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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump, Macron hold friendly meeting

Associated Press

PARIS — President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron worked Saturday to ease tensions after a dustup over their comments about European security that threatened to divert attention from a weekend ceremony marking 100 years since the end of World War I.

The American and French leaders, who have had somewhat of an up-and-down relationship, worked to project unity on whether Europe should create an army as they addressed reporters before going behind closed doors for talks at the Elysee Palace.

Trump opened his latest French visit on a testy note after he unleashed an angry Twitter jab at his host as he arrived for the celebration. Just as Air Force One touched down in Paris Friday night, Trump tweeted that Macron “has just

suggested that Europe build its own military in order to protect itself from the U.S., China and Russia. Very insulting, but perhaps Europe should first pay its fair share of NATO, which the U.S. subsidizes greatly!”

Macron’s office said Trump misunderstood Macron’s comments about sharing the defense burden, and the two men struck a more friendly tone as they opened their meeting at the grand presidential residence on a rainy day in Paris.

“We want to help Europe but it has to be fair. Right now, the burden-sharing has been largely on the United States,” Trump said, adding that Macron “understands that and he understands the United States can only do so much, in fairness to the United States.” Trump added that the U.S. wants to “absolutely be there” to help defend Europe but that “different countries have to also help.”

Macron defended his viewpoint, saying “I do share President Trump’s views that we need a much better burden sharing with NATO and that’s why I do believe that my proposal for a European defense” is “utterly consistent with that.”

Macron said it’s “unfair to have the European security today being assured just by the United States.”

An official in Macron’s office said Trump lumped together two different comments by the French president, and that the leaders would discuss the comments. By custom, the official was not authorized to be publicly named.

Macron said in an interview earlier this week that Europe needs to protect itself against “China, Russia and even the United States” in terms of cyberspace. Later, Macron reiterated that Europe needs to build up its own military because it can no longer depend

on the U.S. for defense.

Trump has made similar arguments, particularly in urging NATO members to increase their defense spending.

It was the latest instance of Trump introducing tension before meeting with a world leader, then playing nice when they are in his face.

Earlier this year, Trump insulted British Prime Minister Theresa May at an especially vulnerable time for her government in an interview with a British tabloid. He also threatened not to work toward a trade deal with Britain and said May’s political nemesis would make a great prime minister. The interview was published as Trump attended a grand welcome dinner hosted by May hours after he arrived in London.

But Trump was far more cordial to May’s face. He complimented her leadership and expressed his great respect for her.

Pentagon’s first chief management officer resigns

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon’s first-ever chief management officer resigned last Monday from the Defense Department’s No. 3 position just eight months after taking the job to lead efforts to save the department money through business reforms.

John “Jay” H. Gibson II’s resignation will go into effect Nov. 30, said Army Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, a Pentagon spokesman.

Officials had expected the resignation for some months, following a Wall Street Journal report in September that Gibson was on his way out, having lost the confidence of Defense

Secretary Jim Mattis. The journal cited unnamed officials in its report.

Lisa Herschman, now the deputy chief management officer, will serve as acting chief management officer until a permanent replacement is nominated. The position requires Senate confirmation.

In a statement, Buccino praised Gibson’s efforts at reform, saying they would save money for the department in the current fiscal year. His departure would not interrupt the reform process, he added.

“Our commitment to bringing business reform to the department remains unwavering and will result in the increased lethality of our force,” Buccino said.

“We appreciate his service to the department and wish him continued success.”

Gibson, 59, initially joined Mattis’ Pentagon team in November 2017 as the deputy chief management officer and was confirmed in February to the chief management officer position, a new position created by Congress in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. He previously served at the Pentagon during former President George W. Bush’s administration.

As chief management officer, Gibson was charged with leading “efforts to synchronize technology, people, resources and processes to achieve reform,” Dana White, the Penta-

gon’s top spokeswoman, said in March.

Those reforms and saving money that could be better used preparing and outfitting troops to fight have been among Mattis’ top priorities since taking the Pentagon’s top position in January 2017.

Top Pentagon officials had aimed to free up nearly \$50 billion during the next five years that Mattis saw as wasteful and could be invested in improving servicemembers’ battlefield lethality, the defense secretary’s top priority.

In the Wall Street Journal’s September report, the newspaper wrote Mattis would fire Gibson for failure to perform.

Okinawa governor wants US to know burden of hosting bases

Associated Press

TOKYO — The outspoken governor of Japan's Okinawa island said Friday he will meet with American officials this week to convey the frustration of residents from hosting U.S. military bases on the southern island.

Denny Tamaki said he will meet with officials in Washington and speak at New York University during his Nov. 11-16 trip.

"I hope to speak directly to American citizens and convey my views representing Okinawa and have a discussion about democracy," Tamaki told a packed news conference in Tokyo.

Tamaki took office Oct. 4 after campaigning for the closure of a disputed U.S. base on Okinawa and a reduction of the American military pres-

ence there. He said he wanted to visit the U.S. soon after his election so that the voices of voters would be heard.

