

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy committed to launching system

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump last week renewed his questioning of the military's new system for launching aircraft at sea, underscoring his skepticism about a technology the Navy has put at the center of its future aircraft carrier fleet.

In a call to servicemembers Thursday marking the Thanksgiving holiday, Trump asked the commander of the USS Ronald Reagan, a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier deployed in the Pacific, whether he supported using electromagnetics rather than the traditional steam system to catapult aircraft off carrier decks and land them safely back on board.

"Steam is very reliable, and the electromagnetic — I mean, unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly," Trump said. "What would you do?"

Trump has repeatedly criticized General Atomics' Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System, or EMALS, installed on the Navy's newest carrier and slated to be used on other new ships. The debut of that system, the culmination of years of testing and development, has been plagued by delays and technical problems.

Capt. Pat Hannifin, articulating the Navy's view, responded by telling Trump

that EMALS would lessen the burden that steam-powered systems exact on carriers and was within sailors' power to operate successfully.

"You sort of have to be Albert Einstein to run the nuclear power plants that we have here as well, but we're doing that very well," Hannifin said.

The exchange was the latest in a series of comments that Trump has made challenging Pentagon procurement decisions, illustrating his confidence that he may know more than his military leaders. The Navy did not have an immediate response to the president's comments.

Trump has also suggested he would ditch the military's flagship fighter jet, the F-35, which has suffered from design flaws and come in over budget.

Of the Navy's current fleet of 11 nuclear-powered carriers, only the newest one, the USS Gerald Ford, is equipped with EMALS. Even after its commissioning in 2017, shipboard testing for multiple systems on the Ford has continued, including EMALS.

In the past, problems emerged when EMALS was tested for launching aircraft with wing-mounted fuel tanks. Pentagon reporting has likewise shown that critical failures occurred at a high rate during EMALS testing in 2017. More recent test-

ing on land has been successful, and General Atomics says it expects EMALS and its associated landing system will help ensure the Ford is ready for fleet operations in 2019.

Despite the president's criticism, the Navy is planning to use EMALS in its future carriers, including three other planned Ford-class ships. The next one, the John F. Kennedy, is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2024.

Navy officials maintain the system is superior because it takes up less room on the ship, reduces wear and tear for carriers and planes, increases the number of aircraft that can be launched and requires fewer personnel to operate. Over decades, naval officials contend, the system will create significant cost savings.

Unlike the older system, which uses a large, maintenance-intensive system of pipes and pistons to propel planes into flight, EMALS uses a more efficient linear-induction motor and is seen as more suitable for launching an array of aircraft, from drones to heavy jets. Shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls has likened it to "the system that powers many of today's roller coasters."

China is expected to use a similar system on its future aircraft carriers.

Carrier sleeping policy changed after collisions

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — All Navy sailors working aboard aircraft carriers are now being given the chance to get eight hours of uninterrupted sleep per 24-hour period after a change in policy in the wake of two fatal collisions that killed 17 crewmembers in the Pacific Fleet in summer 2017.

The change extends to all carrier sailors, not just those working in aviation-related jobs, said Lt. Travis Callaghan, a spokesman for the Pacific Coast-based Commander, Naval Air Forces. It also makes it mandatory that

all aircraft carrier sailors are not to be scheduled for more than 18 hours of continuous duties requiring them to remain awake. Previously, that was a recommendation that applied only to flight crews.

The Navy completed reviews of the entire force after the separate collisions of the destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain on June 17, 2017, and Aug. 21, respectively, as well as incidents involving two other ships. Fatigue or ineffective management of sleep were found to be contributing factors in all of the incidents. That's led the Navy to look at sleep's im-

pact on readiness.

The Navy's surface fleet has moved to a circadian rhythm-based schedule, in which sailors work, eat and sleep at about the same time daily. Lt. Bobby Fedele, the plans and tactics officer aboard the Norfolk, Va.-based USS Winston Churchill, oversaw part of the rollout of the new policy during the destroyer's deployment from April through earlier this month. In addition to ensuring that sailors got time to rest, it set a regular routine rather than constantly having to shift sleep schedules, he said.

The challenge is shifting

the culture for all carrier sailors while maintaining performance, said Cmdr. Bill Lane, who, as the Lincoln's "air boss," runs the ship's flight operations. Solutions could include reducing operation tempos during noncritical times and reducing flight schedules, he said.

"The reality is, a carrier is a 24/7 operation," Lane said. "When the nation calls on us to execute the mission, they don't call on us to execute the mission at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. They call on us at 3 o'clock in the morning."

Sailors' lost advancement exams found at Tokyo base

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — USS Antietam sailors' advancement exams that had gone missing while en route to a Florida grading center were found Friday in western Tokyo, the Navy said.

Navy Fleet Mail Center Yokohama sent sailors to Yokota Air Base on Friday morning to search for the missing packages of completed exams, Capt. George Kessler, the cruiser's commander, said in a statement.

Kessler first told sailors Wednesday the exams had gone missing in the mail on the way to Naval Education Training Professional Development Center in Florida for processing. They had been received at the Camp Walker Post Office in South Korea and on Thursday were tracked on a flight from Osan Air Base to Yokota.

That's where sailors ultimately found the packages Friday. They were then given to the Fleet Mail Center's mail clerks to be sent by express

mail to Florida on Saturday, Kessler said in the statement.

