Monday, November 7, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Clinton, Trump focus on battleground states

Associated Press

SARASOTA, Fla. — Furiously campaigning to the last, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to emerge from the cloud of suspicion that has followed her campaign and to close her historic bid with a call for unity and hope. Donald Trump vowed not to make it easy.

Both candidates set exhausting schedules for the final day of the campaign, each visiting four states in appearances stretching deep into the night.

Both promised to end their contentious campaign on a positive note. For Clinton, that meant talk of reconciliation. Trump, meanwhile, started his day with a sprawling stump speech that kept up his broadsides against Washington, the health care system and Clinton, but also included comic relief.

Speaking to a boisterous rally in Sarasota, Trump interrupted his remarks to coo at a baby and to comment on a hat in the crowd. When he spotted a mask of his face, he took it and held it up for all to see.

"Nice head of hair, I'll say that," he said.

Hours after the FBI announced on Sunday that it again had cleared her, Trump and his aides suggested the latest rapid review of a Clinton aide's emails could not have been thorough.

"Hillary Clinton is being protected by a totally rigged system," Trump said at the rally in Sarasota.

The comments were a reminder that FBI Director James Comey's news, delivered in a letter to lawmakers on Sunday, was a doubled-edged sword for Clinton. While it vindicated her claims that the emails would not yield new evidence, it ensured the final hours of her campaign would be spent talking about a subject that has damaged her credibility.

Clinton's campaign said she would not be discussing the

news Monday as she campaigns in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Michigan. She instead shifted to message of reconciliation after a rough campaign.

"I think I have some work to do to bring the country together," she told reporters as she boarded her plane for her last battleground tour. "I really do want to be the president for everybody."

Clinton appears to have retained a solid edge in the final days. Her campaign says it's been buoyed by strong turnout in states that vote early. Trump must win nearly all of the roughly dozen battleground states up for grabs.

More than 42.4 million people have already voted, and roughly half the states with advance voting are reporting record levels.

In Florida, Hispanic participation is up by more than 453,000 votes, nearly double the 2012 level. Black turnout is up compared with 2012,

but that share of the total vote is lower due to bigger jumps among Latinos and whites, according to University of Florida professor Daniel Smith.

In Nevada, where more than three-fourths of expected ballots have been cast, Democrats also lead, 42 percent to 36 percent.

Clinton's was a round-theclock schedule that included a rally in Philadelphia with former President Bill Clinton, Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, along with Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi.

Trump, too, planned to keep up the breakneck campaign pace through Tuesday. After the rally in Florida, he was headed to North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. After voting in New York on Tuesday morning, Trump was expected to return to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and New Hampshire later in the day.

FBI's handling of Clinton probe creates turmoil

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation has created more turmoil for the bureau than any other matter in recent history, exposing internal tensions with the Justice Department and stirring concerns the organization unnecessarily injected itself into the campaign.

Though FBI Director James Comey signaled a conclusion to the Clinton email matter with a letter to Congress on Sunday, lawmakers are demanding answers to questions left unresolved by two ambiguous letters. Clinton and her aides feel wronged by a curiously timed disclosure. And ex-prosecutors

of both parties are concerned the bureau's actions strayed from its mandate.

The FBI last year began investigating Clinton for the potential mishandling of classified information as secretary of state after a referral from the intelligence community inspector general.

When the FBI decided it wouldn't recommend charges, Comey broke from protocol and delivered a public statement chastising Clinton and her aides as "extremely careless."

Comey's Oct. 28 letter stating the FBI would review newly discovered emails connected to the Clinton investigation provoked outrage from Clinton and other Democrats who said it needlessly placed her under suspicion when the FBI didn't even know if the emails were important.

Then came Sunday's statement, in which Comey effectively cleared the Democratic presidential nominee, saying the review had done nothing to change the FBI's recommendation that she not face charges.

The bureau has been further roiled by leaks that hint at disagreement over the handling of a separate inquiry involving the Clinton Foundation. The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported that FBI agents seeking an investigation met earlier this year with public corruption pros-

ecutors to present allegations they wanted to pursue, but the lawyers did not see a basis for moving forward.

The latest turmoil poses a unique challenge for a revered law enforcement organization and for a director who talks often about his desire to be accountable to the American people — and transparent.

Depending on who wins Tuesday, Comey will have to coexist with either a Republican president who has repeatedly challenged his agency's integrity or a Democrat whose email practices were the subject of a criminal investigation. He'll also probably have to explain his decision-making to Congress.



Syrian Kurds push ahead in their offensive toward Ragga

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Backed by U.S. airstrikes, Kurdish-led Syrian fighters clashed on Monday with Islamic State militants north of the city of Raqqa in Syria as they pushed ahead in their offensive aiming to retake the city that has been the de facto capital of the extremist group since 2014.

Members of a coalition of Kurdish and Arab fighters known as the Syria Democratic Forces have been on the offensive in the area since late Saturday, aiming to initially isolate and encircle Ragga.

The U.S., France and Britain said they would provide air support for the offensive, which was announced at a news conference on Sunday in Ein Issa, north of Raqqa.

