

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Vote sends Trump charges to full House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats propelled President Donald Trump's impeachment toward a vote by the full U.S. House on Friday, as the Judiciary Committee approved charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in the constitutional and political storm that has divided Congress and the nation.

The House is expected to approve the two articles of impeachment next week, before lawmakers depart for the holidays.

The partisan committee split — 23 Democrats to 17 Republicans — reflects the general atmosphere in the full Congress. The Democratic-majority House is expected to approve the charges against Trump

next week, but the Republican-controlled Senate is likely to acquit him after a January trial.

Trump is accused, in the first article, of abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine to investigate his 2020 rival Joe Biden while holding military aid as leverage, and, in the second, of obstructing Congress by blocking the House's efforts to probe his actions.

"No one is above the law; the president will be held accountable for his abuse of power and for his obstruction of Congress," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Thursday as the Judiciary panel argued over the charges.

After Friday's votes, Trump's press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, labeled the proceedings a "desperate charade" and said, "The President looks for-

ward to receiving in the Senate the fair treatment and due process which continues to be disgracefully denied to him by the House."

Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., who had said he wanted lawmakers to "search their consciences" before casting their votes, gavelled in the landmark but brief session.

Voting was swift and solemn, with none of the fiery speeches and commentary with weighty nods to history that have defined the days of debate, including 14 hours that stretched nearly to midnight Thursday.

Lawmakers responded "aye" or "yes" for the Democrats, and simple: "no's" from the Republicans. The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, immediately said he would file dissenting views.

Minutes after the morning session opened, it was gavelled shut.

Voting came quickly after two days of hearings at the Capitol and a rancorous 14-hour session that was abruptly shut down late Thursday when the Democratic majority refused to be forced, after a long and bitter slog through failed Republican amendments aimed at killing the impeachment charges, into midnight voting.

Trump took to Twitter early Friday to praise the panel's Republicans, saying "they were fantastic yesterday."

"The Dems have no case at all, but the unity & sheer brilliance of these Republican warriors, all of them, was a beautiful sight to see," he tweeted. "Dems had no answers and wanted out!"

Possible spending deal may avert government shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senior lawmakers announced a tentative agreement Thursday on an almost \$1.4 trillion government-wide spending bill that would stave off a federal shutdown next weekend and split the differences on a number of contentious issues.

The handshake agreement was announced by the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., and other top members of Congress.

"There's a meeting of the minds," Lowey said.

Details of the agreement were not announced and processing the sweeping measure is sure to take a few days. But it would award President Donald Trump with \$1.4 billion in additional money for the U.S.-Mexico border wall while giv-

ing the Democrats who control the House a number of their priorities such as expanded Head Start and early childhood education.

The measure is likely to pass the House next week just before the House votes on impeaching Trump. A Senate vote is expected before a temporary spending bill expires next Friday at midnight.

A White House official said Trump is likely to sign the bill because it maintains his ability to pay for the wall. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal is not official.

A year ago, a deadlock over the wall led Trump to spark a 35-day partial government shutdown. The eventual agreement that emerged produced a template for the current pact: no "poison pill" policy provi-

sions on topics such as abortion and the environment that could not pass muster with both Democrats and Republicans.

"We decided that the decisions would be made today," said Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas. "We said, 'It's time to get this thing done.'"

At issue are 12 annual spending bills that fund the day-to-day operations of federal agencies. The appropriations package fills in the long-overdue details of this summer's budget and debt pact, which offered boosts to both the Pentagon and domestic agencies instead of the sharp across-the-board spending cuts required under a now-defunct 2011 budget agreement.

Trump's top priority is to guarantee additional dollars for border fencing and other barriers. The deal bowed to a White

House demand that Trump retain authority so he can transfer money from Department of Homeland Security and Pentagon accounts to border barrier construction. That promises to ease the sting of seeing his \$8.6 billion border request cut way back.

The emerging measure is also likely to serve as the vehicle to carry into law several provisions unrelated to agency money; the spending bill is the last, best option to accomplish that. They probably will include: a renewal of the Export-Import Bank's charter; a reauthorization of government-backed terrorism risk insurance; a short-term extension of the federal flood insurance program; and further delays of Obama-era health law taxes such as those on medical devices and high-cost health plans.

Troops will see rise in basic pay in 2020

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Service members will see an increase to their basic housing allowance and basic pay rates starting Jan. 1, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The basic housing allowance rate will increase by an average of 2.8% and basic pay will increase 3.1% for service members, according to a Defense Department statement.

The basic subsistence allowance rate will also increase 0.9%. Enlisted service members will receive \$372.71 per month, an increase of \$3.32, and officers will receive \$256.68 per month, an increase of \$2.29. The subsistence allowance offsets the cost of a service member's meals for the month.

The housing allowance is given to service members who live off base and depends on their location, pay grade and

whether they have dependents. Service members who live in base housing have the allowance deducted from their paychecks automatically.

