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Dems take control of Virginia Legislature

Associated Press

Democrats took full control of the Virginia Legislature for the first time in more than two decades while the race for governor in deeply Republican Kentucky was too close to call despite a last-minute boost from President Donald Trump.

In Kentucky, Democratic challenger Andy Beshear held a narrow lead and declared victory in the governor's race over Republican incumbent Matt Bevin on Tuesday, though Bevin had not conceded. And in Virginia, Democrats flipped control of the state Senate and House, gaining outright control of state government in a state that is often a battleground for the White House.

"I'm here to officially declare today, Nov. 5, 2019, that Virginia is officially blue," Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam told a crowd of supporters in

Richmond.

A year before the presidential election, the results offered warning signs for both parties. Voters in suburban swaths of Kentucky and Virginia sided with Democrats, a trend that would complicate Trump's path to reelection if it holds. And the Democrats who made gains on Tuesday did so by largely avoiding positions such as "Medicare for All" that have animated the party's left flank in the Democratic presidential primary.

Democratic pickups in Virginia occurred in Washington and Richmond suburbs that already had trended in the party's direction in recent years.

In Kentucky, Beshear gained considerable ground on Bevin in suburban counties that had helped propel the Republican to office four years ago. Other statewide GOP candidates in Kentucky won by comfortable

margins. But the dip at the top of the ticket still offered another example in the Trump era of suburban voters' willingness to abandon established Republican loyalties — even with the president making a personal appeal on behalf of a GOP standard-bearer.

Trump's 2020 campaign manager tried to find a positive frame for the results in a state Trump won by 30 percentage points in 2016.

"The president just about dragged Gov. Matt Bevin across the finish line, helping him run stronger than expected in what turned into a very close race at the end," Brad Parscale said.

Trump may depend on Mississippi, where he also campaigned in the final stretch before Election Day, for something to crow about. With Republican Gov. Phil Bryant term-limited, GOP nominee Tate Reeves defeated Democrat

Jim Hood to extend the GOP's 20-year hold on the state's top office. But even that contest could finish with a single-digit margin in a state Trump won by 28 percentage points three years ago.

The tighter result for Reeves reflected the same suburban trends seen in other states. Heavily Republican counties outside Jackson, Miss., and Memphis, Tenn., still tilted to the GOP nominee but by noticeably narrower margins than what Bryant had four years ago to win a second term.

Legislative seats also were on the ballot in New Jersey, with Democrats positioned to maintain their overwhelming majorities and quell any opportunity for Trump to suggest that the Republicans were encroaching on Democratic territory ahead of 2020.

Trump OKs expanded oil mission in Syria

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has approved an expanded military mission to secure an expanse of oil fields across eastern Syria, raising a number of difficult legal questions about whether U.S. troops can launch strikes against Syrian, Russian or other forces if they threaten the oil, U.S. officials said.

The decision, coming after a meeting Friday between Trump and his defense leaders, locks hundreds of U.S. troops into a more complicated presence in Syria, despite the president's vow to get America out of the war. Under the new plan, troops would protect a large swath of land controlled by Syrian Kurdish fighters that

stretches nearly 90 miles from Deir el-Zour to al-Hassakeh, but its exact size is still being determined.

Officials said many details still have to be worked out. But Trump's decision hands commanders a victory in their push to remain in the country to prevent any resurgence of Islamic State, counter Iran and partner with the Kurds, who battled ISIS alongside the U.S. for several years. But it also forces lawyers in the Pentagon to craft orders for the troops that could see them firing on Syrian government or Russian fighters trying to take back oil facilities that sit within the sovereign nation of Syria.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump's order also slams the door on any suggestion that the bulk of the more than 1,200 U.S. troops that have been in Syria will be coming home anytime soon, as he has repeatedly promised.

Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, called the mission misguided. "Risking the lives of our troops to guard oil rigs in eastern Syria is not only reckless, it's not legally authorized," Kaine told The Associated Press.

The Pentagon will not say how many forces will remain in Syria. Other officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity, suggest the total number could be at least 800 troops, including the roughly 200 who are at al-Tanf in southern

Syria.

According to officials, lawyers are trying to hammer out details of the military order, which would make clear how far troops will be able to go to keep the oil in the Kurds' control.

The legal authority for U.S. troops going into Syria to fight ISIS militants was based on the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force that said U.S. troops can use all necessary force against those involved in the Sept. 11 attacks and to prevent any future acts of international terrorism.

So, legal experts say the U.S. may have grounds to use the AUMF to prevent the oil from falling into ISIS' hands.

US Marine transport leader fired

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — “A loss of trust and confidence” has led the Marine Corps to relieve the head of one of its highest performing motor transport units after less than five months on the job.

Lt. Col. Jeremy Davis was fired Monday from his post as commander of the 3rd Transportation Support Battalion by 3rd Marine Logistics Group head Brig. Gen. Keith Reventlow, a III Marine Expeditionary Force statement said Wednesday.