But the announcement lacked details on how the SDF, dominated by Kurds, plans to oust the militants from the city, home to nearly 200,000 mostly Sunni Arabs and an estimated 5,000 Islamic State fighters.

The battle of Raqqa could be long and costly; Islamic State fighters are expected to fight until the end because its loss could be an existential threat. It would mean the extremist group would have no full control of any large cities in Syria, just as Iraqi forces are pushing forward against Islamic State-held Mosul, Iraq's secondlargest city.

Earlier this year, it took SDF fighters more than two months to capture the Syrian town of Manbij, which is far smaller than Raqqa.

Ragga has been under Islamic State control since early 2014; it is home to some of the group's top leaders and is seen as the key to defeating the group militarily. It has been the extremists' de facto capital since they declared a caliphate in areas they control in Iraq and Syria in June 2014.

The U.S. commander of coalition forces fighting the Islamic State group said the operation to take Raqqa aims at eventually cutting off the extremists from Mosul, where U.S.-backed Iraqi forces have entered the city's eastern outskirts amid fierce resistance.

Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend said in a statement that the Arab element of the SDF is "indigenous to the area" and will help establish "regional support" for SDF operations. His comments appeared to be aimed at soothing concerns that Kurdish forces would take over Raqqa, a predominantly Sunni Arab city.

100 decapitated bodies found in grave near Mosul

Associated Press

NEAR BASHIQA, Iraq — Iraqi Kurdish fighters exchanged heavy fire with militants on Monday as they entered a town held by the Islamic State group east of Mosul, while troops advancing south of the city discovered a mass grave with some 100 decapitated bodies.

The offensive to reclaim the town of Bashiqa is part of the broader push to drive Islamic State out of Mosul, Iraq's secondlargest city, relieving those living under its occupation from the type of brutality such as mass killings that the group has committed.

Combat began at dawn with a Kurdish barrage of heavy artillery, Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds slamming into Islamic State positions, providing cover for the advance of armored columns.

Smoke rose from the town throughout the day, with large explosions sending dark clouds into the sky.

"We have the coordinates of their bases and tunnels, and we are targeting them from here in order to weaken them so that our forces can reach their targets more easily," said Iraqi Kurdish commander Brig. Gen. Iskander Khalil Gardi.

Bashiqa, which is believed to be largely

deserted except for dozens of Islamic State fighters, is located about 8 miles northeast of Mosul's outskirts and about 13 miles from the city center. Iraqi government and Kurdish forces, backed by a U.S.-led coalition and joined by government-sanctioned militias, are fighting to drive Islamic State out of those surrounding areas and to open additional fronts to attack Mosul, itself.

Bashiqa has been surrounded by Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, for weeks but Monday's push appeared to be the most serious yet to drive Islamic State from the

Kurdish forces launched mortar rounds and fired heavy artillery into the town Sunday in advance of the offensive. More artillery and air strikes hit the town early Monday as the Kurdish forces' advance got underway.

On Mosul's southern front, meanwhile, Iraqi soldiers advanced into Hamam al-Alil, some 12 miles from the city's center, and the military announced late Monday it had found some 100 decapitated bodies in a mass grave near the town's agricultural college. Most were reduced to skeletons, said Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, the spokesman for the Joint Military Command.

Casualties mount as Iraqis press on

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Zahida Fathi sat on a military-issued cot, rocking back and forth and repeating the names of the dead — her husband and six of her children, killed when a car bomb exploded near their home as they were trying to flee clashes between Iraqi forces and Islamic State fighters in the city of Mosul.

"They all died, they all died," she said, her right hand and arm bandaged with a dressing. "They just kept burning in the flames. ... Muhammad, Ahmed, Neshwan, Majid, Ali, Raghat, their father."

Fathi, her daughter Dalal and son Mahmood were the only ones to survive the blast Sunday. Dalal, 9, has burns all along her right side. Dressed in pink pajamas, her face was still covered in soot, strands of her hair singed from the blast.

She winced and nervously looked at the medics tending to her wounds, but barely spoke. Her brother, Mahmood, shivered, curled up on a cot beside her.

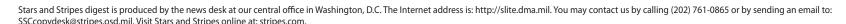
As Iraqi forces struggle to secure the gains they made during the past week on Mosul's eastern edge, the fight against the Islamic State group has quickly morphed into close-quarters urban combat. With it, casualties among Iraq's troops and civilians are spiking.

On Friday, when Iraqi forces first pushed into Mosul proper, Derek Coleman, an American volunteer medic, worked alongside Iraqi special forces at the field clinic.

That day, he said he helped treat 44 casualties before he lost count.

"I think the Iraqi (military) got an awakening when they pushed too far forward, Coleman said, flipping through a notebook he uses to keep records of his cases. In all, 12 soldiers died at the clinic on Friday, he said. "We had two Humvees just loaded with dead bodies."

Iraq's military does not release official death tolls.



Quake causes damage near oil hub in Oklahoma

Associated Press

CUSHING, Okla. — A magnitude-5.0 earthquake centered near one of the world's key oil hubs brought down building facades and shattered windows in a central Oklahoma city, rendering century-old buildings unsafe and raising concerns about key infrastructure.