The Pentagon estimates \$22 billion will be paid to about one million service members. The DOD expects the specific basic pay rates will be released by executive order soon.

In 2020, service members will pay out-of-pocket 5% of the national average housing cost by their pay grade. Depending

on their pay grade and whether they have dependents, the out-of-pocket amount for service members will be between \$68 and \$148 monthly, according to the Pentagon. The cost-sharing percentage was increased to 5% in 2019 as mandated by the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

For more information on Basic Allowance for Housing visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm.

US: No new foreign military students until better checks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No new international military students will come to the United States for training until new screening procedures are in place, the Pentagon said Thursday in the wake of the deadly shooting last week by a Saudi Arabian aviation trainee at a Navy base in Florida.

The Defense Department's chief spokesman said there is no explicit ban on new students, but none will enter the country before the department expands its role in the screening process and begins the additional reviews. Currently, the bulk of the screening is done by the departments of

State and Homeland Security, as well as the host nation.

Jonathan Hoffman told reporters that new screening guidelines should be in place in the coming days. The deputy defense secretary ordered a 10-day review of the vetting process earlier this week.

Federal authorities say Saudi Air Force 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, killed three U.S. sailors and injured eight other people at the Pensacola Naval Air Station last Friday. Investigators are digging into whether he acted alone, amid reports he hosted a party earlier last week where he and others watched videos of mass

shootings.

About a dozen Saudi students who were acquaintances of the shooter are currently confined to the base. The Pentagon has suspended flight and other operational training for all Saudi Arabian students in U.S. military programs.

Asked why the safety restriction was applied to all Saudis and whether there are concerns that there is a broader threat from students from the country, Hoffman said the decision "seemed prudent."

He said the enhanced screening, when completed, will affect all international students.

More Afghan interpreters for military likely to get visas

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A program that provides visas to interpreters who worked with the U.S. military in Afghanistan has gone from endangered to potentially expanded following House passage of a \$738 billion defense policy bill.

If signed into law, the National Defense Authorization Act will provide 4,000 more special immigrant visas, raising the total cap to 22,500, a figure arrived at in a Senate conference report preceding the House vote Wednesday.

Of those 22,500, more than

12,000 Afghan interpreters have already been granted visas since the program began in 2008. Another 9,000 are already having their applications considered.

"We're happy that there are more visas being authorized. It's important for Congress to keep the promise it made to people who put their lives at risk," said Adam Bates, policy counsel for the International Refugee Assistance Project. "The authorization of 4,000 more visas is a good step to ensure there continue to be visas available."

Advocacy groups for Afghan interpreters feared the pro-

gram would expire. A similar program for Iraqi interpreters expired in 2014, forcing those translators to go through an alternative refugee program that has a backlog of more than 100,000 people.

Former military interpreters in Iraq and Afghanistan have repeatedly been targeted by anti-U.S. groups following their service.

The 2020 NDAA also includes a requirement for the State Department Inspector General to evaluate the SIV program, and how to reduce delays in interagency processing and security checks.

Senate Republicans and

President Donald Trump have expressed support for the NDAA, which is expected to become law.

"We appreciate Congress for their continued support on our SIV applicants," said Zia Ghafoori, a former Afghan interpreter for two Medal of Honor recipients, Staff Sgt. Ronald Shurer and Master Sgt. Matthew Williams.

Ghafoori now lives in America after going through the SIV process and assists others arriving through the program.

The visa program "is a life-saving process," Ghafoori said.

Calls for change in surveillance after FBI Russia report

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Revelations that the FBI committed serious errors in wiretapping a former Trump campaign aide have spurred bipartisan calls for change to the government's surveillance powers, including from some Republicans who in the past have voted to renew or expand those powers.

Anger over the errors cited in this week's Justice Department's inspector general's report of the Russia investigation has produced rare consensus from Democrats and Republicans who otherwise have had sharply different interpretations of the report's findings. The report said the FBI was justified in investigating ties between the campaign and Russia but criticized how the investigation was conducted.

The report cited flaws and omissions in the government's warrant applications under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, documenting problems with a surveillance program that Democrats and

civil libertarians have long maintained is opaque, intrusive and operates with minimal oversight. They now have been joined by Republicans who are irate that FBI officials withheld key information from judges when they applied to eavesdrop on former Trump aide Carter Page.

It's unclear what steps, if any, Congress could or will take to rein in the FBI's power under the surveillance law, and it remains to be seen whether outrage over the way a Trump ally was treated will extend to less overtly political investigations.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz, who has recommended changes, said his office will conduct an audit of how the FBI applies for warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. FBI Director Christopher Wray said the bureau is making its own changes to ensure more accuracy and completeness in warrant applications. That includes tightening up layers of review and record-keeping.

Deadly NJ attack probed as domestic terrorism

Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The couple who burst into a kosher market in Jersey City with assault weapons appear to have acted alone even though they had expressed interest in a fringe religious group that often disparages whites and Jews, New Jersey officials said.

