

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Insider attack victim was mayor in Utah

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Department of Defense identified the U.S. servicemember killed in Afghanistan in an insider attack Saturday as Maj. Brent Taylor, a member of the Utah National Guard and the mayor of North Ogden, Utah.

Taylor leaves behind a wife and seven children, according to the Deseret News of Salt Lake City. Taylor is the first known sitting mayor in state history to leave for wartime service in Utah, the report said.

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch and Mitt Romney both tweeted about Taylor on Saturday evening.

"Brent was a hero, a patriot, a wonderful father, and a dear friend," Hatch stated. "News of his death in Afghanistan is devastating. My prayers and love are with Jennie and his 7 young children. His service will always be remembered." Romney tweeted that "another unmeasurable price is paid for freedom" and that Taylor's death had left him heartbroken.

Initial reports say a member of the Afghan security forces

is responsible for the attack, NATO's Resolute Support mission said in a statement. Afghan security forces members immediately killed the attacker.

Another soldier who was injured in the attack was treated and is in stable condition, the statement said.

The attack occurred at the Kabul Military Training Center early Saturday afternoon, said Nasrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry. It ended with an Afghan commando dead, although Rahimi declined to comment on whether that commando was a suspect in the killing.

Residents of North Ogden, a community of about 18,000 people north of Salt Lake City, remembered Taylor as a leader and mayor willing to listen.

"Brent was an absolute giant among men," city resident Cody Johnson told Stars and Stripes via instant message. "He was willing to put you up on his shoulders so you could see his vision, but also to help raise you up to a better place in life."

Taylor served as mayor and city administrator as he felt he could save the city money by working two positions, said

Johnson, who worked with Taylor on various community volunteering projects. Taylor also served on Utah's transportation board.

Residents said he was attentive to their needs and taking their calls.

"I wondered where he got the time and if he ever slept," North Ogden resident Brad Haslam said in an instant message.

Taylor regularly posted on a Facebook page he had created for residents to communicate with him following his election last year, residents said. He updated a diary of his time in Afghanistan on a public North Ogden community Facebook page.

Taylor announced he would be headed on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in January.

"Right now, there is a need for my experience and skills to serve in our nation's long-lasting war in Afghanistan," Taylor wrote. "President (Donald) Trump has ordered an increase in troops, and part of the new strategy focuses on expanding the capabilities of the Afghan commando units. I will be assigned to serve on an advisory team training the staff of an Af-

ghan commando battalion."

The North Ogden city government said in a statement Saturday Taylor had a "profound influence" on the community.

"He was the best of men with the ability to see potential and possibility in everything around him," the statement said. "We feel blessed to have had him as our mayor."

Taylor previously served two tours of duty in Iraq as a convoy security commander and then as an adviser to the Iraqi intelligence agency, according to a city council biography. He previously deployed to Afghanistan as a combat adviser to the Afghan Border Police.

In his last entry two weeks before his death, Taylor uploaded photos of a ruck march with both U.S. troops and Afghan security forces members. The troops were working hard to protect Afghanistan's parliamentary elections, he said. The evenings were beginning to cool, he added.

He concluded his post by telling his family, friends and constituents that he was excited to return home early next year.

## Female sailors say farewell to 'bucket' caps

BY SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy's female officers and chief petty officers last week ditched their "bucket" caps, a dress uniform staple for women of those ranks since World War II.

They now must don unisex covers that resemble men's dress uniform head covers.

Women who are E-6 and below will continue to wear the bucket covers, also known as female combination caps, with their four-button dress coats until Dec. 31, 2019, when those coats are phased out.

The bucket covers are no longer pro-

duced or carried at the Navy Exchange.

Some women have expressed sadness about the Navy scrapping a historic piece of military fashion.

The bucket cover was created during the first mass enlistment of American women in the military, with more than 350,000 serving during World War II.

"I'm retired but still sad to see the bucket retire," Peggy Myers Carrano, a former Navy nurse, wrote on Surface Force Atlantic's Facebook page.

Her comment was below a photo of a gravestone with an inscription: "Here lies bucket cover, July 1942 - Oct. 2018."

The dress caps are being eliminated as part of former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus' push to make uniforms gender-neutral to promote equality.

"Uniformity is about ending the way we segregate women by requiring them to wear different clothes," Mabus said in 2013.

New guidelines also state that enlisted female sailors are required to wear only white hats with jumper-style uniforms. Pregnant women E-6 and below can wear white hats or bucket covers with their maternity uniforms until Dec. 31, 2019.

# Militias stirred by call to arms head south

*The Washington Post*

FALFURRIAS, Texas — Gun-carrying civilian groups and border vigilantes have heard a call to arms in President Donald Trump's warnings about threats to American security posed by caravans of Central American migrants moving through Mexico. They're packing coolers and tents, oiling rifles and tuning up aerial drones, with plans to form caravans of their own and to trail American troops to the border.

"We'll observe and report, and offer aid in any way we can," said Shannon McGauley, a bail bondsman in the Dallas suburbs who is president of the Texas Minutemen. McGauley said he was preparing to head for the Rio Grande in coming days.

"We've proved ourselves be-

fore, and we'll prove ourselves again," he said.