Tamaki, the first person with an American parent to lead Okinawa, said his roots make him a perfect figure to relay the message to the U.S. public.

At the center of contention is a decades-old plan to move a Marine Corps air station from densely populated Futenma in the southern part of the island to less-crowded Henoko on the east coast.

Tamaki, during an earlier visit to Tokyo in mid-October, urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other top officials to stop the Henoko plan and reduce Okinawa's burden. Despite his request and Okinawans' opposition, Abe's government recently resumed construction work at the disputed site at

Henoko.

The construction reignited anger on the island, and Tamaki said he is determined to block its completion.

"Okinawa is working hard toward peace building, and based on that perspective we call on the Japanese government and the United States government to look at ways to reduce the burden of the bases and build peace. We call for deepening of their relationship and effort to achieve those goals," Tamaki said.

He said Japan's central government should negotiate with the U.S. in Okinawa's interest. "As the central government is not delivering Okinawans' voice to the U.S. side, it is now my responsibility to convey that directly to the Americans and they have a responsibility to listen to us," Tamaki said.

Sparring over islands in South China Sea continues

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China bluntly told the United States to stop sending ships and military aircraft close to islands claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea, during talks that set the stage for a meeting between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping later this month.

The U.S. pushed back Friday, insisting it will continue to "fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows." In late September, U.S. and Chinese vessels nearly collided near a disputed reef.

Despite the frank airing of differences at the meeting in Washington of the two nations' top diplomats and military chiefs, both sides stressed the need to tamp down tensions, which have flared amid a bitter trade dispute that Trump and Xi are expected to tackle at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina.

"The United States is not pursuing a policy of Cold War containment with China," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters following the U.S.-China Diplomatic and Security Dialogue. "Rather we want to ensure that China acts responsibly and fairly in support of security and prosperity of each of our two countries."

The talks were due to be held in Beijing last month but were postponed after Washington announced new arms sales to Taiwan, and after a Chinese destroyer came close to the USS Decatur in late September in what the U.S. Navy called an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver." Beijing has sweeping but disputed sovereignty claims in the area.

However, Yang and Chinese defense minister Wei Fenghe spoke of the need to improve cooperation, including between the U.S. and Chinese militaries, to ease the risk of conflict as the two powers jockey for preeminence in the Asia-Pacific.

Maine shipyard starts construction on new destroyer as another departs

Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works celebrated construction of a new warship Friday with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, in attendance.

The ceremony marked the start of construction of the future USS Patrick Gallagher, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer named for an Irish-born Marine who was awarded the Navy Cross. Later, another destroyer departed from the shipyard in Bath.

Collins, who is credited for helping to secure funding, spoke to shipbuilders at the Harding Plant, where large pieces of metal are fabricated

in Brunswick. With help, she operated a massive plasma-cutting machine to begin transforming the first piece of metal for the ship.

She praised the work of the shipyard's 5,700 workers, telling them that sailors repeatedly say they prefer to work on Navy ships that were built by Bath Iron Works.

"It does make a difference to the crew of our ships to have a Bath-built ship," she said. "It's not just a slogan that 'Bath-built is best built.' It is the truth. It is the reality."

The Harding facility will be the beneficiary of much of the \$100 million in improvements that the General Dynamics subsidiary is planning over the

next few years. The building will be redesigned, and there will be new cutting machines, burning tables and blast and paint facilities.

The large pieces that are created at Harding are then transported to the main shipyard in Bath, where they're assembled into high-tech warships.

One of those warships, the future USS Michael Monsoor, departed the shipyard on Friday for the final time. The ship is the second of three stealthy destroyers built in Bath.

The Monsoor, named for a Navy SEAL who threw himself on a grenade to save comrades, is due to be commissioned in January in Coronado, Calif.

Gunman's Instagram post a focus of probe

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Authorities trying to make sense of why a gunman killed 12 people at a Southern California bar are not publicly discussing what they've learned, but at least one Instagram post he made after beginning the massacre has emerged as an early focus.

Social media platforms have scrubbed that and any other posts following Wednesday night's massacre. But one law enforcement official said Ian David Long, 28, a former Marine, posted about his mental state and whether people would believe he was sane.

Authorities also were investigating whether he believed his former girlfriend

would be at the Borderline Bar and Grill, said the official, who was briefed on the investigation but not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A second law enforcement official, Ventura County Sheriff's Capt. Garo Kuredjian, said that based on time stamps, the gunman apparently stopped shooting inside the bar and posted to Instagram. Kuredjian said he didn't know the content of any posts. Instagram and Facebook typically refuse to discuss individual accounts and did not respond to a request for comment.

Authorities described an attack of military efficiency. None of those injured was hurt by gunfire. When the gunman shot his .45-caliber pistol, he killed. As scores of police officers closed in, Long apparently shot and killed himself.

