

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Battle of Bulge vets honored in Belgium

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL

*Stars and Stripes*

ST. VITH, Belgium — Dozens of American veterans in their 90s returned Sunday, probably for the last time, to the village in eastern Belgium where they fought in the Battle of the Bulge 75 years ago for ceremonies to honor them.

Herb Sheaner, who was 19 when he fought here in December 1944, helped dedicate a monument in St. Vith to the thousands of soldiers like him who were captured by Nazi troops in the opening days of the turning-point battle, which has been called one of America's greatest during World War II.

"I was two years out of high school. At that age, you want to feel good," Sheaner said at the dedication ceremony in a small park on the banks of the Our River.

Instead, Sheaner was one of thousands of American troops taken prisoner by the Germans in one of the largest mass American surrenders since the Civil War.

Sheaner was an infantryman in the 106th Infantry Division,

which had deployed to the St. Vith area near Belgium's border with Germany less than a week before the Germans launched their last major offensive on the Western Front on Dec. 16, 1944.

Made up mainly of inexperienced soldiers with little training, the 106th "ended up absorbing the central load of the German attack," said Doug Mitchell, a former Marine who was one of the driving forces behind the prisoner of war monument.

"The Germans were going to put artillery on us and we couldn't do anything about it," Sheaner said. "We had no defense. We hadn't eaten for five days. So we surrendered."

Days earlier, Lt. Lyle Bouck had celebrated his 21st birthday "shoring up his injured men in the cafe in Lanzerath," a village near St. Vith, his daughter, Diane, from Colorado, said as she waited for a ceremony to begin at another monument to allied soldiers who fought in and around St. Vith.

After holding off 500 Germans for 20 hours on the first

day of the battle, Bouck and his unit of 18 men from a reconnaissance platoon attached to the 99th Infantry Division, plus three forward artillery observers, were taken prisoner by the Germans. A fourth artillery observer was the only American who died in the fighting. Bouck's men killed 92 Germans.

Bouck's unit and many of the other Americans who were captured by the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge survived the POW camps, "despite enduring the most severe circumstances," St. Vith Mayor Herbert Grommes said in a speech at the POW memorial.

"The intent of this memorial is to keep the memory of these brave men alive so that we never forget that the price of peace and freedom is very high," Grommes said.

St. Vith "is where the Bulge broke when the Germans overran the town and captured 8,000 Americans from the 106th," said Andy Biggio, a Marine who brought 17 veterans, many of them in wheelchairs, from the U.S. to Belgium to mark the

anniversary of the start of the landmark battle.

After flowers were laid at the base of the memorial and the speeches drew to a close, the elderly veterans, bundled up against the cold and bitter wind, saluted and sang softly as a brass quartet played "The Star Spangled Banner."

The group of veterans who make the trip to Belgium for the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge is expected to be far smaller than the 80 who came this year, said former Marine Scott Huesing, who served in Afghanistan and accompanied the elderly veterans along with Biggio.

"We have to be honest about their and our mortality," he said. "There probably won't be an 80-year commemoration with the veterans."

"But the constant in war is the people," Huesing added. "The Belgians want to keep the memory of these men alive. In my war, ... in these 95-year-old men's war, we remember the people, the children and to have a reunion with them all these years later is remarkable."

## No charges filed against pilot in Osprey crash

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Prosecutors on Okinawa declined last week to charge a Marine helicopter pilot found to be at fault for an MV-22 Osprey crash off Okinawa in 2016.

The Naha District Public Prosecutors Office dismissed the case against the unnamed pilot Wednesday, a spokesman from the Nakagusuku Coast Guard Office told Stars and

Stripes on Thursday, without providing further details.

Some government officials in Japan customarily speak on condition of anonymity.

The crash occurred Dec. 13, 2016, during nighttime aerial refueling after one of the helicopter-airplane hybrid's propellers clipped a thick hose on an Air Force C-130 tanker, officials said at the time. The pilot was able to limp 18 miles back to Okinawa and put the tiltrotor aircraft down into the sea rather than fly over a residen-

tial area to reach Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

A charge of negligence resulting in an aircraft crash, under Japanese aviation law, was referred to prosecutors by the Nakagusuku Coast Guard Office on Sept. 24. The pilot faced three years in prison or up to \$1,863 in fines.

The pilot was spared prosecution thanks to the status of forces agreement between the countries, which gave jurisdiction for punishment to the U.S. military because the pilot was

on duty at the time of the crash, the Mainichi newspaper reported Wednesday. U.S. officials reportedly told the government of Japan in September that the pilot had been disciplined.

Officials from the prosecutor's office did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment Thursday. Officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Defense Ministry on the island, declined to comment.

# Officials: US ignored Afghanistan corruption

*The Washington Post*

About halfway into the 18-year war, Afghans stopped hiding how corrupt their country had become.

Dark money sloshed all around. Afghanistan's largest bank liquefied into a cesspool of fraud. Travelers lugged suitcases loaded with \$1 million, or more, on flights leaving Kabul.

Mansions known as "poppy palaces" rose from the rubble to house opium kingpins.

President Hamid Karzai won reelection after cronies stuffed thousands of ballot boxes. He later admitted the CIA had delivered bags of cash to his office for years, calling it "nothing unusual."