The shipment is expected to arrive at the grading center Wednesday, but Kessler told sailors he would "get the tracking information to verify that once it departs Yokohama."

"Moving forward, we will work with NETPDC to determine the timeline for grading and publishing the results of your Fall Advancement Exams," he told sailors in the statement.

The Navy advancement exam is made up of 175 questions — 150 of which relate to the exam-taker's rating and another 25 regarding professional military knowledge.

If the tests had not been found, sailors would have had to take another advancement exam in the spring, Kessler said in a post on the Antietam's official Facebook page.

Kessler said in his Friday statement that his command would "continue to update [Antietam sailors] on the way forward as exams arrive in Florida."

Striking workers impede base traffic in Italy

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Striking Italian workers deliberately impeded traffic entering the Navy Support Site on Black Friday to protest what labor leaders say are too few Italians employed on base.

Italian union workers employed at most base departments, including the Navy Exchange and commissary, took part in the one-day strike timed for one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

Italian law allows workers to slow traffic outside the gate but not block it, base security officers said.

The strike caused moderate inconveniences for motorists and no reported disruption at the base stores as American employees and nonunion Italian workers handled the duties. Labor leaders said it was a way to express discontent with base managers not addressing their grievances.

"Today we have to strike to have a little more attention," said Biagio Montefusco, a representative with the Confederation of Italian Workers' Trade Unions.

The status of forces agreement calls for Italians to make up at least 50 percent of the base workforce, and Italian employment is closer to 30 percent, Montefusco said. Base officials couldn't be reached Friday for confirmation or comment.

Too many U.S. Navy spouses and children are hired for jobs that Italians should fill, Montefusco said.

The Navy air base in Sigonella is having similar labor issues, he said. A couple of weeks ago, unions launched a two-day strike to protest plans to transfer Sigonella's Navy Gateway Inn & Suites to a private contractor who could use nonunion labor.

Labor leaders last met with Naples base command on Oct. 17, and no progress was made, said Bruno Mile, a union representative.

USAF to expand training of new pilots

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Faced with a shortage of some 2,000 pilots, the Air Force's service academy is trying to churn out more pilot candidates.

More than 530 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets from the 2019 graduating class have been selected to attend pilot training, pending final qualifications and commissioning, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based academy said in a statement last week.

The number represents a 26 percent increase over last year's graduating class, academy officials said. In 2018, 417 graduates were scheduled to attend pilot training.

The academy's superintendent, Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, said in a statement that "we are proud as an institution to offer more flying opportunities to our cadets."

In looking to expand the pipe-

line to pilot training, officials said, the academy is working with Air Education and Training Command to produce more candidates capable of bypassing initial flight training, a less specialized form of pilot training that gauges aptitude for flight and introduces the rigors of military aviation and training.

Efforts are also being made to push candidates through condensed undergraduate pilot training to further reduce the time needed for getting new pilots into specific airframes, the academy statement said.

The Air Force already has cut undergraduate pilot training by as much as five weeks to more quickly replace departing veteran pilots, the San Antonio Express-News reported in June.

The abbreviated syllabus trims undergraduate pilot training from 54.7 weeks to an average of 49.2 weeks, the newspaper reported, allowing the best students to finish the course faster.

For its part, the academy is planning to add flight-related courses to the sophomore and senior years to help advance pilot training candidates.

The Air Force at the end of last fiscal year had about 21,000 pilots. Even with an annual influx of newly trained pilots, the service still needs about 2,000 to replace those who are leaving, some for the more lucrative commercial airlines where there is also a pilot shortage.

The other services face similar problems, with fighter pilots a particular need, according to a Government Accountability Office study released earlier this year.

To fill the gap, the Air Force has tried to entice more pilots to stay in the service by increasing retention bonuses, eliminating nonflying duties and allowing select fighter pilots and air crew the chance to stay at some commands and bases longer to give them more stability.

US Army IDs soldier killed in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Army Ranger assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, was killed in action in Afghanistan on Saturday.

Sgt. Leandro A.S. Jasso, 25, was mortally wounded during a firefight with al-Qaida forces in Nimruz province, according to a Defense Department statement released early Sunday. He was medically evacuated from the combat zone and later died of his injuries at a medical facility in Helmand province.

Jasso, from Leavenworth, Wash., was on his third deployment to Afghanistan. He enlisted in the Army in 2012 and became an accomplished soldier, completing the Basic Airborne Course and earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the much-sought after Ranger tab.

"Sgt. Jasso was a humble professional who placed the mission first, lived the Ranger Creed and will be deeply missed," said Lt. Col. Rob McChrystal, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, in a prepared statement.

Jasso's death raises to 10 the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan this year. Earlier this month, Maj. Brent Taylor, of the Army National Guard, was killed during an insider attack in Kabul that also injured another U.S. servicemember.

Most of the roughly 14,000 U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan assist NATO's training and advising mission, while a smaller amount help with the U.S.' separate counterterrorism mission that targets groups like the local Islamic State affiliate.

"The loss of Sgt. Jasso is felt by his family and loved ones, by all who served with him and by all on this mission to protect our country and our allies," said Gen. Scott Miller, Resolute Support and United States Forces-Afghanistan commanding general.