Several people who knew Long in the suburb of Thousand Oaks, where the gunman went to high school and eventually moved back in with his mother, described him in disturbing terms. Long made others feel uncomfortable going back to his teens.

Dominique Colell, who coached girls' track and field at the high school where Long was a sprinter, remembers an angry young man who could be verbally and physically combative.

In one instance, Colell said Long used his fingers to mimic shooting her in the back of the head as she talked to another athlete. In another, he grabbed her rear and midsection after she refused to return a cellphone he said was his. "I literally feared for myself around him," Colell said in an interview Friday. "He was the only athlete that I was scared of."

Ga. race shines light on voting restrictions

By RUSS BYNUM
AND CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY

Associated Press

ATLANTA — He aggressively deleted inactive voters from registration rolls, enforced an "exact match" policy that could have prevented thousands of Georgians from registering to vote and launched an investigation that disrupted a major voter registration drive.

Now Republican Brian Kemp is declaring himself the victor in Georgia's race for governor, a race so close that even marginal differences in voting and turnout could make the difference in determining whether the race goes to a runoff.

The Associated Press has not called the race between Kemp, who until this week was Georgia's secretary of state, and Democrat Stacey Abrams, a former state lawmaker seeking to become the nation's first black woman to be elected governor.

In a state dominated by Republicans, Abrams staked her campaign largely on getting new and infrequent voters to participate in the election.

Meanwhile, Kemp and the

state's Republican legislature have imposed tighter voting and registration rules that can make it more difficult for just those voters to register and cast ballots. Most of those rules have come since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

"Georgia uses every tool in the voter-suppression toolkit," said Andrea Young, executive director of the ACLU of Georgia.

The ACLU's Young said Georgia's recent voting restrictions have been made in the name of preventing fraud. But she believes they're also born out of a desire to keep minorities from voting.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU, which tracks voting issues nationally, said Georgia was among the most aggressive states in the country in removing inactive voters from its registration rolls between 2012 through this year. The stated purpose is to clear lists of voters those who have moved or died, but the purges also can mistakenly remove legitimate voters.

Democrats gain ground in California US House races

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Several Democrats gained ground Friday against Republican incumbents in closely contested U.S. House races in California, where votes continue to be counted.

Fifteen-term U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher fell farther behind Democrat Harley Rouda, a real estate executive, in Orange County's coastal 48th District. Rouda extended his lead to 7,300 votes or nearly 52 percent, returns showed.

In the neighboring 45th District, Democrat Katie Porter inched closer to Republican U.S. Rep. Mimi Walters, whose lead shrank to 2,020 votes, or 1 percentage point, out of about 205,000 ballots tallied. Two days earlier, she led by about 6,000 votes.

And in the Central Valley's 10th District, Democrat Josh Harder grabbed a nearly 2-point lead after trailing Rep. Jeff Denham.

In retiring GOP Rep. Ed Royce's 39th District, the race was also tightening. Republican Young Kim held about a 2,600-vote edge over Democrat

Gil Cisneros, or 2 points, with about 164,000 votes counted.

Like Royce, Rohrabacher and Walters represent districts in Orange County, a one-time Republican stronghold where Democrats are attempting to capture as many as four GOP-held districts. They already have won one — retiring U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa's seat went to Mike Levin, a former Orange County Democratic Party official.

And Democrats also have picked up the last Republican-held House seat anchored in Los Angeles County. First-time candidate Katie Hill, 31, ousted Republican Steve Knight, who was seeking a third term in the 25th District.

Hill's victory gave Democrats a 40-13 advantage in California's congressional delegation.

Hill stressed her centrist politics: She's a gun owner, and her Republican father is a police officer who had never voted for a Democrat before her primary.

Hill, who worked as an executive for a group providing services for the homeless, supports universal health care and counts Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a liberal favorite, among her supporters.

Koreas complete disarming of 22 guard posts in DMZ area

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The North and South Korean militaries completed withdrawing troops and firearms from 22 front-line guard posts on Saturday as they continue to implement a wide-ranging agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across the world's most fortified border, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said.

South Korea says the military agreement is an important trust-building step that would help stabilize peace and advance reconciliation between the rivals. But critics say the South risks conceding some of its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any meaningful steps on denuclearization — an anxiety that's growing as the larger nuclear negotiations be-

tween Washington and Pyongyang seemingly drift into a stalemate.

South Korea reportedly has about 60 guard posts — bunker-like concrete structures surrounded with layers of barbed-wire fences and manned by soldiers equipped with machine guns — stretched across the ironically named Demilitarized Zone.

The 155-mile border buffer peppered with millions of land mines has been the site of occasional skirmishes between the two forces since the 1950-53 Korean War.

In the September military agreement, reached on the sidelines of a summit in Pyongyang between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the Koreas pledged to eventually withdraw all guard posts within the DMZ, but to start by

removing 11 from each side as a "preliminary" measure.

