

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## US, S. Korean Marines resume drills

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea—Hundreds of U.S. and South Korean Marines resumed joint exercises in a southeastern port city Monday, while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepared for another round of nuclear talks with the North.

The drills, which are usually held several times a year and are known as the Korean Marine Exchange Program, had been indefinitely suspended along with larger scale war games after the unprecedented summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June.

But South Korea's Defense Ministry said about 500 Marines began a two-week exercise Monday in the city of Pohang.

It didn't provide more details, but an official with the South Korean Marine Corps said the

combined training would include the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan, along with Korean amphibious assault vehicles and live maneuvers.

Joint exercises between the longtime allies routinely infuriate the North, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion, but critics expressed concern that Trump's decision to suspend joint training could harm readiness.

The South Korean military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Marines had planned to conduct 19 KMEP exercises this year but eight of them had been canceled.

Trump announced after the Singapore summit that "we will be stopping the war games," calling them "provocative" and "very expensive." The larger exercises that have been suspended include Ulchi Freedom Guardian and an Air Force operation known as Vigilant Ace.

The allies have said they're reviewing whether to hold major exercises next year and will make a decision by Dec. 1.

Officials said the Marine drills that began Monday are in line with a decision to continue training at the level of battalions and below while eschewing the larger war games to avoid disrupting talks with the communist state.

Pompeo, meanwhile, said Sunday that he plans to meet with his North Korean counterpart Kim Yong Chol in New York later this week in a push to get efforts to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons back on track.

Kim agreed to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," during his summit with Trump and separate meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. But negotiations have stalled over how that should be accomplished.

Administration officials also

have said Trump is likely to hold a second summit with Kim early next year.

"I expect we'll make some real progress, including an effort to make sure that the summit between our two leaders can take place, where we can make substantial steps towards denuclearization," Pompeo said in an interview broadcast Sunday on the CBS news program "Face the Nation."

He cited positive steps taken by the North Koreans, including a suspension of missile and nuclear tests and returning the remains of some U.S. troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War.

"We continue to make good progress. I'm confident that we'll advance the ball again this week when I'm in New York City," he said, stressing that verification will be key.

"Not only complete denuclearization but our capacity to verify that that has taken place," he said.

## US, Japan in final stretch of 'most complex' exercise

BY SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan—The U.S. and Japan are in the final stretch of a large, complex field training exercise that has 10,000 American servicemembers drilling alongside 47,000 Japanese troops on land, in the air and at sea.

Keen Sword, a biennial event designed to increase the combat readiness of the allies' military forces, comes amid territorial and trade tensions with China and efforts to make peace with nuclear-armed North Korea.

There are 11,000 more troops than last year involved in the

exercise, including about a fifth of Japan's Self-Defense Forces.

Keen Sword is the "largest and most complex" exercise the allies have conducted, U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez said of the exercise, which kicked off last Thursday and ends Friday. "On behalf of the 54,000 men and women of U.S. Forces Japan, I am proud to be a part of this alliance that is so essential to our two nations' shared interests," he said in a statement.

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's new amphibious brigade is involved in the drills for the first time and will conduct beach landings near Guam

and Tinian, according to a Navy statement.

Marines from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force will work alongside the brigade, serving as mentors. Canada also is participating for the first time, with two Royal Canadian Navy ships involved, the Navy said.

In recent days, Yokota—home to USFJ in western Tokyo—has been guarded by surface-to-air missiles while armed airmen in gas masks stand near gates and sirens sound alarms as part of the drills.

However, much of Keen Sword is taking place far from the Japanese capital at ground ranges, in the air and at sea.

On Sunday, a pair of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft flew from Yokota to Tsuiki Air Base in Fukuoka prefecture to collect 80 Japanese paratroopers. Army paratroopers from Alaska were on board to help make the jump go smoothly.

Air Force Capt. Jeff Larkin, mission commander for 374th Airlift Wing aircraft and personnel involved in Keen Sword, said it was the first time his unit had dropped Japanese paratroopers on Japanese soil, although they recently held a similar exercise in Alaska.

"We don't always get the opportunity to drop Japanese forces," he said.

# Navy: Russian jets put US crew 'at risk'

By SCOTT WYLAND  
AND ERIK SLAVIN

*Stars and Stripes*

Two unsafe passes by a Russian fighter jet put a U.S. military aircraft at risk during flight operations over the Black Sea, Navy officials said Monday.

A Navy EP-3 surveillance aircraft was flying over international airspace Monday when the Russian Su-27 flew at high speed directly in front of it, "which put our pilots and crew at risk," according to a Naval Forces Europe-Africa statement.

"The intercepting Su-27 made an additional pass, closing with the EP-3 and applying its afterburner while conducting a banking turn away," the statement said.

The Navy released a short video clip Monday of the Russian jet's afterburner flaring alongside the U.S. aircraft.

The crew reported turbulence during the first pass and vibrations during the second pass of the intercept, which lasted about 25 minutes, the Navy said.

"While the Russian military is within its right to exercise within international airspace, this

interaction was irresponsible," the Navy said in a statement. "We expect them to behave within international standards set to ensure safety and to prevent incidents."

The incident comes as NATO conducts the Norway-based exercise Trident Juncture, which Moscow has called a provocation because of its proximity to Russia. An estimated 50,000 personnel, 65 warships and 10,000 vehicles are taking part.