UN approves field survey for 2 Koreas' cross-border rails

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea gained a sanctions exemption that will allow it to take the first step in a plan to reconnect cross-border railways with the North, the latest step in efforts to improve relations between the rival nations despite slow progress in nuclear talks.

The U.N. Security Council approved a plan for the two Koreas to conduct a field survey that will involve the import of fuel and other materials to the North, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The decision was limited to the survey. Further efforts to modernize North Korea's railways and perform the work to reconnect the lines will be subject to additional exemptions, officials said.

The struggle for the exemption underscored concerns that differences between Seoul and

Washington on the approach to the North could lead to a rift in the alliance forged in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The two Koreas have blown up guard posts in a jointly patrolled part of the border, established a liaison office in a North Korean border town and conducted numerous cultural and sports exchanges since the diplomatic process began in January, reversing rising tensions that had threatened to erupt in a nuclear war.

The United States has signed off on the steps taken thus far, and South Korea insists the allies are in lockstep and that it will stay within the constraints of the sanctions regime.

But Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sounded a warning last week that the inter-Korean rapprochement should be dependent on advances in the U.S.-led effort to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

He noted the longtime allies

established a working group last week to strengthen cooperation and "be sure that we don't talk past each other."

The plan to reconnect the railways was first unveiled as part of an ambitious agreement reached between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their first summit in April.

Moon dangled it as an example of the economic rewards that could be reaped by the North if it abandons its nuclear program, which had prompted the Security Council to implement increasingly tighter sanctions in response to a series of missile and nuclear tests.

Seoul announced plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony by the end of the year, initially saying the joint surveys wouldn't violate sanctions before acknowledging that Washington had a different opinion.

Russia targets Syrian rebels after attack

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Russian warplanes attacked rebel-held areas in northern Syria for the first time in weeks Sunday as Syrian officials said more than 100 people were treated at hospitals for a suspected poison gas attack in the northern city of Aleppo that Damascus and Moscow blamed on rebels.

The rebels, who have denied carrying out any poison gas attacks, accused the government of trying to undermine a truce reached by Russia and Turkey in September during a summit in the Russian city of Sochi. The targeted area is rebel-held and home to extremist groups opposed to the truce such as the al-Qaida-linked Horas al-Din, which has described the deal as a "great conspiracy," and the Ansar al-Din Front.

Russian military spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov told reporters in Moscow that Russian warplanes destroyed militant positions in northern Syria, blaming them for the attack with poison gas on Aleppo.

The latest wave of shelling and airstrikes in northern Syria is the most serious violation of a truce reached by Russia and Turkey that brought relative calm to the country's north for the past two months.

"The planes of Russia's Aerospace Defense Forces carried out strikes on the detected artillery positions of terrorists in the area, from where the shelling of Aleppo civilians with chemical munitions was conducted late" Saturday, Konashenkov said.

The Britain-based Syrian

Observatory for Human Rights and the Thiqa News Agency, an activist collective, said warplanes pounded rebel-held areas west and south of Aleppo city.

The airstrikes were the first since the truce went into effect on Sept. 17.

Syria's Arab News Agency, SANA, said Syrian troops pounded rebel positions near Aleppo. "inflicting heavy losses among terrorists."

SANA said the alleged chemical attack late Saturday was carried out by "terrorist groups positioned in Aleppo countryside" that fired shells containing toxic gases on three neighborhoods in Syria's largest city.

The Observatory said 94 people were treated, with 31 remaining in hospitals.

Trial for Charlottesville driver to begin

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A planned “Unite the Right” rally by white nationalists in Charlottesville, Va., exploded in chaos: violent brawling in the streets, racist chants, smoke bombs and, finally, a car speeding into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing one and injuring dozens more.

Afterward, President Donald Trump enflamed racial tensions when he said “both sides” were to blame, a comment some saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

Fifteen months later, as the man accused of driving the car heads to trial on murder charges, the wounds are still raw. Few in Charlottesville believe the trial will do much to heal

the community or the country’s racial divide.

“Hopefully, this will signal a chance for healing, although I am not entirely optimistic about that because the entire culture in which we live is so steeped these days in white supremacy and white nationalism that violence is becoming less an exception to the practice of American democracy and more like a brutal showing of it,” said Lisa Woolfork, a University of Virginia professor who was in a crowd of counterprotesters when the car seemed to come out of nowhere on Aug. 12, 2017.

Heather Heyer, 32, a paralegal and civil rights activist marching about 100 feet away from Woolfork, was killed. The death toll rose to three when a

state police helicopter monitoring the event crashed, killing two troopers.

The rally was organized in part to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and other white nationalists — emboldened by Trump’s election — streamed into the college town for one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists in a decade. The group’s show of strength included dressing in battle gear, shouting racial slurs and attacking counterprotesters.

James Alex Fields Jr., 21, an Ohio man known in high school for being fascinated with Nazism and idolizing Adolf Hitler, heads to trial Monday in Char-

lottesville Circuit Court. His attorneys declined to comment and have provided no hint of what his defense will be.

Fields was photographed hours before the attack with a shield bearing the emblem of Vanguard America, one of the hate groups that participated in the rally, although the group denied any association with him.

Pretrial hearings have offered few insights into Fields or his motivation. A Charlottesville police detective testified that as he was being detained after the car crash, Fields said he was sorry and sobbed when he was told a woman had been killed. Fields later told a judge he is being treated for bipolar disorder, anxiety, depression and ADHD.

