

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Search intensifies in Calif. wildfire zone

Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. — Authorities moved to set up a rapid DNA-analysis system and bring in cadaver dogs, mobile morgues and more search teams in an intensified effort to find and identify victims of the deadliest wildfire in California history, an inferno that killed at least 42 people.

Five days after flames all but obliterated the Northern California town of Paradise, population 27,000, officials were unsure of the exact number of missing. But the death toll was almost certain to rise.

“I want to recover as many remains as we possibly can, as soon as we can. Because I know the toll it takes on loved ones,” Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said Monday night as he announced the discovery of 13 more dead.

More than a dozen coroner search-and-recovery teams looked for bodies across the apocalyptic landscape that was once Paradise, while anxious relatives visited shelters and called police and hospitals in hopes of finding loved ones.

Lisa Jordan drove 600 miles from Yakima, Wash., to search for her uncle, Nick Clark, and his wife, Anne, who lived in Paradise. Anne Clark has multiple sclerosis and cannot walk. Jordan said no one seemed to know whether they were able to get out.

“I’m staying hopeful,” she said. “Until the final word comes, you keep fighting against it.”

Authorities said they were bringing in two mobile morgue units from the military, requesting an additional 150 search-and-rescue personnel and seeking the setup of a rapid DNA system to speed the analysis of remains.

Chaplains accompanied some coroner search teams that visited dozens of addresses belonging to people reported missing. No cars in the driveway was considered a good sign, one car a little more ominous and multiple burned-out vehicles more reason for worry.

State officials said the cause of the inferno was under investigation.

But a landowner near where the blaze began, Betsy Ann Cowley, said Pacific Gas & Electric Co. notified her the day before the fire that crews needed to come onto her property because the utility’s power lines were sparking. PG&E had no comment on the email.

More than 5,000 firefighters battling the blaze made gains overnight, slowing the flames’ advance toward Oroville, a town of about 19,000 people. The fire, which has charred 195 square miles and destroyed more than 6,400 homes since it started Thursday, was reported 30 percent contained.

At the other end of the state, in Southern California, firefighters continued making progress against a blaze that killed two people in star-studded Malibu and destroyed over 400 structures.

Crews lit backfires and extended containment lines overnight. They expected to have the more than 146-square-mile fire fully contained by Thursday.

Fla. recount chugs along as more irregularities seen

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Florida’s election recount is chugging along as more irregularities are uncovered, and a judge asked the warring sides to “ramp down the rhetoric,” saying it erodes public confidence in the election for Senate and governor.

One county revealed Monday that it had allowed some hurricane-displaced voters to cast their ballots by email — a violation of state law. Another had to restart its recount after getting about a quarter finished because someone forgot to push a button.

Palm Beach said it won’t finish its recount by the Thursday deadline. And in oft-criticized Broward County, additional sheriff’s deputies were sent to guard ballots and voting ma-

chines, even though a judge said no Republican who has publicly alleged fraud in the county’s process — a list that includes President Donald Trump and Gov. Rick Scott — has presented any evidence to law enforcement.

“An honest vote count is no longer possible” in Florida, Trump declared Monday, without elaborating. He demanded that the election-night results — which showed the Republicans leading based upon incomplete ballot counts — be used to determine the winner.

Trump went on to allege that “new ballots showed up out of nowhere, and many ballots are missing or forged” and that “ballots (are) massively infected.” It was unclear what he was referring to.

State law requires a machine recount in races where the mar-

gin is less than 0.5 percentage points. In the Senate race, Scott’s lead over incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson was 0.14 percentage points. In the governor’s contest, unofficial results showed Republican former Rep. Ron DeSantis ahead of Democratic Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum by 0.41 percentage points.

Once the recount is complete, if the differences in any of the races are 0.25 percentage points or less, a hand recount will be ordered. All 67 counties face a state-ordered deadline of Thursday to finish their recounts. Trump’s comments came just hours before Broward Chief Circuit Judge Jack Tuter held an emergency hearing on a request by Scott’s lawyers that deputies be put in charge of ballots and voting machines that aren’t being used until the

recount is over.

An attorney for Election Supervisor Brenda Snipes described layers of security including keycard and password access to rooms where ballots are kept, secured by deputies and monitored by security cameras and representatives of both campaigns and parties.

Scott’s lawyers had alleged in court documents that Snipes was engaging in “suspect and unlawful vote counting practices” that violate state law and that she might “destroy evidence of any errors, accidents or unlawful conduct.”

The judge said he could see no evidence of any violations and said, “I am urging because of the highly public nature of this case to ramp down the rhetoric.”

Some Afghans blame US for lingering war

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — When U.S. forces and their Afghan allies rode into Kabul in November 2001 they were greeted as liberators. But after 17 years of war, the Taliban have retaken half the country, security is worse than it's ever been, and many Afghans place the blame squarely on the Americans.