In public, as President Barack Obama escalated the war and Congress approved billions of additional dollars in support, the commander in chief and lawmakers promised to crack down on corruption and to hold crooked Afghans accountable.

In reality, U.S. officials backed off, looked away and let the thievery become more entrenched than ever, according to a trove of confidential government interviews obtained by *The Washington Post*.

In the interviews, key figures in the war said Washington tolerated the worst offenders — warlords, drug traffickers, defense contractors — because they were allies of the U.S.

But they said the U.S. government failed to confront a more distressing reality — that it was responsible for fueling the corruption, by doling out vast sums of money with limited foresight or regard for the consequences.

The scale of the corruption was the unintended result of swamping the war zone with far more aid and defense contracts than impoverished Afghanistan could absorb. There was so much excess, financed by American taxpayers, that opportunities for bribery and fraud became almost limitless, according to the interviews.

## Warlords and wealth

To purchase loyalty and information, the CIA gave cash to warlords, governors, parliamentarians, even religious leaders, according to the interviews. The U.S. military and other agencies also abetted corruption by doling out payments or contracts to unsavory Afghan power brokers in a misguided quest for stability.

Gert Berthold, a forensic accountant who served on a military task force in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2012, said he helped analyze 3,000 Defense Department contracts worth \$106 billion to see who was benefiting.

The conclusion: About 40% of the money ended up in the pockets of insurgents, criminal syndicates or corrupt Afghan officials.

"And it was often a higher percent," Berthold told government interviewers. "We talked with many former (Afghan) ministers, and they told us, you're underestimating it."

The interviews were conducted between 2014 and 2018 by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR. The agency was created by Congress to investigate fraud and waste, but it used the interviews for a special project, titled "Lessons Learned," to diagnose policy failures from the war.

According to the interviews, the CIA, the U.S. military, the State Department and other agencies used cash and lucrative contracts to win the allegiance of Afghan warlords in the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban. Intended as a short-term tactic, the practice ended up binding the United States to some of the country's most notorious figures for years.

Among them was Mohammed Qasim Fahim Khan, a Tajik militia commander. As leader of the Northern Alliance, Fahim Khan played a critical role in helping the United States topple the Taliban in 2001. He served as Afghanistan's defense minister from 2001 to 2004 and later as the country's first vice president — despite a reputation for brutality and graft.

In a "Lessons Learned" interview, Ryan Crocker, who twice served as the top U.S. diplomat in Kabul, said he held no illusions about Fahim Khan. He recalled a bloodcurdling encounter with the defense minister in early 2002 when Fahim Khan nonchalantly informed him that another Afghan government minister had been murdered.

"He giggled while he related this," Crocker said. "Later, much later, it emerged, I don't know if it was ever verified or not, it emerged that Khan himself had the minister killed. But I certainly came out of those opening months with the feeling that even by Afghan standards, I was in the presence of a totally evil person."

Even so, the Bush administration treated Fahim Khan — who died of natural causes in 2014 — as a VIP and once welcomed him to the Pentagon with an honor cordon.

Details of exactly how much money he and other warlords pocketed from the United States remain secret. But confidential documents show the payouts were discussed at the highest levels of government.

One warlord who was both loved and hated by U.S. officials was Sher Mohammad Akhundzada, the governor of Helmand province from 2001 to 2005. Dubbed "SMA" by

Americans, he was renowned for ruthlessly enforcing order.

In 2005, U.S. and Afghan narcotics agents raided Akhundzada's offices and found nine tons of opium. He denied wrongdoing. But under international pressure, he was removed as governor.

With the absence of Akhundzada's iron hand, the province became a magnet for insurgents, and its drug-trafficking problem exploded. Some U.S. officials came to regret his departure.

## Obama era

After Obama took office in 2009, Pentagon officials persuaded him to expand the war, deploy 100,000 U.S. troops and adopt a counterinsurgency strategy.

The objective was to choke off popular support for the Taliban by protecting civilians and building trust in the Afghan government.

Belatedly, U.S. military commanders started a campaign to root out corruption and clean up the Afghan government. The awakening frustrated many U.S. civilian officials who felt the uniformed brass had downplayed the problem since the start of the war.

"It was like they just discovered something new about the pernicious effects of corruption," an unnamed White House staffer said in a "Lessons Learned" interview.

Kabul Bank, the country's biggest, nearly collapsed under the weight of \$1 billion in fraudulent loans. Investigators soon determined Kabul Bank had falsified its books to hide hundreds of millions of dollars in unsecured loans to politically connected business executives, including the president's brother Mahmoud Karzai and the family of Fahim Khan.

For about a year after the scandal became public, the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, led by then-Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, made the case a top priority and pressed Karzai to take action, three former officials told government interviewers. But they said the embassy backed off after Eikenberry was replaced by Crocker in July 2011.

"I was struck by something Karzai said and repeated a number of times during my tenure, which is that the West, led by the U.S., in his clear view, had a significant responsibility to bear for the whole corruption issue," Crocker said.

"I always thought Karzai had a point, that you just cannot put those amounts of money into a very fragile state and society, and not have it fuel corruption."

# How Brexit could affect US troops

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The Conservative win in Thursday's elections all but assured that the United Kingdom will exit the European Union, a move that will have myriad effects on the thousands of U.S. service members and others stationed at military bases in Britain.