Protesters march after death of innocent man in Ala.

Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — Protesters on Saturday marched through an Alabama shopping mall where police killed a black man they later acknowledged was not the triggerman in a Thanksgiving night shooting that wounded two people.

An officer shot and killed Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr., 21, of Hueytown while responding to the Thursday mall shooting.

Police said Bradford was flee-

ing the scene with a handgun. Hoover police initially told reporters Bradford had shot a teen at the mall, but later retracted the statement.

“We knew that was false,” said stepmother Cynthia Bradford when she heard police were blaming him for the shooting. She described her stepson, who went by E.J., as a respectful young man whose father worked at a jail for the Birmingham Police Department.

Hoover police Capt. Gregg Rector said investigators now

believe that more than two people were involved in the initial fight ahead of the shooting, and that “at least one gunman” is still at large who could be responsible.

Police said while Bradford “may have been involved in some aspect of the altercation, he likely did not fire the rounds that injured the 18-year-old victim.”

Rector said police regret that their initial statement about Bradford was not accurate.

The shooting remains under

investigation, including whether Bradford played any role in the initial disturbance,

The unanswered questions stirred emotions in the suburb outside the majority-black city of Birmingham.

More than 200 demonstrators, including several relatives, chanted “E.J.” and “no justice, no peace” as they marched past Christmas shoppers at the mall. They held a moment of silence at the spot outside a shoe store where Bradford was killed.

Judge: Former Trump adviser must surrender to prison

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Sunday rejected a last-minute bid by former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos to delay his two-week prison term and ordered him to surrender Monday as scheduled.

Papadopoulos sought the delay until an appeals court had ruled in a separate case challenging the constitutionality of special counsel Robert Mueller’s appointment.

In an order Sunday, U.S. District Court Judge Randolph Moss said Papadopoulos had waited too long to contest his sentence after it was handed down in September. Moss noted that Papadopoulos had agreed not to appeal in most circumstances as part of his plea agreement and the judge said the challenge to Mueller’s appointment was unlikely to be successful in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Four federal judges have upheld Mueller’s

appointment as proper.

“The prospect that the D.C. Circuit will reach a contrary conclusion is remote,” Moss wrote.

Papadopoulos had filed an initial motion on Nov. 16, nearly two months after the deadline for appealing his conviction or sentence. He followed up with a request to delay his sentence pending that motion on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving.

“Papadopoulos waited until the eleventh hour to seek relief;

indeed, he did not file his second motion — the stay request — until the last business day before he was scheduled to surrender to serve his sentence,” Moss’ 13-page order states. “He has only his own delay to blame.

Papadopoulos pleaded guilty last year to lying to federal agents about his interactions with Russian intermediaries during the 2016 presidential campaign. He also forfeited most of his rights to contest his conviction.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Trolleys run again in city's Loop area

MO ST. LOUIS — Trolleys are again carrying passengers in St. Louis' Loop area and University City.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported two refurbished trolleys began runs Friday through St. Louis' famous strip of shops and restaurants.

The \$51 million line runs for 2.2 miles between the western end of the Delmar Loop in University City and the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

The line opened last week but is operating on only part of the St. Louis segment until a bond agreement can be reached with University City.

Couple's pet peacock lost among turkeys

VT SPRINGFIELD — A Vermont woman whose family peacock ran off with a flock of turkeys said she hopes to get close enough to catch it with a net.

The peacock belonging to Rene and Brian Johnson has been on the run for more than six weeks.

Last week, the Johnsons posted a message on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Facebook page: "My peacock has run off with the turkeys. Do you have any suggestions on how to catch the little twerp?"

Rene Johnson told WCAX-TV she thinks the bird she calls Pea was lonely so it sought turkey companions.

School will take food to cover parking fines

MI MARQUETTE — Some people issued parking tickets from Northern

Michigan University can keep cash in their pocket if they donate items to the school's food pantry.

Donations of a variety of items can reduce or eliminate a fine of up to \$25, although no ramen noodles, please. The value of items is determined at drop-off, but the Marquette campus offers options in categories ranging from \$5 to \$25.

The Food 4 Fines program is similar to efforts elsewhere connected to parking or library fines.

Shoe sale gone bad leaves 2 injured

FL ORLANDO — Authorities said a man shot two women during a shoe sale gone wrong and then stole a car, ditched it and attempted to carjack another woman before taking off on a stolen bicycle.

Orlando police said the man then spotted a car left running while the owner opened a gate. He jumped in that car and fled. That car was later found on fire.

The Orlando Sentinel reported the women suffered injuries that are not considered life-threatening.

Investigators said the man had arranged to buy shoes from one of the women and shot them after trying to rob them.

3D crosswalk is introduced to city

KS KANSAS CITY — Public works employees in Kansas City are testing what they described as a "three-dimensional crosswalk" in one neighborhood.

The Kansas City Star reported the crosswalk gets the name because of the impression the paint gives on the roadway. While it looks like a typical crosswalk from a distance, the

blocks appear to float in the air when drivers get closer.

Public Works Department traffic engineer Lideana Laboy said the crosswalk is modeled after one in Iceland.

Laboy said officials wanted to try it because they thought it would have an effect on safety.