The U.S. has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in its longest war, and has spent more than \$900 billion on everything from military operations to the construction of roads, bridges and power plants. Three U.S. presidents have pledged to bring peace to Afghanistan, either by adding or withdrawing troops, by engaging the Taliban or shunning them. Last year, the U.S. dropped the “mother of all bombs” on a cave complex.

None of it has worked. After years of frustration, Afghanistan is rife with conspiracy theories, including the idea that Americans didn't stumble into a forever war, but planned one all along.

Mohammed Ismail Qasimyar, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, wonders how U.S. and NATO forces — which at their peak numbered 150,000 and fought alongside hundreds of thousands of Afghan troops, were unable to vanquish tens of thousands of Taliban.

“Either they did not want to or they could not do it,” he said. He now suspects the U.S. and its ally Pakistan deliberately sowed chaos in Afghanistan to justify the lingering presence of foreign forces — now numbering around 15,000 — in order to use the country as a listening post to monitor Iran, Russia and China.

“They have made a hell, not a paradise for us,” he said.

Afghanistan is rife with such conspiracy theories. After last month's assassination of Kandahar's powerful police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, social media exploded with pictures and posts suggesting he was the victim of a U.S. conspiracy. Recent insider attacks, in which Afghan forces have killed their erstwhile U.S. and NATO allies, have attracted online praise.

“In 2001 the Afghan people supported the arrival of the United States and the international community wholeheartedly,” said Hamid Karzai, who was installed as Afghanistan's first president and twice won re-election, serving until 2014.

“For a number of years things worked perfectly well,” he said in a recent interview. “Then we saw the United States either changed course or simply neglected the views of the Afghan people and the conditions of the Afghans.”

He blames the lingering war on the U.S. failure to eliminate militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan, the bombing of Afghan villages and homes, and the detention of Afghans in raids.

Others blame the notoriously corrupt government, which Karzai headed for more than a decade, and which is widely seen as yet another bitter fruit of the American invasion.

“All the money that has come to this country has gone to the people in power. The poor people didn't get anything,” said Hajji Akram, a day laborer in Kabul's Old City who struggles to feed his family on around \$4 a day. “The foreigners are not making things better. They should go.”

It's not just Afghans. The U.S. inspector

general for Afghanistan's reconstruction offered a blistering critique in a speech in Ohio this month.

John Sopko pointed out that the U.S. has spent \$132 billion on Afghanistan's reconstruction — more than was spent on Western Europe after World War II. Another \$750 billion has been spent on U.S. military operations, and Washington has pledged \$4 billion a year for Afghanistan's security forces.

The result? “Even after 17 years of U.S. and coalition effort and financial largesse, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest, least educated, and most corrupt countries in the world,” Sopko said. “It is also one of the most violent.”

Hamidullah Nasrat sells imported fabrics in the capital's main bazaar on the banks of the Kabul River, a fetid trickle running through a garbage-filled trench. He remembers welcoming the overthrow of the Taliban, who had shut down his photography studio because it was deemed un-Islamic.

“After the Taliban we were expecting something good, but instead, day by day, it is getting worse,” he said. “How is it that a superpower like the United States cannot stop the Taliban? It is a question every Afghan is asking.”

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in 2014. Since then, the Taliban have carried out near-daily attacks on rural checkpoints and staged coordinated assaults on major cities. Authorities stopped publishing casualty figures earlier this year, deeming them classified. An Islamic State affiliate has meanwhile carried out massive bombings against the country's Shiite minority.

Afghan leader: Taliban not winning the war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The president of Afghanistan told a U.S. audience Monday that his country is not losing the war to the Taliban and is not at risk of collapse amid escalating attacks by the militant group and an expansion of the territory it controls.

President Ashraf Ghani said his administration is intent on seeking a negotiated peace with the Taliban, which have shown no interest in direct talks with a government they see as

illegitimate.

“The Taliban are not in a winning position,” Ghani said by video to an audience at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington as a suicide bombing in Kabul and a deadly militant assault on districts in eastern Afghanistan suggested government control was slipping further.

Ghani said that more than 28,000 Afghan forces have been killed in the past four years but that the military will be able

to retake territory as long as it has an air force and commando troops. He said most of the losses incurred by its security forces were in defending static positions, so the government was rethinking how it deploys its forces.

Speaking on Veterans Day, the Afghan leader paid tribute to American sacrifices in Afghanistan, including the death of Brent Taylor, a Utah mayor serving as a major in the state's Army National Guard who was training Afghan commandos. Taylor, 39, was fatally shot a

week ago by one of his Afghan trainees.

But Ghani also offered a rare public accounting of the scale of the Afghan losses. He described how their casualties have risen sharply while U.S.-led coalition casualties have declined after Afghan forces assumed responsibility for combat operations in the country. He said that since 2015, 58 American forces have died in Afghanistan.

“In the same period, 28,529 of our security forces have lost their lives and become martyrs,” he said.

Mattis to visit US border with Mexico

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he will visit the U.S.-Mexico border Wednesday, less than two weeks after he ordered active-duty troops to deploy there in response to President Donald Trump's request that the military help protect against a migrant caravan traveling north from Central America.