As the sun rose Monday, television news footage showed widespread, substantial damage to buildings, with piles of bricks and other debris littering the ground following the earthquake the previous evening. Cushing Assistant City Manager Jeremy Frazier told a news conference late Sunday that a few minor injuries had been reported. He said the damage appeared to be contained to downtown.

Oklahoma has had thousands of earthquakes in recent years, with nearly all traced to the underground injection of wastewater left over from oil and gas production. Sunday's quake was centered 1 mile west of Cushing and about 25 miles south of where a magnitude-4.3 quake forced a shutdown of several wells last week.

Fearing aftershocks, police cordoned off older parts of the city to keep gawkers away late Sunday, and geologists confirmed that several small quakes have rumbled the

The quake struck at 7:44 p.m. Sunday and was felt as far away as Iowa, Illinois and Texas.

Search continues on SC property of slaying suspect

Associated Press

WOODRUFF, S.C. — Investigators will continue Monday combing for human remains and other clues on the South Carolina property of a man accused of a grisly crime spree stretching more than a decade.

Todd Kohlhepp became a suspect in at least seven deaths after a woman was found Thursday chained by her neck and ankle in a metal storage container on his 95-acre property near rural Woodruff.

His arrest in that case led to his confession in a quadruple slaying at a motorcycle shop from 2003 in the small town of Chesnee, investigators said. He was denied bond Sunday during a brief court appearance on four murder charges for those slayings.

He's also charged with kidnapping the woman, and more criminal counts are expected. Authorities suspect he killed at least three people other than the motorcycle shop victims.

A Spartanburg County Sheriff's investigative report says Kohlhepp "confessed to investigators that he shot and killed" the motorcycle shop's owner, service manager, mechanic and bookkeeper, giving details only the killer would know.

Now, Sheriff Chuck Wright, who was first elected about a year after the Superbike Motorsports killings, has a wide-ranging

investigation of a crime spree over more than a decade.

The investigation has expanded to other properties Kohlhepp, a real estate agent, either currently or used to own. Those properties are not limited to South Carolina, Wright said Sunday, declining to be more specific.

Both the FBI and Homeland Security are involved, he said.

Kohlhepp showed investigators Saturday where he said he buried two other victims on the property he bought two years ago. Human remains were uncovered Sunday at one of those sites, Wright said.

"We're not even close" on identifying the remains or cause of death, he said. "We can't tell anything."

Kohlhepp did not tell investigators who was buried there. Removing the remains to "preserve every bit of evidence" is a meticulous, time-consuming process, said Coroner Rusty Clevenger.

The gravesites Kohlhepp pointed to are in addition to the body found Friday in a shallow grave at the site. Authorities identified that victim as the boyfriend of the woman found Thursday. Clevenger said he died of multiple gunshot wounds.

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because the suspect is a sex offender, though authorities have not said whether she was sexually assaulted.

Former Attorney General Janet Reno dies at 78

Special To The Washington Post

Janet Reno, the strong-minded Florida prosecutor tapped by Bill Clinton to become the country's first female attorney general, and who shaped the U.S. government's responses to the largest legal crises of the 1990s, died Monday at her home in Miami. She was 78.

The cause was complications from Parkinson's disease, her goddaughter, Gabrielle D'Alemberte, told The Associated Press. She was diagnosed in 1995.

Reno brought a fierce independence to her job. From the FBI siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Texas to the investigation into Clinton's sexual relationship with intern Monica Lewinsky, she was adamant that her prosecutors work outside of the influence of politics, media or popular opinion.

Her supporters believed she brought

integrity and professionalism to the attorney general's office. They admired her insistence upon legal exactitude from her employees, and praised her caution in prosecutions.

Business leaders criticized her lengthy prosecution of Microsoft on charges of anti-competitive violations.

Reno remained in office longer than any other attorney general of the 20th century.

A self-described "awkward old maid" who stood nearly 6-foot-2, Reno showed a willingness to lampoon her image. She joined actor Will Ferrell on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" as he played a wooden version of her in a skit called "Janet Reno's Dance Party."

She was Bill Clinton's third pick for attorney general. He had promised to nominate a woman for the post, but his first two choices — corporate lawyer Zoe Baird and

New York federal Judge Kimba Wood withdrew following allegations they hired illegal immigrants as nannies.

Clinton nominated Reno to the attorney general post in February 1993. Within a month of her appointment, she confronted a case that colleagues said would define the rest of her career: the standoff with followers of David Koresh at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

Late in her term as attorney general, Reno faced similar questions about federal force. The Miami relatives of young Elian Gonzalez, whose mother had drowned as the pair attempted to flee Cuba to the United States, refused to return the child to his father, who wanted to take him back to Cuba.

Reno eventually authorized federal agents to enter their home and seize the 6-year-old.



DOD seeks answers in Jordan deaths

By Tara Copp

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Security camera footage is being reviewed to determine whether a shooting at a military checkpoint in Jordan that left three U.S. soldiers dead was intentional, a Pentagon official said Monday.

"We're looking at every possibility here. That includes the possibility of some kind of horrible miscalculation or miscommunication, and the possibility of some sort of deliberate attack targeting Americans," said the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The gate at King Faisal Air Base in al-Jafr where the gunfight took place had a security camera installed, according to the official.