The South Korean Defense Ministry official said soldiers on Saturday completed disarming 11 guard posts on the southern side of the DMZ. He said the ministry believes the North has also finished withdrawing personnel and weapons from 11 guard posts on the northern side of the DMZ. He didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

The Koreas plan to destroy 20 of the structures by the end of November, while symbolically leaving one demilitarized guard post on each side.

The Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command recently finished removing firearms and troops from a jointly controlled area at the border village of Panmunjom and eventually plan to allow tourists to freely move around there.

Saudi coalition in Yemen ends US refueling

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said early Saturday it had "requested cessation of in-flight refueling" by the U.S. for its fighter jets after American officials said they would stop the operations amid growing anger over civilian casualties from the kingdom's airstrikes.

The decision by the U.S. to pull out also comes amid outrage by U.S. lawmakers from both political parties over the Oct. 2 killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

"We support the decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after consultations with the U.S. government, to use the coalition's own military capabilities to conduct inflight refueling in support of its operations in Yemen," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in a statement. "The U.S. will also continue working with the coalition and Yemen to minimize civilian casualties and expand urgent humanitarian efforts throughout the country."

American officials earlier said Saudi forces now handled some 80 percent of their refueling operations, which crucially allow aircraft to fly longer sorties over possible targets and can ease the pressure for quick strikes.

Saudi strikes have hit public markets, hospitals and other nonmilitary targets, killing scores of civilians. One such Saudi-led airstrike in August in Yemen's Saada province hit a bus and killed dozens of people, including schoolchildren wearing backpacks.

News of the halt to U.S. refueling operations was swiftly dismissed by the Houthis as a media ploy that came in response to international pressure on Washington and Riyadh over the Yemen war.

Captive's son killed during liberation operation

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — A Syrian woman captured by Islamic State militants said her 8-year-old son died in her lap after the extremists shot him and his cousin during a military operation to liberate them more than 100 days after they were kidnapped.

Najwa Abu Ammar, 35, was kidnapped with her two sons and daughter and nearly two dozen others in July from southern Sweida province in a bloody attack on their villages in which the militants killed over 200 people.

When a military operation began to liberate them Thursday, the children panicked during the gunfire, she said. Her son Rafaat and his cousin Qusay, 13, ran and the militants fired at them.

"We were in the open air at the bottom of a valley as the

clashes raged between the army and gunmen," she said. "When my son tried to run away, they (IS militants) shot him. He was in my lap when he died."

His cousin Qusay bled to death after nearly five hours, Abu Ammar said.

A large funeral procession for the two children set out from the national hospital in Sweida to their village, about 18 miles to the east.

"What is the sin of those innocent children, who should now be in their classrooms," Monzer al-Shoufi, a resident of Sweida who took part in the procession, told AP by telephone.

The family of Abu Ammar suffered another loss in the kidnapping — Rafaat's grandmother was killed on the day of the abductions.

Nashaat Abu Ammar, Rafaat's father, said his mother was among those kidnapped by

the militants, who forced the elderly, sick woman to walk about 2.5 miles. When she failed to continue, they shot her dead.

The rare attacks in the province populated mainly by minority Druze included several suicide bombings. The violence on July 25 devastated the community and shattered the region's calm. At least 216 people were killed and the militants walked away with the captives.

Nashaat Abu Ammar said about 20 of those killed were close relatives and 60 others were related.

Najwa Abu Ammar said the captors held the group in different hideouts, including a camp and a cave, and once kept them in a moving car for over 12 hours, the captives not knowing where they were headed.

The militants fed them sporadically and beat and insulted the children.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hershey's chocolate plant has minor fire

PAHERSHEY — A small fire broke out at the Pennsylvania chocolate factory that manufactures more than 70 million Hershey's Kisses a day.

WHTM-TV reported firefighters were called to The Hershey Company's plant in Hershey, Pennsylvania, for a minor fire Friday morning.

A company spokesman said a short-circuit in a storage area heater activated a sprinkler system, which immediately put out the fire.

He said workers were evacuated from a section of the plant out of caution.

State reports fewer minors behind bars

VANEWPORT NEWS — Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice said fewer minors are behind bars in the state. Violent incidents are also down at juvenile correction centers.

The Daily Press in Newport News reported Thursday that the changes are reflected in a new Department of Juvenile Justice report. The decline in inmates as well as the drop in incidents comes in the wake of new guidelines that were implemented a few years ago.

The average daily population in juvenile correctional centers fell to 216 inmates in fiscal year 2018. More than twice as many were in the system three years ago. Aggressive incidents in correctional centers also plummeted by nearly 90 percent.

Dog breeder barred from pet ownership

NJPLAINFIELD — A New Jersey dog breeder ac-

cused of selling sick puppies from her home is now barred from owning pets.

The order was part of the sentence imposed Thursday on Suzie Bourdouvaes. The 38-year-old Plainfield resident will also have to serve probation and pay \$30,000 in restitution to her customers.