McGauley and others have been roused by the president's call to restore order and defend the country against what Trump has called "an invasion," as thousands of Central American migrants advance slowly through southern Mexico toward the U.S. border. Trump has insisted that "unknown Middle Easterners," "very tough fighters," and large numbers of violent criminals are traveling among the women, children and families heading north on foot.

The Texas Minutemen, according to McGauley, have 100 volunteers en route to the Rio Grande who want to help stop the migrants, with more likely on the way.

"I can't put a number on it," McGauley said. "My phone's

been ringing nonstop for the last seven days. You got other militias, and husbands and wives, people coming from Oregon, Indiana. We've even got two from Canada."

Asked whether his group planned to deploy with weapons, McGauley laughed. "This is Texas, man," he said.

And yet, the prospect of armed vigilantes showing up beside thousands of U.S. troops — along with Border Patrol agents, police officers and migrants — is considered serious enough that military planners have issued warnings to Army commanders.

According to military planning documents obtained by Newsweek, the military is concerned about the arrival of "unregulated militia members self-deploying to the border in

alleged support" of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The assessment estimates that 200 militia members could show up. "They operate under the guise of citizen patrols," the report said, while warning of "incidents of unregulated militias stealing National Guard equipment during deployments."

The military report provided no further details about the alleged thefts.

Manuel Padilla Jr., the top Border Patrol official in the agency's Rio Grande Valley sector, the nation's busiest for illegal crossings, said he has not issued any instructions to agents in the field or to landowners whose properties are adjacent to the river. But he plans to meet with community members next week, he said, to address their concerns.

## Border deployment could cost \$200M by year's end

*The Washington Post*

The total price of President Donald Trump's military deployment to the border, including the cost of National Guard forces that have been there since April, could climb well above \$200 million by the end of 2018 and grow significantly if the deployments continue into next year, according to analyst estimates and Pentagon figures.

The deployment of as many as 15,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border — potentially

equal in size to the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan — occurs as the budgetary largesse the military has enjoyed since Trump took office looks set to come to an end.

Although the costs of the border deployments will be a tiny slice of a \$716 billion annual defense budget, they arrive as the Trump administration is calling on the Pentagon to cut unnecessary expenditures. The White House recently ordered the Pentagon to slash next year's budget for the military by about \$33 billion in response

to the largest increase in the federal deficit in six years.

Veterans and Democratic lawmakers have complained that Trump is wasting military dollars in a politically motivated stunt ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections at a time when the Pentagon budget is under pressure.

"Instead of working in a bipartisan manner to make comprehensive, common-sense and humane reforms to our immigration system, the president continues to turn to politically motivated fear-mongering and

uses (Department of Defense) resources and personnel as a means to drive his troubling anti-immigration agenda," more than 100 House Democrats wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Thursday.

Retired Gen. Martin Dempsey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the deployment as "wasteful" in a message on Twitter and said Marines and soldiers were already overstretched.

## Central American migrants continue push through Mexico

*Associated Press*

ISLA, Mexico — Thousands of weary Central American migrants resumed their push through Mexico on Sunday, a day after arguments over the path ahead saw some travelers splinter away from the main caravan, which is entering a treacherous part of its journey.

The majority of the roughly

4,000 migrants are now headed along what some called the "route of death" toward the town of Cordoba, Veracruz, which is about 124 miles up the road. The daily trek will be one of the longest yet, as the exhausted group of travelers tries to make progress any way it can.

The arduous trip has already

taken its toll. A day prior, the group was beset by divisions as migrants argued with caravan organizers and criticized Mexican officials before setting out on their own for Puebla and Mexico City.

Some were disappointed after caravan organizers unsuccessfully pleaded for buses after three weeks on the road.

Others were angry for being directed northward through the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, calling it the "route of death."

A trek via the sugar fields and fruit groves of Veracruz takes them through a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments.



# Florida yoga shooter appears to have made hateful videos

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A brooding military veteran and former teacher, Scott Paul Beierle, 40, appeared to have made videos in which he railed at women and blacks, years before he fatally shot two women at a Florida yoga studio, wounded five other people and then killed himself.

The Friday evening shooting at a busy upscale shopping plaza jolted the state capital, and police said they were still searching for a motive that led to the deaths of a Florida State University student and a well-known local doctor who was a member of the school faculty.

A witness who appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" Sunday, Joshua Quick, said he fought the gunman. Police say Beierle posed as a customer at the studio in Tallahassee on Friday night when he started shooting.

Quick said he then grabbed a broom and struck Beierle, which gave some people in the studio time to flee.

Two women — an FSU faculty member, 61, and an FSU student, 21, from Atlanta, who was due to graduate in May — were fatally shot. Five others were wounded.

Details about Beierle began to emerge in the hours afterward, including that he had once been banned from FSU's campus and had been arrested twice for grabbing women. Those charges were ultimately dropped.

Beierle, who had moved to the central Florida town of Deltona after getting a graduate degree from FSU, appeared to post a series of videos on YouTube in 2014 where he called women "whores" if they dated black men, said many black women were "disgusting" and described himself as a misogynist.