Deputies arrest man in hostage situation

WA VANCOUVER — Authorities said deputies arrested a man after they said he held people hostage in a vehicle in a Vancouver Walmart parking lot and then caused the store to go into lockdown when he fled.

Clark County Sheriff's Office investigators said three people were using meth in a car Friday morning when the driver claimed drugs and money were missing and wouldn't let them leave. Investigators said the driver let a man out of the car to steal jumper cables from the store.

The sheriff's office said the man asked employees to call 911. When deputies arrived, the driver and a woman in the vehicle fled and the man ran through Walmart.

Deputies found him hiding behind an RV.

More artifacts from pirate ship recovered

MA YARMOUTH — The man leading the exploration of a pirate ship that sank off the coast of Cape Cod 300 years ago said this year's excavations at the site have yielded hundreds of bracelets and other artifacts.

Barry Clifford, who discovered the Whydah in 1984, told the Cape Cod Times that 600 of the bracelets, known as manillas, were recovered from the site before October storms put

an end to this year's efforts.

The team also recovered a concretion containing the barrel and walnut stock of a musket that may date to the late 1600s or early 1700s. The Whydah sank in 1717.

City limits where scooters can roll

NC GREENSBORO — Scooters are returning to a North Carolina city after the company which deployed them took them off the streets so officials could revise regulations to accommodate them.

The News & Record of Greensboro reported the Greensboro City Council voted to allow the electric scooters to return, but only on streets where the speed limit doesn't exceed 35 mph. The council also approved a permitting process that requires scooter companies to pay \$500 for a permit to deploy no more than 200 scooters in the city. Companies also would pay a \$50 fee per scooter.

Bobcats blamed for slew of missing pets

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Some Albuquerque residents said bobcats could be responsible for the disappearance of several pets.

KOAT-TV reported residents said bobcats have been spotted near their homes. They said they have seen at least a female bobcat and her three kittens.

Residents said none of the bobcats has been aggressive, but they believe the animals are responsible for several missing cats, chickens and a duck.

Surveillance cameras at one home captured a bobcat walking through a yard with what appears to be some sort of animal in its mouth.

From wire reports

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Top 25 college football roundup

Ohio State dismantles No. 4 Michigan

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Dwayne Haskins threw five touchdown passes, freshman Chris Olave scored twice and blocked a punt that was returned for a TD and No. 10 Ohio State continued its mastery over No. 4 Michigan with a record-setting 62-39 victory Saturday that sends the Buckeyes to the Big Ten championship game.

The Wolverines were two victories away from their first conference championship since 2004 and a trip to the College Football Playoff, facing an Ohio State team that has looked discombobulated on defense and one-dimensional on offense much of the season. Looking to snap a six-game losing streak against the Buckeyes (11-1, 8-1, No. 10 CFP) and get coach Jim Harbaugh his first victory in four tries in the rivalry, the Wolverines (10-2, 8-1, No. 4 CFP) wilted.

In the 115th meeting between two of college football's most storied rivals, Ohio State scored more points than it ever had against Michigan — more points than any team has ever scored in regulation against Michigan.

And now, despite all the dysfunction at Ohio State this season — both on and off the field — the Buckeyes will face No. 20 Northwestern next week in Indianapolis with a chance to repeat as Big Ten champs and maybe even squeeze into the playoff.

No. 1 Alabama 52, Auburn 21: Tua Tagovailoa threw five touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead host Alabama past rival Auburn.

Tagovailoa and the Crimson Tide (12-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 1 CFP) took over with an explosive third quarter, when the Heisman Trophy contender threw three long touchdown passes. He's the first Alabama player to have a hand in six TDs in a game and matched the school record with

the five scoring passes.

No. 2 Clemson 56, South Carolina 35: Trevor Lawrence threw for a career-high 393 yards, Adam Choice rushed for three touchdowns and host Clemson capped a perfect regular season, beating South Carolina for its fifth consecutive rivalry win.

No. 3 Notre Dame 24, USC 17: Ian Book passed for 352 yards, Dexter Williams went 52 yards on a go-ahead touchdown run and Notre Dame completed an unbeaten regular season and likely secured a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Chris Finke caught an early TD pass for the Fighting Irish (12-0, No. 3 CFP), who showed playoff-level tenacity in rallying from an early 10-point deficit, their largest of the season.

Tony Jones Jr. then took a short pass 51 yards for a touchdown with 3:09 to play to finish off Notre Dame's 10th perfect regular season since 1945, the first since 2012.

No. 5 Georgia 45, Georgia Tech 21: Jake Fromm threw four touchdown passes, D'Andre Swift ran for 105 yards and host Georgia (11-1, No. 5 CFP) romped into the Southeastern Conference championship game.

The Bulldogs (11-1, No. 5 CFP) couldn't afford a slip-up, not with top-ranked Alabama looming next week in Atlanta.

Georgia led 38-7 at half-time — which, in an interesting twist, was the score of last year's dominating victory over the Yellow Jackets. The Bulldogs held a 343-66 edge in total yards, piling up 18 first downs to only four by Georgia Tech (7-5).

Texas A&M 74, No. 8 LSU 72 (7 OT): Kellen Mond's 2-point conversion to Kendrick Rogers in the seventh overtime gave host Texas A&M the victory over LSU in a game that tied the NCAA record for most overtimes in an FBS game.