Mattis will visit with soldiers for about an hour at Camp Donna outside McAllen, Texas, according to Tom Crosson, a Pentagon spokesman. The Defense De-

partment location has tents for soldiers and equipment for the mission. Mattis said Tuesday that the Defense Department's mission on the southern border remains the same.

"There's been no change to that mission at this time. We'll have to see what the future holds," he said. "But right now, that's the only mission I have."

More than 5,200 troops were initially deployed to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Texas, Arizona and California, but that is expected to increase to more than 7,000 soldiers along the southern border. There are now roughly

1,300 troops in California, 1,500 in Arizona and 2,800 in Texas, according to the Defense Department. Soldiers have been mostly putting up concertina wire and assisting CBP with logistical support. The Pentagon has called up nearly 60 military units and teams with engineering, logistics, aviation, medical, military police and public affairs capabilities primarily from the Army, according to U.S. Northern Command.

The deployment of active-duty troops is the largest single movement of forces since Mattis took office in January 2017. It follows roughly 2,100 National

Guard troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border region since April to support CBP agents under the umbrella of a separate operation.

Though the migrant caravan, which is reported to number in the thousands and is traveling to Tijuana, Mexico, just across the California border, Mattis said the group's proximity has not changed the Pentagon's plans, though DOD officials meet daily on the issue. Mattis also said Pentagon officials will provide updates on the cost of the mission "as they become known."

NATO: Cash needed for high-tech defense

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — NATO's recently completed Trident Juncture exercise served as a testing ground for new equipment like 3D spare part printers and a microdrone, but allies will need to step up investments to stay on the cutting edge of technology, the alliance's top official said Tuesday.

Members of the 29-nation alliance will be expected to submit by the end of the year plans on how to boost military expenditures that, while on the rise in recent years, still fall short of NATO requirements, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

"We must keep up the momentum," he said at a NATO defense industry forum in Berlin.

Stoltenberg's comments came one week after NATO concluded its Trident Juncture exercises in Norway, the largest series of alliance war games since the end of the Cold War.

The drills, conducted with a near-peer adversary like Russia in mind, were focused on defending a member state under attack. Troops had a chance to use some of the alliance's latest technology, some of which could change how forces operate in the future.

"For instance, our commanders noticed that vehicles were breaking down more frequently due to the cold," Stoltenberg said. "So we started using 3D printing to make spare parts. These could be distributed immediately."

Allies also tested "one of the smallest

drones in the world — a drone which can see in the dark," Stoltenberg said.

Going forward, NATO will focus on priorities including better coordination on developing precision-guided munitions, executing strategic airlifts and air-to-air refueling, Stoltenberg said.

During the past year, NATO's European allies and Canada increased their combined defense spending by 5.2 percent, which amounts to the largest boost in 25 years. Still, only eight countries meet a NATO guideline that calls for dedicating 2 percent of respective economic output to military matters.

If European allies and Canada all met the 2 percent target, that would add an extra \$100 billion for defense.

USS Green Bay in Papua New Guinea to provide security

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Green Bay pulled into Papua New Guinea's capital city Tuesday ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference that will gather world leaders for trade discussions Saturday and Sunday.

The Sasebo, Japan-based amphibious transport dock ship is providing "security and support" for the summit after

Adm. Phil Davidson, who leads Indo-Pacific Command, announced over the summer the United States' agreement to handle protection for the event.

Davidson said in August that the Navy would take care of in-shore security during APEC's "Leaders' Week." The USS Green Bay crew is "expected to fly UH-1Y Huey helicopters in the area over the next few days as part of their preparation to support APEC," a Navy statement said.

Leaders from 21 Pacific Rim

countries — including Vice President Mike Pence, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe — are to discuss international relations and economic interdependence.

President Donald Trump was originally scheduled to attend APEC. The White House did not say why Pence was sent in his place; however, Trump was recently in France marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Papua New Guinea has a high crime rate, and the State Department has listed Port Moresby — the capital and largest city — as a "critical-threat location for crime directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests," according to the State Department's website.

However, the State Department assessed Port Moresby as a low-threat location for terrorist activity directed at U.S. interests.

Centrist Dem flips Arizona Senate seat

Associated Press

In a year of liberal challenges to President Donald Trump, an avowed centrist scored the Democratic Party's biggest coup — flipping a red state's U.S. Senate seat.

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema won the Arizona Senate seat being vacated by Republican Jeff Flake to become the first woman to win a U.S. Senate seat in the state. The race against Republican Rep. Martha McSally was tight enough that a winner wasn't decided until Monday, after a slow count of mail-in ballots gave her

an insurmountable lead.

Sinema's win achieves a long-time Democratic goal of making Arizona, with its growing Latino population, a competitive state. And she did it by pointedly not running against the president or even critiquing his hard-line immigration stance.

"She didn't put the progressive bit in her mouth and run with it," said Chuck Coughlin, a GOP strategist in Phoenix. "She spit it out and did something else."