A Tallahassee police spokesman would not confirm or deny the videos were Beierle's. However, the man speaking in the videos looks like Beierle, and biographical details mentioned in the videos match known facts about Beierle, including details about his military service. Also, the poster's YouTube username included the word "Scott," Beierle's first name. The existence of the videos was first reported by BuzzFeed.

In one video, the man said promiscuous women deserved to be crucified and he suggested putting up land mines to keep people from crossing into the U.S. from Mexico.

In another video, the man likened his adolescent self to Elliot Rodger, a 22-year-old who killed six students near the University of California, Santa Barbara, before killing himself in 2014. Rodger was a self-identified "incel," short for "involuntary celibate."

## Ex-Blackwater guard on trial for 3rd time in Iraq shootings

USA Today

WASHINGTON — Nick Slatten already has stood trial twice on charges that he instigated a mass shooting in Iraq.

His first trial resulted in a murder conviction that was eventually thrown out on appeal. The second ended in a hung jury.

The former Blackwater Worldwide security guard goes back on trial for a third time this week as federal prosecutors try again to convince a jury of his guilt, even though another guard said on multiple occasions that he, not Slatten, fired the opening shot. Eyewitnesses also pointed to the second guard, Paul Slough, of Keller, Texas, as the initial shooter.

"Nick is innocent," Slatten's sister, Jessica Slatten, said in a statement to USA Today last week.

"Unfortunately, the overwhelming evidence of Nick's innocence ... has not been enough to stop his vindictive prosecution," she said. "However, I am confident it will be enough to stop a jury from sending an innocent man to prison."

Opening statements in Slatten's new trial are set for Monday in U.S. District Court in Washington. The trial is expected to run through mid-December.

A key issue will again be whether the government can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Slatten fired the shot that touched off a deadly rampage that killed 14 unarmed Iraqi civilians and wounded 17 others.

The shooting happened in 2007 in Baghdad's Nisour Square during the war between Iraq and a U.S.-led coalition.

Slatten, 34, of Sparta, Tenn., was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2014 for his role in the shooting. He remains incarcerated at Northern Neck Regional Jail in Warsaw, Va.

## US troops helping with recovery on Tinian

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

More than 150 U.S. troops have arrived on Tinian to assist in recovery efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu ravaged the tiny island last week.

The Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, along with its Combat Logistics Battalion 31, is leading the joint-service task force that includes Navy and Air Force elements.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Tinian and Saipan bore the brunt of the storm, which packed sustained winds of up to 180 mph tore roofs off hundreds of homes and left a tangle of downed trees and utility lines.

About 2,000 residents were left without power and running water.

"This storm is historic," Col.

Robert "Bams" Brodie, 31st MEU commander, said in a statement. "It had devastating effects on this island. But the people of Tinian are resilient. And we're glad to lend a hand to help them get back on their feet."

The U.S. troops arrived on Tinian beginning on Oct. 28 and are working out of the island's small international airport.

The 31st MEU command is supporting local civil authorities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

A company of Navy Seabees, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, stationed in Gulf Port, Miss., but deployed to Guam, are among the troops to arrive.

Also assisting in storm recovery is the Guam-based 36th Civil Engineer Squadron from the Air Force.

Crewmembers of the Coast Guard cutter USCGC Washington and soldiers with the Army Corps of Engineers are also partnering with local agencies and FEMA to assess what materials and supplies are most needed and how best to support the residents of Tinian in the wake of the storm, the statement said.

"The 31st MEU is the premiere crisis-response force in the Indo-Pacific, and our Combat Logistics Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Chris Johnson, is the unit of choice for (civil support) operations," Brodie said.

The 31st MEU trains year-round to respond to crises across the Indo-Pacific region. The 31st is the Marine Corps' only permanently forward-deployed MEU.

# Russian trolls still targeting US voters

Associated Press

PARIS — Sweeping accusations that the Kremlin tried to sway the 2016 U.S. election haven't chastened Russian trolls, hackers and spies — and might even have emboldened them.

U.S. officials and tech companies say Russians have continued online activity targeted at American voters during the campaign for Tuesday's election, masquerading as U.S. institutions and creating faux-American social media posts to aggravate tensions around issues like migration and gun control.

Russia denies any interference. So far U.S. authorities haven't announced any huge hacks or the kind of multi-pronged campaign suspected in the 2016 election, and it's hard to judge whether the more recent Russian actions have any link to the Kremlin or will have any electoral impact.

But why do they appear to be at it again? Dozens of Russians suspected of meddling in 2016 have been hit with U.S. charges or sanctions, including well-placed magnates. Moscow's ties with the West have deteriorated badly amid ever-more-shocking allegations of Russian interference abroad.

And some argue that Russian meddlers don't need to mess with the U.S. midterms this year because they got what they wanted in 2016: Donald Trump in the White House and mass disillusionment with the democratic process.

The Kremlin likes Trump because he's one of the rare Western leaders to embrace Russian President Vladimir Putin, but its hoped-for Russian-American rapprochement hasn't really materialized. A Democratic House or Senate after Tuesday's U.S. election would make that an even more distant prospect.

"Russians have a preference

and they will do what they can to swing (the result) in their favor, especially if margins are tight," said James Nixey, head of the Russia and Eurasia program at the London-based think tank Chatham House.

Some Russians, meanwhile, wear the U.S. accusations as a badge of honor, a sign that their country is a fearsome world power again.