Many of the effects depend on whether Britain and the EU strike a deal, and to what extent an agreement keeps trade and movement flowing. A "no-deal" Brexit would create greater uncertainty.

Everything from the food Americans eat to their utility bills and the price of medicines off-base is likely to be affected by Brexit, whatever form it ends up taking, experts say.

## Food supplies

With about 30% of all food in the U.K. imported from the EU, fresh food prices could rise post-Brexit if tariffs are charged and the value of the British pound falls. Supply chains could also slow as each side determines controls at ports of entry.

The pound is expected to fall against the euro and dollar in the event of a no-deal Brexit, and may fall even with a deal.

Only around 10% of the fresh produce bought and consumed at bases housing the U.S. military comes from the EU. If fresh food costs rise, the impact on what U.S. consumers pay on base is likely to be minimal, said Defense Commissary Agency spokesman Richard Brink.

## Health and medicine

The 48th Medical Group, which serves more than 35,000 American service members and their families throughout Britain and Norway, gets some medicines from U.K. providers, 48th Fighter Wing spokeswoman Capt. Miranda Simmons said in an email.

But a secure supply and vendor chain has been established "that will ensure no breaks in supply," said Col. Thomas Stamp, 48th Medical Group commander.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service also "anticipates no changes to product assortment and expects no disruption to its supply chain" of over-the-counter medication,

AAFES spokeswoman Julie Mitchell said in an email.

Prices of medications purchased off base will depend on the drug manufacturers, said John Smith, chief executive for PAGB, a trade group representing over-the-counter drug producers.

## Currency fluctuations

The pound rose more than 2.5% against the dollar after the election handed the Conservatives a solid majority in Parliament.

"We do see the potential for further gains to be made over the coming hours and days as global financial markets cheered the prospect of political stability returning to the U.K.," said the Pound Live, an independent website.

A strong pound means American purchasing power off base would be reduced, but could also mean an increase in military cost-of-living adjustments.

When Brexit happens, which is still unclear, the impact on the exchange rate may be very different.

"Following Brexit, we can expect a drop in the value of the pound as a result of the lower confidence of foreign inves-

tors for the economic prospects of the U.K.," said Riccardo Crescenzi, a professor at the London School of Economics.

## Housing costs

What service members pay for their rent is unlikely to be affected because it is "based on a signed lease agreement not to exceed the rental allowance," Simmons said.

But service members may see higher energy bills.

## Pet travel

A no-deal Brexit will make it more difficult for service members to travel to continental Europe with pets because their EU pet passports issued in the U.K. will be invalidated, U.K. government websites say. That could lead to longer wait times to see veterinarians.

Brexit could mean delays of up to four months for anyone hoping to travel with their pets, the U.K. government site about Brexit says.

RAF Feltwell Veterinary Treatment Facility advised personnel on social media to check the British government's "Pet travel to Europe after Brexit" webpage.

# Wahlberg brothers visit base ahead of restaurant opening

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Actor Mark Wahlberg and his brother, Paul Wahlberg, a chef, thrilled thousands of service members and their families Sunday during a visit to celebrate the upcoming opening of their Wahlburgers restaurant.

The fast-casual burger joint is slated to open around the second week in January, the brothers said. It's replacing Johnny Rockets and will be the first Wahlburgers at a U.S. military base.

Mark Wahlberg, one of the highest-paid actors in Holly-

wood, was the big draw. Many in the crowd vied to get selfies with him and autographs.

"It truly is an honor for us to be here and provide this experience for you guys," Mark Wahlberg told the crowd.

The actor arrived around 4:30 p.m., but the food court began filling before noon for the event.

"I just want to say 'thank you' from the bottom of my heart," he said. "You guys make the ultimate sacrifice and I really appreciate that."

Military spouses Kristy Valentin and Jennifer Spitznogle brought white Calvin Klein underwear for Mark Wahlberg to sign. Wahlberg used to famous-

ly model the underwear.

"He's just so handsome, Spitznogle said.

Samples of some of the Wahlburgers menu items were passed out, including a turkey burger and a hamburger with bacon.

Paul Wahlberg said the Ramstein location will start with a smaller menu than at the stateside locations while they learn how to work in a smaller space and procure ingredients overseas.

"It's counter service, not a full-service restaurant, so you come up and put your order in," Paul Wahlberg said. "The restaurant will have some dining space and a beer and wine

license, he said.

The restaurant is a partnership with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Col. Scott McFarland, AAFES Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia commander, said the exchange is looking at adding another Wahlburgers in Europe, with the location to be announced.

Paul, Mark and a third brother, actor Donnie Wahlberg, founded Wahlburgers. The first location opened in 2011 outside Boston. Mark said Donnie was in New York working but he would be visiting the Ramstein location soon.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., is also getting a Wahlburgers in early 2020.

# Impeachment vote highlights heavily divisive partisan era

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This week's virtually certain House impeachment of President Donald Trump will underscore how Democrats and Republicans have morphed into fiercely divided camps since lawmakers impeached President Bill Clinton.

Twenty-one years ago this Thursday, a Republican-led House approved two impeachment articles against Democrat Clinton. While that battle was bitterly partisan, it was blurrier than the near party-line votes expected this week when the House, now run by Democrats, is poised to impeach Republican Trump.