The battalion provides transportation and support for III MEF through the distribution of personnel, equipment and supplies by air, ground and sea, according to the unit’s website. It falls under Combat Logistics Regiment 3 and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

Marine officials declined to comment Wednesday on why Davis was fired. They said he will be replaced on an interim basis by battalion executive officer Maj. Mitch Bruce.

“The investigation will be closed at the end of November and I can provide you more information at that time,” 3rd Marine Logistics Group spokeswoman 1st Lt. Tori Sharpe said in an email to Stars and Stripes. “Lt. Col. Davis’ replacement has not yet been identified.”

Davis took command of 3rd Transportation Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Matthew Mulvey on June 14. Just one month prior, the unit was named Marine Corps Motor Transport Unit of the Year.

Davis’ Marine Corps biography had been removed from the unit website by the time the statement was issued Wednesday. He hails from Tylertown, Miss., and was commissioned in August 2001, according to previous Marine Corps statements.

GI raise likely safe amid wrangling

BY STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops are set to get a pay bump next year, and their higher paychecks seem safe despite partisan bickering on Capitol Hill and looming threats of a government shutdown.

“We’ll see what happens,” President Donald Trump said Sunday about a federal government shutdown just before Thanksgiving.

The 3.1% pay raise for service members goes into effect Jan. 1 regardless of lawmakers’ partisan squabbling. The pay raise is mandated by federal statute unless Congress or the president intervenes — which is unlikely. As a result, service members aren’t expected to immediately feel much impact if the government shuts down this month. But a prolonged shutdown could raise issues regarding some benefits.

Some Democratic lawmakers are worried about the possibility of a partial government shut-

down amid the impeachment investigation against Trump. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he believes it’s possible Trump could allow the fourth shutdown during his administration as a diversion tactic.

“I’m increasingly worried that President Trump may want to shut down the government again because of impeachment,” Schumer said last week. “He always likes to create diversions. I hope and pray he won’t want to cause another government shutdown, because it might be a diversion away from impeachment.”

Some lawmakers are confident the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department, will ultimately pass Congress, despite the clock ticking before funding runs out in a little more than two weeks. The federal government has been funded since Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year, by a temporary spending measure known as a

continuing resolution, which expires Nov. 21.

At the same time, some Democrats are concerned Trump might stand his ground on border security. In that event, there are other ways that Congress could guarantee troops receive pay raises, such as passing a separate stand-alone bill to ensure service members are paid during a shutdown — as was done during the 2013 shutdown when lawmakers passed the Pay Our Military Act.

There’s also a fallback plan, the “skinny” NDAA, which was introduced by James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The plan essentially funds the military without some of the controversial elements stalling Congress, most notably siphoning military money for the southern border wall. One senior Republican aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity called it the “break glass in case of emergency” plan. But it might be dead on arrival in the Democrat-controlled House.

Anesthetic shows promise treating PTSD

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Injecting a local anesthetic next to a bundle of nerves in the neck significantly reduced post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in service members, the results of a two-year clinical trial published Wednesday show.

The Pentagon-funded trial conducted at two military medical centers in the U.S. and one in Germany found that PTSD symptoms improved after service members received an injection of stellate ganglion block. The findings, published in the medical journal JAMA Psychiatry, could revolutionize the way service members and veterans are treated for PTSD.

“This does represent a new treatment option,” Kristine

Rae Olmsted, one of the lead investigators on the trial, told Stars and Stripes.

“In the hands of a qualified physician, it can really represent relief for people who are suffering from PTSD,” said Olmsted, of the RTI International research institute, which received a \$2 million grant from the Defense Department to conduct the trial.

With 108 participants, the study was the largest random, controlled trial of the SGB injection for PTSD and the first to be carried out simultaneously at multiple sites.

Participants’ PTSD symptoms were assessed by a mental health professional before they received the first of two placebo or SGB injections and again eight weeks later. At the eight-week assessment, symptom relief was found to be sig-

nificantly better for patients who were given the SGB shot, the study said.

Chicago anesthesiologist Dr. Eugene Lipov, who pioneered the use of SGB to treat PTSD more than 10 years ago, said he believes the block reduces a protein necessary for nerve cell survival and new nerve growth, called Nerve Growth Factor, to pre-trauma levels.

NGF can surge in response to stress and fear, causing new nerve endings to sprout in the brain, Lipov said in 2016. These excess nerves produce norepinephrine, which is similar to adrenaline, and can trigger chronic stress.

But with the injection, “the whole cascade reverses,” Lipov said. “The sprouting falls off, norepinephrine falls to normal levels and people are calm and collected.”

GOP has no answer for suburban slide

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The suburban revolt against President Donald Trump's Republican Party is growing.

And if nothing else, the GOP's struggle across the South on Tuesday revealed that Republicans don't have a plan to fix it.

In Kentucky, Trump and his allies went all in to rescue embattled Gov. Matt Bevin, who literally wrapped himself in the president's image in his pugnacious campaign. In Virginia, embattled Republicans ran away from Trump, downplaying their support for his policies and encouraging him to stay away.

In the end, neither strategy was a sure winner.