On Friday, Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Lewellen, Staff Sgt. Kevin J. McEnroe and Staff Sgt. James F. Moriarty were driving toward a military checkpoint at the air base at about noon to conduct training there when gunfire broke out between the three soldiers and a lone Jordanian guard, two U.S. officials confirmed to Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity.

"There was only one shooter," a U.S. official said.

The gunfire killed one of the U.S. soldiers at the checkpoint, and the two others died later at a nearby hospital. Lewellen, 27, of Lawrence, Kan., McEnroe, 30, of Tucson, Ariz., and Moriarty, 27, of Kerrville, Texas, were members of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

The Jordanian guard also was wounded in the exchange and remains in a local hospital, one of the U.S. officials said.

The Jordanian government and the Pentagon are still investigating the incident. As of Monday, it was not clear whether the three soldiers had done something, such as missing the checkpoint, to cause the incident, or whether they were ambushed by the guard. In November 2015, two Americans were among five trainers killed when a Jordanian police officer opened fire on them.

Army plans deployment of new Stryker prototype

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army will begin fielding a more lethal version of the Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle to Europe in 2018, roughly three years after U.S. Army Europe issued an urgent request for more firepower for the Vilseck, Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

A prototype of the new Styker, outfitted with a 30 mm cannon, was delivered to the Army last month. The upgraded combat vehicles will arrive in Germany about May 2018, the Army said.

The development of the upgunned "Dragoon" Styker, named after the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, was completed in "near-record time from concept to delivery," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel B. Allyn said in October.

The push to add firepower in Europe came after Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine and in connection with concerns that the Army's fighting vehicles on the continent needed to close a capabilities gap with their Russian counterparts.

"The Russians, it turns out, had upgraded and fielded significant capabilities while we were engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Allyn, as quoted by the Army's official press service. The Stryker's existing weaponry placed U.S. forces at "unacceptable risk."

In 2015, the Army "validated the high-priority need" for a 30mm weapons system, which would give more direct-fire support for dismounted infantrymen "when engaging like units," USAREUR said in a statement at the time.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment, which has some of the Army's oldest Strykers still in operation, asked that 81 of the vehicles be fitted with the 30 mm autocannons to replace the 12.7 mm machine guns currently mounted on the eight-wheel-drive troop transports.

The 2nd Cav is one of two Army brigades permanently stationed in Europe and has played a key role in U.S. European Command efforts to increase the presence of U.S. forces along NATO's eastern edge, in places such as the Baltics and Estonia.

In 2017, several hundred soldiers from the regiment will deploy to Poland, where they will serve as part of NATO's new enhanced presence in the region. This includes multinational battalions in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuanian, and northeastern Poland. where U.S. troops will be in the lead.

North Korea calls Obama 'total failure'

By Kim Gamel

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea called President Barack Obama's administration a "total failure" ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency made the criticism in a white paper issued Sunday that blamed America's "hostile policy" for pushing the North to step up its nuclear weapons program.

"The moves of the Obama regime to stifle the DPRK which surpass the successive regimes have steadily pushed the DPRK to bolster up its nuclear force, making it have access to even the H-bomb," it said, using the acronym for the North's formal name the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Tensions have risen sharply this year on the divided peninsula as North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and several ballistic missile launches despite international condemnation and punishing sanctions by the U.N. Security Council.

South Korea's military said Monday it was on high alert and closely monitoring launch sites amid speculation that the North may fire another missile to send a defiant message as Americans go to the polls on Tuesday.

"The military is fully prepared to respond to any provocative acts by the North," an official from the Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters at a briefing.

KCNA tried to turn the tables on the outgoing U.S. president, saying Obama's push for denuclearization, which helped win him a Nobel Peace Prize, and his effort to focus strategy on the Asia-Pacific region had failed. It criticized everything from Middle East and African policies to the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan and the monetary system.

The North Korean regime's mouthpiece frequently issues statements full of hyperbole and bellicose rhetoric surrounding high-profile events.

The report also took a dig at the nasty campaign that pitted Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton against Republican Donald Trump, calling it the "most indecent seminar on pres idential election" and the "most dirty to-and-fro conflict."

"It can be seen from this that there is neither man nor ideology nor spiritual and moral foundation to protect the country from destruction," KCNA said. "The complete defeat of the Obama regime foretells the collapse of the U.S."



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fatal shooting after wife makes up affair

BRADENTON — Authorities say a Florida woman lied about having an affair to make her cheating husband jealous, and then her angry husband fatally shot the supposed other man.

The Bradenton Herald reported that the shooting occurred Thursday morning.

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded to a Bradenton home and found Dequan Randolph dead. Witnesses at the scene identified the shooter as Derrick Frazier.

Frazier initially told detectives he was never at the scene. Authorities said he changed his story several times, eventually claiming that Randolph had pulled the gun, and a struggle ensued.

Frazier has been charged with second-degree murder. He was being held without bail.

Man gets prison for video offer to buy guns

DENVER — A judge has ordered federal prison for a man who posted a YouTube video offering to help anyone, including criminals, buy guns.