Russian aircraft have repeatedly challenged U.S. planes during the past year with maneuvers deemed unsafe, despite

a 1972 agreement that Russia assumed from the Soviet Union designed to prevent miscalculations in the skies and seas. A Russian Su-27 Flanker flew within five feet of an EP-3's wing tip over the Black Sea in January, Navy officials said.

"The smallest lapse of focus or error in airmanship by the intercepting aircrew can have disastrous consequences," Navy Capt. Bill Ellis, commander of Task Force 67, said at the time in a statement. "There is no margin for error and insufficient time or space for our aircrews to take corrective action."

## Cole victims opposed in court by unlikely partners

*The Washington Post*

The road to recovery has been a long one for David Morales, who was injured during the al-Qaida attack on the USS Cole 18 years ago last month. And he knew it would be difficult to collect the nearly \$315 million that he and others wounded in the attack were awarded in their suit against the Republic of Sudan.

But he didn't expect the case to go all the way to the Supreme Court, and he certainly didn't think he would see the Trump administration aligned with Sudan on the other side of the legal battle.

"I thought the United States would be on the side of its veterans," Morales said in a recent interview. "It was very surprising, especially with Mr. Trump in office. It seems like he is in support of veterans. It kind of hurts."

Years of litigation and millions of dollars in awards are on the line this week as the Supreme Court addresses a seemingly mundane question: whether notices of the lawsuits against Sudan were sent to the wrong address eight years ago.

The notices were addressed to the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, where an employ-

ee signed for them. One federal appeals court has decreed that was adequate. But Sudan says that federal law, as well as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, requires papers to be served on the foreign minister at his official address, which in this case is in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. A different federal appeals court has agreed with that interpretation.

Into this legal and diplomatic quagmire has stepped, ever so gingerly, U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco. He, as well as Saudi Arabia and Libya, filed an amicus brief agreeing with Sudan, one of four nations the State Department lists as sponsoring terrorism.

"The United States deeply sympathizes with the extraordinary injuries suffered by respondents, and it condemns in the strongest possible terms the terrorist acts that caused those injuries," Francisco wrote in his brief to the Supreme Court. But "litigation against foreign states in U.S. courts can have significant foreign affairs implications for the United States," he continued, "and can affect the reciprocal treatment of the United States in the courts of other nations."

## General, 5 others punished after 2017 ambush in Niger

*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. Special Operations Command Africa boss Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks received a reprimand for insufficient oversight of his subordinate officers in connection with an October 2017 ambush in Niger that left four American soldiers dead, The New York Times reported.

Hicks, who was given a general officer memorandum reprimand by Special Operations Command Gen. Tony Thomas, was the highest-ranking official punished for the incident.

The Times, citing unnamed military sources, reported that four officers and two enlisted soldiers have so far been reprimanded. Two other senior officers involved in approving the mission have not been punished.

In addition to Hicks, who is slated to retire, Capt. Mike Perozeni, of Team 3212, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, received a letter of reprimand, the Times reported.

The reprimand cited the captain for insufficient training and rehearsals before leaving their base in Niger on Oct. 3 to hunt down an Islamic State leader near that country's border

with Mali, the Times reported. The letter stated that the team rarely trained with the Nigerien soldiers they were operating alongside.

The team's master sergeant was punished for similar reasons, the Times reported.

An earlier U.S. Africa Command investigation of the October ambush determined that the members of the Green Beret and Nigerien team had little experience together as a unit.

Maj. Alan Van Saun, the company commander for Alpha Company who was home on paternity leave at the time of the ambush, also was reprimanded for "improper training before the company was sent to Niger," the Times reported.

A warrant officer who was carrying out responsibilities for a junior captain was faulted for filing an inaccurate mission plan. That led to the launch of the first of what became three missions that ended with the Oct. 4 ambush by ISIS militants near Niger's border with Mali.

The company's sergeant major, who left the unit before the team's deployment, also was reprimanded for not ensuring the company was properly trained, the Times reported.



# 'Everything's at stake' as voters go to polls

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The day of reckoning for American politics has arrived.

Voters on Tuesday will decide the \$5 billion debate between President Donald Trump's take-no-prisoner politics and the Democratic Party's super-charged campaign to end the GOP's monopoly in Washington and statehouses across the nation.

There are indications that an oft-discussed "blue wave" may help Democrats seize control of at least one chamber of Congress. But two years after an election that proved polls and prognosticators wrong, nothing is certain on the eve of the first nationwide elections of the Trump presidency.

"I don't think there's a Democrat in this country that doesn't have a little angst left over from 2016 deep down," said Stephanie Schriock, president of EMILY's List, which spent more than ever before — nearly \$60 million in all — to support Democratic women this campaign season.

"Everything matters and everything's at stake," Schriock said.

All 435 seats in the U.S. House are up for re-election. And 35 Senate seats are in play, as are almost 40 governorships and the balance of power in virtually every state legislature.

While he is not on the ballot, Trump has acknowledged that the 2018 midterms, above all, represent a referendum on his presidency.

Should Democrats win control of the House, as strategists in both parties suggest is likely, they could derail Trump's legisla-

tive agenda for the next two years. Perhaps more importantly, they would also win subpoena power to investigate the president's many personal and professional missteps.