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said the attack was driven by hatred of Jews and law enforcement and is being investigated as an act of domestic terrorism.

The two killers were armed with a variety of weapons, including an AR-15-style rifle and a shotgun that they were wielding when they stormed into the store in an attack that left the scene littered with several hundred shell casings, broken glass and a community in mourning. A pipebomb was also found in a stolen U-Haul van.

"The outcome would have been far, far worse" if not for the Jersey City Police, Grewal said Thursday. Authorities noted that a Jewish school is next to the market, and a Catholic school is across the street.

The attackers killed three people in the store, in addition to a police officer at a cemetery about a mile away, before dying in an hourslong gunbattle with police Tuesday afternoon, authorities said.

"The evidence points toward acts of hate. I can confirm that we're investigating this matter as potential acts of domestic terrorism fueled both by anti-Semitism and anti-law enforcement beliefs," the attorney general said. He said social media posts, witness interviews and other evidence reflected the couple's hatred of Jews and police.

Grewal noted that after killing three people in the store, the couple concentrated their fire on police and did not shoot at others who happened to be on the streets.

Grewal said the attackers, David Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50, had expressed interest in a fringe religious group called the Black Hebrew Israelites, whose members often rail against Jews and whites. But he said there was no evidence so far that they were members, and added that the two were believed to have acted alone.

The victims killed in the store were: Mindel Ferencz, 31, who with her husband owned the grocery; 24-year-old Moshe Deutsch, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn who was shopping there; and store employee Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, 49. A fourth person in the store was shot and wounded but managed to escape, authorities said.

Congress blasts Coast Guard's response to harassment

Associated Press

The U.S. Coast Guard's leadership has failed to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations of harassment and bullying allegations, according to a congressional investigation released Wednesday.

The report, called "Righting the Ship," also found Coast Guard leaders didn't hold officials accountable for deficient and incomplete investigations and didn't take corrective action to address retaliation against people who report harassment and bullying. It concludes that the service

needs to make "significant improvements" in its policies and procedures.

The U.S. House Oversight and Homeland Security Committees launched the 18-month investigation after questions were raised about how complaints were handled at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Subcommittees for the two committees discussed the findings Wednesday during a joint hearing.

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Michael McAllister said at the hearing the service's senior leaders are taking "every step to foster and develop a climate that's free from harassment, bullying and retaliation" and

take all complaints seriously.

McAllister, the deputy commandant for mission support, spoke about changes the Coast Guard has made to the way it handles allegations, including updating its civil rights awareness training, creating new positions to improve oversight at the academy and revising procedures to require commanders to notify their superior of the findings and outcomes of harassment, hate, hazing and bullying inquiries.

McAllister acknowledged there's room for improvement and said he looked forward to "enhancing our policies" with help from Congress.

UK voters give support to Johnson, Brexit

Associated Press

LONDON — Boris Johnson's gamble on early elections paid off as voters gave the UK prime minister a commanding majority to take the country out of the European Union by the end of January, a decisive result after more than three years of stalemate over Brexit.

Johnson's promise to "get Brexit done" and widespread unease with opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn's leadership style and socialist policies combined to give the ruling Conservative Party 365 seats in the House of Commons, its best performance since party icon Margaret Thatcher's last victory in 1987. Corbyn's Labour Party slumped to 203 seats, 59 fewer than it won two years ago, vote totals showed Friday.

The results offer Johnson a new mandate to push his EU withdrawal agreement through Parliament. Since taking office in July, he had led a minority government and, after the House of Commons stalled his Brexit deal at the end of

October, he called the election two years ahead of schedule in hopes of winning a clear majority.

"I will put an end to all that nonsense, and we will get Brexit done on time by the January 31 — no ifs, no buts, no maybes," he said as supporters cheered. "Leaving the European Union as one United Kingdom, taking back control of our laws, borders, money, our trade, immigration system, delivering on the democratic mandate of the people."

Johnson also offered an olive branch to Britons who want to remain in the EU, saying he will respect their "warm feelings" and build a "new partnership" with the bloc as "friends and sovereign equals."

Speaking Friday outside 10 Downing Street, he pledged to end acrimony over Brexit and urged the country to "let the healing begin." He said he would work to repay voters' trust.

The scale of Johnson's success also marked a stinging defeat for Corbyn, who had

promised to lead Labour to victory with the "biggest people-powered campaign our country has ever seen."

Instead, voters rejected his attempt to bridge divisions over Brexit by promising a second referendum on any deal with the EU. The vote also turned away the rest of the party's agenda, which included promises to raise taxes on the rich, increase social spending and nationalize industries such as water delivery, railroads and the Royal Mail.

In an election where differences over Brexit cut across traditional party lines, several big names lost their seats the House of Commons.

Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson pledged to cancel Brexit if she were elected prime minister, but she was defeated by the Scottish National Party in her constituency north of Glasgow and resigned as party leader. Chuka Umunna was a one-time Labour Party leadership candidate, who left the party in February because of differences with Corbyn. Run-

ning as a Liberal Democrat, he lost out to the Conservatives in the cities of London and Westminster. Nigel Dodds led the Democratic Unionist Party in the House of Commons as the party supported the government in hopes of winning concessions on Brexit for Northern Ireland. He lost his Belfast North seat to Sinn Fein candidate John Finucane.

Johnson owes his success, in part, to traditionally Labour-voting working-class constituencies in northern England that backed the Conservatives because of the party's promise to deliver Brexit.

Johnson's sweeping victory in the UK will give him room to maneuver on such issues, particularly involving the fraught details of Brexit. Jim O'Neill, chairman of the Chatham House think tank, said the size of the Conservative Party victory gives it a clear mandate to execute the first stage of departing the EU by passing the withdrawal bill as desired.

US reaches deal with China, suspends tariffs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. has canceled plans to impose new tariffs on \$160 billion worth of Chinese imports Sunday as part of a modest interim agreement that deescalates a 17-month trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

The United States is also reducing existing import taxes on about \$112 billion in Chinese goods from 15% to 7.5%

In return, Trump said on Twitter, the Chinese have agreed to "massive" purchases of American farm and manufactured products. He did not specify how big those purchases would be.

Chinese officials said at a

briefing in Beijing that if Washington reduces the tariffs, China will lower its trade penalties on American goods and also scrap plans for new tariffs Sunday.

"China is ready to work with the U.S. side to do more to promote growth in trade," said Liao Min, deputy finance minister.

Asked to confirm reports that Beijing had committed to buy \$50 billion of American farm goods, Liao said details would be released later.

The "Phase 1" deal announced Friday leaves unresolved some of the thorniest issues. But Trump said work on a follow-up would begin "immediately, rather than waiting until after the 2020 Election. This is an amazing deal for all. Thank you!"

Official: Vaping illnesses death toll surpasses 50

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The death toll in the vaping illness outbreak has topped 50, U.S. health officials said Thursday.

The 52 deaths in 26 states are among the 2,409 hospitalized cases that have been reported across the nation this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Hospitalized cases have been most common in the Midwest, with some of the highest rates in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The median age of the people who died is 52, but most people who suffered lung damage have been much younger, with half in their teens or early 20s.

The outbreak appears to have started in March. The bulk of

the cases occurred in August and September, but new cases are still being reported, including 118 in the past week, the CDC said.

Some of the newly reported illnesses happened more than a month ago but were only recently reported. However, 43% of the latest batch of cases were people hospitalized since Nov. 17, the agency said.

Most patients have said they vaped products containing THC, the ingredient that produces a high in marijuana. CDC officials have gradually come to focus their investigation on black-market THC cartridges.

Last month, CDC officials said they had narrowed in on a culprit — a chemical compound called vitamin E acetate.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Criminal allegedly hurls pitcher at head of judge

MD BALTIMORE — A twice-convicted sex criminal now faces even more charges after allegedly hurling a metal pitcher at the head of a Maryland judge.

Authorities said Travis Burroughs, 36, grabbed the water pitcher from the defense table on Wednesday and threw it across the courtroom, hitting Baltimore Circuit Judge Wanda Keyes Heard. She quickly called a recess to get medical treatment and was left with a bump on her forehead, sheriff's spokeswoman Maj. Sabrina Tapp-Harper said.

Burroughs had just been sentenced to life in prison with all but 70 years suspended after being convicted last month of sodomy and false imprisonment, news outlets report. He had already been serving an 80-year sentence after being convicted in 2018 of rape, assault and false imprisonment.

Police: Worker robbed shop to teach 'a lesson'

NM LAS CRUCES — An employee of a New Mexico Subway sandwich shop is facing charges after police say she robbed the place to teach another worker "a lesson."

Lorena Ariana Marin, 22, and her alleged accomplice Angelo Rey Espinosa, 19, were arrested Monday night following reports of a robbery in Las Cruces, the Las Cruces Sun-News reported.

Police said Espinosa allegedly stood by while Marin verbally and physically threatened the employees after hopping behind the counter. They ushered the employees to the back of the store, but one employee ran to her car and got away. Marin told officers she com-

mitted the robbery "to teach one of the employees a lesson about what could happen late at night in that part of town." Marin and Espinosa are facing robbery charges.

Police kill pit bull after poodle attacked

PA PITTSBURGH — Police shot and killed a pit bull after it charged at an officer following a fight with a poodle, authorities said.

Officers found a woman caring for her poodle, which was covered in blood, when they responded to a report of dogs fighting at the intersection of Viola Street and Catocin Way on Wednesday, according to a Pittsburgh Public Safety news release.

The pit bull's owner had told them he had stabbed his pet and used pepper spray to get it to release the poodle.