Sinema targeted moderate Republican and independent women by painting herself as a

nonpartisan problem-solver who voted to support Trump's agenda 60 percent of the time. Her nearly single-issue campaign talked about the importance of health care and protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

She knew McSally was vulnerable there because she backed the Republicans' failed attempt to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law. Sinema tailored her campaign for conservative-leaning Arizona rather than the national environment, but it may be a guide for Democrats who hope

to expand the electoral map in 2020. While some liberals won important races in California, Colorado and Kansas, the left's highest-profile champions disappointed on Election Day.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke fell short in his challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz in Texas. Stacey Abrams trails her Republican opponent in the still undecided bitter Georgia gubernatorial race, and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who once led in the polls in the race for Florida governor, is now awaiting the results of a recount.

Judge orders Ga. to work to protect provisional ballots

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A federal judge has ordered Georgia take steps to ensure provisional ballots aren't improperly rejected and to wait until Friday to certify the results of the midterm elections that include an unsettled race for governor.

In a ruling late Monday, U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg ordered the secretary of state's office to establish and publicize a hotline or website where voters can check whether their provisional ballots were counted and, if not, the reason why. And, for counties with 100 or more provisional ballots, she ordered the secretary of state's

office to review, or have county election officials review, the eligibility of voters who had to cast a provisional ballot because of registration issues.

Totenberg also ruled that Georgia must not certify the election results before Friday at 5 p.m., which falls before the Nov. 20 deadline set by state law.

State elections director Chris Harvey testified at a hearing last week that the state had planned to certify the election results on Wednesday, a day after the deadline for counties to certify their results. He said that would allow preparations to begin for any necessary runoff

contests, including one already projected in the race for the next secretary of state.

Current unofficial returns show Republican Brian Kemp leading by a margin that would make him the governor-elect. But Democrat Stacey Abrams insists that enough outstanding votes remain to be counted that could pull Kemp below the majority threshold and force a Dec. 4 runoff.

Totenberg acted in response to a lawsuit filed Nov. 5 by Common Cause Georgia. The suit accuses Kemp, the state's top elections official until he resigned as secretary of state last week, of acting recklessly after

a vulnerability in Georgia's voter registration database was exposed shortly before the election. Kemp's actions increased the risk that eligible voters could be illegally removed from the voter registration database or have registration information illegally altered, the lawsuit says.

The secretary of state's office said it was reviewing the order and considering its options.

Totenberg's order doesn't change the Tuesday deadline for counties to certify their results. But Abrams' campaign filed a lawsuit Sunday asking a federal court to push that deadline to Wednesday.

President chides France over world wars, US influence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump escalated his verbal assaults against France on Tuesday, suggesting that America's stalwart European ally would have been vanquished in both world wars if not for the military firepower provided by the United States.

Trump tweeted about a suggestion by French President Emmanuel Macron that Europe build up its militaries

because the continent can no longer depend on the U.S. for defense. Macron had also said Europe needs to protect itself against cyberthreats from China, Russia and the U.S.

Macron's comments were inaccurately reported and Trump continues to misrepresent them, seemingly for political hay. The French leader's office said Trump had lumped together Macron's remarks on protecting against cyberthreats and "interfer-

ence in our democracies" from "China, Russia and even the United States" with Macron's later statement on military defense.

"Macron suggests building its own army to protect Europe against the U.S., China and Russia," Trump tweeted. "But it was Germany in World Wars One & Two - How did that work out for France? They were starting to learn German in Paris before the U.S. came along. Pay for NATO or not!"

The president has long complained that NATO countries don't pay their fair share of the alliance's expenses, leaving the U.S. to carry much of the burden. He criticized Macron before and after a weekend ceremony in Paris to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I.

Trump and Macron discussed defense, trade and other issues when they met Saturday at the Elysee Palace.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Community protests flag with swastika

CO FRUITA — Residents are speaking out against the display of a swastika flag in a western Colorado community.

About 70 people marched to a home in Fruita on Sunday and rallied across the street for about two hours. They chanted anti-Nazi slogans and some held signs with profanities in the city of about 13,000.

A handful of people stood in the driveway of the home with the swastika flag. Two Confederate flags and an American flag were also displayed.

There was some shouting back and forth but no violence. Several police officers monitored the demonstration.

Paul DeLancey told The Daily Sentinel he traveled from Texas to help his family because they received threats over the swastika flag.

Hammer, knives wielded in family's fight

IA RED OAK — Authorities said a 69-year-old woman and her two sons were flown to a Nebraska hospital for treatment after a fight broke out at their home in western Iowa.

Police officers were sent to the Red Oak home Sunday.

Assistant Police Chief Derrick Walker says the Viola Rinehart's younger son, Luke Rinehart, intervened when she and her elder son, Kain Rinehart, got into an argument. Walker said Kain grabbed a kitchen knife and attacked his mother and his brother, so she armed herself with a hammer while her younger son, Luke, also got a knife.

Each of them suffered several wounds and were flown to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Two-headed snake on exhibit at Salato Center

KY FRANKFORT — A rare, two-headed copperhead snake is on display at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort.

