

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

DOD plans big buildup at Jordan air base

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. military officials investigating the deadly ambush on an Army Special Forces team in Niger last month discovered additional remains of an American soldier killed in the attack while combing the scene for evidence, Pentagon officials said Tuesday.

Investigators found human remains Nov. 12 during an examination of the ambush site outside the remote village of Tongo Tongo near Niger's border with Mali, Dana White, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, said in a prepared statement. A military medical examiner later determined the remains belonged to Army Sgt. La David Johnson, she said.

Johnson's body was found two

days after the Oct. 4 attack on the convoy of American and Nigerien forces by Islamic State-linked militants. The Pentagon has declined to publicly answer questions about how Johnson became separated from the other soldiers during the attack or whether he was captured at some point by enemy fighters. Officials have declined to confirm reports Johnson's body was found tied or handcuffed and that he had been executed.

Johnson's family has been critical of the handling of the soldier's death by President Donald Trump's administration. His wife, Myeisha Johnson, has said the military advised her not to view her husband's remains before his funeral, which took place Oct. 23.

White and other top Pentagon officials have cited the on-

going combined probe by U.S. Africa Command and the FBI into the attack in declining to answer questions.

The investigation is expected to be completed by January.

"The department continues to conduct a detailed and thorough investigation into the deaths of Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright and Sgt. La David T. Johnson," White's statement reads. "We extend our deepest condolences to all of the families of the fallen."

The roughly 40-person U.S.-Nigerien patrol, which included 12 U.S. soldiers, came under attack by about 50 ISIS fighters as the unit was returning to its camp.

The patrol had left the Nigerien capital of Niamey on Oct. 3 to meet with local leaders in

Tongo Tongo.

Black, Jeremiah Johnson and Wright were killed alongside six Nigerien soldiers during the Oct. 4 firefight, according to the Pentagon.

It remains unclear exactly when La David Johnson was killed.

American, Nigerien and French forces launched a massive search operation for the soldier once it was realized he was missing.

The Pentagon has said Nigerien forces found La David Johnson's body Oct. 6 and transferred it to the U.S. military.

There are about 8,000 American troops in Niger, where the United States is building a drone base and employs special operators to train and assist Nigerien troops to conduct counterterrorism operations in the country.

No time frame for alcohol ban for troops in Japan

By LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Servicemembers in Japan can expect a ban on alcoholic beverages to last at least through Thanksgiving, a wing commander told troops Tuesday in western Tokyo.

Over the weekend, the U.S. military ordered servicemembers in Japan not to buy or consume alcohol "until further notice" after Okinawa police arrested Lance Cpl. Nicholas James-McLean, 21, on suspicion of negligent driving resulting in death and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Hidemasa Taira, 61, was killed early Sunday after his minitruck was involved in a collision with a military-owned

vehicle driven by James-McLean. Naha police planned to refer the case to prosecutors on Tuesday.

Servicemembers gathered Tuesday for an all-hands call at Yokota's Enlisted Club wanted to know how long the alcohol ban would remain in effect.

Col. Kenneth Moss, commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, said he had no idea but told them to "expect to celebrate Thanksgiving with your favorite bottle of sparkling apple cider."

Commanders across Japan have been leading mandatory training to address alcohol use, risk management and acceptable behavior. All military members and U.S. government civilians in Japan are required to attend.

"The goal is to report back to [Adm. Harry Harris, head of U.S. Pacific Command] today or tomorrow that we are 100 percent complete in all the training," Moss said. "We've reviewed the responsible use of alcohol, the risk management, and we've reviewed the implications of your behavior, with the idea that that will mitigate some of the outrage over this."

A breath test indicated that James-McLean had a blood-alcohol level that was three times Japan's legal limit of 0.03 percent, a Naha police spokesman said.

"We had a 20-, 21-, 22-year-old Marine who woke up Sunday morning with no ill intent, had a couple of beers and for whatever reason got in a [government-owned vehicle]," Moss

said.

The accident cost the life of a local national and affected a young Marine who had his entire future ahead of him, the commander added.

"That's why we are taking this seriously," he said.

Moss encouraged servicemembers to focus on Vigilant Ace, an upcoming exercise with South Korean forces that will see Yokota personnel practice their response to nuclear, biological and chemical attacks.

"Hopefully, you can celebrate an exercise well achieved and a job well done with the beverage of your choice after Vigilant Ace," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Seth Robson contributed to this report.

Vandals tag items tied to US in Japan

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

A number of U.S. military-affiliated vehicles and apartment buildings were vandalized over the weekend, shortly after a fatal vehicle accident involving a Marine and a Japanese national.

Twenty-nine vehicles owned by U.S. personnel were vandalized with paint sometime between Sunday evening and early Monday morning, Okinawa police told Stars and Stripes. Three Y-plated cars at an apartment building in Ginowan City and 26 Y-plated cars in Chatan were vandalized.

“Y” license plates indicate the owner is covered under the status of forces agreement between U.S. and Japan and is in some way linked to the U.S. military.

