points, Arizona is tied for first in

the Pacific with Edmonton, which lost 3-2 to Buffalo in overtime on Sunday.

"Happy to get the win here," said Schmaltz, a former Blackhawk. "A fun game to be part of."

Garland got his team-leading 12th goal in regulation, and Carl Soderberg and Christian Fischer also scored. Kuemper finished with 26 saves through overtime.

**Jets 3, Ducks 2:** Mark Scheifele scored twice, the second on a power play with 4:22 left for his 400th NHL point, in host Winnipeg's victory over Anaheim.

Scheifele beat goalie John Gibson over the glove for his 13th of the season. Winnipeg is 5-1-1 in its past seven games.

Jakob Silfverberg scored his team-leading 11th goal for the Ducks.

**Sabres 3, Oilers 2 (OT):** Colin Miller scored 1:13 into overtime to end visiting Buffalo's two-game skid.

Miller took a feed through the crease from Marcus Johansson to score the win-

ner. Jack Eichel picked up an assist on the play to extend his point streak to 13 games.

**Panthers 5, Sharks 1:** Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 30 shots to win for the second straight night as host Florida beat San Jose.

Aleksander Barkov, Keith Yandle and Frank Vatrano each had a goal and an assist to help Florida win for the third time in four games.

Kevin Labanc scored and Martin Jones had 28 saves for the Sharks, who lost their fourth straight (0-3-1).

**Rangers 5, Golden Knights 0:** Alexander Georgiev stopped 38 shots for his second shutout of the season and visiting New York beat Vegas.

Artemi Panarin, Chris Kreider, Jacob Trouba, Jesper Fast and Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers.

Malcolm Subban made his seventh straight start and made 20 saves for the Golden Knights.