Bevin's race was too close to call Tuesday night, locked in a virtual dead heat with Democrat Andy Beshear in a state Trump won by nearly 30 percentage points in 2016. The GOP in Virginia lost control of both houses of the legislature for the first time in a generation.

It's difficult to draw sweeping conclusions from state elections, each with their own unique quirks and personalities. But there's little doubt Tuesday's outcome is a warning to Republicans across the nation a year out from the 2020 election and a year after the 2018 midterms: The suburbs are still moving in the wrong direction.

"Republican support in the suburbs has basically collapsed under Trump," Republican strategist Alex Conant said. "Somehow, we need to find a way to regain our suburban support over the next year."

The stakes are undoubtably high. While neither Virginia nor Kentucky is likely

to be a critical battleground in the presidential race next year, Tuesday's results confirm a pattern repeated across critical swing states — outside of Philadelphia, Detroit and Charlotte, N.C. They're also sure to rattle Republican members of Congress searching for a path to victory through rapidly shifting territory.

To be sure, Republicans demonstrated their firm grip on rural areas, and turnout for both sides appeared to be healthy for off-year elections. Notably, Kentucky's voters elected Republicans to a handful of other statewide offices. In Mississippi, another Trump stronghold, Republicans kept their hold on the governor's office, as Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves defeated well-funded Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

But the GOP's challenge was laid bare in places like Virginia's Henrico County just outside Richmond.

Republican state Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant won there by almost 20 percentage points four years ago. The area has recently been transformed by an influx of younger, college-educated voters and minorities, a combination that's become a recipe for Democrats' support.

With the final votes still trickling in Tuesday night, Dunnivant was barely ahead of Democrat Debra Rodman, a college professor who seized on Trump and her Republican opponent's opposition to gun control to appeal to moderate voters.

In northern Virginia, Democrat John Bell flipped a state Senate district from red to blue in a district that has traditionally favored Republicans. The race, set in the rapidly growing and diverse counties outside of Washington, attracted nearly \$2 million in political advertising.

Democrats' surging strength in the suburbs reflects the anxiety Trump provokes among moderates, particularly women, who have rejected his scorched-earth politics and uncompromising conservative policies on health care, education and gun violence.

Republicans' response in Virginia was to try to stay focused on local issues. In the election's final days, Dunnivant encouraged Trump to stay out of the state. The president obliged, sending Vice President Mike Pence instead.

Struggling for a unifying message, some Republicans turned to impeachment, trying to tie local Democrats to their counterparts in Washington and the effort to impeach Trump.

No one played that card harder than Kentucky's Bevin, who campaigned aside an "impeachment" banner and stood next to Trump on the eve of the election.

But even in ruby-red Kentucky, Trump was not a cure-all and the trouble in the suburbs emerged.

Bevin struggled in Republican strongholds across the northern part of the state, where the Democrats' drift and increased enthusiasm was clear.

Beshear led Bevin by the narrowest of margins Tuesday night.

Republicans were quick to blame Bevin for his stumbles. The governor was distinctly unpopular and picked fights with powerful interests in the state. Still, it was difficult for Republicans not to note the warning signs for the party next year and beyond.

"They continue to lose needed support in suburban districts, especially among women and college-educated voters," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler. "That trend, if not reversed, is a death spiral."

Across the US, voters weigh in on a variety of issues

Associated Press

Voters in the West took a dim view of taxes, while New Yorkers backed a new way to elect some of their leaders and a New Jersey city cracked down on Airbnb.

Tucson voters seemed uninterested in becoming a sanctuary city, and those in Washington weighed whether to roll back limits on affirmative action.

Across the country, ballot measures gave voters a chance to weigh in on a wide range of issues. Among the highlights:

■ **Arizona.** Tucson voters overwhelmingly rejected a pro-

posal to designate their town as Arizona's only sanctuary city. The decision in one of Arizona's most liberal cities is a relief for the Democrats who control city government. They worry the initiative would jeopardize millions of dollars in state and federal funding and put public safety at risk. The initiative was a direct challenge to the state immigration law that drew global attention, protests, boycotts and lawsuits when it was adopted nine years ago.

■ **New Jersey.** Voters in a New Jersey city that's just a few minutes by train from lower Manhattan approved re-

strictions on Airbnb and other short-term rental companies. The regulations limit how often landlords can rent properties if they don't live on site. They also forbid short-term rentals in buildings with more than four units if the owner isn't present and prohibit renters from serving as hosts.

■ **New York.** Voters in New York City passed a measure to adopt a ranked-choice voting system in some future elections. The new system, which passed with overwhelming support, will let people rank up to five candidates in order of preference, rather than picking just

one to support. The system will be used in primaries and special elections starting in 2021.

■ **Washington.** A measure that reinstates the use of affirmative action in state employment, contracting and admission to public colleges and universities was narrowly losing. The measure asks people whether they want to change current laws that prohibit state government from giving preferential treatment to individuals or groups based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, or public contracting.

Ambassador amends impeachment testimony

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — “I now do recall.”

With that stunning reversal, diplomat Gordon Sondland handed House impeachment investigators another key piece of corroborating testimony Tuesday. He acknowledged what Democrats contend was a clear quid pro quo, pushed by President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, with Ukraine.