The first person charged with foreign interference in the 2018 midterms, Elena Khusyaynova, said "my heart filled with pride" at the news. Speaking last week on Russian TV after being indicted in the United States for a covert social media campaign for both the 2016 and 2018 votes, she added, "It turns out that a simple Russian woman could help citizens of a superpower elect their president."

Pavel Koshkin, of Moscow's USA and Canada Institute, called accusations of meddling "a gift to Russian propaganda

and Russian politicians," who can use U.S. anti-Russian sentiment "as a tool in stirring anti-Americanism and increasing their approval ratings."

As special counsel Robert Mueller has investigated possible Russian collusion with Trump's 2016 campaign, Moscow has increased efforts to make its mark elsewhere — in Syria, Libya, and in political debates across Europe.

So far in 2018, Russian agents have been accused of a nerve agent attack in Britain, trying to hack the world's chemical weapons watchdog in the Netherlands and seeking to derail a referendum in Macedonia to stop the country from joining NATO and the European Union.

Even after Mueller's team in February indicted a dozen Russians linked to the Internet Research Agency, the so-called troll farm in St. Petersburg, its sponsors openly continued to target U.S. audiences.

## Storms, floods in Sicily kill at least 12 people

Associated Press

ROME — Storms lashing Sicily have killed at least 12 people with torrential floods, Italian authorities said as the country's leader headed Sunday to the stricken Mediterranean island.

Divers pulled out nine of those victims from a home flooded by a rapidly swelling river in the countryside near Palermo.

State TV broadcaster RaiNews24 said the sole survivor of the flood that ravaged the home with water and mud was the owner, who had just stepped outside to walk the family dogs Saturday when the torrent hit.

News reports said the man at first clung to a tree, then ended up on the roof of a nearby house.

He used his cellphone to call for help but it was too late for the others, who included a 1-year-old baby, a 3-year-old child and

a teenager.

A man's body was also found on a guardrail along a Palermo-area road after floodwaters swept away his car, Italian news reports said.

Across the island, in the town of Cammarata, near Agrigento, the fire department said its divers were working to recover the bodies of two people swept away while driving on a road near the flooding Saraceno River.

Elsewhere in Sicily, at least two other people were missing Sunday after floodwaters swept away their cars.

Other storms had battered northern Italy earlier in the week, killing at least 15 people, uprooting millions of trees near Alpine valleys and leaving several Italian villages without electricity or road access for days.

## WWI centenary to be marked in London, Paris

Associated Press

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on French soil, and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will be in London for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey with Queen Elizabeth II.

But while Germany's leaders visit the capitals of its wartime enemies, at home there are no national commemorations planned for the centenary of the Nov. 11 armistice that ended the four-year war that left 17 million dead, including more than 2 million German troops.

Next week, the German parliament is holding a combined commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the first German republic, the 80th anniversary of the brutal

Nazi-era pogrom against Jews known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), and the 29th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. "

For Germany, the Nov. 11 armistice did not mean peace like it did in France and Britain. The war's end gave rise to revolution and street fighting between far-left and far-right factions.

It also brought an end to the monarchy, years of hyperinflation, widespread poverty and hunger, and helped create the conditions that brought the Nazis to power in 1933.

Although there aren't any national commemorations in Germany marking the war's end, individual events are planned, including an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Eel fisherman helps free entangled whale

**CA** MORRO BAY — A commercial eel fisherman jumped into the ocean off the central California coast to cut a humpback whale free from entangling ropes.

KNTV reported the rescue occurred last month off Morro Bay as the leviathan struggled to free itself from ropes attached to a buoy.

Nicholas Taron shot video and yelled encouragement as Sam Synstelian leaped from their boat onto the back of the distressed whale, which was swimming in tight circles.

KNTV said the men believe they were successful.

## Boot Hill Museum opens time capsule

**KS** DODGE CITY — The Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City unearthed some of its past as officials turned toward the future.

A time capsule buried at the museum in 1972 was unearthed Thursday as part of a groundbreaking for an expansion project at the museum.

Assistant director Lyne Johnson said the time capsule held dentures, centennial coins, clothes, vials of grains and mementos from businesses located in Dodge City in 1972.

The Dodge City Daily Globe reported the museum is planning to place another time capsule in the new exhibit building.

## UPS employee fired for wearing blackface

**OH** SHARONVILLE — A UPS employee was fired for wearing blackface as part of her Halloween costume.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported UPS media relations manager Kim Krebs cited the company's strict policies against harassment and discrimination for the dismissal. Krebs said in a statement the company has "no tolerance for hatred, bigotry or prejudice."

It's not clear whether the woman wore the costume to work. UPS declined to name the employee.

## Woman rescues llama from Yellowstone

**ID** IDAHO FALLS — A llama that escaped into southern Yellowstone National Park from a guided hike in August was rescued by a Montana outfitter late last month, just days before most of the park was to close for winter preparation.

Wilderness Ridge Trail Llamas owner Kirstin Baty, of Idaho Falls, said Ike ran off after guides loosened his halter because it irritated the spot of a previously abscessed tooth. They tried to capture him and eventually decided to wait for the weather to push him out of the backcountry.