Two of the four Clinton impeachment articles were killed — something party leaders today would jump through hoops to avoid for fear of highlighting divisions. All four Clinton articles drew GOP opposition, peaking at 81 on one vote. That's an unthinkable number of defections today.

"Obviously it was partisan, but it wasn't as intensely parti-

san as today is," said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., one of four Republicans who opposed all the Clinton impeachment articles and the last remaining member of that group in Congress.

In the upcoming votes on impeaching Trump, Democrats expect support from all but a few of their members. Republican leaders envision no GOP desertions.

Underscoring the intensity of the partisanship, Rep. Jeff Van Drew, of New Jersey, one of the Democrats planning to oppose impeachment, intends to switch parties and join the GOP.

Few defections are expected by either party when the GOP-run Senate holds a trial, probably in January, on whether to oust Trump from office. No one expects Democrats to muster the two-thirds Senate majority needed for removal.

Most Democrats were dismissive of the GOP's impeachment charges that Clinton lied to a grand jury and others about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Clinton was a lame duck but widely popular president who

was presiding over a booming economy, and polling showed that impeachment had little support. That gave Democrats little reason to back the effort to remove him and made many Republicans think twice about backing impeachment.

Back then, each party had scores of moderate lawmakers who would cross party lines on issues such as abortion, taxes and spending.

Former Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, was chief House GOP vote counter in 1998 and was known for his effectiveness in lining up support.

DeLay said party leaders "cannot break arms" on an impeachment vote because it is too important. That echoes current Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who has said she's not lobbying Democrats on the upcoming Trump votes.

"I knew where the votes were all along, and why they were wavering and why they were struggling," DeLay said. "The questions they had, we wanted to make sure that we got answers for them."

## Hand sign at Army-Navy game probed

The Washington Post

Officials at the Army and Navy academies are investigating whether hand signs flashed by students standing behind a reporter during a TV interview were intended to convey a message of white supremacy.

The incident involved two West Point cadets and one Naval Academy midshipman who were behind ESPN's Rece Davis as he reported on the sideline before the annual rivalry game Saturday in Philadelphia.

"West Point is looking into the matter," Lt. Col. Chris Ophardt told The Post in an email. "At this time, we do not know the intent of the cadets."

Commander Alana Garas, a spokesperson for the Naval Academy, said in a statement to The Associated Press, "We are aware and will be looking into it."

The gesture, which is open to interpretation, resembles the common one used to indicate "OK," but with the hand pointing downward. In September, it was moved from a trolling gesture to a hate symbol by the Anti-Defamation League, which maintains a database of hate symbols. In doing so, the ADL was careful to note on its website that the gesture has multiple messages.

"The overwhelming usage of the 'okay' hand gesture today is still its traditional purpose as a gesture signifying assent or approval ...," the ADL post reads. "As a result, someone who uses the symbol cannot be assumed to be using the symbol in either a trolling or, especially, white supremacist context unless other contextual evidence exists to support the contention."

Since 2017, many people have been falsely accused of being racist or white supremacist for using the 'okay' gesture in its traditional and innocuous sense.

## No carbon plan after longest UN climate talk

Associated Press

MADRID — Marathon international climate talks ended Sunday with negotiators postponing until next year a key decision on how to regulate global carbon markets.

After two weeks of negotiations in Madrid on tackling global warming, delegates from almost 200 nations passed declarations calling for greater ambition in cutting planet-heating greenhouse gases and in helping poor countries that are suffering the effects of climate change.

But despite holding the longest climate talks ever in 25 nearly annual editions they left

one of the thorniest issues for the next summit in Glasgow, in a year's time.

Carbon markets put a price on emission of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and allows countries or companies to trade emissions permits that can be steadily reduced — encouraging the uptake of low-emission technologies.

Countries from Europe and elsewhere had said that no deal on how to govern the exchange of carbon credits was better than a weak one that could undermine a dozen or so existing regional carbon mechanisms.

The talks have been accompanied at times by angry protests from indigenous and

environmental groups, both inside and outside the venue. The demonstrations reflected growing frustration, particularly among young people, at the slow pace of government efforts to curb climate change.

Among the documents that the U.N. meeting passed Sunday was the "Chile-Madrid Time for Action" declaration calling on countries to improve their current pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is needed to come in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement target of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Student is injured while lighting bullets

**VA** NORFOLK — A student lit one or more bullets he was holding in his hand in a Virginia high school classroom, causing a minor explosion and requiring treatment for his injuries, a school system spokeswoman said.

Norfolk Public Schools spokeswoman Barbara M. Hunter told news outlets that the incident occurred in a science class at Maury High School.

Hunter said the student was treated by a nurse before he was taken to a local hospital.

## 141-year-old fruitcake is a family's heirloom

**MI** TECUMSEH — Some families pass down jewelry, watches or even recipes. A Michigan family has its own heirloom: a 141-year-old fruitcake.

"It was tradition. It's a legacy," said Julie Ruttinger, the great-great-granddaughter of Fidelia Ford, who baked the cake in 1878.

The cake was initially preserved to honor Ford. She established a tradition of baking the cake and letting it age for a year before serving it during holiday seasons. Ford died before her 1878 cake could be eaten, and the family considered her handiwork a legacy.