Some walls at the buildings’ parking lots were also vandalized, said police, who

were alerted to the issue by military police at Camp Foster.

The vandalism consisted of dark-blue graffiti spray painted onto walls and vehicles, Okinawa police said. The letter “Y” was painted on vehicles along with a “two-leaf clover” symbol. Police said they are unsure of its meaning.

Okinawa police are investigating the incidents and declined to comment on motive or whether they think U.S. personnel were targeted.

Marine Corps officials told Stars and Stripes they had no information available about the incidents. Police on the southern island prefecture arrested Lance Cpl. Nicholas James-McLean early Sunday on suspicion of negligent driving resulting in death and driving under the influence of alcohol. A breath test indicated that he had a blood-alcohol level that was three times Japan’s legal limit of 0.03

percent, police said.

A small truck driven by Hidemasa Taira, 61, was making a turn about 5:30 a.m. at an intersection in Naha when it was hit by an Isuzu Elf driven by James-McLean coming from the opposite direction, a police spokesman said. Witness accounts say Taira had the right of way, and that James-McLean may have gone through a red light.

Taira died at local hospital from chest wounds and bleeding suffered in the crash, the spokesman said. James-McLean had minor injuries.

Servicemembers on Okinawa must remain confined to their base or homes after liberty restrictions were imposed by U.S. Forces Japan late Sunday. All Japan-based servicemembers are prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcohol on or off base until further notice.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

1 pilot killed, 1 hurt in Texas crash

The Washington Post

One Air Force pilot died and another was injured when their plane crashed Monday afternoon about 14 miles from their base in Texas, military officials said.

The two pilots, whose names were not released, were flying a T-38 Talon — a twin-engine supersonic jet that is primarily used for training — near Laughlin Air Force base near Del Rio, Texas.

The Air Force said it would investigate the crash, which it said happened about 4 p.m.

The U.S. fleet of T-38s, built by Northrop Corp., was produced between 1961 and 1972, according to the Air Force. As the fleet has aged, various components have been modified or replaced, the Air Force said.

Witnesses cited by the Del Rio News-Herald said they saw a parachute and a lone pilot descend to the ground near the crash.

Pentagon: Strike killed 100 militants in Somalia

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A U.S. airstrike on an al-Shabab training camp in Somalia on Tuesday killed more than 100 of the al-Qaida-aligned militants, according to U.S. Africa Command.

The morning strike was conducted in coordination with the Somali government and targeted a terrorist encampment about 125 miles northwest of Mogadishu, according to an AFRICOM statement.

Tuesday’s attack marks the 29th American airstrike in Somalia in 2017, a marked uptick from recent years when the United States only occasionally targeted al-Shabab with drone strikes.

President Donald Trump earlier this year expanded authorizations for AFRICOM to target extremist groups in the Horn of Africa, namely al-Shabab, which has grown in recent years and claimed responsibility for attacks primarily in Mogadishu, the country’s capital.

Despite the increase in strikes and the influx of some 500 American troops into So-

malia, the Pentagon has pushed back on the notion of a buildup of forces there.

Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie told reporters last week the increase in U.S. personnel in Somalia was a natural “flow of forces” and more attacks is reflective only of an increase in available targets.

“There’s no particular rhythm to it, except that as they become available and as we’re able to process them and vet them, we strike them,” he said Thursday at the Pentagon.

The increase in American troops comes as the African Union begins in the coming weeks to pull out its troops, which have been battling al-Shabab in Somalia for a decade. That draw-down is set to be completed by 2020, when Somalia’s fledgling security forces will be left in charge of the fight.

AFRICOM said Tuesday that it also conducted strikes in recent days in Libya against Islamic State militants. The airstrikes occurred Friday and Sunday near Fuqaha in central Libya, according to a statement. The strikes were coordinated with Libya’s U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord.

US readies new sanctions on N. Korea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration readied new sanctions Tuesday on North Korea, a day after declaring it a state sponsor of terrorism in a move to put additional pressure on Pyongyang's nuclear program.

North Korea has joined Iran, Sudan and Syria on America's terrorism blacklist, a largely symbolic step as the administration already has the authority to impose virtually any sanctions it wants on Kim Jong Un's government over its nuclear weapons development.

As part of its "maximum pressure" campaign, President Donald Trump said the Treasury Department would impose more sanctions on North Korea and "related persons" starting Tuesday, without hinting who or what would be targeted. The move is part of a rolling effort to deprive Pyongyang of funds for its nuclear and missile programs and leave it internationally isolated.

"It will be the highest level of sanctions by the time it's finished over a two-week period," Trump said.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday the pres-

sure campaign was starting to bite in Pyongyang, which is already facing unprecedented U.N.-mandated sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. Tillerson said anecdotal evidence and intelligence suggest the North is now suffering fuel shortages, with queues at gas stations, and its revenues are down.

The U.S. has been applying sanctions of its own as well.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan supports the step as a way to increase pressure on North Korea.

But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang expressed

concern. He said Tuesday that the situation is "highly sensitive" and that it would be "helpful to bring all parties back to the negotiation table instead of doing the opposite."