Mond connected with Quarterback Davis on a 17-yard throw to tie it at 72. Greedy Williams

was called for pass interference on the first 2-point conversion try, giving the Aggies (8-4, 5-3, No. 22 CFP), another shot. After a false start by Texas A&M, Mond found Rogers for the conversion to end it.

The 146 combined points are the most in an FBS game in NCAA history and the second-most in college football history behind the 161 points Abilene Christian and West Texas A&M scored in Abilene Christian's 93-68 win in 2008.

No. 13 Florida 41, Florida State 14: Feleipe Franks had three touchdown passes and Florida used a punishing ground attack to end a five-game losing streak to Florida State.

Lamical Perine had a 74-yard touchdown run, and Florida ran for 278 yards, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. Perine ran for 129 yards, averaging 9.9 yards per carry.

No. 21 Boise State 26, No. 14 Utah State 24: Brett Rypien threw for 310 yards and a touchdown and Alexander Mattison rushed for 200 yards and three scores to lead host Boise State.

Boise State (10-2, 7-1), which has won seven straight since losing to San Diego State on Oct. 6, will host Fresno State for the Mountain West championship on Saturday in a rematch from last season.

No. 15 Penn State 38, Maryland 3: Trace McSorley completed 12 of 22 passes for 230 yards and had a hand in three touchdowns to help host Penn State rout Maryland.

No. 17 Kentucky 56, Louisville 10: Terry Wilson accounted for 340 yards and four touchdowns, Benny Snell Jr. rushed for two scores and Kentucky blew out Louisville in the Governor's Cup.

No. 18 Utah 35, BYU 27: Jason Shelley threw for 141 yards and a touchdown and added 61 yards and another score on the ground to rally host Utah.

No. 19 Syracuse 42, Boston College 21: Eric Dungey

ran for three touchdowns and threw for 362 yards and three more scores to lead Syracuse past host Boston College.

The Orange (9-3, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) gave up the first score of the game, then scored touchdowns on three straight possessions, starting with a 75-yard pass from Dungey to a wide-open Sean Riley. BC fumbled the ensuing kickoff, setting up Dungey's 4-yard run to make it 14-7 and the Eagles (7-5, 4-4) never got any closer.

No. 20 Northwestern 24, Illinois 16: Clayton Thorson accounted for three touchdowns, Isaiah Browser rushed for 166 yards on 18 carries and host Northwestern beat Illinois.

Thorson completed 12 of 18 passes for 110 yards and two TDs. He also ran for a score, and Bowser posted his fourth 100-yard game of the season.

The Wildcats (8-4, 8-1, No. 19 in CFP) will face No. 10 Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game next weekend in Indianapolis.

Miami 24, No. 24 Pittsburgh 3: Travis Homer rushed for 168 yards and a long touchdown, DeeJay Dallas ran back a punt for one of his two scores and host Miami closed its regular season by knocking off Pittsburgh.

Dallas also had a rushing touchdown for the Hurricanes (7-5, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference). Homer is up to 969 yards this season, and would have a chance to become the 10th runner in Miami history with a 1,000-yard season if he gets 31 in the bowl game.

No. 25 Iowa State 42, Kansas State 38: David Montgomery ran for three touchdowns, including the winner with 4:34 to go, and host Iowa State rallied from 17 down in the fourth quarter to snap a 10-game skid against Kansas State.

Montgomery had 149 yards rushing for the Cyclones (7-4, 6-3 Big 12), who clinched their best-ever finish in the Big 12.

Midshipmen sunk by Green Wave

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tulane coach Willie Fritz looked at the man who'd hired him to turn the Green Wave football program around and held up two fingers.

Athletic Director Troy Dannen said third-year coach signaled his intent to attempt a high-stakes, two-point conversion several snaps before Tulane's decisive drive had even reached the end zone, adding, "I knew he had the play."

Justin McMillan connected with Jaetavian Toles for a 26-yard touchdown with 1:27 left, passed back across the field to Charles Jones for the two-point conversion, and Tulane avoided a devastating collapse with a 29-28 victory over Navy to become bowl eligible for the first time since 2013.

"We were doing really well offensively. Our defense was kind of tired," Fritz said. "I went over and told the AD I

was going for two— just wanted make sure I still had that contract.

"He said I did, so we went ahead with it."

The game-winning score completed a seven-play series that covered 71 yards in 2:11. It came in direct response to Tazh Maloy's 9-yard TD run, which capped a string of 25 straight points that turned Navy's 21-3 halftime deficit into a late, 28-21 lead.

Tulane (6-6, 5-3 AAC) sealed the win by stopping Navy (3-8, 2-6) in four plays. That allowed the Wave to run out the clock and storm the field in celebration, having won four of its last five games to reach the six-win plateau, normally the benchmark for bowl bids.

Navy quarterback Zach Abey passed for a 73-yard touchdown and caught a 37-yard scoring pass — a sudden surge from a passing game that ranked last in the nation coming in.

"Obviously, that's not really

who we are, but in the time of need, we needed to do that and it showed that we were prepared," Abey said.

Abey finished 7-for-13 for 167 yards, including a fourth-down completion that kept alive Navy's go-ahead scoring drive in the fourth quarter.

Sean Williams' interception and 36-yard return to the Tulane 7 set up a short field goal to ignite Navy's second-half rally. Next came Malcom Perry's halfback pass across the field to Abey.