Bourdouvaes had pleaded guilty in June to animal cruelty. Authorities say she bred and sold dogs, including many who died despite their new owners' efforts to save them.

Teen on ATV records pursuit by officers

TXHOUSTON — A 15-year-old boy who videoed himself being chased by police as he drove an ATV along Houston-area freeways has been apprehended and placed in the custody of juvenile authorities.

Officers tried to pull the boy over Thursday because it's illegal to ride an ATV on public roads. He fled and was pursued by several police cars.

Police confirmed that a video recording the teen shot during the chase was posted to social media.

The boy eventually pulled over after about an hour and was taken into custody.

Humble police Sgt. Jack Burt told KPRC-TV that the teen "made a bad decision" not to stop for police.

Student, 8, suspended for alleged hit list

INTAYLORSVILLE — Officials said an 8-year-old elementary school student has been suspended after allegedly showing a hit list to a classmate on a school bus in Indiana.

The Bartholomew Consoli-

dated School Corp. said the classmate told her parents about the list after school on Wednesday and they reported it to school officials.

Families with students at Taylorsville Elementary School, located about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis, were notified about the hit list, but classes took place as planned this week. A message from the district said that students were "safely learning" despite the threat.

The Bartholomew County sheriff's office said it's taking any kind of potential threat seriously. A report on the case is expected to be reviewed by prosecutors.

Humane Society: 11 horses die, 16 saved

MOBETHANY — The Missouri Humane Society said it rescued 16 horses but 11 other horses were found dead on a property in Harrison County.

The organization said in a news release that the Harrison County Sheriff's office contacted them after visiting the property early this week and finding 11 horses dead and decaying.

The horses ranged from foals to 12 years old. The 16-acre property offered no vegetation for the horses. One horse had to be euthanized.

The owner surrendered 16 horses to the Missouri Humane Society but kept three others after agreeing to provide them with adequate food and care. It was not immediately clear if she will be charged.

The rescued horses will likely require lengthy rehabilitation before being made available for adoption.

Orchestra suspends its concertmaster

MDBALTIMORE — The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has suspended a concertmaster after allegations of his "inappropriate behavior" toward another orchestra employee surfaced.

The Baltimore Sun reported BSO management suspended concertmaster Jonathan Carney after it came to the group's attention Thursday that he allegedly threatened an employee of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra.

A peace order filed as a result of the October incident was granted Monday.

The peace order followed sexual harassment allegations by oboist Katherine Needleman, who filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Her complaint said Carney retaliated against her after she rejected his advances in 2005, and that the orchestra allowed a hostile work environment.

Man uses Red Sox numbers to win lottery

MABRAINTREE, MASS. — A Massachusetts great-grandfather won a \$100,000 lottery prize by picking the jersey numbers of five members of the World Series-winning Boston Red Sox.

The lottery said in a statement that Jim Aylward Jr., 84, of Templeton, won the prize in Monday's Mass Cash drawing using the numbers 11-16-19-22-25. He claimed his prize Wednesday.

Those are the jersey numbers of Red Sox players Rafael Devers, Andrew Benintendi, Jackie Bradley Jr., Rick Porcello, and World Series MVP Steve Pearce.

From wire reports

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Cardinals' Fitzgerald nears milestone

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Larry Fitzgerald is closing in on another milestone, and it's an impressive one.

The 35-year-old receiver needs to catch just 33 yards worth of passes Sunday at Kansas City to move past Hall of Famer Terrell Owens into second place on the NFL's career yards receiving list.

As usual, Fitzgerald brushed aside talk of the milestone in his weekly meeting with the media.

"Honestly, I don't really think about it," he said Thursday.

Modesty aside, there's no doubt that Fitzgerald is very aware of his place among the greats in the game.

Halfway through his 15th season, Fitzgerald has 15,902 yards receiving, be-

hind Owens' 15,934 and Jerry Rice's phenomenal 22,895.

Fitzgerald needs 58 catches to pass Tony Gonzalez for second on the NFL career receptions list. Fitzgerald has 1,268 catches to Gonzalez's 1,325 and Rice's 1,549.

Fitzgerald also is closing in on Rice's record for receptions with one team. Fitzgerald, who has spent his entire career with the Cardinals, needs 14 receptions to pass the 1,281 catches Rice had with the San Francisco 49ers.

There are numbers that Fitzgerald will talk about with pride, and that's what he's accomplished in the postseason.

He has 942 yards receiving in nine postseason games, most of any player in his first nine playoff contests. His three 150-yard playoff receiving games are most in NFL history. His five 100-yard games

are tied for third all-time, behind Michael Irvin and Rice. Fitzgerald is tied for third in postseason TD receptions (10), behind John Stallworth and Rice. And Fitzgerald did it in only nine games.

Fitzgerald's performance in Arizona's surprise run to the Super Bowl in the 2008 season shattered NFL records for yards receiving (546), receptions (30) and touchdowns (7).