Da Zhigang, a North Korea expert at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, said the move "will arouse diplomatic reactions and hatred toward the U.S. from North Korea" and could even prompt the North to resume missile tests.

Tillerson urged China, which accounts for 90 percent of North Korea's external trade, to take unilateral steps to cut fuel supplies to its wayward neighbor.

CBS co-host: 'Charlie does not get a pass here'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Charlie Rose's co-hosts on "CBS This Morning" sharply condemned their then-suspended colleague Tuesday after the airing of sexual misconduct allegations that included groping female staffers and walking around naked in front of them, saying that it's a time of reckoning in society.

"This has to end," said Norah O'Donnell.

The morning show — normally hosted by Rose, O'Donnell and Gayle King — was down to the two women and the accusations against their colleague was their lead story.

CBS first suspended, then fired Rose following Monday's Washington Post story about him and PBS also halted distribution of his nightly interview show.

King said she considered Rose a friend and held him in high regard but was struggling because "what do you say when someone that you deeply care about has done something so horrible?"

"How do you wrap your brain around that?" she said. "I'm really grappling with that."

"That said, Charlie does not get a pass here. He doesn't get a pass from anyone in this room."

She said that while the story described a Rose she did not know, "I'm also clearly on the side of the women who have been very hurt and damaged by this."

A stern O'Donnell didn't address her relationship with Rose.

"This is a moment that demands a frank and honest assessment about where we stand and more generally the safety of women," she said. "Let me be very clear. There is no excuse for this alleged behavior."

She said women cannot achieve equality in the workplace and society unless there is a reckoning and taking of responsibility.

Rose, 75, apologized for his behavior in a statement issued Monday and said he was embarrassed by it. He joins a rapidly growing list of public figures felled by misconduct allegations since the floodgates were opened by The New York Times' investigation of harassment and assault by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The "CBS This Morning" eye-opener segment, a 90-second collection of film clips about the day, also led with the Rose story and quoted two pundits speculating the charges may end his career.

Conyers denies sexual harassment settlements

Associated Press

DETROIT — Longtime Michigan Rep. John Conyers on Tuesday denied settling a complaint in 2015 from a woman who alleged she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances.

The website BuzzFeed News reported Monday that the office of Conyers, 88, paid the woman over \$27,000 to settle the complaint under a confidentiality agreement.

BuzzFeed also published affidavits from former staff members who said they had witnessed Conyers touching female staffers inappropriately — rubbing their legs and backs — or requesting sexual favors. One former staffer said one of her duties was "to keep a list of women that I assumed he was having affairs with and call them at his request and, if necessary, have them flown in using Congressional resources."

Conyers, who answered the door at his Detroit home, told The Associated Press that he knows nothing about any claims of inappropriate touching and learned of the story from television just hours earlier.

"I have been looking at these

things in amazement," he said, referring to allegations of sexual harassment and assault being made against politicians and others.

House Speaker Paul Ryan labeled the report "extremely troubling." Ryan, R-Wis., said the House is updating its policies for handling complaints of workplace harassment and discrimination, which have been criticized as too weak and cumbersome. His statement did not name Conyers, but Ryan spokeswoman AshLee Strong confirmed it was directed at him.

"People who work in the House deserve and are entitled to a workplace without harassment or discrimination," Ryan said.

BuzzFeed said it received the documents from right-wing activist Mike Cernovich but independently confirmed their authenticity. Cernovich said he gave the documents to BuzzFeed News because Democrats would "try to discredit the story by attacking the messenger" if he published them himself.

Conyers is the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee and the longest-serving current member of the House, having arrived in 1965.

60,000 Haitians are given until July 2019 to leave US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said it is ending a temporary residency permit program that has allowed almost 60,000 citizens from Haiti to live and work in the United States since a powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation in 2010.

The Homeland Security Department said conditions in Haiti have improved significantly so the benefit will be extended one last time — until July 2019 — to give Haitians time to prepare to return home.

“Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent,” the department said in a statement issued Monday evening. “Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens.”

Advocates and members of Congress from both parties had asked the Trump administration for an 18-month extension of the program, known as Temporary Protected Status, as did Haitian President Jovenel Moïse’s government.

Rony Ponthieux, 49, a Haitian nurse with temporary residency who has lived in Miami since 1999, said, “This isn’t

over; this is time we get to fight for renewal, not to pack our bags.” She has a daughter and a son born in the U.S. and another son in Port-au-Prince.

“We need to push Washington to provide a legal status for us with TPS,” Ponthieux said. “This is anti-immigrant policy.”

Advocates for Haitians quickly criticized the decision to make this the last extension, arguing the conditions in the island nation haven’t improved nearly enough for Haitians to be deported. Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Republican, expressed “strong opposition” to the measure and urged the administration to reconsider.

“Forcing them to leave the United States would be detrimental,” he said in a statement. “Almost eight years later, Haiti remains in total disarray and still requires much rebuilding.”