After Tulane stalled again, Abey found Perry uncovered over the middle for his game-long scoring play, and hit Taylor Jackson in the back of the end zone for a two-point conversion to tie it.

Tulane responded by driving into Navy territory, but Merek Glover's 32-yard field goal attempt hit the right upright, setting up the roller-coaster finish.

Top 25 roundup Wade sparks Kansas State in 2nd half

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Dean Wade knew Kansas State was in need of a spark, and he took it upon himself to provide it.

Wade scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half, Barry Brown added 16 and No. 12 Kansas State beat Lehigh 77-58 on Saturday.

"The first half we weren't playing with any emotion or energy so my main focus was to do that," Wade said. "I just wanted to be aggressive, but smart."

The Wildcats (6-0) controlled the second half after the Mountain Hawks hung around and trailed by two at halftime.

"I think we wore them down as the game went on," coach Bruce Weber said. "I told our guys these guys are pretty good and I didn't think we played very good defense in the first half."

No. 13 Virginia Tech 75, St. Francis (Pa) 37: Ahmed Hill scored eight of his 19 points during a 24-6 run spanning halftime for host Virginia Tech.

The Hokies (5-0) led 23-20 when a three-pointer by Ty Outlaw sparked a 10-2 run to end the first half. Nickeil Alexander-Walker made another three-pointer right after halftime, one of 14 for Virginia Tech, and two threes and a basket from Hill and a three-point play by Justin Robinson pushed the lead to 47-26.

Myles Thompson led the Red Flash (1-4) with 14 points.

No. 22 Buffalo 76, Marist 49: CJ Massinburg scored 21 points, Jayvon Graves added 16 and Buffalo overcame a slow start to beat Marist.

Massinburg returned after missing one game with a sprained knee and shot 7-for-10 from the field with six three-pointers in 25 minutes off the bench.

Jeremy Harris had eight assists and Nick Perkins pulled down seven rebounds for the Bulls in their second blowout victory at home.

FCS playoff roundup

Jacksonville St. holds off ETSU

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — Zerrick Cooper threw three touchdown passes to Shaq Davidson and Jacksonville State held on to beat East Tennessee State 34-27 on Saturday night.

Jacksonville State (9-3) will play at seventh-seeded Maine (8-3) in the second round on Saturday.

Cooper was 20 of 32 for 226 yards passing and is the first quarterback in the program to surpass 3,000 yards in a season. Davidson had five catches for 69 yards.

Austin Herink was 17-of-39 passing for 260 yards with a touchdown and interception East Tennessee State, and his 10-yard run capped the scoring. It was the first playoff appearance for ETSU since 1996.

Trailing 34-27 late in the fourth quarter, Quay Holmes rushed for 20 yards and caught a 25-yard pass to help drive the Buccaneers to the Jacksonville State 4. But Zack Woodard forced Holmes to fumble the ball into the end zone for a touchback with 2:38 to play. ETSU got the ball back with 1:39 left and no timeouts, and drove to their own 44-yard line but the drive ended with an incomplete pass on fourth-and-10.

Northern Iowa 16, Lamar 13: Marcus Weymiller rushed for 128 yards, Trevor Allen ran for 112 and Austin Errthum kicked three field goals as the host Panthers edged the Cardinals.

James Madison 20, Delaware 6: Ben DiNucci passed for 223 yards and a touchdown and the Dukes' defense clamped down at home.

Southeast Missouri 28, Stony Brook 14: Daniel Santacaterina threw for three touchdowns and ran for another as the host Redhawks claimed their first FCS playoff victory.

Duquesne 31, Towson 10: A.J. Hines turned a screen pass into a 71-yard touchdown for the lead, rushed for 175 yards and another score and the Dukes won on the road in a relentless downpour.

Wofford 19, Elon 7: Freshman Nathan Walker rushed for 90 yards and a touchdown, helping the host Terriers to advance to the second round of the FCS playoffs for the third season in a row.

Nicholls State 49, San Diego 30: Chase Fourcade passed for 337 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 82 yards and two more scores to help the host Colonels beat the Toreros.

Montana St. 35, Incarnate Word 14: Troy Andersen ran for a touchdown and threw for another to lead the host Bobcats.

NBA roundup

Warriors edge Kings

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Klay Thompson put back his own miss with 5 seconds left, Kevin Durant scored a season-high 44 points, and the Golden State Warriors barely held off the Sacramento Kings 117-116 on Saturday night in a wild finish between the Northern California neighbors.

Durant converted two free throws with 1:27 left and also had 13 rebounds and seven assists, while Thompson wound up with 31 points — the second straight night the two each scored 30 or more.

Buddy Hield had 28 points on 12-for-21 shooting and seven rebounds. Rookie Marvin Bagley III contributed 20 points and a season-best 17 rebounds off the bench, but missed the first of two free throws with 1:08 remaining.

Bucks 135, Spurs 129: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 18 rebounds, rallying Milwaukee from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat visiting San Antonio.

Antetokounmpo scored 14 points in the final period, hearing chants of “MVP! MVP!” each time he stepped to the free throw line. But he had plenty of help, with Malcolm Brogdon adding 23 points, Khris Middleton 21 and Eric Bledsoe finishing with 20 points and 10 assists.