When the wounded pit bull lunged at police, an officer shot it to death.

School's raccoon hunt generates complaints

MO PATTON — A southeast Missouri school district was flooded with complaints over the latest school-sponsored raccoon hunt, a tradition that dates back 37 years.

The Banner Press reports reports that more than 2,200 people across the country signed an online petition to end this weekend's hunt in which 94 raccoons were brought in.

FFA adviser Sarah Burgfeld says she and other officials in the Meadow Heights district received so many phone calls and emails that she filed a harassment complaint with the Bollinger County Sheriff's Department. Burgfeld said a number of those who protested the hunt did so with name-calling

and vulgarity.

She says the event generally raises between \$500 and \$600, although that's not the focus.

She says hunting provides "multi-generational, traditional bonding."

Newborn survives being tossed from car crash

CA TURLOCK — A newborn baby who was flung out of a car in a Northern California crash survived with only minor injuries.

The California Highway Patrol said 6-week-old Ezra Benitez was in a sport utility vehicle that crashed Sunday on State Route 99 in Turlock.

The car flipped several times before coming to a stop. Investigators said Ezra's car seat was improperly installed and was flung out a broken window, KXTL-TV reported.

Ezra was found upside down in the seat down the shoulder of the highway. He wasn't seriously injured.

Woman gets needed walker despite misdial

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A New Mexico woman's misdial meant for a medical supply store went to an investigator in a district attorney's office — and led to a new walker.

KOB-TV reported Bernice Weems, 84, mistakenly called Kyle Hartsock with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, N.M., seeking a new walker. She left a voicemail.

It turns out Hartsock's number is just one digit off from the medical supply store she was trying to call.

Hartsock said instead of ignoring the message, he went out and got Weems a walker.

"I called her and I said, 'Bernice, we have a walker for you.'

She said, 'Awesome.' I think she still thought we were like a walker store," Hartsock said.

Police: 4-year-old briefly dragged by bus

MD GLEN ARM — Authorities in Maryland say a 4-year-old girl was briefly dragged by her school bus after her backpack got caught in its door.

The preschooler was getting off the bus in Glen Arm when she got stuck and the vehicle started to move, Baltimore County police spokeswoman Julia Hardgrove told The Baltimore Sun. Police said the driver drove forward a "short distance." Hardgrove couldn't say just how far the girl was dragged.

The girl was taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries that weren't considered to be life threatening, she said.

Man with ax, crowbar arrested after threats

NE FAIRBURY — A man armed with an ax and crowbar was arrested after making threats at a city office in southeast Nebraska, authorities said.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Wednesday that a city of Fairbury employee reported Tuesday that the man had walked into the city offices and made threats while looking for city officials.

He left when he determined none of them was there and said he was headed to the Jefferson County Courthouse to find a county official.

Deputies soon spotted him near the courthouse, still carrying the ax and crowbar. They used a stun gun on him twice when he wouldn't follow commands, the sheriff's office said.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

Jackson, Ravens clinch AFC North title

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Only minutes removed from watching his team roll to its 10th consecutive victory, coach John Harbaugh showed up to the post-game news conference wearing a white hat proclaiming Baltimore to be AFC North champion.

No small accomplishment, winning that tough division two years in a row.

"We're very proud of that," Harbaugh said. "It's our first goal. Not our top goal."

Indeed. After Lamar Jackson ran and passed the Ravens past the New York Jets 42-21 on Thursday night, the shirt he wore reflected the feeling of just about everyone associated with the team that owns the best record in the NFL.

"THE NORTH IS NOT ENOUGH," yelled the sentiment in capital letters.

Yes, the Ravens have another division title after they

clinched a playoff berth four days earlier in Buffalo. With a victory next week in Cleveland, the Ravens will be assured the top seed in the AFC, a distinction that comes with home-field advantage leading up to the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl. That's the target. Victories in December are merely steps in that direction.

"We just have to keep it going," Jackson said.

"The job is not over," safety Earl Thomas said. "We got a couple more goals in front of us."

Jackson threw five touchdown passes and scurried into the NFL record book. He's only started 21 games as a professional, yet Jackson looks like he's been doing it forever.

"I'm thinking in the back of my mind sooner or later he's going to have a young, second-year growing pains game," veteran guard Marshal Yanda said. "And the kid keeps playing winning football."

Baltimore (12-2) took control with touchdowns on its first three possessions and Jackson made it 28-7 in the third quarter with a 24-yard scoring pass to rookie Marquise Brown following a turnover by New York (5-9).

Jackson ran for 86 yards (on eight carries) to break Michael Vick's single-season record for a quarterback (1,039 for Atlanta in 2006). Jackson has 1,108 yards rushing.

On this night, however, Jackson did most of the damage with his right arm. He completed 15 of 23 passes for 212 yards and increased his NFL-leading total of touchdown passes to 33, tying the franchise season record set by Vinny Testaverde in 1996.