The United Nations last month ended a peacekeeping mission in Haiti that, at its peak, included more than 10,000 troops. Its new mission comprises about 1,300 international civilian police officers and 350 civilians who will help the country try to reform a deeply troubled justice system.

Mugabe resigns as Zimbabwe’s leader

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe’s president effective immediately on Tuesday after 37 years in power, shortly after parliament began impeachment proceedings against him.

“My decision to resign is voluntary on my part and arises from my concern for the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and my desire for a smooth, nonviolent transfer of power,” Mugabe said in his letter, which was read aloud in Parliament, sparking cheers and dancing.

Ruling party Chief Whip Lovemore Matuke told The Associated Press that recently fired Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa would take over as the country’s leader within 48 hours. Matuke said Mnangagwa, who fled the country after his firing, “is not far from here.”

Matuke said they look forward to Mugabe doing the handover of power “so that Mnangagwa moves with speed to work for the country.”

Cars began honking horns and people cheered in the streets as the news spread like wildfire across the capital, Harare.

Mugabe, who had been the world’s oldest head of state at 93, said proper procedures should be followed to install new leadership.

Mugabe’s resignation brought an end to the impeachment proceedings brought by the ruling ZANU-PF party after its Central Committee voted to oust the president as party leader and select Mnangagwa as his replacement. Mnangagwa served for decades as Mugabe’s enforcer, with a reputation for being astute and ruthless, more feared than popular.

Before the resignation, crowds rallied outside Parliament, dancing and singing. Some people placed photos of Mugabe in the street so that cars would run over them. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, of the MDC party, said the culture of the ruling party “must end,” and everyone must put their heads together and work toward free and fair elections.

Trump vows to give citizens ‘a huge tax cut for Christmas’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday promised a tax overhaul by Christmas, even as a nonpartisan tax analysis group said the Senate package would leave half of taxpayers facing higher levies by 2027.

Speaking before a Cabinet meeting, Trump said, “We’re going to give the American people a huge tax cut for Christmas — hopefully, that will be a great, big, beautiful Christmas present.”

Trump spoke as the Tax Policy Center said that while all income groups would see tax reductions on average under the Senate bill in 2019, 9 percent of taxpayers would pay

higher taxes that year than under current law. By 2027, that proportion would grow to 50 percent, largely because the legislation’s personal tax cuts expire in 2026, which Republicans did to curb budget deficits the bill would create.

The policy center, a joint operation of the liberal-leaning Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution, found that low earners would generally get smaller tax breaks than higher income people.

In 2019, those making less than \$25,000 would get an average \$50 tax reduction, or 0.3 percent of their after-tax income. Middle-income earners would get average cuts of \$850, while people making at least \$746,000 would get average

cuts of \$34,000, or 2.2 percent of income.

The center also said the Senate proposal would generate enough economic growth to produce additional revenue of \$169 billion over a decade. That’s far short of closing the near \$1.5 trillion in red ink that Congress’ nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated the bill would produce over that period.

Antonia Ferrier, spokeswoman for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., cited a separate study by the Tax Foundation. That conservative-leaning group has said the Senate bill would produce higher wages, nearly 1 million new jobs and enough economic growth to generate nearly \$1.3

trillion in federal revenue.

“The Tax Foundation has laid out in unambiguous terms how critical the Senate tax bill is to hard-working families and job creators,” Ferrier said.

The House approved a tax measure last Thursday slicing corporate and personal taxes by \$1.5 trillion over the coming decade. That evening, the Senate Finance Committee approved a similar plan, which like the House version devotes the bulk of its reductions to corporations and other businesses.

The Senate bill would repeal a requirement that Americans have health insurance or pay a fine. The provision is not in the version of the tax overhaul passed last week by the House.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man used mom as his getaway driver

NY ORCHARD PARK — Authorities in western New York said a man had his mother serve as his getaway driver while he robbed a fast-food restaurant at gunpoint.

Police in the town of Orchard Park, just south of Buffalo, said a 30-year-old man entered a Mighty Taco restaurant about 2 a.m. Sunday armed with a gun and demanded cash from the register.

Officers said he ran out and got into a van that was seen leaving the parking lot about the same time the robbery occurred. Police pulled over the van moments later and found the suspect in the passenger seat.

Officials said the man's mother, 56, was driving the van. Both have been charged with robbery and criminal possession of stolen property.

2 on plane say part of engine cover fell off

UT ST. GEORGE — Two passengers on a SkyWest flight in southern Utah said a piece of the plane's engine cover fell off midflight.

Scott Jackson and Don Bumps said they heard a loud bang and felt vibrations about 20 minutes into the flight from St. George to Phoenix on Friday.

Jackson said the pilot then made a slow turn over the Grand Canyon and the plane returned safely to the airport, where the pilot told the passengers the cause was a detached piece of cowling.

SkyWest spokeswoman Marissa Snow said the Bombardier CRJ200 regional jet returned to the airport due to an engine warning. She could not confirm an exact cause of the issue. She

said no one was hurt and the airline was working to get passengers on another flight to Phoenix.