The cake was in the care of Ruttinger's father, Morgan Ford, Fidelia Ford's great-grandson, until his death.

## Stolen chicken returned to students

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A school chicken stolen from a New Mexico elementary's coop was returned

unharmed.

KOB-TV reported the chicken, Polka Dot, was returned to the students of Hodgin Elementary School in Albuquerque after a man saw a story about the stolen bird.

The man said some students gave him the chicken because he is known to take care of the birds. Polka Dot had been taken from the school the previous weekend.

## Wandering trio to be featured in Nativity

**KS** GODDARD — A camel, cow and donkey that were found roaming together along a Kansas road were booked to appear in a Christmas Nativity scene.

The trio were the celebrity guests during a holiday event at the Tanganyika Wildlife Park, The Wichita Eagle reported.

Sully the camel, Gus the donkey and Rufus the cow made headlines last month when the Goddard Police Department asked for help in a Facebook post locating the owners of the "three friends traveling together (towards a Northern star)."

Law enforcement later determined that they belonged to an employee of the wildlife park.

## \$2M in stolen goods recovered

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco authorities recovered about \$2 million in suspected stolen electronics and clothing during a bust of what they called a sophisticated fencing operation, the district attorney's office said.

Interim District Attorney Suzy Loftus said in a statement that organized fencing operations are fueling San Francisco's notoriously high property crime rate and that disrupting the market for stolen goods

should reduce the incentive to steal.

Authorities collected electronics with serial numbers removed, as well as \$750,000 worth of tagged clothing items. The items appear to have been stolen from retail stores and through auto burglaries and package theft.

## Duck dating ad could help lonely waterfowl

**ME** BLUE HILL — There's no Tinder for waterfowl, but that didn't stop a Maine bird owner from trying to find a match for a mourning duckling.

One of Chris Morris' ducks, Yellow Duck, lost its mate to a hungry bobcat. Morris, 31, drew up a singles ad for Yellow Duck and placed it on a community bulletin board at a local grocery store.

The Bangor Daily News reported farm owner Sadie Greene might have just the duck to mend Yellow Duck's broken heart. Greene and Morris were arranging a meeting for the ducks.

## Police charge 5 in shoplifting plot

**KY** ELIZABETHTOWN — Authorities in Kentucky charged five Illinois women in a \$25,000 shoplifting scheme they said stretches from Illinois to Georgia.

Each woman was charged with offenses including engaging in organized crime, news outlets reported. The women were arrested after two of them stole more than \$1,500 worth of items from a local Kroger, Elizabethtown police said.

A security guard tried to stop the women, who fled into an awaiting van that had a temporary Illinois license plate, police said. The van was stopped

nearby, and officers said it was filled with stolen merchandise.

## 'Grinch' gets in way of holiday pedestrians

**NY** NEW YORK — Call him the Grinch who blocked traffic.

Police issued a summons to a man dressed as Dr. Seuss' famed yuletide killjoy for getting in the way of pedestrians flocking to the Christmas tree at New York City's Rockefeller Center.

Police also gave criminal court summonses to men dressed as Marvel superheroes Spider-Man and Captain America.

It's common to see people dressed as famous characters posing for photographs and collecting tips in nearby Times Square, where city rules limit them to operating in certain zones.

Those rules don't apply to Rockefeller Center. There, police say, no one is allowed to block pedestrians or cars.

## Food bank scrambles to get eggs to needy

**PA** BLOOMSBURG — A farm that supplies vaccine manufacturers is donating nearly 100,000 surplus eggs to a central Pennsylvania food bank that's scrambling to get them to needy families.

The Bloomsburg Press Enterprise reported that the eggs are too small or too large for the drug-making process so they are going to help families in Columbia and Montour counties.

A charity picked up about 8,000 dozen eggs, driving them away in a box truck. Only about 100 were broken in the one-hour journey.

From wire reports

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and Military News

# Perry gives Navy a rush in win over Army

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo wrapped Malcolm Perry tighter than an Army defense could muster for an embrace that served as a bit of an apology.

Perry had done it all for Navy in a 31-7 victory Saturday that earned him MVP honors in the 120th game between the service academies. Perry became the fourth quarterback in FBS history to rush for 300 yards, running for 304 yards with two touchdowns, and set a slew of program records.

It forced Niumatalolo to go on TV and issue a mea culpa: “I’m a bad coach. How did I bench him last year?”

Perry’s biggest number? For the senior it was one, as in, the first time he led the No. 21 Midshipmen past Army. “This was the biggest game I’ve played in my life,” Perry said. “We didn’t win the last three games. But that makes this even more sweet.”

Navy (10-2, No. 23, CFP) used a trick play to help reverse a rare losing streak

against Army and won the Commander In Chief’s Trophy for the 16th time.

Navy leads the series 61-52-7. The Black Knights (5-8) were trying to win four straight games in the Army-Navy series for the first time since 1993 to 1996.

Perry, the 5-foot-9, 190-pound senior quarterback, helped the fleet-of-foot Navy offense run away with the game. He ran for a 55-yard TD in the first half, added a 44-yard scamper and set Navy season records in yards rushing and total 100-yard games.

“We wanted to open up the box. The last few years, we played in a phone booth,” Niumatalolo said. “We didn’t want to play that way. We wanted to spread things out and let Malcolm’s talent take over.”