Sondland, in an addendum to his sworn earlier testimony, said that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine’s new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted. Sondland said he was the one who carried the message to a Ukrainian official on the sidelines of a conference in Warsaw with Vice Presi-

dent Mike Pence.

“I said that resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks,” Sondland recalled.

His three-page update, tucked beneath hundreds of pages of sworn testimony from Sondland and former Ukraine Special Envoy Kurt Volker, was released by House investigators as Democrats prepared to push the closed-door sessions to public hearings as soon as next week.

Late Tuesday, Sondland flew to Portland, Ore., and was met by a small group of protesters at Portland International Airport.

“I didn’t change my testimony, but I can’t answer any questions,” Sondland told reporters. He didn’t elaborate.

Trump has denied any quid pro quo, but Democrats say there is a singular narrative developing since the president’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he first asked for “a favor.” That request, which sparked the impeachment inquiry, included a public investigation into Ukrainian activities by Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden and his son and Trump’s allegations of Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, said the House panels conducting the inquiry are releasing the word-by-word transcripts of the past weeks’ closed-door hearings so the American public can decide for themselves.

Courage helps children survive Mexico killings

Associated Press

GALEANA, Mexico — The eight children, some mere infants, who survived the ambush in northern Mexico not only escaped the drug cartel gunmen who killed their mothers but managed to hide in the brush, with some walking miles to get help despite grisly bullet wounds.

In a testament to a mother’s devotion, one woman reportedly stashed her baby on the floor of her Suburban and got out of the vehicle, waving her arms to show the gunmen she wasn’t a threat. She may have moved away from the vehicle to distract their attention; her bullet-ridden body was found about 15 yards away from the SUV.

The mother was one of nine U.S. citizens — three women and six children all living in northern Mexico — slaughtered Monday when cartel gunmen ambushed three SUVs along a dirt road in an attack that left one vehicle a burned-out, bullet-riddled

hulk. Mexican officials said the gunmen may have mistaken the group’s large SUVs for those of a rival gang amid a vicious turf war.

The five wounded children were seriously enough injured that Mexican authorities flew them to the border in a military helicopter to receive hospital care in the United States. Sonora state health officials said they were “stable” at the moment of transfer. Three other children who were not wounded are in the care of family members in the tiny hamlet of La Mora in northern Mexico.

But what the children went through in the remote, mountainous area of Sonora state is nearly indescribable.

Kendra Miller, a relative, said in an account of the shootings that Devin Blake Langford, 13, was one of the few uninjured young people and quickly took charge, eventually walking about 14 miles back to

La Mora for help.

“After witnessing his mother and brothers being shot dead, Devin hid his six other siblings in the bushes and covered them with branches to keep them safe while he went for help,” according to the account. “When he took too long to return, his 9-year-old sister left the remaining five to try again.”

That girl, McKenzie Rayne Langford, walked for hours in the dark before she was found several hours after the other children were rescued. She was listed as missing for a while.

Altogether, the kids were on their own from about 1 p.m., when the ambush began, until about 7:30 p.m., when they were rescued.

Relatives from La Mora tried to reach them before that, but were turned back by gunfire. The area is the site of a cartel turf war.

Trump plans to kick off NYC Veterans Day Parade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has accepted an invitation to kick off the New York City Veterans Day Parade next week.

United War Veterans Council Chairman Douglas McGowan and the White House said on Wednesday that Trump will

offer a tribute to veterans at the opening ceremony of Monday’s 100th annual parade. While presidents have always been invited to the parade, McGowan said that, as far as he knows, Trump is the first to accept.

After his remarks, the president will lay a wreath at the Eternal Light memorial in Madison Square Park, White

House spokesman Judd Deere said.

Trump, who is deeply unpopular in his hometown of New York, has been a longtime promoter of the parade.

During the 1990s, he pledged a donation of \$200,000 and offered to raise money from friends in exchange for being named the parade’s grand

marshal, The New York Times reported at the time. He also donated toward the creation of the city’s Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The announcement comes just days after news broke that the Republican president has officially changed his residency to Florida.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School locked down after deer crashes in

IN NOBLESVILLE — A deer that crashed through a window into a suburban Indianapolis school sent students into lockdown mode during its surprise invasion.

Hinkle Creek Elementary School Principal Jack Lawrence said the deer smashed through a window and entered the Noblesville school's main hallway.

The Indianapolis Star reported that the school immediately called for a lockdown to ensure that students and staff remained inside classrooms while the deer was roaming inside.

The deer eventually pushed its way out of the school's main entrance and ran through a parking lot into nearby woods.

Educator saves caged puppy from drowning

IL CHAMPAIGN — An educator rescued a caged puppy from drowning in a chilly central Illinois lake.

Bryant Fritz was preparing to fish Saturday in Champaign when he found a black and white puppy submerged in rising water and trapped inside a dog crate in Kaufman Lake. Fritz said he waded into waist-high, freezing water to reach the cage.

The middle school science teacher told The News-Gazette that he dragged the crate to the shore. The puppy was treated for hypothermia.