In Arizona's divisional game against Green Bay in 2015, Fitzgerald caught eight passes for 176 yards, including the two biggest plays of overtime. He is the only player in NFL history to average at least 100 yards receiving and a touchdown in every postseason game.

"I think every player wants to be at their best in the biggest moments," Fitzgerald said. "I think my numbers in the playoffs say that I'm a guy who steps up in the bigger moments. I think that's something you look at the greats in history, the Jerry Rices and the

Michael Jordans and the Kobe Bryants, the Reggie Jacksons of the world, those guys, when their teams needed them the most, they were able to find something to make a difference in the games."

Fitzgerald might never appear in the playoffs again.

The Cardinals limp into Kansas City at 2-6 and Fitzgerald repeated Thursday that he hasn't decided whether this is his last season. It's hard to imagine him ever playing for another team.

Fitzgerald has been conspicuously absent from the statistics as the Arizona offense sputtered through seven games, leading to the firing of offensive coordinator Mike McCoy. With Byron Leftwich as the new coordinator, Fitzgerald had his best game of the year in the team's 18-15 victory over San Francisco two weekends ago, catching eight passes for 102 yards and a touchdown, just his second of the season.

In wake of cheating scandal, Harvick captures pole

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kevin Harvick shrugged off a cheating scandal to show he's still a legitimate title contender by winning the pole for his final crack at making the championship race.

As for what exactly happened with his race-winning car last week, Harvick didn't offer any new information after claiming the top starting spot at ISM Raceway outside of Phoenix.

"I don't build the cars. I can't tell you what's good and what's bad. I just show up and drive the cars," Harvick said Friday.

But his crew chief, Rodney Childers, said Stewart-Haas Racing modified the spoiler on Harvick's car because other teams were already doing similar alterations. Childers is suspended for the final two races of the season and working at the race shop in North Carolina

as Harvick tries to overcome a devastating penalty issued this week for what NASCAR determined was a blatant case of cheating.

Harvick won last weekend at Texas. When the spoiler was removed from his No. 4 Ford during an extensive inspection in North Carolina, NASCAR discovered the part had been altered.

It is NASCAR's belief that SHR built its own spoiler and tried to pass it off as one distributed by the vendor. The spoiler was offset to the right and NASCAR says it gave Harvick an aerodynamic advantage.

SHR did not appeal the penalty and acknowledged "NASCAR determined we ventured into an area not accommodated by its rule book."

Childers elaborated in a series of tweets early Friday morning in which he said SHR made the decision to move the

spoiler after other teams shifted their decklids and spoilers to the right in the previous 1.5-mile race at Kansas Speedway. Childers said it was too late for the team to move the decklid for the Texas race.

"This year there isn't a number or officiating on the offset of the decklid and spoiler together on the car. And at Kansas we noticed people we were racing had the spoilers and decklids further to the right than ours. And it was too late to move the decklid over more," Childers posted on Twitter.

Additional posts claimed the downforce advantage was "4 counts. That's 0.04% of the total downforce of the car. If you think 4 counts is the reason we won you're way wrong."

He also said there were no hard feelings between NASCAR and SHR, which has all four of its drivers still eligible for the playoffs and has been

the most dominant organization in NASCAR all season.

Harvick leads the series with eight victories, but two were with illegal cars. His Las Vegas victory from earlier this year was disqualified, as was last week's Texas win. That disqualification cost Harvick his automatic berth into next weekend's championship race and Childers and car chief Robert Smith are suspended.

Harvick is still mathematically in contention to advance into the final four and he's a nine-time winner at Phoenix, site of Sunday's final championship-qualifying event. He won at Phoenix earlier this year.

Harvick, the 2014 champion, had no scheduled media availability at ISM Raceway but was required to attend a news conference after winning the pole. He was contentious as he declined to delve into the scandal.

AP Top 25 basketball roundup

Massinburg helps Buffalo upset WVU

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — CJ Massinburg had 43 points and 14 rebounds as Buffalo pulled off another big upset against a power program, stunning No. 13 West Virginia 99-94 in overtime Friday night.

Jeremy Harris added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Bulls in the season opener for both teams. Buffalo grabbed attention last March when the 13th-seeded Bulls blew out No. 4 seed Arizona 89-68 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

This time, the Bulls (1-0) rallied with a late 15-4 surge to force overtime before outscoring the Mountaineers 15-10 in the extra period.

It was the first time West Virginia (0-1) lost its home opener since a 91-84 defeat against Northeastern in 2003.

Jayvon Graves added 14 points for Buffalo, and Nate Perkins scored 10 off the bench.

Lamont West led West Virginia with 22 points and nine re-

bounds. James "Beetle" Bolden scored a career-high 21.

No. 2 Kentucky 71, Southern Illinois 59: Keldon Johnson and Immanuel Quickley each scored 15 points, Nick Richards grabbed a career-high 19 rebounds and the host Wildcats rallied in the second half for the win.