After Jackson's pass to Brown, many in the crowd of 70,545 chanted "MVP! MVP!" There was a reprise of the mantra late in the third quarter when Jackson hit Seth Roberts for a 33-yard touchdown. The score came after Jackson con-

nected with tight end Mark Andrews for a 36-yard completion on a fourth-and-1 from the Baltimore 29.

Jackson celebrated the first down by dancing downfield with his arm pointing toward the New York goal line. Not once throughout his exceptional performance did Jackson show any sign of being slowed by a quadriceps injury that made headlines in the days leading up to the game.

The Jets, meanwhile, hardly looked like a team that had won four of their previous five games. Sam Darnold threw two touchdown passes to Jamison Crowder but the second-year quarterback also tossed an interception and lost a fumble. He finished 18-for-32 for 218 yards.

"Experience. It's coming," coach Adam Gase said. "It's coming. He's improving every week."

Sports briefs

Ex-NBA Commissioner Stern has emergency brain surgery

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA said former Commissioner David Stern suffered a sudden brain hemorrhage Thursday and had emergency surgery.

The league said in a statement its thoughts and prayers are with the 77-year-old Stern's family.

Stern served exactly 30 years as the NBA's longest-tenured commissioner before Adam Silver replaced him on Feb. 1, 2014. Stern has remained affiliated with the league with the title of commissioner emeritus and has remained active in his other interests, such as sports technology.

Stern oversaw the growth of the NBA into a league whose games were televised in more than 200 countries and territories and in more than 40 languages. The league was

playing a regular-season game in Mexico City between Dallas and Detroit on Thursday night when it announced the news about Stern.

Giants waive Jenkins after his Twitter rant

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants waived-injured cornerback Janoris Jenkins on Friday, days after he engaged in a Twitter conversation in which he used offensive language.

Jenkins defended his use of the word "retard" in an exchange with a fan, saying it was acceptable language where he grew up.

"This was an organizational decision," Giants coach Pat Shurmur said. "From ownership to management to our football operations, we felt it was in

the best interests of the franchise and the player. Obviously, what happened this week, and the refusal to acknowledge the inappropriate and offensive language, was the determining factor."

Moments after being released, Jenkins, a former Pro Bowl cornerback, tweeted: "Best news ever.. Thank you."

10 former NFL players charged in fraud case

WASHINGTON — Ten former NFL players were charged in a multimillion-dollar scheme to defraud the league's health care benefit program by submitting false claims for medical equipment, the Justice Department said Thursday.

The players were charged in two separate indictments filed in federal court in Kentucky,

accusing them of conspiracy, wire fraud and health care fraud.

Those charged include five former players on the Washington Redskins, including Clinton Portis and Carlos Rogers.

Ertz named US Soccer women's player of year

Julie Ertz was named the U.S. Soccer women's Player of the Year on Friday for the second time.

Ertz, a versatile midfielder who also won the award in 2017, was on the U.S. teams that won World Cup championships in 2015 and again last summer in France.

Ertz, 27, was named Young Player of the Year in 2012, has 95 career appearances with the senior U.S. team and started 22 matches this year, most on the team.

LSU's Burrow named AP Player of Year

Associated Press

What figures to be an award-winning week for LSU quarterback Joe Burrow is underway.

Burrow was named The Associated Press college football player of the year presented by Regions Bank on Thursday in a landslide vote, making him the first LSU player to win the 21-year-old award.

Burrow, who has led the top-ranked Tigers to an unbeaten season and their first College Football Playoff appearance, received 51 of 54 first-place votes from AP Top 25 poll voters and a total of 159 points.

Ohio State defensive end Chase Young was second with three first-place votes and 69 points, and Buckeyes quarterback Justin Fields was third with 43 points. Burrow, Young, Fields and Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts, who finished fourth with 33 points, are the

Award winners

Winners of the 2019 college football awards, presented Thursday:

Walter Camp National Player of the Year — Joe Burrow, LSU

Maxwell Award (best all-around player) — Joe Burrow, LSU

Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award — Joe Burrow, LSU

Doak Walker Award (outstanding running back) — Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin

Fred Biletnikoff Award (outstanding receiver) — Ja'Marr Chase, LSU

Chuck Bedarnik Trophy (best defensive player) — Chase Young, Ohio State

Outland Trophy (outstanding collegiate interior lineman) — Penei Sewell, Oregon

Dick Butkus Award (best

linebacker) — Isaiah Simmons, Clemson

Jim Thorpe Award (best defensive back) — Grant Delpit, LSU

Bronko Nagurski (outstanding defensive player) — Chase Young, Ohio State

Lou Groza Award (outstanding place-kicker) — Rodrigo Blankenship, Georgia

John Mackey (best tight end) — Harrison Bryant, Florida Atlantic

Ray Guy Award (best punter) — Max Duffy, Kentucky

Sports Spirit Award — Casey O'Brien, Minnesota

Coach of the Year Award — Ed Orgeron, LSU

NCAA Contribution to College Football Award — Herschel Walker

— Associated Press

finalists for the Heisman Trophy to be handed out Saturday in New York.