Tuesday's elections will also test the strength of a Trump-era political realignment defined by evolving divisions among voters by race, gender and especially education.

Trump's Republican coalition is increasingly becoming older, whiter, more male and less likely to have a college degree. Democrats are relying more upon women, people of color, young people and college graduates.

The political realignment, if there is one, could reshape U.S. politics for a generation.

Just five years ago, the Republican National Committee reported that the GOP's very survival depended upon attracting more minorities and women. Those voters have increasingly fled Trump's Republican Party, turned off by his chaotic leadership style and xenophobic rhetoric. Blue collar men, however, have embraced the unconventional president.

One of the RNC report's authors, Ari Fleischer, acknowledged that Republican leaders never envisioned expanding their ranks with white, working-class men.

"What it means to be Republican is being rewritten as we speak," Fleischer said. "Donald Trump has the pen, and his handwriting isn't always very good."

A nationwide poll released Sunday by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal details the depth of the demographic shifts.

Democrats led with likely black voters (84 to 8 percent), Latinos (57 to 29 percent), voters between the ages of 18-34 (57 to 34 percent), women (55 to 37 percent) and independents (35 to 23 percent).

Among white college-educated women, Democrats enjoy a 28-point advantage, 61 to 33 percent.

On the other side, Republicans led with voters between the ages of 50 and 64 (52 to 43 percent), men (50 to 43 percent) and whites (50 to 44 percent). Among white men without college degrees, Republicans led 65 to 30 percent.

Former President Barack Obama seized on the differences between the parties in a final days scramble to motivate voters across the nation.

"One election won't eliminate racism, sexism or homophobia," Obama said during an appearance in Florida. "It's not going to happen in one election. But it'll be a start."

Trump has delivered a very different closing argument, railing against Latin American immigrants seeking asylum at the U.S. border.

With the walking caravan weeks away, Trump dispatched more than 5,000 troops to the region. The president also said soldiers would use lethal force against migrants who throw rocks before later reversing himself.

The hyper-charged environment is expected to drive record turnout in some places, but on the eve of the election, it's far from certain which side will show up in the greatest numbers.

## Dems look for blueprint for bucking Trump in 2020

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Democrats, the midterm elections have been a beacon in the dark,

**ANALYSIS** a chance to re-emerge from the political wilderness and repudiate a president they view as a dangerous force.

But on the cusp of Tuesday's vote, many Democrats are as anxious as they are hopeful.

Their memories from 2016, when they watched in disbelief as Donald Trump defied polls, expectations and political norms, are still fresh.

And as Trump travels the country armed with a divisive and racially charged closing campaign message, the test for

Democrats now feels at once similar and more urgent than it did two years ago: They failed to stop Trump then, what if they fall short again?

This year, history is on Democrats' side. The sitting president's party often loses ground in the first midterm after winning office, and for much of 2018, voter enthusiasm and polling has favored Democrats as well.

Primary contests filled the Democratic roster with a new generation of candidates, including several minority candidates who could make history in their races.

While the fight to regain control of the Senate, largely playing out in conservative states, may prove out of reach for Democrats, the party has been

buoyed by its ability to run competitively in Republican-leaning states such as Texas and Tennessee.

Democrats' focus is largely on snatching back the House and picking up governors' seats in Florida, Wisconsin, Ohio and elsewhere.

The party is also seeking redemption in the Midwest where Trump won over white, working-class voters who had backed Democrats for years. In Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, Democrats appear poised to regain ground.

Such victories would build momentum behind the party's shift toward a new generation of candidates who are younger and more diverse, with greater numbers of women and more liberal than Democratic lead-

ership. They would also signal that Trump's hard-line positions on immigration and his penchant for personal attacks turn off more voters than they energize.

A good night for Democrats on Tuesday would provide a blueprint for how the party can successfully run against Trump in the 2020 presidential race. At least two dozen Democrats are waiting in the wings, eager to take on Trump. But the president has proved once again to be a powerful political force late in a campaign.

If Republicans hang on to control of Congress, Trump will almost certainly be emboldened. Democrats would be left with difficult questions about a path forward.

# Troops at border train for all scenarios

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Thousands of active-duty troops are bolstering temporary barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border and training at nearby logistics hubs for issues that could arise as they support Customs and Border Protection agents protecting against migration from Central America, a department spokesman said Monday.

Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to describe in detail the nature of the training at established military bases in California, Texas and Arizona. He also declined to detail the rules for the use of force for troops just days after President Donald Trump announced he had instructed the military that if people throw rocks to “consider it a rifle.”

“The (training) vignettes cover a range of scenarios that

could occur,” Manning told reporters Monday. “But ... we don’t anticipate that there will be that type of interaction” with migrants crossing the border illegally or seeking asylum.

By Monday, some 4,800 active-duty troops had arrived at the 13 logistics hubs that the Pentagon established to support the mission. Manning said the deployment would grow to 5,200 by Monday evening and more than 7,000 troops in the near future. The deployment of active-duty soldiers is in addition to roughly 2,100 National Guard troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border region since April.

The deployment comes as a so-called caravan of some 3,500 Central American migrants arrived in Veracruz, Mexico, on Sunday, about 600 miles from the U.S. border, according to The Associated Press.