But Perry’s role in Navy’s most GIF-worthy play didn’t end up with his name on the scoring sheet.

Perry took the snap at the 1-yard line, ran to his left and handed off the ball to receiver Chance Warren, who threw to Jamale Carothers for the score and a 14-7 lead. It was Navy’s twist on the Philly Spe-

cial — the Naval Special? — at the home of the Philadelphia Eagles.

It was Navy’s only yard passing of the game.

Perry, who ran 29 times, did not attempt a pass and Army surprise starter Christian Anderson threw just two times. There was more running at Lincoln Financial Field than at the Penn Relays held down the road each spring.

Anderson wasn’t even listed on the two-deep depth chart and got the call over Kelvin Hopkins Jr. Hopkins had two rushing touchdowns last year in Army’s 17-10 win over Navy and curiously played only mop-time in Saturday’s loss. Anderson sparked the Black Knights on the game’s methodical 10-minute, 41-second opening drive, scoring on a 5-yard run.

Army coach Jeff Monken said Hopkins had a pulled hamstring and only practiced once this week.

“He wasn’t going to be able to just turn it on and open up,” Monken said.

# LSU’s Burrow wins Heisman in record landslide

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Born into a family of Cornhuskers and raised in the Buckeye state, Joe Burrow left his roots behind and became a Heisman Trophy winner at LSU.

The quarterback won the Heisman on Saturday night in a record-breaking landslide, becoming the first LSU player to bring college football’s most prestigious award back to Baton Rouge, La., in 60 years.

Burrow received 2,608 points and 841 first-place votes, a record 90.7% of all the first-place votes available. Burrow also set a record for percentage of points available received with 93.8, breaking the mark of 91.6% set by Troy Smith of Ohio State in 2006. Burrow was named on 95.5% of all ballots, breaking the record of 95.2% set by Oregon’s Marcus Mariota in 2014.

Burrow’s margin of victory of 1,846 broke the record of 1,750 set by O.J. Simpson of Southern California in 1968.

Oklahoma quarterback

Jalen Hurts was second with 762 points. Quarterback Justin Fields of Ohio State was third and defensive end Chase Young of Ohio State was fourth.

Burrow transferred last year to LSU from Ohio State, where he was a sparingly used reserve. After finishing strongly for the Tigers in 2018, he broke out this season, setting a Southeastern Conference record with 48 touchdown passes and leading top-ranked LSU (13-0) to its first College Football Playoff appearance.

Burrow’s victory was a foregone conclusion, but after he was announced as the winner it still overwhelmed him.

“That’s the most I’ve cried in 23 years of living,” Burrow said later.

After hugging his parents and coaches, Burrow made his way to the stage inside the PlayStation Theater in Times Square. He started his acceptance speech, stopped and took 23 seconds to compose himself before rattling off the names of LSU’s other offensive players.

“All my teammates have sup-

ported me, welcomed me with open arms. Kid from Ohio, come down to the Bayou, and welcomed me as brothers,” Burrow said, with about two dozen former Heisman winners standing behind him on stage.

“What a special moment,” LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. “I thought Joe handled everything first class. It’s the first time I’ve seen him get that emotional.”

The Tigers will face No. 4 Oklahoma and Hurts on Dec. 28 at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta.

“I’m ready to get back to Baton Rouge and start practice on Monday,” Burrow said.

Burrow, a senior, blended perfectly with first-year LSU passing game coordinator Joe Brady and produced the most prolific offense in school history. Playing in a version of the offense Drew Brees runs for the New Orleans Saints, Burrow has shown accuracy and quick decision-making similar to his childhood idol. With at least one game left, Burrow has passed for 4,715 yards and is completing 77.9% percent of his

passes, on pace to set an NCAA record.

The kid who grew up thinking he might play college basketball has blossomed into the possible first overall pick in April’s NFL draft, and LSU’s second Heisman winner.

Halfback Billy Cannon won the Heisman for LSU in 1959. The 60-year gap between Heisman victories for LSU is the largest for any school with multiple winners.

Burrow is the 17th quarterback to win the Heisman since 2000, and the third straight QB to win the award after transferring, joining Oklahoma’s Baker Mayfield (2017) and Kyler Murray (2018).

Burrow’s dad, Jimmy Burrow, was a longtime college football coach, who played at Nebraska. He spent the last 14 years of his career as defensive coordinator at the Ohio University in Athens before retiring to spend his weekends watching his son play.

“It’s been a dream season for him as well,” Burrow said.

## NBA roundup

## Spurs outlast Suns in record 4th straight OT

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Patty Milly made a jumper from the free throw line with 0.3 seconds left in the San Antonio Spurs' record-setting fourth consecutive overtime game, and they outlasted the Phoenix Suns 121-119 on Saturday.

The NBA record book shows 20 instances of teams playing three straight overtime games — but never four straight, like the Spurs have. They're 3-1 in those games, their best stretch since opening the season 4-1.

**Bucks 125, Cavaliers 108:** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and Khris Middleton had 24 to lead host Milwaukee to its 18th consecutive victory.

The Bucks have won 22 of their last 23 and improved to 24-3, a half-game ahead of the idle Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the league. Milwaukee has not lost since Nov. 8 at Utah.