Police: Woman was drunk at drive-thru

DE DOVER — A Delaware woman is accused of drunkenly visiting a McDonald's drive-thru and then trying to fight police officers who responded to the scene.

News outlets reported Dana

Courtenay, 35, was arrested on charges including resisting arrest with force and driving under the influence.

Dover police spokesman Master Cpl. Mark Hoffman said Courtenay drove from the scene when officers arrived. Courtenay ultimately returned to the drive-thru.

Police said that's when she left her car and screamed and cursed at officers while attempting to spit on and fight them.

Moose inspire team's 'PaddleHeads' name

MT MISSOULA — Missoula is not known for moose, but there will be a lot more "PaddleHeads" in the city when the baseball season opens.

The Missoula Osprey are changing their name to PaddleHeads, The Missoulian reported. The Rookie Advanced affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks plays in the Pioneer League from June to September.

Team officials were on a conference call in March discussing the six finalists, including PaddleHeads, said Matt Ellis, team executive vice president.

"I said, 'I've got one problem: I don't equate a moose to the heart of Missoula.' Just then our phones lit up with an alert," Ellis said. "There was a moose in downtown Missoula, a block from our office."

Woman accused of stabbing spouse

TN NASHVILLE — A Tennessee woman was accused of stabbing her husband when he refused to sign divorce papers.

News outlets reported Dwana Evans, 38, was charged with felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the attack.

An arrest affidavit said Evans' husband told police in August that he had been smoking marijuana in his car outside the couple's apartment when Evans approached and they argued. The man told officers Evans wanted him to sign divorce papers, but he refused. He said Evans then walked away, returned with a knife and stabbed him in the arm.

Metal bar falls off big rig, impales woman

CA SACRAMENTO — Authorities in Northern California said a woman was impaled in the leg when a large metal bar fell off a moving big rig on a highway near Sacramento.

KCRA-TV reported the California Highway Patrol said an unidentified big rig was traveling north on Highway 99 when the bar fell into the roadway.

The CHP said the bar bounced and went into a Chevrolet Impala behind the truck.

Officials said the bar went through the car's engine compartment and into the front passenger area, where it struck the woman in the right leg.

Police: Man bought escapees sausage

LA MONROE — A Louisiana man who rented a motel room for seven men and bought them sausage biscuits was arrested because authorities said the seven were jail escapees.

News outlets reported Trevor Toney, 38, of Monroe was charged with assisting escape and accessory after the fact.

Court records said the men had escaped from Richland Parish Detention Center on Oct. 28.

The documents said cell-phone data led investigators

to a motel where Toney had rented a room. He was seen on surveillance video signaling the escapees into the room and bringing eight sausage biscuits from McDonald's.

Judge rejects plea deal in cannon death

IA MANCHESTER — A judge rejected a plea deal for a man charged in the death of a woman hit by fragments from a homemade cannon.

Delaware County District Court records said Max Fenton pleaded guilty to aggravated misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter, which replaced the felony charge. A pair of fireworks-related charges were to be dropped as well.

The improvised cannon was made from the sawed-off barrel of a .50-caliber black powder rifle and was supposed to serve as a noisemaker. Authorities said the rear of the barrel "blew out" in Greeley the night of July 2, 2016, and fragments struck Lori Heims, 55.

The judge rejected the deal, saying the plea was to a new charge that was not a lesser-included crime alleged among the original charges.

Yearly elk hunt begins in Grand Teton park

WY MOOSE — An annual elk hunt is underway in Grand Teton National Park.

Wildlife managers have authorized 375 permits for this year's hunt, which began Saturday.

They allow hunting in an area mainly east of U.S. Highway 89 in the southeast part of Grand Teton in western Wyoming. Hunting in two different portions of the hunt area will end on Nov. 25 and Dec. 8.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

No. 2 Kentucky tops No. 1 Michigan St.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kentucky's latest freshman star is a guard from Texas who likes to smile wide and take big shots.

Tyrese Maxey scored 26 points, including a clutch three that beat the shot clock with a minute left, and the second-ranked Wildcats opened the season with a 69-62 victory over No. 1 Michigan State on Tuesday night in the Champions Classic.

A day after his 19th birthday, Maxey came off the bench at Madison Square Garden and had one of the best debuts for a freshman in coach John Calipari's 11 years at Kentucky, which has been filled with one-and-done guards like John Wall and Devin Booker.

"I wanted him to come in firing," Calipari said.

The Nos. 1 and 2 teams opened their seasons against

each other for the first time since 1975, and the Wildcats made their case to be top-ranked next week.

Michigan State entered the season as the No. 1 team in the country for the first time, but aside from All-American Cassius Winston, the Spartans struggled to score. Winston had 21 points.

This Kentucky team is built around returning contributors instead of freshmen, but Maxey asserted himself in his first game. After Winston cut the lead to three on a three-point play with 1:27 left, Maxey hit a three-pointer from way behind the line to make it 65-60 with 59 seconds left.

"Honestly, I just trust my training," Maxey said. "I shot that shot a thousand times."