DeMar DeRozan scored 34 points for the Spurs, who took a 106-95 lead with 11 minutes to play after a jumper by Rudy Gay.

But the Bucks roared back in a game featuring 26 lead changes, taking it for the final time when Antetokounmpo hit a pair of free throws with 2:44 left that made it 123-122.

Mavericks 113, Celtics 104: J.J. Barea scored 20 points with a key three-pointer that helped put Dallas in control in the fourth quarter, and the Mavericks won their sixth straight home game.

Harrison Barnes also had 20 points, teenage rookie Luka

Doncic totaled 15 points and matched Barea with eight assists while starting at point guard with Dennis Smith Jr. sidelined by a wrist injury as the Mavericks (9-9) got back to .500 with their seventh win in nine games.

It's the latest Dallas has been .500 or better since the end of the 2015-16 season, and it's the first six-game home winning streak for the Mavericks in almost two years.

Cavaliers 117, Rockets 108: Rookie Collin Sexton scored a season-high 29 points and host Cleveland overcame 40 points by Houston's James Harden to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Cleveland (4-14) won 121-112 in Philadelphia on Friday and rode that momentum against the Rockets, who played without star point guard Chris Paul.

Nuggets 105, Thunder 98: Jamal Murray scored 22 points to help visiting Denver beat Oklahoma City.

Nikola Jokic and Trey Lyles each scored 16 points and Juancho Hernangomez added 15 for the Nuggets, who won their third straight.

Wizards 124, Pelicans 114: Otto Porter Jr. scored a season-high 29 points, John Wall had 22 points and eight assists, and host Washington beat New Orleans.

Bradley Beal also finished with 18, one of six Wizards to score in double figures on a night the Pelicans were without injured All-Star forward Anthony Davis.

Timberwolves 111, Bulls 96: Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and 22 rebounds, Derrick Rose scored 22 points off the bench and Minnesota pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat visiting Chicago.

Jeff Teague added 18 points for Minnesota, which won for the fifth time in seven games since trading Jimmy Butler to Philadelphia.

NHL roundup

Jets' Laine nets 5 goals in victory over Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Patrik Laine scored five goals Saturday in the Winnipeg Jets' 8-4 victory at St. Louis, two short of 97-year-old NHL record.

It was the 61st five-goal game in league history. Darryl Sittler of the Toronto Maple Leafs was the last player to score six goals in a game, on April 22, 1976, against Boston.

Brandon Tanev, Blake Wheeler, and Jack Roslovic also scored for the Jets, who snapped their first two-game losing streak of the season.

Laine's five goal outburst gives him a league-leading 16 goals in 10 November games.

Joe Malone, who played in the early days of the NHL with the Montreal Canadiens, scored seven goals in a game with the Quebec Bulldogs in January 1920. He also had a six-goal game and three five-goal games.

Capitals 5, Rangers 3: retd Connolly scored the tiebreaking goal with 6:24 left in the third period, and the visiting Capitals won their season-high fifth straight game.

Alex Ovechkin, Nic Dowd, Jakub Vrana and Tom Wilson also scored for defending Stanley Cup champion Washington, and John Carlson had three assists. Pheonix Copley, starting in place of Braden Holtby, stopped 27 shots.

Blackhawks 5, Panthers 4 (OT): Erik Gustafsson scored 2:32 into overtime to give visiting Chicago the win.

Gustafsson wristed in his third goal of the season to beat Florida goalie James Reimer, snapping the Blackhawks' two-game overall losing streak and eight-game road skid.

Sabres 3, Red Wings 2 (SO): Sam Reinhart and Tage Thompson scored in a seven-round shootout to give visiting Buffalo its ninth straight win.

Jeff Skinner and Thompson scored for the Sabres in regulation, and Linus Ullmark made 35 saves.

Dylan Larkin, Anthony Mantha scored for Detroit, and Jimmy Howard stopped 33 shots. Andreas Athanasiou scored in the shootout for the Red Wings.

Maple Leafs 6, Flyers 0: Andreas Johnsson had a hat trick midway through the first period and host Toronto routed Philadelphia.

John Tavares, Patrick Marleau and Josh Leivo also scored, and backup goalie Garret Sparks made 35 saves for his first shutout of the season and the second of his career.

Bruins 3, Canadiens 2: John Moore scored a power-play goal with 2:57 left and Boston won at Montreal. David Backes and Jake DeBrusk also scored to help the Bruins win for third time in four games. Tuukka Rask made 32 saves, and David Krejci had two assists.

Penguins 4, Blue Jackets 2: Jake Guentzel scored his first career regular-season hat trick to send host Pittsburgh past Columbus.

Tanner Pearson also scored for the Penguins, who have won two of their last three after losing nine of their previous 10.

Islanders 4, Hurricanes 1: Thomas Greiss made 26 saves, and Valtteri Filppula, Anthony Beauvillier, Josh Bailey and Adam Pelech scored for host New York.

Avalanche 3, Stars 2: J.T. Compher and Mikko Rantanen scored 45 seconds apart late in the third period, and host Colorado rallied to beat Dallas.

Golden Knights 6, Sharks 0: Max Pacioretty scored twice and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 33 shots to earn his league-leading fifth shutout of the season for Las Vegas.

Canucks 4, Kings 2: Vancouver rookie Elias Pettersson scored his 13th goal of the season and helped the visiting Canucks snap an eight-game winless streak.