Susi Huelsmeyer-Sinay, of Yellowstone Llamas in Bozeman, Mont., using three other llamas, was able to lure him into a trailer.

## Cops: Driver tore up yards, assaulted man

**PA** CRESCENT — Police in a western Pennsylvania township said a big rig driver apparently got lost and wound up on a narrow residential street, tearing up yards and knocking over streets signs before he exited the vehicle and allegedly attacked a deaf resident.

The Crescent Township Police Department said in a Face-

book posting the driver ran over several stop signs, street signs and mailboxes early Thursday.

Jeremiah Hall told KDKA-TV through a translator he went outside to check on his dog when he encountered the driver in his Crescent Township neighborhood.

Hall is deaf and couldn't understand what the driver was telling him, but said the angry man grabbed him by the throat.

## Candidate's write-in vote will win election

**MI** STANTON — Just one write-in vote will win an election for a county post in western Michigan.

Christopher Johnston lost the August primary for a seat on the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners. Ron Braman's victory meant he would run unopposed in Tuesday's election, but Braman, 74, died on Oct. 24.

The Daily News in Greenville reported that Johnston met the deadline to sign up as a write-in candidate, two days after Braman's death. No one else did.

So Johnston needs only a single vote Tuesday to become a county commissioner.

## Customers' help shop owner as wife heals

**CA** SEAL BEACH — Doughnuts are flying off the shelves at a small business near Los Angeles as customers try to help the owner make time to visit his ailing wife.

KABC-TV said John Chhan has greeted customers at Donut City in Seal Beach every day for the last 30 years. Last month, Chhan's wife, Stella, suffered a brain aneurysm and is recovering in a nursing facility.

Chhan, who starts work at 4:30 a.m., was at the shop for long hours so customers decided they wanted to give him more time to visit his wife. The station said they've been coming in and buying doughnuts by the dozens.

## Medal of Honor exhibit honors Latinos

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An exhibit recognizing the six Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients with New Mexico connections has opened.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center held its opening reception Thursday at the History and Literary Arts building to kick off the tribute to the Latinos who have received the honor for acts of valor and heroism.

## Police say mom left young kids in car

**AZ** SCOTTSDALE — A Phoenix woman has been accused of leaving her three young children in an unattended, running car while she shopped at Scottsdale mall.

Scottsdale police said Artisha Sheri Dates, 24, is facing three counts of child abuse.

According to court documents, Dates left her kids — ages 2, 3 and 4 — in a car at the Scottsdale's Fashion Square parking lot for a half-hour while she shopped.

During that time, bystanders in the parking garage told police that the children were seen playing with the car's gear shifter and power windows.

Court documents show that Dates later told police she wanted to go shopping for her boyfriend with her cousin.

From wire reports

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# Cormier makes UFC history

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Daniel Cormier slapped a pair of championship belts over his shoulders and celebrated UFC history.

“Two belts for each shoulder! I get to look at this again,” Cormier said. “It’s history and Daniel Cormier is one of the best of all-time.”

He backed up his boast in New York.

Cormier choked out Derrick Lewis in the second round to retain his heavyweight championship in the main event of UFC 230 and became the first fighter to defend titles in two weight classes.

Cormier, who also holds the light heavyweight crown, made quick work of an overmatched Lewis with a rear naked choke in the middle of the second round. Cormier celebrated with both championship belts in the cage as Lewis trudged out of the cage, still in his trunks.

Cormier had a quick takedown in the first round and turned in a dominant yet dull effort to easily take the round. He didn’t waste much time in the second and left MSG with a little slice of history.

He called out former UFC heavyweight champion and current WWE star Brock Lesnar for a match in 2019.

“Bring that belt with you when you come to my house,” Cormier said.

Cormier’s last fight ended with theatrics after he called Lesnar into the cage, and Lesnar shoved Cormier in the chest while the fighters traded insults to hype a potential future bout.

UFC President Dana White has said he wanted a Lesnar-Cormier bout signed for next year, a showcase that would surely be the biggest ever in the heavyweight division. Lesnar, the professional wrestler and former UFC heavyweight champion, is still with WWE and left the promotion’s controversial Crown Jewel event on Friday in Saudi Arabia as the Universal champion. His status remains as murky as ever — he still has to serve out the remainder of a USADA suspension — and was not spotted at MSG.

# Alabama rolls over No. 4 LSU

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Tua Tagovailoa threw two touchdown passes and ran 44 yards for a score in his toughest test this season, Alabama’s defense stifled No. 4 LSU, and the top-ranked Crimson Tide remained unbeaten with a 29-0 victory Saturday night.

“We really wanted to make a statement in this game. A lot of people talk about our schedule,” Alabama coach Nick Saban said, alluding to the fact that the Crimson Tide had no victories over a team currently ranked in the top 20 coming into Death Valley. “What better opportunity is there to make a statement than the circumstance we were in.”

Tagovailoa took the field wearing a brace on his right knee, threw his first interception of the season late in the first half and also played into the fourth quarter for the first time this season. None of those developments proved consequential. He was 25-of-42 passing for 295 yards and moved as well as he needed to, particularly when he sprinted up the middle of the field or his long TD run in the third quarter to give Alabama (9-0, 6-0 SEC, No. 1 CFP) a 22-0 lead.