The Champions Classic brought the top-four teams in the nation to the same building for the first time in college bas-

ketball. No. 4 Duke beat No. 3 Kansas 68-66 in the opener of the doubleheader. The nightcap marked the fourth No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup in college basketball in the past 10 years, and the third involving Michigan State in the Champions Classic.

Neither game was particularly well-played, and each coach said they would have liked to have had a couple of games under their belts before stepping onto the big stage.

"There were four good teams today," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "None of them were ready for February or March. It is a very difficult thing to play that kind of competition this early."

The passionate fan bases sold out the Garden. Kentucky supporters and Michigan State traded "Go Big Blue!" and "Go Green! Go White!" chants when things got close. It was a marquee event but a choppy

game. Neither team shot 40% from the field. They combined to take 50 free throws.

The Spartans couldn't find the range from three, going 5-for-26 and certainly looked like they could have used the scoring of senior guard Joshua Langford, who is expected to be out until January with a right foot injury.

Michigan State had whittled a 10-point halftime deficit down to four when Kentucky went on a 9-0 run behind threes from Kahlil Whiney and Nate Sestina, pushing the lead to 54-41 with 9:57 left in the second half.

Kentucky's veteran backcourt of Ashton Hagans (11 points) and Immanuel Quickley (10 points), both sophomores, was outshined by Maxey.

"He put on a show," Izzo said. "He's got great intangibles. He's happy-go-lucky but plays hard."

College basketball roundup

Fifth-ranked Louisville has easy time with Miami

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Jordan Nwora went 4-for-6 from beyond the arc, and from above the basket he didn't miss.

Nwora threw in a dunk — literally — to go with his outside shooting, and totaled 23 points and 12 rebounds Tuesday to help the fifth-ranked Cardinals win their season opener at Miami, 87-74.

The Cardinals are touted as a potential Final Four team, and they lived up to the hype with a rout on the road against an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent. Louisville led 72-40 before Miami rallied during garbage time.

No. 4 Duke 68, No. 3 Kansas 66: At New York, Tre Jones scored 15 points and Cassius Stanley added 11 of his 13 points in the second half to help the Blue Devils beat the Jayhawks in the opener of the

Champions Classic at Madison Square Garden.

No. 6 Florida 74, North Florida 59: Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 20 points and 10 rebounds in his debut, and the host Gators beat the Ospreys.

No. 7 Maryland 95, Holy Cross 71: Jalen Smith had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Darryl Morsell scored 15 and the host Terps launched a season of high hopes by defeating the Crusaders.

No. 8 Gonzaga 95, Alabama State 64: Corey Kispert scored a career-high 28 points as the host Bulldogs used a second-half surge to beat the Hornets.

No. 10 Villanova 97, Army 54: Jeremiah Robinson-Earl scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Saddiq Bey had 22 points to help the host Wildcats cruise past the Black Knights.

No. 12 Seton Hall 105, Wagner 71: Myles Powell

scored 27 points to lead the host Pirates to the win without coach Kevin Willard.

No. 13 Texas Tech 85, Eastern Illinois 60: Newcomer Jahmi'us Ramsey led the host Red Raiders with 19 points as they opened the season by beating the Panthers, seven months after playing in the national championship game.

No. 14 Memphis 97, South Carolina State 64: James Wiseman, the nation's top-rated recruit, had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the host Tigers.

No. 15 Oregon 71, Fresno State 57: Payton Pritchard scored 24 points, Chris Duarte added 16 in his first game and the host Ducks beat the Bulldogs.

No. 16 Baylor 105, Central Arkansas 61: Jared Butler scored 30 points with a career-high eight three-pointers to lead four Bears in double figures, as they opened coach Scott Drew's

17th season with a win.

No. 17 Utah State 81, Montana State 73: Sam Merrill scored 28 points and the host Aggies got past the Bobcats.

No. 19 Xavier 76, Jacksonville 57: Tyrique Jones had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Naji Marshall also scored 17 and the host Musketeers beat the Dolphins.

No. 20 Saint Mary's 65, Wisconsin 63 (OT): At Sioux Falls, S.D., Jordan Ford scored 26 points, Malik Fitts added 16 and the Gaels hung on to beat the Badgers in overtime.

No. 24 Auburn 83, Georgia Southern 74: Samir Doughty scored 20 points to lead the host Tigers past the Eagles.

No. 25 VCU 72, St. Francis 58: Marcus Santos-Silva had 21 points and 18 rebounds and the host Rams used a big early run to take command against the Red Flash.

Ohio State tops first playoff rankings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two from the Big Ten. Two from the Southeastern Conference. And the undefeated defending national champions on the outside looking in — for now.

Ohio State, LSU, Alabama and Penn State were the top four teams Tuesday night in the College Football Playoff selection committee's first rankings of the season.

Next up was Clemson, winner of two of the last three playoffs, followed by Georgia and Oregon. The 13-member committee will produce four more weekly top 25s before the only one that really counts comes out on selection Sunday, Dec.

8.

The semifinals will be held this season at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz., and the Peach Bowl in Atlanta on Dec. 28. The national championship game is Jan. 13 in New Orleans.