Kenneth Allen Francis, 29, was sentenced Friday to five years in prison for crimes including lying to federal licensed firearms dealers. Jurors convicted Francis in July.

Prosecutors said Francis posted a YouTube video saying, "I'm here to help you get your guns," and he did not care whether his customers were felons or sex offenders. Francis then agreed to sell an assault rifle to an undercover agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

He later sold two handguns to a confidential informant, knowing he was a convicted felon banned from possessing guns.

Police chief: 'Time has come' to 'pass torch'

PA PITTSBURGH
— Pittsburgh's police chief is resigning, saying the "time has come" for him to "pass the torch."

Chief Cameron McLay held a news conference Friday announcing his decision.

McLay has angered some rank-and-file officers by addressing the Democratic National Convention in July and because of other differences that McLay said are emerging as he tries to reform the department and to improve relations with black citizens.

The union held a noconfidence vote in September and the Citizens Police Review Board has since determined McLay violated a city code banning partisan political activity by speaking at political convention in uniform.

Man convicted of posing as psychiatrist

CHICAGO — An Indiana man accused by authorities of posing as a psychiatrist at a Chicago clinic and prescribing drugs to a 9-year-old child and others has been convicted by a federal jury on fraud charges.

Scott Redman, 37, of Hammond, was found guilty Thursday on three counts of wire fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of furnishing false information to the Drug Enforcement Administration and five counts of distributing a controlled substance.

Federal prosecutors said Redman assumed the identity

of an Illinois physician to see patients and to prescribe medications to more than 40 individuals from September 2015 until last February. Redman faces up to 166 years in prison when he is sentenced on Feb. 8.

Professor who donned blackface apologizes

OR EUGENE — A University of Oregon law professor who donned blackface as part of a costume at her Halloween party has apologized.

The Register-Guard reported Saturday that Nancy Shurtz said she wore the costume in hopes of stimulating a discussion about race relations.

Shurtz said she dressed up as Dr. Damon Tweedy, who wrote a best-selling memoir called "Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine." The recent autobiography recounts the racism Tweedy encountered in medical school.

Shurtz remains on paid administrative leave.

Police shoot, kill bear over accident fears

State police shot and killed a bear they feared might cause an accident at a busy highway intersection.

The Telegram & Gazette reported that the bear wandered onto Route 20 in Sturbridge near the ramp to Interstate 84 about 4 p.m. Thursday. Motorists called police to report the bear.

A trooper nearly struck the bear with his cruiser but was able to scare the animal back into a swampy, wooded area.

The animal came back onto the road, and when troopers were unable to chase it away a second time it was shot so it did not cause an accident.

Man who bear-sprayed deputies get 15 years

MT KALISPELL — A man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for spraying two Flathead County sheriff's deputies in the face with bear spray that temporarily blinded them.

The Flathead Beacon reported Devin Andrew Lelm was sentenced Friday for the Feb. 1 attack. Lelm, of Kalispell, pleaded guilty to felony assault on a peace officer.

The deputies encountered Lelm when they responded to a report of a suspicious man looking into the windows of an Evergreen gas station. When the deputies contacted him, Lelm sprayed them with mace intended to ward off bears.

Veteran's stolen dog reunited with owner

CA LOS ANGELES — A dog that helped an Iraq War veteran cope with post-traumatic stress disorder has been reunited with its owner after being stolen.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department told KABC-TV the German shepherd named PJ was returned unharmed to his family in East Los Angeles on Saturday night.

The station reported the dog's theft devastated owner Francisco Torres because of his struggles with PTSD. Angela Torres said PJ has "been really good" to her husband.

Surveillance video caught someone taking the dog from the gated yard outside of the family home.

No arrests have been made and officials aren't saying how P.I was found

From wire reports



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Raiders run past Broncos, atop West

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — For the past few years, the Oakland Raiders have been building a team they hoped could thrive on the big stage.

With an offensive line that dominated the trenches and a defense much improved from a porous start to the season, they sure looked the part Sunday night.

Latavius Murray ran for 114 yards and three touchdowns and the Raiders showed they were ready for prime time, beating the defending Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos 30-20.

"We're growing to expect success," coach Jack Del Rio said. "We know we're a good team."

In what was being billed as the biggest game in Oakland since the team went to the Super Bowl following the 2002 season, the Raiders (7-2) put together a complete effort to overpower the Broncos (6-3) and take over sole possession of first place in the AFC West.

Derek Carr threw for 184 yards and did

not turn the ball over, Khalil Mack had two sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery and the Raiders outrushed Denver 218-33 behind a dominant performance in the trenches.

"That's what we do," left tackle Donald Penn said. "We try to take our will out on people and today it looked real good. Some days it doesn't but today it looked real good. We have to keep building. We have to get more consistent."

The performance was to the delight of an energetic crowd at the Coliseum, excited to host a prime-time Sunday night game for the first time in more than a decade. After 13 straight seasons without a playoff berth or winning record, the Raiders have shown they are ready to contend in the AFC in the second season under Del Rio after overpowering the team that has dominated the division in recent years.

"We gave up 200 yards rushing today," linebacker Brandon Marshall said. "That's definitely not the mark of a great defense, we can't just get run over."