**Heat 122, Mavericks 118 (OT):** Luka Doncic left early with a sprained ankle and

Dallas rallied from 24 points down without its young star before falling to Miami in overtime.

Doncic's right foot landed on the foot of Heat guard Kendrick Nunn on a drive less than two minutes into the game.

Bam Adebayo put Miami in front for good on a put-back dunk with 1:15 remaining in overtime and finished with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double in three games.

**Raptors 110, Nets 102:** Pascal Siakam scored 30 points, Marc Gasol set season highs with 17 points and 15 rebounds and Toronto beat Brooklyn to snap a three-game home losing streak.

**Pistons 115, Rockets 107:** Luke Kennard scored 22 points, Derrick Rose added 20 off the bench and visiting Detroit beat Houston.

James Harden led the Rockets with 39 points after two straight 50-point games, but it wasn't enough to keep Houston's winning streak going on a night Russell West-

brook sat out to rest. Harden played 38½ minutes, but was taken out with 1:23 left and didn't return.

**Bulls 109, Clippers 106:** Zach LaVine scored 31 points and converted a decisive three-point play with 2 seconds left in host Chicago's victory over short-handed and weary Los Angeles.

The Clippers' Paul George missed a three-pointer at the buzzer. Harrell had 30 points and George had 27 for Los Angeles, playing for the third time in four days at the end of a six-game trip.

**Nuggets 110, Thunder 102:** Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season, leading Denver past visiting Oklahoma City.

Jokic has 32 regular-season triple-doubles to tie Rajon Rondo for 11th all-time.

**Grizzlies 128, Wizards 111:** Dillon Brooks scored 27 points, rookie Brandon Clarke added 25 and host Memphis sent Washington to its fourth straight loss.

## College basketball roundup

## Pritchard leads No. 10 Oregon past No. 5 Michigan in overtime

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Payton Pritchard scored 19 of his 23 points after halftime, and No. 10 Oregon edged No. 5 Michigan 71-70 in overtime.

In a stellar matchup of senior point guards, Pritchard was just a little bit better, repeatedly driving past the Wolverines' Xavier Simpson toward the end of the second half and in overtime. Simpson had eight points and 11 assists, but Michigan (8-3) lost its second straight game.

**No. 13 Memphis 51, No. 19 Tennessee 47:** Damion Baugh sank a three-pointer with 1:43 remaining and the Tigers snapped the Volunteers' 31-game home winning streak.

Tennessee (7-2) had owned the longest active home winning streak of any Division I team. The Vols hadn't lost at home since falling to Auburn 94-84 on Jan. 2, 2018.

**No. 1 Louisville 99, Eastern Kentucky 67:** Jordan Nwora scored 26 points, Steven Enoch had 23 and the host Cardinals shot 63% in both halves.

**No. 2 Kansas 98, Kansas City 57:** David McCormack scored a career-high 28 points, Devon Dotson added 18 and the

Jayhawks won on the road in its annual Jayhawk Shootout.

Marcus Garrett added 13 points for Kansas (9-1), which shrugged off a slow start to beat its neighbors from down Interstate 70 for the eighth time in as many meetings. The Jayhawks led 43-24 at halftime.

**No. 6 Gonzaga 84, No. 15 Arizona 80:** Corey Kispert scored 18 points, Filip Petrushev added 16 and the visiting Zags withstood the Wildcats' furious late rally.

**No. 8 Kentucky 67, Georgia Tech 53:** Ashton Hagans scored 21 points to lead the host Wildcats past the Rambling Wreck.

**No. 12 Auburn 67, Saint Louis 61:** J'Von McCormick scored 20 points, freshman Isaac Okoro added 12 and the Tigers improved to 9-0, beating the Billikens in the Mike Slive Invitational in Birmingham.

**No. 14 Dayton 78, Drake 47:** Ibi Watson scored a season-high 20 points and led a first-half run that put the host Flyers in control.

**No. 16 Michigan State 72, Oakland 49:** Xavier Tillman had nine points and 13 rebounds, Aaron Henry put up 10 points and six assists and the visiting Spartans won at Little Caesars Arena.

**No. 18 Butler 66, Southern 41:** Bryce Golden scored 12 points on 4 of 5 shooting to lead the Bulldogs' balanced scoring attack in a romp at home.

**No. 20 Villanova 78, Delaware 70:** Jermaine Samuels scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half and the Wildcats won their season-high fourth straight game by holding off the Blue Hens in the Never Forget Tribute Classic in Newark, N.J..

**Rutgers 68, No. 22 Seton Hall 48:** Pirates star Myles Powell sat out the second half with a head injury, and the Scarlet Knights' Ron Harper Jr. had 18 points and six rebounds to lead his team to a home win in the Garden State Hardwood Classic.

**Wake Forest 80, No. 23 Xavier 78:** Chaundee Brown scored 26 points, Brandon Childress added 22 and the host Demon Deacons prevailed in the Musketeers' first game this season on an opponent's home court.

**Air Force 79, Denver 75:** A.J. Walker had 21 points and converted a pair of free throws in the closing seconds to secure the visiting Falcons' win.

# US rallies to win Presidents Cup again

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — High emotions, fierce hugs from Tiger Woods, this time as a winner both ways in the Presidents Cup.

Woods capped off a big year that began with his 15th major at the Masters by playing and leading his U.S. team to another victory in the Presidents Cup on Sunday at Royal Melbourne.