The top four in the selection committee's initial rankings have never all reached the semifinals in the playoff's five-year history. Eleven of the 20 teams that started in the top four of the CFP rankings have reached the playoff, but, oddly, never the team ranked third.

Utah was eighth and Oklahoma, the highest-ranked team from the Big 12, was ninth. Florida gave the SEC four of the top 10 teams.

Another SEC team, Auburn,

was 11th, followed by Baylor, one of the country's surprising unbeaten teams.

The highest-ranked team among Group of Five conference schools was Cincinnati out of the American Athletic Conference at No. 20. The top team from outside the Power Five conferences gets a New Year's Six bowl bid.

It was hard to call anything a surprise — or all that important — in the first rankings, but Clemson being out of the top four was notable.

"When you look at Penn State's résumé, with wins over (No. 15) Michigan and (No. 18) Iowa, those are marquee wins," said committee chairman Rob Mullens, who is also Oregon's

athletic director. "Now, Clemson's coming on and playing its best football, but after Week 10, the committee thought (the Nittany Lions) were a notch above (Clemson)."

The good news for the Tigers is the teams in front of them have to play one another. LSU is at Alabama on Saturday. The teams are No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the AP Top 25 but are second and third in the CFP rankings. Ohio State and Penn State face off Nov. 23. The Nittany Lions also face a challenge this week when they visit unbeaten Minnesota, which was ranked 17th by the committee.

As long as Clemson keeps winning, the Tigers should be OK.

Unknowns become stars during first half of NFL season

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Darren Waller was toiling away on the practice squad in Baltimore last November when the Oakland Raiders were intrigued enough by the athleticism they saw during pregame warmups to sign him away from the Ravens.

Now a player who was bagging groceries two years ago while serving a second suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy is becoming a legitimate star for the Raiders.

"They told me that I was going to get the opportunity," Waller said. "As soon as you hear that, after all of the things that I've been through, I was like, I get one opportunity, that's all I need."

Waller has 48 catches for 548 yards and three touchdowns through eight games this season, ranking third among all tight ends in yards and catches after coming into the season with 18 receptions in 22 career games.

"Can't be more excited for a guy. He's really the reason why you coach," Raiders offensive coordinator Greg Olson

said. "I think every coach on our staff would say the same. It's just been a pleasure in the meetings, his work ethic, his preparation."

Waller is just one of several players who have emerged as stars during the first half of the 2019 season:

Tampa Bay WR Chris Godwin: The third-round pick in 2017 played in the shadow of star Mike Evans his first two seasons with the Buccaneers when he totaled 93 catches for 1,367 yards. But Godwin has emerged as a star of his own this year. He has 54 catches for 766 yards and six touchdowns, nearly surpassing his season total in 2018.

Jacksonville WR DJ Chark: Receiver was one of the biggest question marks for the Jaguars heading into the season but Chark has developed into a dangerous threat on the outside. After catching only 14 passes in 11 games as a rookie in 2018, Chark didn't take long to establish himself as a potential star early this season with TD catches in his first three games. He hasn't slowed down much from there, with a 164-yard, two-TD performance in Week 5 against Carolina. He

has 43 catches for 692 yards and six TDs through nine games this season.

San Francisco DL Arik Armstead: The 2015 first-round pick by the 49ers failed to make a big impact in his first four seasons as a player who was solid against the run but offered little as a pass rusher. San Francisco still picked up his fifth-year option and that move is paying off in a big way as Armstead is a key part of perhaps the league's most dominant defensive line. Playing outside in base defense and as an inside pass rusher in the nickel package, Armstead has stepped up his game under new position coach Kris Kocurek, who has preached a more aggressive style. Armstead has 5½ sacks, nearly doubling his career high of three set last season.

New England LB Kyle Van Noy and LB Jamie Collins: Van Noy was a second-round pick by Detroit in 2014 and was basically handed to New England in a trade during the 2016 season in an exchange of sixth- and seventh-round picks. Van Noy found a home with the Patriots with his versatility but has become an impact player this year with 4½ sacks, three

forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

Collins, a second-round pick by New England in 2013, is making the most of his second chance with the Patriots. Sent to Cleveland during the 2016 season, Collins got a big contract from the Browns the next offseason that he failed to live up to. He was then cut by Cleveland in March and took until May to get a new contract with the Patriots. He is a major part of one of the league's stingiest defenses with career highs in sacks (six) and interceptions (three), along with two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

Packers RB Aaron Jones: A fifth-round pick in 2017, Jones had success in a limited role during his first two seasons but is enjoying a breakout campaign in 2019. He ranks eighth in the NFL in yards from scrimmage with 850 and trails only Christian McCaffrey with 11 TDs. Jones has had success as a runner, a receiver out of the backfield and when lining up out wide, adding another dimension to Green Bay's offense that was needed when star receiver Davante Adams was sidelined with a turf toe injury.

NHL roundup

Islanders stretch streak to 10 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Islanders don't spend much time discussing their winning streak. Their focus is always on the next game.