Kentucky (1-1) bounced back from Tuesday night's 118-84 shellacking by No. 4 Duke, but had to work hard in the second half to overcome the veteran Salukis.

Kentucky dominated SIU 48-19 on the glass. The Wildcats also shot 47 percent after halftime and limited SIU to 1-for-7 shooting from long range.

Aaron Cook had 18 points and Kavion Pippen 16 for the Salukis (0-1), who opened against their first ranked team since No. 13 Illinois in 2010.

No. 6 Tennessee 87, Louisiana-Lafayette 65: Grant Williams scored 31 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and showcased his newfound three-point range for the host Volunteers.

No. 7 Nevada 83, Pacific 61: Caleb Martin scored all of his 22 points in the second half and the host Wolf Pack shot 48 percent from three-point range in the win.

No. 8 North Carolina 116, Elon 67: Cameron Johnson and freshman Nassir Little scored 21 points apiece in the visiting Tar Heels' rout.

No. 11 Auburn 88, No. 25 Washington 66: Chuma Okeke had 19 points and 10 rebounds and Samir Doughty scored 18 as the Tigers (2-0) raced to an 18-point halftime lead and pushed it to 30 in their first home win over a ranked nonconference team in nearly 48 years.

No. 12 Kansas State 56, Kennesaw State 41: Barry Brown and Makol Mawien each scored 15 points, Dean Waded added 13 and the Wildcats stumbled through a season-opening win.

No. 14 Oregon 81, Eastern Washington 47: Freshman Bol Bol had 23 points and 12 rebounds for his second double-double in as many games as the

host Ducks rode their stifling defense to the win.

No. 15 Virginia Tech 87, Gardner-Webb 59: Nickeil Alexander-Walker and Isaiah Wilkins scored 21 points apiece as the host Hokies won their opener.

No. 18 Mississippi State 95, Austin Peay 67: Quindary Weatherspoon scored 21 points, Nick Weatherspoon added 19 as the host Bulldogs shot nearly 58 percent from the field.

No. 21 UCLA 91, Long Beach State 80: Moses Brown had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and the host Bruins pulled away in the second half for the win.

No. 22 Clemson N.C. Central 51: David Skara scored 16 points and the host Tigers opened with two straight wins for the 17th time in 18 years.

Np. 23 LSU 97, UNC-Greensboro 91: Naz Reid scored 29 points and Tremont Waters had 21 points and 10 assists for the host Tigers in the win.

AP Top 25 football roundup

Rypien leads Boise State to upset of No. 16 Fresno State

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Boise State quarterback Brett Rypien etched his name in the Mountain West record books as the conference's all-time leading passer in yards and completions. But the pro-style passer needed his feet almost as much as his arm to beat the nation's second-best scoring defense.

Rypien engineered a fourth-quarter comeback, finishing with 269 yards passing with a touchdown and one interception, along with 30 yards rushing on eight carries that included scrambles for three first downs, in leading Boise State to a 24-17 upset over No. 16 Fresno State

on Friday night.

"(Rypien) ran the ball well tonight," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. "He moved and scrambled and all those little plays, they don't seem like much at the time but they add up throughout the game. And that's why we won the game tonight."

Trailing 17-10 late in the third quarter, Rypien scrambled on third down for a 10-yard gain to set up a game-tying 1-yard run by Alexander Mattison.

Afterward, Rypien shrugged off his fleet-footed prowess.

"It's just me trying to make a play," Rypien said. "There were some third-down situations in there where I felt like their eyes were off me and I had to take off

and make a play."

Even Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford could only shake his head afterward when recalling Rypien's running plays.

"They have a good offense and Rypien killed us with his legs a little," Tedford said.

Rypien's legs complemented his clutch throws, none bigger than a 49-yard scoring strike on another third down play when he hit Khalil Shakir in stride with 9:22 remaining in the fourth quarter to give the Broncos a 24-17 lead.

No. 13 Syracuse 54, Louisville 23: Moe Neal rushed for a career-best 159 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Eric Dungey ran for two scores

and passed for another as host Syracuse took advantage of five Louisville miscues.

The Orange (8-2, 5-2 ACC, No. 13 CFP) scored 27 points off five Louisville (2-8, 0-7 ACC) errors, rushed for 292 yards and accumulated 518 yards of total offense. Syracuse finished the season unbeaten in six games in the Carrier Dome for the fourth time since the building opened in 1980.

The Cardinals were penalized 17 times for 125 yards, and Syracuse intercepted two Louisville passes. Louisville also lost two fumbles and their quarterbacks, under pressure most of the game, were sacked five times.

NBA roundup

Embiid, Sixers top Hornets in overtime

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid scored 16 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter to help the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Charlotte Hornets 133-132 in overtime on Friday.

The Hornets fought back from a 21-point deficit and led by five with 1:18 remaining in regulation before the Sixers forced extra time.

Kemba Walker scored 19 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter for the Hornets.