Leading up to Tuesday’s

midterm elections, Trump has repeatedly described the group as a national security threat that includes “unknown Middle Easterners” and “fighters.” However, AP reporters traveling with the group have reported it is primarily made up of women and children who have said they seek asylum after fleeing violence in their home countries.

On Thursday, Trump warned the migrants that the military would be prepared to treat rock-throwing the same as wielding a rifle. On Friday, the president insisted he did not intend to imply individuals who throw rocks would be shot dead.

Manning downplayed concerns that American troops would be forced to use their weapons during the deployment. The troops are barred by federal law and Pentagon policy from performing any law enforcement function. By the

nature of the mission, military forces are not expected to interact with migrants, he said.

“Our soldiers always have the inherent right of self-defense,” he said. “They are well-trained, they are disciplined and they are proficient. ... [When] they have to make a judgment call, our soldiers are disciplined to make the right call.”

Only military police officers will be armed during the operation, Manning said. He said they would be tasked with providing security to other military troops conducting operations such as placing temporary barriers or razor wire along the fence, building temporary structures for CBP agents, ferrying CBP officials by helicopter throughout the region or providing medical support.

The Pentagon had not determined the cost of the deployment as of Monday, Manning said.

## Caravan migrants press on toward Mexico City

*Associated Press*

CORDOBA, Mexico — A big group of Central Americans pushed on toward Mexico City from a coastal state Monday, planning to exit a part of the country that has long been treacherous for migrants seeking to get to the United States.

In a thundering voice vote Sunday night at a gymnasium in Cordoba, about 1,000 members of a migrant caravan that has been moving northward through Mexico voted to try to get to the capital Monday by walking and hitching rides. Cordoba is 178 miles from the capital by the shortest route, which would be the group’s longest single-day journey since they began more than three weeks ago.

A few hundred others had already arrived at a large outdoor sports area in the capital, where they lounged on bleachers and watched locals play soccer. City employees piled hot food onto Styrofoam plates for the

migrants, some of whom had hopped freight trucks to speed their arrival to the capital.

The new day’s march to Mexico City didn’t start easily. Migrants briefly blocked traffic on the busy highway to beseech passing truckers for a ride, but none offered one.

The weary caravan participants made it to Cordoba after a 124-mile trek through Veracruz, a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments. The estimated 4,000 migrants in Veracruz are still hundreds of miles from the nearest U.S. border point.

They hope to regroup in the Mexican capital, seeking medical care and rest while awaiting stragglers. The caravan has found strength in numbers as it meanders north, with townspeople coming out to offer food, water, fresh clothes and replacement footwear.

## Iran warns of ‘war situation’ as US sanctions reimposed

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran greeted the reimposition of U.S. sanctions on Monday with air defense drills and a statement from President Hassan Rouhani that the nation faces a “war situation,” raising Mideast tensions as America’s maximalist approach to the Islamic Republic takes hold.

The sanctions end all economic benefits America had granted Tehran for its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, though Iran for now continues to abide by the accord that saw it limit its enrichment of uranium. While at the moment not threatening to resume higher enrichment, Iranian officials in recent months have made a point to warn the controversial process could resume at any time, faster than before.

The new American sanctions particularly hurt Iran’s vital oil industry, a crucial source of hard currency for its anemic economy. Its national currency

has plummeted over the last year, sending prices for everything from mobile phones to medicine skyrocketing.

“Today, Iran is able to sell its oil and it will sell,” Rouhani vowed Monday as the sanctions kicked in.

The noose of American sanctions appeared to be tightening. Iranian officials, meanwhile, reported a cyberattack targeting the country’s communication infrastructure, blaming the purported attack on Israel.

Iranian state television aired footage of air defense systems and anti-aircraft batteries in two-day military maneuvers underway across a vast stretch of the country’s north. It included surface-to-air missiles shooting down a drone.

The drill was to continue through Tuesday. Iranian army Gen. Habibillah Sayyari said both the national army and the country’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard were taking part in the exercise.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: Man tried to have boy killed

**TX** DALLAS — Authorities in Texas said a man accused of molesting a child tried to have the boy killed.

The Dallas Morning News reported Daniel Arturo Contreras was charged last week with criminal solicitation. That charge came after he was arrested in September for insufficient bond tied to a charge of sexual assault of a child.

A person reported the murder-for-hire plot by calling 911 and told police Contreras provided him with a pistol and a box of bullets during a beer run. Court documents say Contreras told the person he wanted the accuser “in a coma or dead,” and the witness agreed to the plot due to him being nervous.

## Woman in viral rant faces charges

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A woman whose racist rant at two black women with car trouble in an affluent area faces charges she communicated threats and misused the 911 emergency network.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police told news outlets that Susan Westwood, 51, was served with outstanding warrants Saturday after contacting police in coastal Sunset Beach. Westwood disappeared after the Oct. 19 incident in her apartment complex’s parking lot.

Video went viral of her berating black neighbors she didn’t recognize while they waited for AAA. Leisa and Mary Garis called police twice to report Westwood was harassing them.

Westwood also called 911, telling the dispatcher she would pay \$2,500 “to get them out of here.”

## Man with history of trespassing arrested

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities said a man with a history of trespassing on the University of New Mexico campus has been arrested.