Oakland got off to its best start in 15 years by beating up on lesser teams, but the win over the defending champion Broncos showed the progress the franchise has made since starting 0-10 two years ago.

Trevor Siemian looked shaky at times for Denver but did throw two touchdown passes, including a short pass behind the line that Kapri Bibbs turned into a 69-yard touchdown catch and run in the fourth quarter.

But Oakland still led by 10 points despite that defensive breakdown and held on for the win.

Reprieve: Carr played a smart game for the most part but did get bailed out by one potential big mistake. On the play after Mack recovered a fumble at the Denver 39 following his strip sack, Carr threw down the right sideline for fullback Jamize Olawale. But the ball went right to T.J. Ward for an apparent interception. A replay review showed the ball hit the ground and Oakland kept the ball, setting up Murray's third score.

Ravens beat Steelers to end four-game skid

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Ravens endured five miserable weeks without a win before finally ending the drought against the Steelers.

Pittsburgh can only hope to avoid a similar skid.

After losing four in a row—their longest dry stretch under coach John Harbaugh—the Ravens (4-4) sat through a bye week before returning Sunday to beat Pittsburgh 21-14, their first victory since Sept. 25.

"This was the kind of win that we need," said receiver Steve Smith, who returned from an ankle injury to catch four passes for 47 yards.

Pittsburgh (4-4) has dropped three in a row to fall into a firstplace tie with Baltimore in the AFC North.

The return of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger wasn't enough to right the Steelers, who got only 36 yards from their running game and were penalized 13 times for 99 yards.

"Our record tells us what we are," Roethlisberger said. "We're at the halfway point. We use this as kind of a halftime. We need to be a great second-half team."

Lions 22, Vikins 16 (OT): Matthew Stafford threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate, who vaulted into the end zone in overtime to lift visiting Detroit past Minnesota.

After Matt Prater kicked a 58-yard field goal as time expired to force overtime, Tate finished the opening drive when he ran through arm tackles by Xavier Rhodes and Harrison Smith and leaped in for the winning score

Giants 28, Eagles 23: Eli Manning threw for four touchdowns and New York's defense had two interceptions and three stops on fourth downs to beat visitingPhiladelphia.

The Giants (5-3) won their third straight game, holding off the Eagles (4-4 after a 3-0 start) after Manning was intercepted with less than two minutes to go.

Chargers 43, Titans 35: Melvin Gordon ran for a careerhigh 196 yards and scored the go-ahead TD on a 1-yard run, and defensive backs Dwight

Lowery and Brandon Flowers scored on turnovers by Marcus Mariota to lead the Chargers over Tennessee, which still hasn't won in San Diego since 1990.

Colts 31, Packers 26: Frank Gore rushed for two touchdowns, Jordan Todman had a tone-setting 99-yard return on the opening kickoff and Indianapolis held on for a win over host Green Bay.

Andrew Luck shook off two interceptions in the first quarter to finish with 281 yards passing and a touchdown. The Colts, who had allowed an NFL-worst 31 sacks coming into the game, gave their quarterback decent protection.

Saints 41, 49ers 23: Drew Brees threw a pair of touchdown passes to Michael Thomas and another to Mark Ingram, who also ran for a 75-yard score a week after being benched and visiting New Orleans beat lowly San Francisco.

Panthers 13, Rams 10: Cam Newton persevered through five sacks to pass for 225 yards and a touchdown, and Carolina's defense shut down host Los Angeles.

Dolphins 27, Jets 23: Rookie Kenyan Drake scored untouched on a 96-yard kickoff return with 5:15 left, and host Miami won a seesaw battle with New York Jets.

The Dolphins (4-4) won their third game in a row, while New York (3-6) fell deeper into last place in the AFC East.

Cowboys 35, Browns 10: Rookie quarterback Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes and kept any talk for Tony Romo unnecessary, leading Dallas over winless host Cleveland.

Rookie Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 92 yards and scored twice and durable tight end Jason Witten had 134 yards receiving for the Cowboys, off to their best start since 2007.

Chiefs 19, Jaguars 14: Host Kansas City stuffed Jacksonville on fourth down with less than 2 minutes left deep in its own territory, preserving a victory despite finishing without five offensive starters.

Nick Foles threw for 187 yards and a first-half touch-down toss to Albert Wilson.



McCollum matches career-best in win

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Damian Lillard had his lowest-scoring game of the season. CJ McCollum made up the difference by matching the best game of his career.

McCollum scored 37 points, 16 in the fourth quarter, to help the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Memphis Grizzlies 100-94 on Sunday.

"I just went into the game being aggressive," McCollum said.

McCollum had 10 straight Portland points in the closing minutes to put the game away, and also matched his career best with six three-pointers. Lillard added 19 points and seven assists, and Maurice Harkless finished with 18 points.

"He was big-time," Lillard said about McCollum. "That's who he is. We see him get hot like that all the time. ... As a point guard, and as somebody that knows how

capable he is of taking over a game, you go to it."

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 21 points, and Mike Conley added 16 points and seven assists. Zach Randolph had 15 points and seven rebounds.