Cole Bardreau scored his first NHL goal on a penalty shot in the second period, and the Islanders beat the Ottawa Senators 4-1 Tuesday night for their 10th straight win.

"Ten's a big milestone," New York's Casey Cizikas said, "but every single night we have a game plan and our coaches are showing us every single day things we can get better at, things that we can work on, and areas where we can improve in."

Cizikas and Cal Clutterbuck each had a goal and an assist, and Josh Bailey also scored to help the Islanders win their first game in Brooklyn this season and extend their winning streak to the second-longest in franchise history, trailing

only a 15-game run Jan. 21 to Feb. 20, 1982. Thomas Greiss stopped 27 shots in his fifth straight win.

"We're playing confident," Cizikas said. "We got four lines that are contributing, we got six D that are getting the puck up, moving quick and being solid in our own end, and we got two goalies that are playing outstanding, they're making big saves when we need them to."

Changing up their home venue for the first time didn't slow the Islanders down. They kept right on rolling in their first game back at Barclays Center since losing Games 1 and 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against Carolina last spring. In the second season of splitting home games between Brooklyn and the Nassau Coliseum, this was the first of 13 games at Barclays.

Flyers 4, Hurricanes 1: Sean Couturier had a goal and an assist, Travis Konecny scored the

tiebreaker early in the third period and host Philadelphia topped Carolina.

Canadiens 5, Bruins 4: Canadiens defenseman Victor Mete scored twice to help host Montreal beat Boston.

Maple Leafs 3, Kings 1: Auston Matthews and William Nylander scored 30 seconds apart in the third period to send host Toronto past Los Angeles.

Golden Knights 2, Blue Jackets 1: Reilly Smith scored twice, Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves and visiting Vegas halted a two-game skid with a win over Columbus.

Devils 2, Jets 1 (SO): Nikita Gusev and Jesper Boqvist scored in the shootout to lift visiting New Jersey over Winnipeg.

Nico Hischier scored in the first period for the Devils, who are 4-1-2 in their past seven games. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 32 shots.

Stars 4, Avalanche 1: Radek

Faksa scored two goals off rebounds and host Dallas won for the seventh time in eight games, beating Colorado.

Sharks 4, Blackhawks 2: Patrick Marleau celebrated his 800th consecutive game by scoring a goal, and host San Jose beat Chicago to halt a five-game losing streak.

Wild 4, Ducks 2: Mats Zuccarello scored the tying goal on a breakaway and assisted on Eric Staal's go-ahead goal early in the third period as visiting Minnesota snapped its five-game road losing streak with a victory over Anaheim.

Flames 4, Coyotes 3 (OT): Matthew Tkachuk scored with 34 seconds on the clock in overtime to give host Calgary a comeback victory over Arizona.

Blues 2, Canucks 1 (OT): Jaden Schwartz scored on a 3-on-0 break at 3:28 of overtime to lift visiting St. Louis over Vancouver.

NBA roundup

Hayward's career-high 39 points lifts Celtics over Cavs

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Gordon Hayward capped a perfect night from inside the arc with the biggest basket of the game.

Hayward tied a career high with 39 points, making all 16 of his two-point attempts, and the Boston Celtics won their fifth straight game by holding off the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-113 on Tuesday.

Hayward hit 17 of 20 shots, including one three-pointer. He put in Kemba Walker's miss with 22 seconds left to give Boston a five-point lead. Walker stole the inbound pass and sank a free throw to put the game away.

The only person in the building who wasn't impressed with his perfection on two-pointers

was Hayward.

"It seems like a pointless stat to me," he said. "Tonight just felt sweet because we got the win, but I wish we could have closed out better."

Celtics coach Brad Stevens took a different point of view.

"Certainly, you always felt like he could get a bucket at any time," Stevens said. "He was aggressive going to the basket. He did a good job when guarded by big guys. He did a good job when guarded by small guys."

Walker had 25 points for Boston, which hasn't lost since the season opener against Philadelphia.

"That's pretty impressive," he said of Hayward's stat line. "He made all his twos and only

missed three threes. That's nuts."

Hayward scored 16 points in the opening quarter and 22 in the first half, hitting all nine attempts from the field.

Cavaliers forward Larry Nance Jr. had a simple assessment of the performance.

"He didn't miss," Nance said. "He's crafty. He plays the game at a very cerebral level."

Hornets 122, Pacers 120 (OT): Devonte Graham scored a career-high 35 points, Bismack Biyombo provided a huge spark off the bench late and host Charlotte battled back from a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Indiana.

Lakers 118, Bulls 112: LeBron James had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for

his third consecutive triple-double, and visiting Los Angeles rallied to beat Chicago for its sixth straight victory.

Hawks 108, Spurs 100: Trae Young scored 28 of his 29 points in the second half, Jabari Parker added 19 points and host Atlanta moved past the suspension of John Collins to snap a three-game losing streak.

Thunder 102, Magic 94: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 of his 24 points in the second half to lift host Oklahoma City over Orlando.

Nuggets 109, Heat 89: Jamal Murray scored 21 points, Will Barton and Jerami Grant had 15 each, and host Denver pulled away in the second half to beat Miami.