The center says the snake, which is only a month old, will be shown to the public until Nov. 21, when it closes for the winter.

The center closes seasonally each year to allow the staff to maintain and update exhibits and facilities.

During this year's closure, center staff plan to expand the existing indoor snake exhibit.

Police: Man got in bed naked with residents

GA AUGUSTA — A Georgia man is accused of breaking into an Augusta home, rummaging around and then jumping naked into bed with two residents.

News outlets report Christopher Lindner, 29, has been arrested on charges including criminal trespassing. A Columbia County Sheriff's Office's report said he broke in last week and jumped into bed with the couple, who was watching television.

It says they fled the home with Lindner in pursuit. It says responding deputies found Lindner lying in a roadway and he fled. Authorities approached again, and an aggressive Lindner was pepper-sprayed to no effect. Lindner then tried to enter a law enforcement vehicle, was hit with a metal baton and arrested.

Wall collapse injures 5 school football players

AL OAKMAN — Five Alabama high school football players were injured in a

locker room when a brick wall collapsed onto them while they were getting ready for a game.

News outlets reported that the Oakman High School players were in the visitor side locker room at Pike County High School on Friday when the cinder block wall collapsed onto them as they sat on a bench.

The five players were taken to hospitals.

Driver hurt after driving around a railroad gate

MD CUMBERLAND — A Maryland driver was injured after driving around a lowered crossing gate at a railroad crossing.

The Cumberland Times-News reported that the driver suffered non-life-threatening injuries in the Saturday morning accident.

Cumberland Police say the driver's vehicle was dragged about 50 feet by the train that was moving at about 10 mph. The vehicle was badly damaged.

The driver, who wasn't immediately identified, faces traffic charges including failure to obey a traffic control device and reckless driving.

9-year-old girl wins toy invention contest

NE OMAHA — A nine-year-old Texas girl will have the chance to pitch her toy idea at the next American International Toy Fair after winning a contest.

Fat Brain Toys said that Emma Turner of Marble Falls, Texas, won its annual toy invention contest with her idea for a lighted box that attracts bugs.

Emma will also receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a collection of prizes worth \$500 from the Omaha-based toy retailer.

Museum exhibits rare page from German bible

NY GLENS FALLS — A small upstate New York museum known for its fine arts collection is displaying two copies of late 15th century German books and a rare page from the Gutenberg Bible.

The Hyde Collection in Glens Falls says the page from Johann Gutenberg's Bible printed in Germany in the mid-1450s was discovered by a museum curator during research for "Making History: The Nuremberg and Augsburg Chronicles," an exhibition running through Dec. 30.

The Gutenberg Bible is considered the first printed with movable metal type.

Boy, 11, charged in high-speed chase

OH CLEVELAND — Authorities say an 11-year-old boy in Ohio accused of his second high-speed police chase in 13 months has been charged with grand theft and criminal damaging.

Cleveland.com reported the boy also was charged in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court with failing to comply with a police order. Police in the Cleveland suburb of Brooklyn said the boy took off in his mother's SUV on Sunday after she took away his video game console.

Police say officers chased him as he sped down a road the wrong way, reaching speeds of 70 to 90 mph. The chase ended about 30 minutes later when the boy crashed into a parked truck and received minor injuries.

Authorities said he led police on a 100-mph chase last fall.

From wire reports

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Manning helps rally Giants past 49ers

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Eli Manning showed he still has what it takes to lead the kind of game-winning drive that earned him two Super Bowl MVP awards.

Manning capped a 75-yard drive with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Shepard with 53 seconds left and the New York Giants snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco 49ers 27-23 on Monday night.

"It doesn't get old," said Manning, whose 36 game-winning drives are the third most in the NFL since he entered the league in 2004. "It's fun. It's fun playing in those games and having a two-minute drive to win it. Those are the situations you want to be in. You want to have a chance."

The Giants (2-7) have failed to capitalize on those late-game situations this season, losing five games by seven points or fewer as part of a disappointing stretch that has put the 37-year-old Manning's status as starting quarterback in question.

But Manning delivered against the 49ers (2-8) to give New York a much-needed win.

"That's what Eli is really good at, engineering those

come-from-behind drives," coach Pat Shurmur said. "That was terrific. He hung in there and made some really good throws and got us into the end zone. That's the sign of a good quarterback."

Manning threw two TD passes to Odell Beckham Jr. and then engineered the late game-winning drive with help from a pair of third-down penalties against Malcolm Smith and Ahkello Witherspoon.

Saquon Barkley then had a 23-yard catch to get the ball into the red zone and Manning connected with Shepard on third down to give the Giants the win.

"I just saw man-to-man coverage," Shepard said. "That's something we've been practicing. I was able to capture the outside edge and Eli put the ball in a perfect place."

Matt Breida ran for 101 yards and scored two touchdowns for the 49ers (2-8), who were unable to win consecutive games under third-string quarterback Nick Mullens. Breida's 23-yard run helped set up a 30-yard field goal by Robbie Gould that gave the Niners a 23-20 lead with 2:46 to play.