The game was close with 13 lead changes and 12 ties before Portland pulled away late behind McCollum hitting 6 of 9 shots in the fourth.

Jazz 114, Knicks 109: Gordon Hayward scored 28 points in his season debut, while George Hill had 23 points and nine assists as visiting Utah beat New York.

Hayward had been sidelined since breaking his right ring finger in training camp. He led the team in scoring last season, averaging nearly 20 points.

Carmelo Anthony and Kristaps Porzingis each had 28 for the Knicks, and Derrick Rose added 18. New York has lost three of four.

Kings 96, Raptors 91: DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and 14 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 23 against his former team and Sacramento beat host Toronto.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors (4-2) with 23 points, the first time this season he's been held under 30.

Mavericks 86, Bucks 75 (OT): Harrison Barnes scored a career-high 34 points and Dallas won for the first time this season, beating visiting Milwaukee in overtime.

Nuggets 123, Celtics 107: Emmanuel Mudiay scored 24 of his season-high 30 points in the opening quarter, helping visiting Denver to a big first half against injury-depleted Boston.

Lakers 119, Suns 108: Nick Young scored 22 points, Jordan Clarkson added 18 and host Los Angeles moved above .500 for only the second time in nearly three years with a victory over Phoenix.

Hossa's OT goal lifts Chicago over Dallas

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Black-hawks appeared to be in big trouble when Patrick Kane was whistled for hooking in overtime, handing a power play to the potent Dallas Stars.

Then Scott Darling came up with a huge stop, and Marian Hossa finished another big win for Chicago.

Darling made a terrific kick save on Patrick Eaves, Hossa scored at 4:31 of overtime and the Blackhawks beat the Dallas Stars 4-3 on Sunday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

"It took every inch of me to get that one," the 6-foot-6 Darling said.

Jonathan Toews had a goal and two assists and Kane scored for the third time in four games, helping the Blackhawks sweep the home-and-home set with the Stars. Kane had a goal and an assist in Saturday night's 3-2 victory in Dallas.

"We've been focusing really well on the process of just playing well and improving our overall game," Toews said. "A while back, the focus was our penalty kill had to get better. I think we've improved every

single game."

Kane's second hooking call of the night set Dallas up with a prime opportunity in overtime. But Darling got over to knock away Eaves' shot, helping the Blackhawks to their 18th successful kill in their last 19 tries.

"He made a great save on me," Eaves said. "That was the look we wanted and it just didn't go in."

Hossa then drove one by a screened Kari Lehtonen for his sixth of the season. Darling, subbing for red-hot starter Corey Crawford, made 32 stops as the Blackhawks improved to 7-1-1 at home.

"The good thing is this team never quits," Hossa said. "Six wins in a row, I think we're on the right path."

Oilers 2, Red Wings 1: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored a goahead goal late in the second period on an assist from Connor McDavid, giving Edmonton a win over host Detroit.

Edmonton's Jonas Gustavsson made 22 saves and Tyler Pitlick scored a tying goal for the Oilers late in the first period.

The Pacific Division-leading

Oilers have won two straight, playing their first set of back-to-back games this season, after losing three in a row.

Justin Abdelkader put the Red Wings up 1-0 midway through the first period on a power play, and Jimmy Howard made 26 saves.

Detroit has lost five straight after winning six consecutive games.

Rangers 5, Jets 2: J.T. Miller, Jesper Fast and Pavel Buchnevich scored 4:04 apart late in the second period to lead host New York over Winnipeg for its fifth straight victory.

Kevin Hayes and Mats Zuccarello also scored, Kevin Klein and Brandon Pirri had two assists and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 24 shots as New York won for the eighth time in nine games. The Rangers, who lead the NHL with 55 goals and 4.23 per game, have scored at least five in each game of their winning streak.

Patrik Laine and Mark Scheifele scored for Winnipeg, which has lost four of its last five (1-3-1).

Blues 5, Avalanche 1: Robby Fabbri and Jori Lehtera each scored in the first 3:35 and host

St. Louis beat Colorado.

St. Louis entered with 26 goals in 12 games this season and hadn't scored more than two goals in any of its past six games.

The Blues have won 10 of their last 12 games against Colorado dating to April 2011. Jake Allen stopped 22 shots for St. Louis.

Devils 4, Hurricanes 1: Michael Cammalleri got his first three goals of the season, lifting New Jersey over host Carolina for its first road victory.

Cammalleri scored twice in the second period and again midway through the third for his sixth career hat trick. Captain Andy Greene scored into an empty net for New Jersey.

Ducks 4, Flames 1: Ryan Kesler scored two power-play goals and Jonathan Bernier had 25 saves as host Anaheim beat Calgary.

Anaheim has 24 consecutive victories at home against Calgary, breaking the Philadelphia Flyers' mark of 23 straight against the Pittsburgh Penguins from Feb. 1980 through Jan. 1987.

Andrew Cogliano and Clayton Stoner also scored for the Ducks.



Edwards secures spot in Chase finale

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — After the rain, Carl Edwards will be racing for a championship in NASCAR's season finale.

Jimmie Johnson was already locked into one of the title-contending spots at Homestead.