Tagovailoa limped off the field after that play, went into the medical tent briefly and rode a stationary bike on the sideline, but returned for the next series.

“I’d seen the opening, I ran. I was just trying to get the first down,” Tagovailoa said, confirming that he tweaked his right knee on the play. “Once I passed the 30, though, I felt my leg and I was going off momentum after that.”

LSU (7-2, 4-2, No. 3 CFP) entered the game with a chance to take control of the SEC Western Division with a victory, but that began to look decreasingly realistic with every possession.

Alabama led 16-0 by halftime and forced punts on the Tigers’ first nine possessions. LSU drove to the Alabama 15 on its 10th series early in the fourth quarter, only to miss a field goal with 10:45 to go.

“Alabama overpowered us,” LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. “When you max-protect and you’re doing everything you can with protection and they’re beating you, you’ve got to look at personnel. You’ve got to get better. I don’t think it was scheme at all. ... There was nothing we could do about it.”

Tigers quarterback Joe Burrow completed 18 of 35 passes for 184 yards. He was sacked five times and had a late pass intercepted in the end zone by linebacker Mack Wilson. Nose guard Quinnen Williams finished with 2 1/2 sacks. Linebackers Anfernee Jennings and Christian Miller each had one. The Tigers were helpless to relieve pressure on Burrow with the running game, held to just 12 yards.

Most LSU plays ended with crimson jer-

seys swarming to the ball at, near or behind the line of scrimmage.

Alabama finished with a 576-196 advantage in total yards in beating LSU for the eighth straight time.

“This is the worst we’ve played,” Orgeron said. “We weren’t even close to them tonight.”

Damien Harris rushed for 107 yards on 19 carries, including his 1-yard TD run, for Alabama. Najee Harris gained 83 yards on the ground, 29 on one carry.

Jerry Jeudy caught eight passes for 103 yards and Irv Smith Jr. had four catches for 64 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown grab late in the first half.

“I was really, really pleased with the explosive plays we were able to make,” Saban said.

Henry Ruggs III caught four passes for 55 yards and scored the first touchdown of the game, but injured his left leg late in the second quarter. Saban said X-rays were negative but further evaluation was pending.

Tagovailoa’s interception came on a deep throw down the middle, which Todd Harris Jr. hauled in for his first career pick while falling to the ground at the LSU 4.

The Tiger Stadium crowd went wild, as it appeared the turnover might get LSU to halftime down by no more than nine points, perhaps less, if the Tigers could move the ball.

But the Crimson Tide’s response was emphatic. Burrow was sacked inside the 1, and LSU had to punt shortly afterward.

Alabama got the ball back on its 46 and Tagovailoa needed just two plays — a 29-yard pass to Jeudy, followed by his scoring strike to Smith — to widen the Tide’s lead.

**The takeaway:** Alabama: The best defense Alabama has faced this season wasn’t good enough on its own field to stop the Tide from gashing it for eight plays of 20-plus yards, or from covering a 14-point spread on the road by 15 points.

“It shows what kind of things we can do against basically anyone,” Tagovailoa said.

LSU: The Tigers’ athleticism and effort kept the score respectable for a little more than a half, but key statistical differentials in yards and time of possession told the story of a thoroughly lopsided game. LSU has had to shuffle its offensive line much of the season, and the Tigers struggled to match the Tide physically at the point of attack. Guard Garrett Brumfield tried to come back for the first time in four games, but struggled and was intermittently replaced by Chasen Hines to start the second half.

**Up next:** Alabama hosts Mississippi State on Saturday.

LSU travels to Arkansas on Saturday.



# Army retains Commander in Chief's trophy

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army is in rarefied air and coach Jeff Monken is impressed.

The third wheel in the annual round-robin series with service academy rivals Air Force and Navy — the Falcons have won the Commander in Chief's Trophy 20 times and the Midshipmen 15 — before Saturday, Army had won the coveted hardware, emblematic of supremacy among the three schools, just seven times.

Make that eight — and the first time in consecutive years.

Fullback Darnell Woolfolk rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown, Kelvin Hopkins Jr. scored on a 6-yard run, and Army held off rival Air Force 17-14 on Saturday.

It was the 11th straight victory at Michie Stadium for Army (7-2), which won the trophy outright last season for the first time since 1996 and will keep possession no matter the outcome of its game against archrival Navy next month.

"That epitomizes the mental toughness of this team," Monken said. "It wasn't always pretty. We could have done better. ... It's an emotional game."

Air Force (3-6), which beat Navy 35-7 a month ago, is 33-14 in Commander in Chief's Trophy games against Army since the trophy was first awarded in 1972 and could have won the trophy again on Saturday with a victory. The Falcons had won 18 of the previous 21 in the series against the Black Knights, but they couldn't overcome a costly interception by Army's Mike

Reynolds at the Army 4 in the final minute of the first half.

"There was a chance to seize this one, but I'm not putting any blame on the offense at all," Air Force linebacker Kyle Johnson said. "We didn't do the job just the same way they didn't."