The first playing captain in 25 years, he opened the 12 singles matches by beating Abraham Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record with his 27th match victory, and set the tone for the rest of his team.

The scoreboard was filled with American red scores all day as they rallied from a two-point deficit to win the Presidents Cup for the eighth straight time against an International team that faltered at the worst

time. Matt Kuchar delivered the clinching putt, a 5-footer for birdie that assured him a halve against Louis Oosthuizen and gave the Americans the 15½ points they needed to win.

“For us to be in a hole, to come back and win this thing ... to win it as a team, but to do it with Tiger Woods as our captain was just a huge thrill,” Kuchar said.

The result was 16-14, and at least this one was a contest. The U.S. victory two years ago at Liberty National was so resounding that it nearly ended on Saturday.

International captain Ernie Els was determined to turn it around. He created a new logo for the International team. He relied heavily on analytics. It still wasn't enough.

“I followed a plan, and it didn't quite work out, but we came damn close,” Els

said. “If you compare our team on paper with other teams in other sports, you would have laughed us out of the building. But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time.”

Els thought back to Friday, when the Americans won two matches with birdies on the 18th hole and rallied to halve another to keep the International lead from growing.

On Sunday, all he saw was U.S. momentum that couldn't be stopped.

“We gave you everything we had,” Els said to Woods at the closing ceremony. “You were the better team.”

Woods hugged everyone hard, players and vice captains, wearing a smile not seen since becoming a Masters champion again last April.

## NHL roundup

# Isles top Sabres on Beauvillier's goal in overtime

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Anthony Beauvillier scored in overtime to lift the Islanders to a 3-2 overtime defeat of Buffalo, extending New York's home winning streak to six games.

Beauvillier scored on a breakaway at 3:04 against Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark for his 10th goal of the season. He finished off a sequence in overtime in which he accidentally got tangled up with Ullmark in the crease, then was tripped in the Sabres zone before he corralled the puck for the winning play.

The Islanders improved to 13-2-1 overall between Nassau Coliseum and Brooklyn's Barclays Center this season while the Sabres had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Semyon Varmalov made 33 saves for the victory.

**Devils 2, Coyotes 1:** Kyle Palmieri scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, and New Jersey held on at Arizona to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Jesper Boqvist also scored, and Michael McLeod and Miles Wood each had two assists to

help the Devils get their first win this month. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 31 shots.

**Ducks 4, Rangers 3 (SO):** Jakob Silfverberg and Ondrej Kase scored in the shootout after Hampus Lindholm tied the game on the power play with 1:46 remaining in the third period and host Anaheim rallied for a win over New York.

**Senators 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT):** Anthony Duclair had a hat trick, including a power-play goal at 1:56 of overtime, and host Ottawa topped Columbus.

Duclair has 18 goals on the season, including eight in his past five games.

**Wild 4, Flyers 1:** Eric Staal scored twice and Minnesota kept up its winning ways at home.

Zach Parise also scored and Carson Soucy added an empty-netter to help the Wild improve to 9-0-3 in the past 12 games at Xcel Energy Center. Only Boston (17) and the New York Islanders (13) have longer home point streaks this season.

**Sharks 4, Canucks 2:** Tomas Hertl and Timo Meier scored, Aaron Dell made 33 saves and host San Jose snapped a season-

high six-game losing streak.

Hertl opened the scoring in the first and Meier added his goal in the third on a rush after Dell made a big save.

Evander Kane and Logan Couture added empty-net goals around a score by Bo Horvat with 28.4 seconds to play for Vancouver.

**Bruins 4, Panthers 2:** David Pastrnak scored twice to help Boston snap win at Florida to snap a five-game winless streak.

David Krejci and Jake DeBrusk each had a goal and an assist for the Bruins, and Torey Krug had two assists. Jaroslav Halak stopped 31 shots.

**Stars 4, Predators 1:** Anton Khudobin stopped 37 shots and host Dallas won for the fourth time in five games.

Blake Comeau, Roope Hintz, Jamie Oleksiak and Andrew Coglianò each scored in the second period after the Stars fell behind. Alexander Radulov had two assists.

**Penguins 5, Kings 4 (SO):** Bryan Rust scored twice in regulation and got the lone goal in the shootout to lift host Pittsburgh.

**Capitals 5, Lightning 2:**

Lars Eller and Garnet Hathaway scored 44 seconds apart early in the third period as NHL-leading Washington won at Tampa Bay. Ellers scored from the left circle at 1:58 and Hathaway made it 3-1 from in-close.

**Maple Leafs 4, Oilers 1:** Frederik Andersen stopped 36 shots to help Toronto win at Edmonton.

**Red Wings 2, Canadiens 1:** Mike Green scored a power-play goal in the third period, Jonathan Bernier made 42 saves, and Detroit won at Montreal.

Tyler Bertuzzi also scored for the Red Wings, who have won two games in a row since dropping 12 straight.

**Blues 4, Blackhawks 3:** Justin Faulk capped a four-goal, third-period rally with a late tally as host St. Louis beat Chicago.

**Hurricanes 4, Flames 0:** James Reimer made 32 stops and Warren Foegele added a pair of late short-handed goals to help host Carolina end a seven-game winning streak for Calgary.