UNM Police alleged that Jose Barron, 24, tried to stab a student union building manager after being caught going through some equipment used for the school’s blood drive.

Police said the manager chased Barron outside and picked up a metal patio chair to defend himself. When he put the chair back down, Barron allegedly grabbed it and threw it at the manager, hitting him in the lower back.

TV station KQRE reported Barron was arrested later Thursday for trying to rob someone else on campus.

## Mayor fires city public works director again

**AL** HARTSELLE — The mayor of an Alabama city has fired the public works director again, less than two months after a personnel board ruled the first firing had problems.

Hartselle Mayor Randy Garrison told the Decatur Daily he could confirm Public Works Director Tommy Halbrooks was fired Wednesday, but he couldn’t say anything else.

The mayor first fired Halbrooks on July 24, but in a September meeting the city’s personnel board ruled the firing “problematic” and recommended Halbrooks be hired back immediately.

At the time, Halbrooks denied creating a hostile work environment and said the mayor was trying to find reasons to fire him.

## State trooper accused of domestic abuse

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — An Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper has been charged with domestic abuse after his child’s mother accused him of trying to strangle her.

Nicholaus Mark Oliver was charged Oct. 29 in Canadian County over an Aug. 17 incident.

According to a police report, the woman stated that she was sitting on the edge of her bed when Oliver grabbed her by the upper arm “with both hands and shook her.”

She said he then reached under the bed and brandished a charger cord, which she said he pressed against her throat briefly, said “things would be worse next time” and walked away.

## Alice the owl retiring after 20 years

**MN** HOUSTON — After 20 years of making an impact, a famous bird of prey is retiring in Minnesota.

Alice will be retiring in Houston, where she lives with her caretaker, Karla Bloem, who founded the International Festival of Owls and the International Owl Center, the Wino-na Daily News reported.

The city of Houston hired Bloem in 1996 to develop plans for a nature center. Bloem wanted to find a nonreleasable bird to be the focus of an educational program.

Alice had fallen out of her nest when she was 3 weeks old, permanently injuring her wing. She was the perfect match.

Bloem created the International Festival of Owls to celebrate Alice’s “hatch day.”

## Man hurt after bullet thrown into bonfire

**IN** GREENTOWN — A central Indiana man was hospitalized after a bullet that was inadvertently thrown into a fire exploded, striking him in the thigh.

The Kokomo Tribune reported that the 23-year-old was cleaning out a shed with a friend and throwing unwanted items into a bonfire. Suddenly, the man heard a loud pop and felt sharp pain.

Police said an investigation revealed one of the containers tossed on the fire likely held a .22-caliber bullet, which discharged after it heated up.

Police said the man was taken to a hospital for treatment, and a scan revealed metal shards in his thigh.

## Cops: Couple left baby alone to go to bar

**IA** URBANDALE — A central Iowa couple faces charges after police say they left their 9-month-old baby home alone to go to a bar.

Television station KCCI reported that police arrested Bryan Austin McCrea Bozarth, 22, and Ashley Lee Routh King, 20, on Friday.

Police said officers were sent to the couple’s Urbandale home about midnight Thursday for a welfare check after someone reported the baby home alone. Officers said they found the baby in a crib, and no one else was home.

Police believe the baby was left alone for about three hours. Police said both McCrea and King were drunk when officers questioned them. Each has been charged with child endangerment, and King also faces an underage drinking charge.

From wire reports

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# Thomas dialed in as Saints beat Rams

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — When the time came to dial up a big play for Michael Thomas, the Saints' leading receiver answered the call.

He even had a flip phone planted in the padding of each goal post, just in case.

Thomas caught a late 72-yard touchdown reception and then celebrated with a cellphone in a throwback to another famous New Orleans play, and the streaking Saints handed the Los Angeles Rams their first loss of the season with a 45-35 victory on Sunday.

"I loved the celebration myself, and I think it was the perfect time when I did it," Thomas said. "We love our fans and we always want to bring them back great memories."

Drew Brees passed for 346 yards and four touchdowns in New Orleans' seventh straight win, and Thomas finished with a club-record 211 yards receiving. But what happened after the last of his 12 receptions stole the show in a wild shootout between two of the NFL's best offenses.

Thomas' long TD came on a pivotal third-down play with

about four minutes left. The Rams (8-1) seemed to expect the Saints (7-1) to run a play closer to the first-down marker and double-teamed dynamic running back Alvin Kamara.

Brees recalled thinking, "Kamara's doubled, Mike's singled, Mike's by him, here we go."

Thomas ran free behind Marcus Peters, caught Brees' long throw virtually in stride and ran straight to the goal post to begin his reprise of Joe Horn's Sunday night TD celebration against the New York Giants in 2003.

"I paid a tribute to him, tried to get the crowd going a little bit more, set the tone, have fun out there, giving people a show," said Thomas, who eclipsed Wes Chandler's club record of 205 yards receiving against Atlanta in 1979.

"You got to have fun. All these guys just catching touchdowns and celebrating with each other, having fun, getting the crowd involved. I felt like I had an opportunity to make it happen."

Like Horn, Thomas was penalized, but the Rams never threatened again.

P.J. Williams, who forced a fumble and had an interception

for a touchdown in New Orleans' previous victory at Minnesota, broke up a fourth-down pass intended for Brandin Cooks, virtually sealing the result. The former Saints receiver, who caught six passes for 114 yards and a TD, fell to his knees in frustration.