The Falcons were unable to score in the opening half with Isaiah Sanders at quarterback, fell behind by two scores, and couldn't recover despite dominating the second half. Air Force outgained Army 212-77 after halftime with Donald Hammond III at quarterback. The Black Knights secured the victory when Hammond was stopped for no gain on a fourth-and-3 play at the Army 40 with under 2 minutes to play.

## Top 25 roundup

### No. 2 Clemson improves to 9-0 with win over Louisville

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Travis Etienne ran for 153 yards and two touchdowns and 350-pound defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence added a 2-yard scoring burst for Clemson.

The Tigers (6-0 Atlantic Coast Conference, No. 2 CFP) improved to 9-0 for the third time in four seasons and can wrap up their fourth ACC Atlantic Division title next week at Boston College.

Trevor Lawrence threw a pair of early touchdown passes. Etienne went over the 1,000-yard rushing mark and scored his ACC-leading 15th touchdown. Tavien Feaster added 101 yards rushing.

Freshman Lyn-J Dixon ran for 116 yards, the second time this season Clemson has had three runners with 100 or more yards. They finished with a season high 492 yards rushing.

Linebacker Isaiah Simmons had a pick-six, the Tigers collected five sacks, coach Dabo Swinney's eldest son Will caught a TD pass and even "Big Dex," a junior defensive tackle projected as a can't-miss, NFL first-rounder got in on the fun in the Tigers' "Fridge Package" against overmatched Louisville (2-7, 0-6).

**No. 3 Notre Dame 31, Northwestern 21:** Ian Book threw for two touchdown passes and ran 23 yards for a score in the closing minutes to lead the visiting Fighting Irish.

The Fighting Irish (9-0, No. 4 CFP) remained in line for a playoff spot and continued to build on their best start since the 2012 team went undefeated before losing to Alabama in the BCS championship game.

**No. 5 Michigan 42, No. 14 Penn State 7:** Shea Patterson accounted for three touchdowns and the host Wolverines put together a dominant performance on defense.

The Wolverines (8-1, 6-0 Big Ten, No. 5 CFP) moved a step closer toward their goals of winning a conference championship for the first time since 2004 and earning their first spot in the College Football Playoff.

**No. 6 Georgia 34, No. 11 Kentucky 17:** D'Andre Swift ran for a career-high 156 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries against the host Wildcats' vaunted defense and the Bulldogs wrapped up their second straight Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title.

Georgia rushed for a season-high 331 yards to earn a spot in the SEC championship game Dec. 1 in Atlanta. Kentucky

(7-2, 5-2, No. 9 CFP) has never reached the SEC championship game, which has been played every year since 1992.

**No. 7 Oklahoma 51, Texas Tech 46:** Kyler Murray recovered from a pair of early interceptions that led to a two-touchdown deficit, throwing for 360 yards and three touchdowns and running for 100 yards and another score to rally the visiting Sooners.

**No. 8 Ohio State 36, Nebraska 31:** J.K. Dobbins ran for three touchdowns and Dwayne Haskins Jr. passed for two more scores to help the Buckeyes beat the visiting Cornhuskers.

**No. 12 West Virginia 42, No. 15 Texas 41:** Will Grier threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Gary Jennings with 16 seconds left, and then ran in the two-point conversion to lift the Mountaineers past the host Longhorns.

**Missouri 38, No. 13 Florida 17:** Drew Lock picked apart the host Gators' defense for the second straight year, throwing three touchdown passes to lead the Tigers.

**Arizona State 38, No. 16 Utah 20:** Manny Wilkins threw three touchdown passes to N'Keal Harry and the Sun Devils beat the visiting Utes, knocking No. 16 Utah out of sole

possession of first place in Pac-12 South.

**SMU 45, No. 17 Houston 31:** Ben Hicks threw for 318 yards and four touchdowns and the visiting Mustangs beat the Cougars, the second time in three years that SMU upset a ranked Houston team.

**Purdue 38, No. 19 Iowa 36:** Spencer Evans made a 25-yard field goal with 8 seconds left, lifting the host Boilermakers past the Hawkeyes and back in the Big Ten's West Division title hunt.

**No. 22 Syracuse 41, Wake Forest 24:** Eric Dungey rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown, Jarveon Howard ran for two scores and the visiting Orange beat the Demon Deacons.

**No. 21 Mississippi State 45, Louisiana Tech 3:** Nick Fitzgerald threw for 243 yards and four touchdowns and the host Bulldogs beat Louisiana Tech.

**No. 24 Boston College 31, Virginia Tech 21:** Travis Levy ran for two touchdowns and the visiting Eagles beat the Hokies to set up a huge home game against Clemson next week.

**Auburn 28, No. 25 Texas A&M 24:** Seth Williams caught an 11-yard touchdown pass from Jarrett Stidham with 1:41 left and the Tigers rallied to beat the visiting Aggies.

## NBA roundup

## Harden's return carries Rockets past Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — James Harden scored 25 points, including 11 in a decisive run in the third quarter, in his return to the Houston lineup and the Rockets defeated the Chicago Bulls 96-88 Saturday night.

Harden, who had missed three games with a strained left hamstring, scored 11 straight points in a 1:59 span of the third as the Rockets went on a 15-0 run.

Carmelo Anthony had 17 points and James Ennis added 15 as the Rockets won their second game in two nights after starting the season 1-5.