But the 49ers allowed the go-ahead score and couldn't pull it out at the end as Mullens' pass

from the Giants 21 sailed out of the end zone on the final play.

"Those are the plays you have to make to finish the game," Mullens said. "That was a moment of truth, and I didn't get the job done. I have to play better in those moments of truth. We all have to play better."

Mullens wasn't nearly as sharp as he was in his NFL debut against the Raiders on Nov. 1 when he joined Hall of Famers Jim Kelly and Fran Tarkenton as the only players with at least 250 yards passing, three touchdown passes and no interceptions in their first career games.

Mullens threw for 250 yards and had an 11-yard TD pass to Breida that made it 20-10 early in the third quarter. But Mullens also threw two interceptions with the first setting up a 10-yard TD pass from Manning to Beckham.

Those two connected again on a 20-yard score in the third quarter as New York rallied from 10 points down to tie the game in the second half.

Hard hit: Niners receiver Marquise Goodwin was hit in the helmet by Alec Ogletree on a catch late in the third quarter and briefly left the game. On his first play back in to start the fourth quarter, a pass from

Mullens deflected off Goodwin's hands for the second interception of the game by B.J. Goodson. Goodwin was slow to get up after that play and went back into the medical tent for observation. Goodwin returned to the game later in the fourth quarter.

Century mark: Barkley rans for 67 yards and added 33 receiving to join Eric Dickerson as the only players since the merger to gain at least 100 yards from scrimmage in eight of their first nine career games.

Playing for Paradise: Niners GM John Lynch welcomed the high school football team from Paradise, a town destroyed by the wildfires in Butte County, about 175 miles north. Players and cheerleaders from the school were on the field for the national anthem. The Niners raised more than \$100,000 to support relief and recovery efforts.

The air quality for the game was at an unhealthy level because of the fires. The Air Quality Index was at 161 at kickoff, which is in the unhealthy zone, and smoke could be smelled throughout the stadium. The NFL had monitored the situation but the AQI never got near 200, the level where the game would have needed to be moved.

Jackson returns for 3rd stint in Cincinnati

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Hue Jackson needed only a few weeks to land another job in the place where he's always welcomed.

The Bengals hired Jackson on Tuesday as a special assistant to head coach Marvin Lewis as he tries to resurrect Cincinnati's historically bad defense. Lewis was fired by the Cleveland Browns last month after he won only three games in three seasons as head coach.

As soon as Cleveland let him go, the Bengals showed an interest in Jackson, who begins his third stint with them.

In his latest role, he'll help Lewis — a close friend — to try to fix the defense and save the season. Cincinnati (5-4) has lost three of its last four games and is on pace to give up the most yards in a season in NFL history. The Bengals have allowed

500 yards in three straight games, a first for any team in the Super Bowl era.

They fired defensive coordinator Teryl Austin on Monday, with Lewis taking over as defensive coordinator in addition to his head coaching duties. Lewis said on Monday that there was a plan to help him do both jobs, but didn't get specific.

The Bengals talked to Jackson about becoming Lewis' special assistant, and he readily accepted the position.

"I have a great comfort level with Hue and his ability to assist me with the day-to-day responsibilities on defense, including analyzing our opponents and helping me on game days with the players and defensive coaches," Lewis said.

Lewis hired Jackson in 2004 — his second season in Cincinnati — as receivers coach. He spent three years in the job before mov-

ing to the Falcons as offensive coordinator, developing a reputation for creativity. He was the Raiders' offensive coordinator before moving up to head coach in 2011.

After his firing in Oakland, he returned to the Bengals in 2012 as a special assistant working with the defensive backs in 2012. He worked with the running backs in 2013 and was promoted to offensive coordinator a year later when Jay Gruden went to Washington.

The Bengals had one of their best years on offense in 2015, with Andy Dalton leading the AFC in passer rating. Jackson was hired by the Browns after the season.

Browns owner Jimmy Haslam fired Jackson after a 33-18 loss in Pittsburgh, Cleveland's 25th consecutive road defeat. Jackson wasn't getting along with offensive coordinator Todd Haley, who also was fired.

Ohtani, Acuna voted MLB's top rookies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Shohei Ohtani was rewarded for a Ruthian season at the plate — and on the mound.

Baseball's best two-way player since the Babe at the dawn of the live-ball era a century ago, Ohtani was an overwhelming pick for American League Rookie of the Year on Monday despite an elbow injury that stymied his switch from Japan to the major leagues and likely will prevent him from pitching next year.

"I was just kind of disappointed I wasn't able to play a full season," he said through a translator. "I feel like every player should be able to play a full year and help out the team. So that's something I need to work on, and that's going to be one of my goals, to stay healthy for a long full season and be able to help the team win from day one."

Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. was a runaway choice for the NL honor over Washington outfielder Juan Soto in a contest between 20-year-olds.