Kite surfer hospitalized after hitting building

FL FLAGLER BEACH — Authorities said a kite surfer was hospitalized after crashing into a building near a Florida beach.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that Peter James Vasiliades, 56, was kite surfing in Flagler Beach last week when heavy winds caused him to hit a downspout at High Tides at Snack Jacks. He then slammed into an adjacent building and fell down a flight of stairs.

Vasiliades was airlifted to a Daytona Beach hospital. His kite was found tangled in nearby power lines.

Deputy uses Taser on student fleeing arrest

MD SALISBURY — A deputy on Maryland's Eastern Shore used a Taser on a high school student fleeing the campus during a drug investigation.

The Wicomico County Sheriff's Office said the officer used the stun gun Friday because the student resisted arrest and because of concerns he might be armed.

Police said the 15-year-old Parkside High School student drew suspicion because he smelled like marijuana.

News outlets reported that the student ran from the building during a struggle with a deputy and was chased down in a parking lot.

Police said a bag of marijuana was found on the student, and he is being charged with drug possession and resisting arrest.

He was released to his parents after a medical evaluation.

On Nov. 14, a teacher at Parkside was charged with selling drugs on school grounds.

Man woos Amazon for headquarters with song

NM LAS VEGAS — Amazon is sorting through 238 proposals to house the company's second headquarters, and a Las Vegas man is trying to woo the online giant with a song.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported that Las Vegas resident Jim Terr has penned a tune to attract Amazon to the small northern New Mexico city.

The song highlights the food, natural beauty, architecture and pop culture in Las Vegas.

But the city of Las Vegas didn't submit a bid to Amazon.

The online retailer kicked off its hunt for a second home base in September, promising 50,000 new jobs and construction spending of more than \$5 billion.

Son says mom stabbed him for smoking inside

MA BOXBOROUGH — A Massachusetts woman has been charged with stabbing her adult son.

The Lowell Sun said the son, 22, reported the attack that allegedly happened inside the Boxborough home they share shortly after midnight on Nov. 8.

Boxborough police said Karin Evans, 61, told them she stabbed her son in self-defense because he attacked her with a pair of tin shears.

The son said she stabbed him in the shoulder with a knife because she was angry he smoked inside the home. Police said the mother appeared to have been

drinking.

Evans, facing charges including armed assault with intent to murder, was released on personal recognizance under the condition she not consume alcohol.

Santa's in town? You need an appointment

NY NEW YORK — Santa Claus may be coming to town, but you'll need a reservation to see him.

At Macy's flagship store on 34th Street in New York, a chance to sit on Saint Nick's lap is by appointment only this year for the first time.

Families can go online to sign up for a time slot from 30 minutes to five days in advance or sign up at a kiosk in the store. No walk-ins are allowed. Admission is free to Santaland Herald Square and runs from the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve.

Macy's said the new arrangement is intended to cut down on wait times and make it easier to see the man in the red suit.

Rowing team discovers body floating near port

CA LOS ANGELES — Authorities said a college rowing team practicing near the Port of Los Angeles discovered a body floating in the water.

Lt. Mark Oliver, of the Los Angeles Port Police, said the man's body was found about 9 a.m. Saturday. A fire department crew retrieved the body.

Oliver said the man has been identified but officials wouldn't release his name until his family was notified.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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Bradshaw driving force in Army offense

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — When Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw lines up to take a snap and get the team's ground-gobbling triple option in gear, he squats so low that he seems to nearly disappear behind the center.

"That's just his thing. That's what benefits him," Army defensive lineman John Voit said. "It kind of helps if no one can see you."

Hard to see on the field maybe, difficult to ignore on paper. With two games left in the regular season, the 5-foot-11, 200-pound senior, a deceptively strong runner who can slither through the tiniest openings, needs just 112 yards to break Collin Mooney's academy rushing record for a season of 1,339, set nine years ago by the hulking 247-pound fullback.

Most impressive of Bradshaw's accomplishments this season might be his average of 7.58 yards per carry, fifth nationally, because he's done it against teams that know he's almost always going to run if he keeps the ball. Bradshaw is

11-for-36 for 232 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions passing on a team that's second in rushing (351.5) and last in passing by a long shot — 30.8 yards per game.

Heady stuff for a kid who escaped the mean streets of Chicago's South Side.

Before he finished elementary school, Bradshaw's mother, Kizzy Collins, moved the family to the Chicago suburbs "so he would not have to grow up watching or hearing people get killed," she said. Then she steered him to football at age 8 at the urging of a family friend to keep him busy.

It was a struggle at first.

"I was telling my mother, 'I don't want to play. This is boring,'" recalled Bradshaw, who also ranks second among quarterbacks in West Point history with 10 100-yard rushing games, half of them this season. "She actually made me stay on the team. She forced me to go to practice when I didn't want to."

Wise decision.

Bradshaw blossomed into a star dual-threat quarterback in high school, starting all four

years at Gwendolyn Brooks Academy.

"He turned the program around," said James Brown, his former coach there.