Burrow is the overwhelming Heisman favorite after passing for 4,715 yards and a Southeastern Conference record 48 touchdowns. The senior trans-

fer from Ohio State is on pace to set a major college record, completing 77.9% of his passes.

Burrow also won the Walter Camp Player of the Year Award and was up for two more awards Thursday night at the College Football Hall of Fame

in Atlanta. He won the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback of the Year Award, beating out Fields and Hurts, and the Maxwell Award that goes to the nation's best player over Young and Hurts.

The AP player of the year award began in 1998 and only five times has the winner not been the same as the Heisman winner; the last time that happened was in 2015, when Stanford running back Christian McCaffrey won the AP award and Alabama running back Derrick Henry was the Heisman winner.

LSU faces Hurts and No. 4 Oklahoma in the playoff semifinals Dec. 28 at the Peach Bowl. Later that night, Fields, Young and the rest of the second-ranked Buckeyes will play No. 3 Clemson in the other semifinal at the Fiesta Bowl.

US cuts International's lead to three in Presidents Cup

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Justin Thomas delivered the biggest moment for an American team desperate for one Friday in the Presidents Cup.

He holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole, dropped his putter and looked over at his partner — U.S. captain Tiger Woods — and then borrowed a line from ex-NFL receiver Terrell Owens.

"I love me some ME!" Thomas screamed at Woods, who also dropped his putter and moved in for a hard hug.

All the Americans gained was momentum.

The International players are doing so well at this Presidents Cup that they took their largest lead after any session in 16 years, and felt like that was the worst they could do.

Building on a 4-1 lead after the opening session at Royal Melbourne, they quickly won two more matches in foursomes.

Louis Oosthuizen and Adam

Scott rallied from 2 down by winning five of the next seven holes and closed out Dustin Johnson and Matt Kuchar in the opening foursomes match Friday.

Patrick Reed heard it from the crowd again, including shouts of "Patrick Cheat" for his rules violation last week in the Bahamas. Far tougher on Reed and Webb Simpson was the International team of Marc Leishman and Abraham Ancer, who took control on the back nine to win, 3 and 2.

At one point, the board was filled with black-and-gold, the new colors of this inspired International team led by Ernie Els.

It had to settle for a 6½-3½ lead.

Patrick Cantlay and Thomas each birdied the 18th hole to win matches. Gary Woodland and Rickie Fowler rallied from 2 down with three holes to play to earn a halve.

"It's perspective, isn't it?" Els said. "I've got to look at

where we are. It's easy to just look at where we could have been, because it was looking really unbelievable. We tie this afternoon."

Els then considered the Americans have a 50½-22½ advantage in foursomes in winning the last seven times, and maybe it wasn't all that bad.

"We're in a very good position," Els said.

The International team had its largest lead through two sessions since it won at Royal Melbourne in 1998, the only time it has won the Presidents Cup. It also had a three-point lead going into Sunday singles in South Africa in 2003, the year of the tie.

Even so, the Americans felt momentum shifting.

"We dug ourselves out of what could have been a big hole," Thomas said.

The match tied going to the 18th, Thomas drove into light rough on the right, and Woods followed with a great shot that landed near the hole and rolled

out 18 feet. Hideki Matsuyama missed his 25-foot speedy birdie chance, and Thomas had the last putt for the win.

"We were both screaming," Woods said. "It was a phenomenal moment, and it was priceless. So I'm glad we were able to experience it together."

Just as important was Cantlay, whose second shot into the par-5 15th set up birdie to square the match. Xander Schauffele gave him a chance at the winner with an approach into 15 feet on the final hole, and Cantlay delivered.

That was the first point.

The biggest moment belonged to Thomas because it was one more point that got the U.S. team a little bit closer.

"I've been fortunate to make a lot of putts," Thomas said. "But to do it with my captain and teammate was awesome."

Woods tied Phil Mickelson for the record by winning his 26th match in nine Presidents Cup appearances. Mickelson played in 12.

NHL roundup

Fabbri helps Wings halt 12-game skid

Associated Press

DETROIT — Robby Fabbri backhanded a pass toward the slot, and it bounced into the net off the leg of an opposing defenseman.

The following period, Fabbri took a shot from the right circle that was saved by the goalie — before bouncing in, pinball style, off the same unlucky defenseman.

After 12 games without a win, everything was finally breaking right for the Detroit Red Wings.

Fabbri scored twice on those fortuitous caroms, and the Red Wings snapped a 12-game winless streak with a 5-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday night. Both of Fabbri's goals went in off the body of Jets defenseman Neal Pionk.

"Those are some early Christmas gifts there," Fabbri said. "That's what it takes to win. It's not always going to be pretty."