Kamara scored three times, twice on runs and once on a 16-yard catch-and-run — all in the first half.

Rams defensive players lambasted themselves for poor tackling at inopportune times, particularly on Kamara, who gained 116 yards from scrimmage.

But coach Sean McVay sought to put the season's lone loss in a positive light.

"We're good. We love it. You find out about yourself when you have a little bit of adversity," McVay said. "I know that everybody in that locker room is going to respond the right way. Sometimes setbacks can be setups for comebacks — and that's the way we look at it."

**Comeback bid:** Jared Goff, who passed for 391 yards and three TDs, nearly led the Rams to an extraordinary comeback amid the din of the Superdome.

Los Angeles rallied to tie it at

35 with 21 unanswered points in less than 21 minutes, starting with Greg Zuerlein's 56-yard field goal as time expired in the first half.

The Rams opened the second half with an 11-play touchdown drive capped by Malcolm Brown's 18-yard catch in which he hopped over safety Marcus Williams along the sideline and kept his balance long enough to reach the ball across the goal line.

After another Los Angeles field goal, the Rams forced a second straight punt and tied it on Cooper Kupp's 41-yard catch-and-run along the sideline.

The Saints regained the lead on Wil Lutz's 54-yard field goal, and then forced the Rams' first punt of the game with about five minutes left.

**Scorching start:** Both teams scored touchdowns on each of their first two possessions, starting with Kamara's 11-yard run and Todd Gurley's 8-yard score.

Gurley's score gave him a TD in a Rams-record 12 straight games, passing Hall of Famer Elroy Hirsch.

## Brady, surging Pats best Rodgers, Packers

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers spent the week telling anyone who asked that the other guy was the better quarterback.

In the second matchup between the future Hall of Famers, it was the one with five Super Bowl rings who walked off the field with the victory.

Brady threw for 294 yards and a touchdown, and James White ran for two scores to lead the New England Patriots to a 31-17 victory over Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night.

It was the sixth straight victory for the Patriots (7-2).

"We made some plays in the fourth quarter when we needed to," Brady said. "Anytime you beat a good football team it feels good. So, 7-2 is a long ways from 1-2 where we were."

Rodgers completed 24 of 43 passes and two touchdowns but failed to rally his team

after tying the game in the third quarter. Rodgers won the first matchup with Brady at Lambeau Field in 2014.

"If you play long enough, and you have the sustained greatness that Tom has had, there's going to be a lot of records," Rodgers said. "He's been the gold standard at quarterback for two decades."

It was 17-all late in the third quarter when Aaron Jones fumbled for Green Bay (3-4-1).

New England receiver Julian Edelman hit White on a 37-yard catch-and-run to set up White's second score, a 1-yard run. On the Patriots next possession, Brady connected with Josh Gordon for a 55-yard TD.

Gordon caught five passes for 130 yards, the 12th 100-yard receiving game of his career.

With tight end Rob Gronkowski out with a back and ankle injury and leading rusher Sony Michel out for the second straight week with a knee issue, Brady and the Pa-

triots had to get creative.

They again turned to receiver Cordarrelle Patterson to help carry the load in the backfield.

Patterson was effective for the second straight week, rushing 11 times for 61 yards and a touchdown.

"So much of our team is guys being in roles that maybe they didn't sign up for," Brady said. "But they're asked to do it. ... A lot of guys down and you're short at certain spots. Obviously, we have a lot of trust in him that when he's got the ball in his hands good things are going to happen."

He worked in tandem with White to keep the Packers defense guessing. White took advantage and found space to turn short completions into first downs.

New England also capitalized on a pair of long flea-flicker passes to set up scores.

Rodgers was on target in the first half. He was elusive in the pocket and extended plays with his feet.



## NFL roundup

# Streaking Steelers hold off Ravens

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Going up against the NFL's top-ranked defense, Ben Roethlisberger showed his versatility, grit and ability to bounce back from injury.

He also proved his own theory: The only unit capable of stopping the Pittsburgh offense is, well, the Pittsburgh offense.

Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes, ran for a score and put up an unexpected left-footed punt to help the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens 23-16 Sunday.

James Conner rushed for 107 yards and caught a TD pass for the Steelers (5-2-1), who have won four straight since falling to the Ravens at home on Sept. 30.

Pittsburgh is averaging 31 points a game during its winning streak. Against Baltimore, the Steelers rolled up 395 yards, converted 10 of 16 third-down plays and held the ball for 36 minutes.

"We feel that we can do what we want to do," Roethlisberger said. "We've got roadblocks, which are great defenses on other teams, trying to stop us, but we've always said — and no disrespect to other teams — they don't stop us, we stop ourselves."

That didn't happen Sunday. Pittsburgh did not commit a turnover, and Roethlisberger went 28 for 47 for 270 yards. His 1-yard run made it 20-6 in the third quarter, and the 36-year-old showed his determination by missing only one play after being flattened during a sprint from the pocket with just over 13 minutes left.

The Ravens (4-5) scored only one touchdown in their third straight defeat, managing two field goals in the first half while falling behind 14-6. Baltimore had converted 72.4 percent of its red zone opportunities into TDs — the fourth-best percentage in the NFL — but on this day a 1-for-4 performance didn't cut it.