Offered a scholarship during his junior year by Army assistant Tucker Waugh, Bradshaw was reticent at first. He had never heard of West Point and, after doing some research, couldn't imagine getting up at 5 a.m. every day to run and get yelled at incessantly. And mom wasn't exactly enamored of the thought of her only son going into the Army after graduation.

"It took a lot of convincing," she said.

One visit quickly changed Bradshaw's mind.

"When I came in the locker room, the final decision that made me want to come here was the guys here are so different," he said. "The guys just seemed like they cared more here. They cared about their brothers."

It's difficult to imagine a more complete leader for the brotherhood that fourth-year coach Jeff Monken preaches. When Bradshaw endeared himself to

the Army faithful after scoring the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter against archrival Navy last December to snap the Midshipmen's 14-game winning streak in the series, he deflected any praise: "I didn't beat Navy. We beat Navy," he said.

And when Army trailed Temple with 91 seconds left in last month's game, even though he was an accomplished passer in high school with more than 70 touchdown passes, Bradshaw didn't flinch when Monken replaced him with Kelvin Hopkins. The sophomore proceeded to rally the Black Knights, hitting the game-tying touchdown pass with one second remaining in regulation, and Army won in overtime on a field goal.

The pinnacle of the season so far came against service academy rival Air Force, which has dominated the series with Army. Bradshaw rushed for a career-high 265 yards in a 21-0 victory earlier this month, the most yards by an Army player on the road in program history, and he did not attempt a pass.

Those who know Bradshaw best are not surprised.

Sooners quarterback Mayfield won't start home finale

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Baker Mayfield's on-the-field antics caught up with him this time.

Oklahoma's senior quarterback will not start his final regular-season game Saturday at home against West Virginia after making a lewd gesture against Kansas. Coach Lincoln Riley also stripped Mayfield of his captain status for the game.

Riley made the announcements Monday. Mayfield said he understood.

"I knew something needed to be done," he said. "I put coach Riley in a terrible spot. It's not a decision any coach wants to have to make, but it was necessary. It was a hard conversation because he wants the best for me. It's tough. It was difficult

and our relationship was the main reason why it was such a hard conversation to have."

Riley teared up as he explained why Mayfield was so important to him. Mayfield started both years that Riley was offensive coordinator and finished fourth in the Heisman balloting in 2015 and third last season. In Riley's first year as head coach this season, Mayfield has played well enough to be considered by many to be the leader in the Heisman race.

"Coming to this decision, this being his last game here — sure, it's emotional," Riley said. "He and I have been tied together here for a long time. I get to see behind the scenes what the guy does, the things that aren't in front of the cam-

eras that the public doesn't get to see, and I see how valuable he is to this team, this program again, this university, this community. He's tremendous."

Kansas team captains did not shake hands with Mayfield before Saturday's game. After getting slighted, Mayfield jawed with the Jayhawks and some fans seated behind the Oklahoma bench. He also grabbed his crotch and cursed the Kansas sideline from his bench during the third quarter of the Sooners' 41-3 win that clinched a spot in the Big 12 championship game.

Mayfield has been in trouble before. He was arrested in Arkansas in February and charged with disorderly conduct, public intoxication and resisting arrest. The school

ordered him to do 35 hours of community service and participate in an alcohol education program.

Mayfield also has a track record of doing things to annoy opponents. The past three years, he shaved his mustache into a horseshoe before playing Oklahoma State, representing a new sheriff in town. This season, he planted a crimson OU flag at the 50-yard line at Ohio State after a 31-16 victory. He told Baylor's players he was their daddy and he was going to spank them before a 49-41 Oklahoma win.

Mayfield has brought out similar antics in opponents. An Iowa State player planted an Iowa flag in the middle of Owen Field after the Cyclones upset the Sooners this season.

QB Ryan, Falcons hold off Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons did enough through 3½ quarters that even the best comeback attempt by Russell Wilson fell short this time.

A couple of yards short, to be exact.

Ryan threw a pair of touchdown passes, Adrian Clayborn returned a fumble 10 yards for a score and the Falcons watched Blair Walsh's 52-yard field-goal attempt in the final seconds fall short, holding off the Seattle Seahawks for a 34-31 win on Monday night.

Atlanta won its second straight to stay on the heels of New Orleans and Carolina in the NFC South, and handed Seattle a second consecutive home loss.

"What an absolute team win from the guys tonight," Atlanta coach Dan Quinn said. "Coming here, in this environment, with the crowd, we thought it would be two competitive, tough teams that were going to battle for it in the biggest way."

Ryan threw TDs to Mohamed Sanu and Levine Toilolo, while Tevin Coleman added a 1-yard TD run on Atlanta's opening possession.

But it was Clayborn's fumble return that helped break the game open early in the second quarter and gave Atlanta a 21-7 lead. He scooped up a loose ball after Wilson was crunched by Takk McKinley and Courtney Upshaw.

"I think we're moving in the right direction. We keep proving we can finish games and beat guys. We have to take the momentum and keep rolling with it," Clayborn said.