Embiid also had 18 rebounds, and hit a tying three with 34.4 seconds to go. The Hornets committed a shot-clock violation with time winding down in regulation, missing an opportunity.

Ben Simmons had 22 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds for the 76ers.

Pacers 110, Heat 102: Victor Oladipo had 22 points and 10 assists, Bojan Bogdanovic put Indiana ahead to stay on a three-pointer with just under a minute remaining and visiting Indiana beat Miami.

Domantas Sabonis and Darren Collison each scored 17 points, and Bogdanovic had 16 to help the Pacers snap a two-game slide. The Pacers outscored Miami 16-2 in the final 3:31.

Kelly Olynyk led the Heat with 20 points, but missed most of the fourth quarter with an injury.

Jazz 123, Celtics 115: Joe

Ingles matched his career high with 27 points and added a season-high seven assists to help Utah beat Boston in Gordon Hayward's return to Salt Lake City.

Hayward had 13 points and seven assists in his first game back in Utah since leaving the Jazz in free agency after the 2016-17 season. He broke his left ankle last season in the opener.

Donovan Mitchell added 21 points for Utah, Jae Crowder had 20, and Rudy Gobert finished with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Terry Rozier scored 22 points for Boston, and Jayson Tatum had 21.

Magic 117, Wizards 108: Nikola Vucevic had 21 points

and 14 rebounds and D.J. Augustin came up with big plays in the final two minutes to help host Orlando beat Washington.

Pistons 124, Hawks 109: Andre Drummond had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Stanley Johnson added a season-high 22 points and visiting Detroit beat Atlanta.

Nets 112, Nuggets 110: Caris LeVert hit a floater in the lane with 0.3 seconds left and Brooklyn scored the last six points to beat host Denver.

Kings 121, Timberwolves 110: Willie Cauley-Stein had 25 points, Nemanja Bjelica scored eight in a row during a big run late in the third quarter and Sacramento beat slumping Minnesota.

NHL roundup

Blue Jackets ride power play to victory over Capitals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Columbus Blue Jackets are finally starting to feel confident on the power play, and that could be dangerous for the rest of the NHL.

Columbus' league-worst power play scored twice and Sergei Bobrovsky made 33 saves in a 2-1 victory over the defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals on Friday night.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored in his return to the lineup and Anthony Duclair had his seventh goal of the season for the Blue Jackets, who have three power-play goals during their two-game winning streak.

"We're working as a five-man unit," said Duclair, who scored from a sharp angle to tie Artemi Panarin for the team lead with seven goals. "We know the type of skill of talent we have on both units, and if we just put the work into it, I think they're going to start going in."

The Blue Jackets entered the night 7-for-59 on the power play, an 11.9 percent conversion rate that was last among the league's 31 teams. After his penalty kill went 4-for-5 against Washington, coach John Tortorella pointed out Columbus has kept its head above water with shaky special teams and could finally develop some consistency if those units round into form.

Maple Leafs 6, Devils 1: John Tavares scored his ninth goal of the season, Patrick Marleau had his 600th NHL assist and host Toronto beat New Jersey.

Nazem Kadri, Connor Brown, Andreas Johnsson, Morgan Rielly and Tyler Ennis also scored, and Frederik Andersen made 38 saves. Toronto improved to 11-5-0 with its third straight victory.

Marleau was involved in Kadri's goal, becoming the 88th NHL player to reach the 600 assist milestone. The only

other active player with 600 assists is San Jose's Joe Thornton with 1,032.

Red Wings 3, Rangers 2 (OT): Dylan Larkin scored with 5.1 seconds remaining in overtime to lift host Detroit past New York.

Andreas Athanasiou, who had tied the game with 2:02 remaining in the third period, backhanded a pass to Larkin, who redirected the puck past Henrik Lundqvist for his seventh goal of the season. The Rangers led 2-0 after two periods but had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Detroit has won five of six after winning just one of its first 10 games.

Jets 5, Avalanche 2: Blake Wheeler had an empty-net goal and four assists in host Winnipeg's victory over Colorado.

Wheeler extended his point streak to nine games. He has two goals and 15 assists during the run, and is second in the NHL with 18 assists overall

— one behind Colorado's Mikko Rantanen.

Kyle Connor and Patrik Laine had power-play goals, giving the Jets at least one power-play goal in 11 straight games to add to a franchise record.

Blues 4, Sharks 0: Chad Johnson made 33 saves for his first shutout with St. Louis, helping the host Blues beat San Jose.

Alex Pietrangelo, Ryan O'Reilly, Jaden Schwartz, and Alexander Steen scored. The Blues have won four of five games after winning just two of their first eight to start the season.

Wild 5, Ducks 1: Mikael Granlund had two goals and an assist as Minnesota swept the Southern California part of its road trip.

The Wild, who defeated Los Angeles 4-1 on Thursday, had a 43-20 advantage in shots as it dominated throughout.