**Texans 19, Broncos 17:** Brandon McManus missed

a 51-yard field goal as time expired, leaving Demaryius Thomas a winner in his homecoming and Houston escaped Denver with a win.

The Texans (6-3) won their sixth straight and the Broncos (3-6) lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Thomas finished with three receptions for 61 yards, but two of them were back-to-back for 31 and 18 yards on the Texans' opening touchdown drive.

**Chargers 25, Seahawks 17:** Philip Rivers made his 200th consecutive start and kept Los Angeles surging at the midpoint of the season, surviving a late rally by host Seattle's Russell Wilson.

Rivers threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns, Melvin Gordon added 113 yards rushing and the Chargers won their fifth straight with a 25-17 win over the Seahawks on Sunday.

Rivers threw touchdown passes of 12 yards to Tyrell Williams and 30 yards to Mike Williams, and let the Chargers defense stymie Wilson until the final minutes. Seattle had won four of five following an 0-2 start.

**Chiefs 37, Browns 21:** Patrick Mahomes passed for 375 yards, threw three touchdown passes — two to Travis Kelce — and continued the best start by an NFL quarterback in 68 years as visiting Kansas City's impossible-to-handle offense kept rolling with a win over the Browns, who played their first game since coach Hue Jackson's firing.

Kareem Hunt had two scoring runs and one receiving for the Chiefs (8-1), who came in averaging 36.3 points per game with an offense overloaded with weapons for Mahomes.

The 23-year-old used all of them in winning his first pro matchup against Baker Mayfield and the Browns (2-6-1).

**Vikings 24, Lions 9:** Danielle Hunter had 3½ of Minnesota's franchise-record 10 sacks and a fourth-quarter fumble return for a touchdown, making for a miserable afternoon for Mat-

thew Stafford and the Lions.

Hunter, the fourth-year defensive end, also was credited with nine tackles and four quarterback hits as the Vikings (5-3-1) limited the Lions to 214 total yards.

The Lions had a streak of 25 consecutive games with at least 14 points stopped in humbling fashion.

**Dolphins 13, Jets 6:** Rookie linebacker Jerome Baker intercepted Sam Darnold and scored the only touchdown on a 25-yard return with 11 minutes left, and a resilient defense helped the host Dolphins beat the Jets.

Darnold threw four interceptions and took four sacks, and the Jets went 2 for 13 on third down.

The hobbled Dolphins (5-4) endured another wave of injuries, but their defense was much improved after three consecutive poor games, with the quality of the opposition certainly a factor.

Darnold tried to rally his sputtering team from a 6-3 deficit, but following a punt he took a high snap and made an ill-advised throw to tight end Eric Tomlinson. Baker stepped in front for his first career interception and scored untouched.

**Bears 41, Bills 9:** Jordan Howard scored two touchdowns and the Bears' defense had two others in a win over the Bills in what proved to be another comedy of errors for host Buffalo and its anemic offense.

Eddie Jackson scored on a 65-yard fumble return and Leonard Floyd returned a tipped pass 19 yards for another score some 3 1/2 minutes apart in the second quarter. Howard, set up by Tarik Cohen's 38-yard punt return, then scored on an 18-yard scamper to cap a run in which the Bears scored four touchdowns over a span of 12 minutes, 20 seconds.

The Bears won their second in a row and improved to 5-3 to match their best start to a season through eight games since 2013. Chicago also matched its win total from last year.

**Falcons 38, Redskins 14:**

Julio Jones ended his 12-game touchdown drought, Matt Ryan threw for 350 yards and four scores and Atlanta flexed its offensive muscles with a blowout of the host Redskins that extended their winning streak to three games.

Jones caught seven passes for 121 yards with the biggest coming on a 35-yard screen pass with just under four minutes left that sealed the victory. After Jones twisted away from newest Washington defender Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and into the end zone, a swarm of teammates rushed over from the sideline to celebrate Jones' first touchdown catch since Nov. 26, 2017.

**Panthers 42, Buccaneers 28:** Cam Newton completed 19 of 25 passes for 247 yards and two touchdowns, Christian McCaffrey racked up 157 yards from scrimmage and scored twice and the host Panthers built an early lead and held on to beat the Buccaneers for their 10th straight home win.

Newton threw TD passes of 19 yards to Curtis Samuel and 17 yards to Greg Olsen, the seventh straight game he has thrown for at least two touchdowns. McCaffrey had 17 carries for 79 yards and five catches for 78 yards and turned in the play of the game when he leaped over a defender after a reception in the flat and kept going, turning it into a 32-yard gain.

The Panthers (6-2) scored touchdowns on five straight possessions during the first half to build a commanding 35-7 lead before the Buccaneers battled back to within a touchdown early in the fourth quarter behind Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick, who started in place of the turnover-prone Jameis Winston for Tampa Bay (3-5), finished with 243 yards passing and four touchdowns — two each to Adam Humphries and O.J. Howard.

## NBA roundup

# Giannis dominates Kings in Bucks' rout

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo is taking his game to another level.

He had his second triple-double this season with 26 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists to help the Milwaukee Bucks rout the Sacramento Kings 144-109 on Sunday.

"A great win for the team," Antetokounmpo said, deflecting any sense of personal satisfaction. "When I drove the ball, they were wide open. I passed it, and they knocked down everything."