With Seattle down 11 points, Wilson hit Doug Baldwin on a 29-yard TD with 3 minutes left and then threw to Jimmy Graham for the two-point conversion. Seattle got the ball back and moved in range for Walsh, whose attempt was on line but landed short of the crossbar.

"That was in our range, and in hindsight I would have just driven it more," Walsh said. "I would have driven it more and not left it short. I was too accurate and didn't have enough on it."

Wilson again was the entirety of Seattle's offense, throwing for 258 yards and two touchdowns, and running for another 86 yards and a TD.

But it was an awful night for the Se-

ahawks, filled with more injuries and questionable decisions by coach Pete Carroll. He called for a fake field goal late in the first half rather than attempting a 35-yard kick. He also made a questionable challenge in the fourth quarter that didn't go his way and left Seattle with just one timeout.

That lack of timeouts came back to haunt Seattle on the final drive when seconds ticked away and rather than running one more play, Walsh was sent out to attempt the 52-yard kick. His long for the season is 49 yards.

The conclusion only amplified Carroll's baffling decision at the end of the first half, when Seattle ran a fake field goal rather than having Walsh attempt a 35-yarder that would have pulled Seattle within 24-20. Holder Jon Ryan completed his shovel pass to Luke Willson, but Grady Jarrett read the play and tackled Willson for a 4-yard loss.

"It would have been a really good call if we had made it," Carroll said. "Terrific opportunity right where we wanted it and the defensive tackle made a better play."

Foster leads Creighton past No. 23 UCLA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mitch Ballock could have played just down the road at Kansas, close to where he grew up in the small town of Eudora, but he spurned the college hoops powerhouse to sign with Creighton.

He got a chance to put on a show for his boyhood fans anyway.

The freshman guard hit four three-pointers and finished with 22 points, Marcus Foster overcame an early shooting slump to score 23, and the Bluejays beat No. 23 UCLA 100-89 on Monday night in the semifinals of the Hall of Fame Classic.

"It's great that he did that tonight in Kansas City in front of his family and friends," Bluejays coach Greg McDermott said, "but this is what we talked about when we recruited him, nights like this. We are ecstatic that he stuck with us. He has a bright future ahead."

So do the Bluejays, who will play No. 25 Baylor for the tournament title. The Bears blew most of a 19-point lead before beating Wisconsin 70-65 in the other semifinal.

Khyri Thomas added 16 points and Ty-Shon Alexander had 12 for the Bluejays (4-0), who have won 12 straight in-season tournament games after titles at the MGM Grand Main Event and the Paradise Jam.

No. 1 Duke 92, Furman 63: Marvin Bagley III scored 24 points and the host Blue Devils won the on-campus round of the PK80.

No. 6 Wichita State 92, California 82: Shaquille Morris scored 25 points, Landry Shamet added 23 and the Shockers got the Maui Invitational off to a wild start by rallying from an 18-point deficit to beat the Golden Bears.

No. 8 Kentucky 70, Troy 62: Kevin Knox scored 17 points and host Kentucky built a big lead in the second half be-

fore having to withstand a late rally by Troy to hold on.

After having to rally in each of its previous games, the Wildcats (4-1) led throughout against the Trojans (2-3). They built a double-digit lead early, a needed cushion as Troy fought back to within eight.

No. 9 North Carolina 96, Stanford 72: Joel Berry II scored 29 points, Kenny Williams set career highs with 20 points and six three-pointers, and the visiting Tar Heels beat the Carinans in a matchup of coach Roy Williams against former player Jerod Haase.

No. 12 Cincinnati 73, Buffalo 68: Gary Clark scored 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds and the Bearcats held off the Bison to close the opening round of the Cayman Islands Classic.

No. 13 Notre Dame 83, Chaminade 56: Matt Farrell scored 27 points and Bonzie Colson added 23, helping the Fighting Irish open the Maui

Invitational with a rout over Division II Silverswords.

No. 15 Xavier 96, Hampton 60: Trevon Bluiett followed his fabulous game against Wisconsin with a 21-point performance, and the host Musketeers turned to their reserves while pulling away from the Pirates.

No. 16 Texas A&M 72, Oklahoma State 55: Robert Williams 11 points, 11 rebounds and a handful of alley-oop dunks to help the Aggies beat the Cowboys in the first game of the Progressive Legends Classic.

No. 22 Baylor 70, Wisconsin 65: Jo Lual-Acuil Jr. had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Manu Lecomte poured in 25 points and the Bears held on after blowing most of a 19-point lead to beat the Badgers in the semifinals of the Hall of Fame Classic.

No. 23 West Virginia 91, Long Beach State 62: Lamont West was a point shy of a career high with 22 and the host Mountaineers overcame a slow start to beat the 49ers.

NBA roundup

Irving's 47 extends Celtics' win streak

Associated Press

DALLAS — Double-digit deficits are becoming just a minor annoyance to the Boston Celtics as they continue their winning ways.

Kyrie Irving scored 10 of his season-high 47 points in overtime as the Celtics rallied from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Dallas Mavericks 110-102 on Monday night and extend their winning streak to 16 games.