A singular sensation who earned a chorus of praise for his dual success, Ohtani became the first player since Ruth in 1919

with 10 homers and four pitching wins in the same season.

He didn't play between June 4 and July 3 because of a sprained ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow, an injury the Angels were aware of when they signed him for a \$2,315,000 bonus last winter. The 24-year-old right-hander made just one more mound appearance, on Sept. 2, and three days later the team said a scan revealed additional damage and surgery was recommended.

Ohtani appeared in 22 more games as a hitter, had Tommy John surgery on Oct. 1 and hopes to be able to help the Angels at the plate next season. He probably won't take the mound again until 2020.

"Everything's going well," he said. "We're right on schedule, maybe even a little ahead."

Ohtani, who left the Nippon Ham Fighters to play in the major leagues, received 25 first-place votes and four seconds for 137 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. New York Yankees third baseman Miguel Andujar was second with five firsts and 89 points, and Yankees second baseman Gleyber Torres was next

with 25 points.

Ohtani was 4-2 with a 3.31 ERA and 63 strikeouts over 51 ²/₃ innings in 10 starts. As a designated hitter, he batted .285 with 22 homers and 61 RBIs and a .925 OPS in 367 plate appearances.

Acuna received 27 first-place votes and three seconds for 144 points. Soto got two firsts and 89 points, and Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler was next with one first and 28 points.

Acuna, in Japan with a major league All-Star team, declined to participate in a morning conference call about the vote, BBWAA secretary-treasurer Jack O'Connell said.

Acuna started the season at Triple-A and made his debut on April 25, the youngest player in the majors then at 20 years, 128 days. The Venezuelan hit .293 with 26 homers, 64 RBIs and 16 steals with a .917 OPS. He set a Braves record with eight leadoff homers this season and tied a franchise mark by homering in five straight games from Aug. 11-14.

Top 25 roundup

Williams snaps slump for No. 7 Tar Heels

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Kenny Williams spent two games missing shot after shot in an unusually cold stretch for No. 7 North Carolina's senior starting guard and top defensive player.

He tried not to get too frustrated and kept believing the next ones were sure to fall — until they finally did against Stanford on Monday night.

Williams scored 12 points after starting the season by missing his first 10 shots, and UNC dominated the first half to beat Stanford 90-72 in its home opener.

It was a good sign for Williams, whose 0-for-10 shooting start through two games included missing all eight of his three-point tries. It was an odd stretch for a guy who had improved to a 40 percent three-

point shooter last season and a complementary double-figure scorer, yet he entered this game with just a single free throw in Friday's win against Elon to his credit.

But he scored a layup less than 90 seconds into Monday's game, then followed with a three a few minutes later to finally break through.

"It was a big relief," Williams admitted, even as he tried to shrug off the frustration.

"I wasn't doing anything different to my shot," he said. "Like I told you guys, it just wasn't going in. And that happens sometimes. At some point, it would fall in again."

Cameron Johnson had 17 points to lead four players in double figures for the Tar Heels (3-0), who shot 60 percent in the first half to take a 52-26 lead on Luke Maye's three-pointer just before the buzzer.

It was a rough start for Stanford (2-1), enough so that coach Jerod Haase burned a timeout after barely 2 ¹/₂ minutes.

"I told the guys, I'm not worried about mistakes," Haase said. "What I am worried about is any lack of intensity."

KZ Okpala scored 16 points to lead the Cardinal, who got no closer than 15 points after halftime.

No. 12 Kansas State 64, Denver 56: Barry Brown scored 15 of his 25 points in the second half and the host Wildcats held off the pesky Pioneers.

Dean Wade and Xavier Sneed each had 12 points for Kansas State (2-0), which has won 25 consecutive home games against nonconference opponents. Wade added 16 rebounds and four assists.

Joe Rosga paced Denver (1-1) with 18 points. Ronnie Har-

rell Jr. and Ade Murkey scored 14 apiece. Harrell also grabbed 12 rebounds.

Kansas State pulled this one out despite shooting 38 percent from the field, including 6-for-27 (22 percent) from three-point range. The Wildcats were terrible at the foul line, too, going 12-for-27.

But the Pioneers were hurt by 17 turnovers, and they forced only nine.

Sneed got the Wildcats going in the first 10 minutes as he scored seven of the first nine points for Kansas State.

No. 25 Buffalo 62, Southern Illinois 53: Montell McRae and Jeremy Harris each scored 11 points as Buffalo pulled away in the second half.

Davonta Jordan had nine points and five assists for the Bulls (3-0), who entered the Top 25 for the first time in school history Monday.

NBA roundup

Clippers outlast Warriors in overtime

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lou Williams couldn't hit a lick in regulation, so of course he had the ball in crunch time.

The Los Angeles Clippers wouldn't have it any other way.

Williams scored the Clippers' final 10 points in overtime after they blew a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter, and they hung on Monday night to beat the Golden State Warriors at home for the first time in nearly four years, 121-116.