The Bucks improved to 8-1 — the best nine-game start in franchise history. They set a season high for points in a game and also set the franchise record for three-pointers made with 22.

Coach Mike Budenholzer was happy his team followed Antetokounmpo's lead.

"Hopefully, one of the keys to Giannis being great is everybody around him being great," the Bucks' first-year coach said. "We can also talk about a lot of other guys who played well, too. So, that's a great sign for Giannis and a great sign for us."

Seven other Bucks were in double figures. Eric Bledsoe scored 17, Ersan Ilyasova 15,

Malcolm Brogdon and Pat Connaughton each had 13, Tony Snell and Khris Middleton each had 12 and John Henson 10.

Justin Jackson set a career-high with 22 points, Buddy Hield had 19 and De'Aaron Fox 15 for the Kings, who had their five-game winning streak snapped.

**Nets 122, 76ers 97:** D'Angelo Russell snapped out of a slump with 13 of his 21 points in the second half as Brooklyn kept sloppy Philadelphia winless on the road.

The 76ers committed 28 turnovers, most in the league this season, leading to 39 points for the Nets. They fell to 0-5 away from home. They are 6-0 in Philadelphia.

Joel Embiid finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds, taking only eight shots a day after going for 39 points and 17 rebounds in a victory over Detroit. Simmons had 20 points and 12 rebounds.

**Wizards 108, Knicks 95:** John Wall scored 26 points and Bradley Beal added 22 as host Washington snapped a five-game losing streak.

Markieff Morris had 16 points and Jeff Green added 14 for Washington, which won for the second time in nine games.

The Knicks, who fell to 3-7, were led by Enes Kanter's 18

points and 12 rebounds. Trey Burke scored 13 points.

**Magic 117, Spurs 110:** Aaron Gordon scored 26 points as visiting Orlando held on to beat San Antonio after nearly blowing a 26-point lead with 9 minutes remaining.

D.J. Augustin added 18 points for the Magic, who scored a season high and hit 12 three-pointers.

DeMar DeRozan had 25 points as San Antonio's four-game winning streak came to an end on the second night of a back-to-back.

Orlando snapped a four-game skid, but had to bring its starters back into the game to preserve the victory.

**Suns 102, Grizzlies 100:** Devin Booker's 17-foot jumper with 1.7 seconds left capped a fourth-quarter comeback as host Phoenix snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Booker scored 14 of his game-high 25 points in the final period as Phoenix rallied from 12 points down. Trevor Ariza added 16 points and nine rebounds, and rookie Mikal Bridges scored nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Shelvin Mack's season-high 21 points led the Grizzlies, who got one more possession after Booker's big bucket. But Mike Conley missed a long three-

pointer at the horn.

**Trail Blazers 111, Timberwolves 81:** Jusuf Nurkic had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead host Portland.

Meyers Leonard had a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds off the bench.

Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 23 points for Minnesota. It was his fourth consecutive game scoring 20 points or more.

Portland, the league's best free-throw shooting team, took advantage of its attempts in the first two quarters for a 61-45 halftime lead. Overall, the Trail Blazers made 28 of 32 from the line.

**Raptors 121, Lakers 107:** Serge Ibaka made his first 14 shots on the way to a career-high 34 points, and visiting Toronto didn't need injured Kawhi Leonard in a victory over Los Angeles.

Ibaka had 10 rebounds and didn't miss a shot until 5:16 remained in the third quarter, finishing 15-for-17 in a masterful performance. Kyle Lowry added 21 points and 15 assists as the Eastern Conference-leading Raptors improved to 9-1 with their eighth consecutive victory over the Lakers since 2014.

Toronto opened a 31-point lead in the first quarter.

## NHL roundup

# Gourde's OT goal OT lifts Lightning to win

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Yanni Gourde scored 14 seconds into overtime to lift the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 4-3 victory over the Ottawa Senators on Sunday night.

Brayden Point tied the score with 27 seconds left in regulation on a two-man advantage off a pass from Tyler Johnson to send the game to the extra period. Point also had an assist on Gourde's winner.

Cedric Paquette and Mathieu Joseph also scored for the Lightning, and Louis Domingue stopped 22 shots. Ryan McDonagh had three assists.

Bobby Ryan, Maxime Lajoie and Cody Ceci had the goals for the Senators. Craig Anderson finished with 41 saves a day after giving up three goals on 10 shots before being pulled in a 9-2 loss to Buffalo.

**Rangers 3, Sabres 1:** Henrik Lundqvist stopped 39 shots and Jimmy Vesey scored twice to lead host New York to its third straight win.

Neal Pionk also scored for the Rangers and rookie Brett Howden picked up his sixth assist of the season before leaving with an injury in the second period.

Lundqvist was stellar while picking up

his fourth win of the season and 435th of his career, moving just two behind Jacques Plante for seventh place on the NHL's all-time list.

**Ducks 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT):** Cam Fowler completed his first career hat trick 36 seconds into overtime as host Anaheim ended a seven-game losing streak.

John Gibson made 24 saves for the Ducks, who had been 0-5-2 since defeating the New York Islanders 4-1 on Oct. 17.

Pierre-Luc Dubois scored twice for the Blue Jackets, who lost the final two games of their three-game California road trip.