The winning streak ties the fourth-longest in franchise history, and for the third game in a row, Boston trailed by double digits.

In contrast to recent wins over Golden State and Atlanta, this one required a fourth quarter comeback. For that, the Celtics turned to Irving, who delivered his best performance for his new team after Dallas had taken an 87-74 lead with 7:47 to play.

"For us it's just about battling back when teams get a comfortable rhythm, whether

it'd be in the first half or the second half," Irving said. "As a group we continue just to stick together throughout anything and everything."

Irving stole the ball from Dirk Nowitzki and fed Jayson Tatum for an alley-oop layup that hung on the rim for a full second before dropping through with 1:01 to play to tie the score at 96.

In the extra period, Irving scored his team's first six points. Then after Jaylen Brown gave Boston a 104-102 lead with a jumper with 1:39 to play, Irving went to work on Yogi Ferrell, backing him down and drawing contact on a layup with 48.5 seconds to play. Though Irving missed the free throw to keep the score 106-102, Dallas never got closer.

"I don't really see it as a pressure situation," Irving said of his late-game play. "It's just like playing basketball, man. It's just like being in a park 7-7 and game is eight."

Cavaliers 116, Pistons 88:

LeBron James scored 16 of his 18 points in the first quarter, and Cleveland made 11 three-pointers in the first half in its rout of host Detroit.

Pelicans 114, Thunder 107: Anthony Davis had 36 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans rallied after DeMarcus Cousins' ejection to beat visiting Oklahoma City.

Cousins had 18 points and nine rebounds before he was called for a flagrant foul on Russell Westbrook with five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Spurs 96, Hawks 85: LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and host San Antonio held off Atlanta.

76ers 107, Jazz 86: Ben Simmons scored 27 points, a fired-up Joel Embiid added 15 points and 10 rebounds despite a sore knee, and host Philadelphia beat cold-shooting Utah.

Wizards 99, Bucks 88: Bradley Beal scored 23 points to lead visiting Washington.

Knicks 107, Clippers 85:

Kristaps Porzingis scored 25 points and host New York extended Los Angeles' losing streak to nine games.

Porzingis outplayed a frustrated Blake Griffin and helped the Knicks snap a 10-game skid in the series with their first victory over the Clippers in five years.

Nuggets 114, Kings 98: Will Barton and Trey Lyles made two three-pointers apiece during a big run in the third quarter, and short-handed Denver pulled away to beat host Sacramento.

Pacers 105, Magic 97: Victor Oladipo had 29 points, nine rebounds and seven steals to lead Indiana past host Orlando for its fourth straight win.

Hornets 118, Timberwolves 102: Dwight Howard had 25 points and 20 rebounds, and host Charlotte beat Minnesota.

Trail Blazers 100, Grizzlies 92: C.J. McCollum scored 24 points as Portland sent host Memphis to its fifth straight loss.

NHL roundup

Rebounding Coyotes get past Maple Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO — After a terrible start to the season, the Arizona Coyotes are finally enjoying some success.

Antti Raanta made 26 saves and Arizona ended the Toronto Maple Leafs' winning streak at six games with a 4-1 victory Monday night.

"I think they're one of the better teams in the league. We knew we had to play a certain way to beat them," Coyotes coach Rick Tocchet said. "It's hard to do for 60 minutes and tonight I think we did it for the most part."

Brendan Perlini, Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Max Domi and Tobias Rieder scored for the Coyotes (5-15-3), who have won three in a row for the first time this season. They opened with only two wins in their first 20 games.

"We flushed the first 20 games down the drain," Tocchet said. "I think the last (few) games we're playing the right way, not going off the grid and being individual."

Arizona rookie Clayton Keller had two assists to give him 20 points in 23 games.

James van Riemsdyk scored for the Maple Leafs (14-8-0), who were trying to match their longest winning streak since 2003.

"[The Coyotes] were ready to compete at the start. They were better than us," Toronto coach Mike Babcock said. "When you don't start on time you don't deserve good results and we got what we deserved."

Toronto star Auston Matthews, playing in his 100th career game, appeared to tie it 2-all with 3:50 to play but the goal was overturned after a replay review because of goalie interference by Zach Hyman.

Capitals 4, Flames 1: Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and an assist to extend his career-best point streak to 10 games and Calgary beat host Washington.

Devils 4, Wild 3 (OT): John Moore scored 52 seconds into overtime and New Jersey overcame a late letdown to cap a successful road trip with a win against Minnesota.

Predators 5, Jets 3: Kyle Turris, Kevin Fiala and Ryan Johansen each had a goal and an assist to lead host Nashville.

Blue Jackets 3, Sabres 2: Sergei Bobrovsky made three of his 30 saves on a power play in the final two minutes, and Columbus beat host Buffalo for its fourth straight victory.

Ducks 3, Sharks 2 (SO): Antoine Vermette beat goalie Martin Jones in the ninth round of a long shootout to give Anaheim a victory over host San Jose.