Williams recovered after shooting 3-for-16 in regulation, when the Clippers were scoreless over the final 5:15 while the Warriors ran off 11 straight points to force overtime tied at 106-all.

"There would be no point for me to be on the floor if I didn't

have confidence," said Williams, who finished with 25 points.

Montrezl Harrell added 23 points off the bench and rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 18.

"It's not about the run they go on," Harrell said. "It's about how we handle it. We stayed after it and kept going after them."

The Clippers snapped a seven-game skid against the Warriors at Staples Center, where they last won on Dec. 25, 2014.

"Unfortunately we lost, but we'll see them again at least three more times and that'll be different," Klay Thompson said.

Pelicans 126, Raptors 110: Anthony Davis had 25 points and a season-high 20 rebounds,

E'Twaun Moore scored a season-high 30 points and the New Orleans Pelicans snapped the Toronto Raptors' six-game winning streak with a 126-110 victory Monday.

T-wolves 120, Nets 113: Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and a season-high 21 rebounds as host Minnesota beat Brooklyn, which lost leading scorer Caris LeVert to what appeared to be a severe right leg injury late in the first half.

76ers 124, Heat 114: Joel Embiid scored 35 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as visiting Philadelphia added to Miami's early season struggles.

Jazz 96, Grizzlies 88: Joe Ingles scored 19 points, Rudy Gobert added 15 points and 16 rebounds and visiting Utah won its third straight.

Thunder 118, Suns 101:

Paul George matched his season high with 32 points, Dennis Schroder added 20 points and nine assists, and Oklahoma City beat visiting Phoenix.

Kings 104, Spurs 99: Iman Shumpert made a tiebreaking jumper with 4:05 left, De'Aaron Fox and Nemanja Bjelica followed with three-pointers and host Sacramento pulled away to end a 14-game losing streak to San Antonio.

Wizards 117, Magic 109: John Wall had 25 points and 10 assists, Bradley Beal added 21 points and host Washington won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Mavericks 103, Bulls 98: Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 23 points and visiting Dallas overcame a sluggish performance by prized rookie Luka Doncic.

NHL roundup

Rangers' Lundqvist moves past Plante on wins list

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Henrik Lundqvist stopped 25 shots to lead the surging New York Rangers to a 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Monday night.

Filip Chytil and Brett Howden scored to help Lundqvist get his 437th career win, tying Jacques Plante for seventh place on the NHL's all-time list. The Rangers improved to 6-0-1 in the last seven.

Lundqvist made two big saves on Vancouver's rookie sensation Elias Pettersson in the closing seconds to preserve the win.

Nikolay Goldobin scored and Jacob Markstrom made 25 saves for the Canucks, who snapped a six-game point streak (4-0-2).

The 19-year-old Chytil tied the score 1-1 with 7:18 left in the second on a rebound from the left side for his first of the sea-

son. The 20-year Howden got the game-winner with 8:41 left in the third when he snapped a wrist shot past Markstrom.

Hurricanes 3, Blackhawks 2 (OT): Sebastian Aho scored 1:16 into overtime and Carolina spoiled Cam Ward's emotional return to Raleigh.

Teuvo Teravainen and Michael Ferland scored power-play goals 66 seconds apart late in the second period for Carolina, which has earned points in three straight and beat Chicago for the second time in four nights.

Ward stopped 37 shots in his return to PNC Arena, Jonathan Toews scored a deflected goal and Alex DeBrincat added a goal, but the Blackhawks lost their eighth straight.

Carolina's Scott Darling made 33 saves against his former team, in regulation coming up with a slick glove save to stop Patrick Kane on a 2-on-1 and

making a left pad save to stop Nick Schmaltz on a breakaway.

Aho's winner came after he took a pass at the blue line, then skated in before drifting across the net and beating Ward with a wrist shot.

Blue Jackets 2, Stars 1: Pierre-Luc Dubois scored midway through the third period to lift Metropolitan Division-leading Columbus over host Dallas.

Dubois took a pass from Cam Atkinson behind the net and backhanded the puck under the crossbar with 9:39 left for his eighth goal.

Atkinson had scored the game's first goal in the second period.

Alexander Radulov, who returned to the Stars' lineup, tied the game in the second period.

The Blue Jackets extended their points streak to five games (3-0-2) and are two points ahead of the New York Rangers in the division. Co-

lumbus has won its last seven games against the Stars.

Dallas maintained fourth place in the Central Division.

Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky and Dallas' Anton Khubodin each had 26 saves.

Ducks 2, Predators 1 (SO): Pontus Aberg and Rickard Rakell scored in the shootout, John Gibson made 34 saves and Anaheim dealt Nashville its first road loss of the year.

Rakell scored in the fourth round of the shootout to give the Ducks the 2-1 lead. Gibson then stopped Kevin Fiala for the win.

Ryan Getzlaf scored in regulation for Anaheim, which improved to 2-2 in shootouts.

Fiala scored in regulation and Kyle Turris in the shootout for Nashville, which had a five-game winning streak snapped. Pekka Rinne made 29 saves. It was the Predators' first shootout of the season.