Chicago led 59-58 midway through the third quarter before the Rockets and Harden went ahead for good, outscoring the Bulls 21-7 in the period.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 21 points, and Wendell Carter Jr. had 14 points and 13 rebounds. Jabari Parker added 15 points as the Bulls lost their fourth straight game — going 0-4 in the homestand — and dropped their fifth straight to the Rockets.

**Pacers 102, Celtics 101:** Victor Oladipo connected on a three-pointer with 3.4 seconds remaining to lift host Indiana past Boston. Oladipo finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Tyreke Evans added 17 points for the Pacers, who shot 41 percent.

Marcus Morris had a team-high 23 points and six rebounds for the Celtics, who shot 43 percent (38-for-88) and had their four-game winning streak snapped.

**76ers 109, Pistons 99:** Joel Embiid scored 32 of his 39 points in a dominating first half and had 17 rebounds to lead Philadelphia over visiting Detroit.

Embiid made 10 of 18 field goals and 18 of 23 free throws to help the 76ers improve to 6-0 at home.

Blake Griffin had 38 points, 13 rebounds and six assists to lead Detroit, which lost its fourth in a row after starting the season with four consecutive victories. Langston Galloway, who starred collegiately at nearby Saint Joseph's University, had 13 points off the bench.

**Hornets 126, Cavaliers 94:** Jeremy Lamb had a season-high 19 points and eight rebounds, and host Charlotte routed Cleveland.

Kemba Walker had 18 points and Malik Monk added 16 for the Hornets, who improved to .500 on the season. Charlotte had balanced scoring throughout, with seven players finishing in double digits, including five off the bench.

J.R. Smith scored 14 points for the struggling Cavaliers (1-8), who are playing without the injured Kevin Love and put up very

little resistance on defense.

**Hawks 123, Heat 118:** Trae Young had 24 points and a career-high 15 assists, and host Atlanta beat Josh Richardson and Miami.

Taurean Prince and Dewayne Dedmon each scored 15 points for the Hawks, who had dropped four in a row. Young also had six rebounds in his ninth NBA game.

**Spurs 109, Pelicans 95:** DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 points and 12 rebounds and San Antonio extended visiting New Orleans' losing streak to five games. Dante Cunningham had a season-high 15 points, Patty Mills finished with 15 points, seven rebounds and seven assists and the Spurs won their fourth straight.

**Nuggets 103, Jazz 88:** Gary Harris scored 20 points and Malik Beasley and Mason Plumlee hit key three-pointers in a fourth-quarter flurry, leading host Denver.

Jamal Murray scored 19 for the Nuggets, who won their fourth straight.

**Lakers 114, Blazers 110:** LeBron James had 28 points and seven assists and Los Angeles won at Portland.

Rajon Rondo gave the Lakers a huge lift off the bench, finishing with 17 points and 10 assists in 25 minutes.

## NHL roundup

## Stamkos' 2 goals lead Lightning to victory

Associated Press

MONTREAL — It was only a matter of time before Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos returned to his goal-scoring ways.

Stamkos scored twice to lead the Lightning to a 4-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday night.

The Lightning's captain had been held scoreless in six games this season and had scored just two goals.

"Any time you score and help your team win, it's great," Stamkos said after his first multi-goal game of the season. "Obviously tonight was a big bounce-back game for our team, for our line."

"Any time you can produce

in a win, in an atmosphere like this, it's icing on the cake."

J.T. Miller and Yanni Gourde also scored for the Lightning, winners of nine of 13 games this season. Anton Stralman had three assists.

**Islanders 3, Devils 0:** Thomas Greiss made 35 saves for his first shutout of the season, and host New York earned their fifth straight win.

**Stars 4, Capitals 3 (OT):** Jason Spezza and Tyler Pitlick scored 10 seconds apart, Jason Dickinson had the overtime winner and Dallas beat host Washington to win its third straight.

**Maple Leafs 5, Penguins 0:** Frederik Andersen made 31 saves for his first shutout of the

season and 16th overall to help Toronto blank host Pittsburgh.

**Sabres 9, Senators 2:** Jeff Skinner and Jason Pominville each had two goals and an assist to lead host Buffalo.

**Oilers 4, Red Wings 3:** Kyle Brodziak scored his first two goals of the season and star center Connor McDavid extended his points streak to seven games for visiting Edmonton.

**Wild 5, Blues 1:** Eric Staal got his 400th career goal to lead visiting Minnesota.

**Sharks 4, Flyers 3 (OT):** Timo Meier got his second goal of the game 13 seconds into overtime and host San Jose rallied to beat Philadelphia.

**Kings 4, Blue Jackets 1:** Dustin Brown had a goal and

two assists, Jack Campbell made 26 saves and host Los Angeles got just its second win in the last nine games.

**Flames 5, Blackhawks 3:** Sean Monahan, Michael Frolik and Mikael Backlund scored in the third period, and host Calgary again rallied for a late victory.

**Golden Knights 3, Hurricanes 0:** Marc-Andre Fleury got his 50th career shutout, Brad Hunt and William Carrier scored their first goals of the season, and host Vegas beat Carolina.

**Predators 1, Bruins 0:** Pekka Rinne celebrated his 36th birthday and a new contract extension by shutting out Boston.