So that leaves two spots for the final four in the deciding Sprint Cup race Nov. 20. And there are six drivers — half of them Edwards' teammates with Joe Gibbs Racing — with one more chance to claim them next Sunday at Phoenix.

Edwards got the victory he so desperately needed to advance when he won a rainshortened race at Texas. It was cut by 41 laps because of rain late Sunday night after the start was delayed nearly six hours.

"I feel like this is what we needed to do. We were able to do that. There's a lot of pride in that," Edwards said. "To be able to run like we did tonight, for the pit crew to perform the way they did, it's really great. I think it's a testament to the team that Coach Gibbs put together."

Gibbs drivers Kyle Busch, Matt Kenseth and Denny Hamlin are still in contention for the final spots. They go to Phoenix third through fifth in the points standings, though separated by only two points.

"Next week will be supercompetitive," Gibbs said. "For us and our guys, I know all three of them want this. They really want it bad."

Team Penske driver Joey Logano, who led a race-high 178 laps at Texas before finishing second, is listed second in the points with a tiebreaker over Kyle Bush. Kenseth is only one point back, with Hamlin one behind him.

Kevin Harvick is sixth in points, 18 back, but goes to Phoenix where he won his track-record eighth race in March and has won six of the last eight.

"We will just go there and do what we always do and race as hard as we can," Harvick said.

If one of the remaining six contenders doesn't win at Phoenix, the final two spots

will be determined by points.

Harvick and Kurt Busch, his Stewart-Haas teammate who is 34 points back in eighth, are both likely in the position of needing a victory at Phoenix for a title chance.

That is pretty much the situation Edwards faced when he got to Texas eighth in points among the drivers still eligible for the championship, a week after a cut tire and crash led to a 36th-place finish at Martinsville.

Winning a rain-shortened race provided a bit of vindication for Edwards.

Last year's race at Phoenix was delayed nearly seven hours as a series of storms passed through the area, and then once it started at night, it was called after 218 laps. Edwards finished fifth, leaving him five points out of the final spot for the Chase finale.

"This rain was a lot more welcome than that rain," Edwards said. "That was frustrating."

Source: Bud Black hired as Rockies manager

Associated Press

DENVER — Bud Black is taking his pitching expertise to hitter-friendly Coors Field.

The highly regarded mound guru has been hired as manager of the Colorado Rockies, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday night because the move had not yet been announced.

Black takes over for Walt Weiss, who stepped down last month when his contract expired after four years in charge of the Rockies. They finished 75-87 last season, their best record since 2010.

The 59-year-old Black managed the San Diego Padres for nearly nine seasons before he was fired in June 2015. He compiled a 649-713 record and was voted NL Manager of the Year in 2010 after the Padres went 90-72, their most wins since a franchise-record 98 in 1998.

In other MLB news:

■ The Chicago Cubs have

declined Jason Hammel's option for the 2017 season, making the pitcher a free agent.

The World Series champions announced the move on Sunday. The option was worth \$12 million, and Hammel gets a \$2 million buyout.

The 34-year-old Hammel went 15-10 with a 3.83 ERA in 30 starts this year. The 6-foot-6 right-hander is 33-22 with a 3.59 ERA in 78 starts over two stints with the Cubs. Hammel did not pitch in the playoffs.

Hurd tweetsplains Tennessee departure

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Former Tennessee running back Jalen Hurd says he had "multiple injuries" this year, including a concussion, and that he left the Volunteers in part to play for an offense that better suits his talents.

Hurd tweeted Sunday night to explain his decision to leave Tennessee. Vols coach Butch Jones announced last Monday that Hurd intends to transfer.

The junior from Hendersonville said that "it was not a decision made rashly but one I have been thinking about for quite some time."

In other college football news:

■ Mississippi quarterback Chad Kelly will miss the rest of the season after tearing the ACL and lateral meniscus in his right knee.

The 6-foot-2 senior is the nephew of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly, who starred for the Buffalo Bills. The younger Kelly finished his Ole Miss career with 6,800 career yards passing despite playing just 22 career games, which ranks third in school history behind Eli Manning and Bo Wallace.

Toronto tops New York for MLS playoff win

NEW YORK — Sebastian Giovinco scored the fourth hat trick in MLS playoff history as Toronto FC routed New York City FC 5-0 on Sunday to reach the Eastern Conference finals.

With a 7-0 aggregate victory, Toronto set an MLS record for the largest margin of victory in a two-legged series since the league started using the playoff format in 2003.

Toronto will face the Montreal Impact in the conference finals, with Game 1 set for Montreal on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Montreal edged the New York Red Bulls 2-1 and advanced 3-1 on aggregate, with Ignacio Piatti scoring his second goal of the game in the 85th minute.

The Western Conference championship will feature Colorado against Seattle.

Tim Howard made two saves in the shootout as the Colorado Rapids beat Los Angeles Galaxy 3-1 on penalties to advance.

Seattle advanced 4-2 on aggregate despite a 2-1 loss to FC Dallas in Frisco in the return leg.

It will be Colorado's first conference finals appearance since winning the MLS Cup in 2010. The two-game series will open in Seattle on Sunday, Nov. 20.