The Red Wings will take a vic-

tory in any fashion after they'd gone 0-10-2 in their previous 12 games and had dropped 10 in a row in regulation. Darren Helm, Filip Zadina and Filip Hronek also scored for Detroit.

Kyle Connor scored twice for the Jets.

Helm opened the scoring on a breakaway after a messy sequence of blunders by Winnipeg defenseman Nathan Beaulieu. First, Beaulieu let the puck get past him at the Detroit blue line. Then, after chasing it down in the neutral zone, he let the puck slip away from his control — right into the path of Helm.

While trying to recover, Beaulieu skated right into linesman Greg Devorski, and at that point, Helm was gone. He beat goalie Connor Hellebuyck with a wrist shot to make it 1-0.

"It bounced over my stick, and I fumbled it again, and then I ran into the linesman," Beaulieu said. "It's probably my fault. I'll take that — I'll take ownership for that."

Lightning 3, Bruins 2: Ste-

ven Stamkos had two goals to extend his recent tear and host Tampa Bay beat suddenly slumping Boston.

Islanders 3, Panthers 1: Devon Toews and Mathew Barzal had power-play goals in a 3:51 span early in the second period and Thomas Greiss made 32 saves to help visiting New York beat Florida.

Penguins 1, Blue Jackets 0 (OT): Bryan Rust scored a power-play goal at 3:02 of overtime and host Pittsburgh beat Columbus.

Sabres 4, Predators 3: Jack Eichel had two goals and extended his NHL-leading point streak to 15 games, Victor Oloffson scored in the third period, and host Buffalo beat Nashville.

Blues 4, Golden Knights 2: Oskar Sundqvist had a goal and an assist as host St. Louis beat Vegas.

Wild 6, Oilers 5: Eric Staal scored the go-ahead goal with 4:47 remaining in the third period, Ryan Donato scored for the third straight game and host

Minnesota topped Edmonton.

Flames 4, Maple Leafs 2: Johnny Gaudreau had his first two-goal game of the season and host Calgary scored three goals in the first three minutes of the third period, rallying to beat Toronto.

Coyotes 5, Blackhawks 2: Clayton Keller scored twice and Pacific Division-leading Arizona beat visiting Chicago.

Kings 2, Ducks 1: Jeff Carter and Matt Luff scored, Jonathan Quick made 36 saves and visiting Los Angeles snapped its 11-game road winless skid, beating Anaheim in the second Freeway Faceoff of the season.

Canucks 1, Hurricanes 0 (OT): Elias Pettersson scored 40 seconds into overtime for his 100th NHL point and host Vancouver edged Carolina.

Rangers 6, Sharks 3: Mika Zibanejad scored the tying and go-ahead goals in less than five minutes during the third period and visiting New York spoiled interim coach Bob Boughner's debut with San Jose.

NBA roundup

Embiid's season-high 38 points lead Sixers by Celtics

Associated Press

BOSTON — Joel Embiid answered the criticism from a couple of Hall of Famers in the most productive way possible.

After Shaquille O'Neal and Charles Barkley said Embiid wasn't playing up to his potential, the 76ers center conceded that they were probably right. Then he produced one of his best games of the year: a season-high 38 points along with 13 rebounds in a 115-109 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

"All of the stuff he has been dealing with he handled like an adult, with humility. And he responded in a dramatic way,"

Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said. "He was dominant, was a leader and [had] one of his best games as a Sixer."

Embiid scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, hitting five of six free throws in the final 26 seconds after Boston scored seven straight points to erase most of a nine-point deficit.

Mavericks 122, Pistons 111: At Mexico City, Luka Doncic scored 41 points and had his eighth triple-double of the season, Seth Curry added a season-high 30 points and Dallas beat Detroit in the opener of the NBA Mexico Games.

Doncic finished with 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Mavericks. They are 17-7, their

best 24-game start since posting the same mark at this point of the 2014-15 season.

Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Cavaliers 117, Spurs 109 (OT): Kevin Love hit a tying three-pointer in the final seconds of regulation and finished with 30 points and 17 rebounds as visiting Cleveland rallied past San Antonio in overtime to stop an eight-game losing streak.

Love had 10 points in the fourth quarter and OT to help Cleveland win for the first time since Nov. 23 against Portland.

It was San Antonio's third straight overtime game. The

Spurs won the previous two but failed to maintain a five-point lead with 20 seconds left in the fourth quarter this time.

Nuggets 114, Trail Blazers 99: Nikola Jokic and Jerami Grant scored 20 points apiece and host Denver overcame a career-high 33 by Hassan Whiteside to beat Portland.

Gary Harris and Will Barton each added 15 points for the Nuggets, who ended a three-game slide.

Carmelo Anthony, who spent the first 7½ years of his career in Denver, received a warm reception from the crowd during pregame introductions. He had 20 points for Portland, and CJ McCollum added 15.