

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Witness: Trump asked about Ukraine probes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the first time a top diplomat testified Wednesday that President Donald Trump was overheard asking about “the investigations” that he wanted Ukraine to pursue that are central to the impeachment inquiry.

William Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, revealed the new information as the House Intelligence Committee opened extraordinary hearings on whether the 45th president of the United States should be removed from office.

Taylor said his staff recently told him they overheard Trump speaking on the phone to another diplomat, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, at a restaurant the day after Trump’s July 25 phone call with the new leader of Ukraine that sparked the impeachment inquiry.

The staff could hear Trump on the phone asking about “the investigations,” and Sondland told the president the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, Taylor testified.

Not inappropriate, let alone impeachable, countered the intelligence panel’s top Republican, Rep. Devin Nunes, of California.

Trump “would have a perfectly good reason for wanting to find out what happened” if there were indications that Ukraine meddled in the 2016 presidential election, he said.

National security officials have told Congress they don’t believe Ukraine meddled in the 2016 election.

The hearing Wednesday was the first public session of the impeachment inquiry.

It’s the first chance for America, and the rest of the world, to see and hear for themselves about Trump’s actions toward Ukraine and consider whether they are, in fact, impeachable offenses.

An anonymous whistleblower’s complaint to the intelligence community’s inspector general — including that Trump had pressed Ukraine’s president to investigate Democratic foe Joe Biden and Bidens’ son and was holding up U.S. military aid — ignited the rare inquiry now unfolding in Congress.

The country has been here only three times before, and never against the 21st-century backdrop of real-time commentary, including from the Republican president himself. The proceedings were

being broadcast live, and on social media, from a packed hearing room on Capitol Hill.

The session unfolded in measured, quietly dramatic tones. Taylor, a former Army infantry leader, his voice weathered after a 50-year career in foreign service, paused for sips of water during what he acknowledged was a lengthy recitation of facts. It took 40 minutes.

The scene, with Republican questioning still to come, was offering the credibility that Democrats wanted to set the stage and sway public opinions, but Trump still offered counterprogramming.

Moments after the hearings began, his reelection machine sent out an email blast: “FAKE IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS HAVE BEGUN! ... I WANT TO RAISE 3 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.”

At the start, Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee, outlined the question at the core of the impeachment inquiry — whether the president used his office to pressure Ukraine officials for personal political gain.

“The matter is as simple and as terrible as that,” said Schiff of California. “Our answer to these questions will affect not only the future of this presidency but the future of the presidency itself, and what kind of conduct or misconduct the American people may come to expect from their commander in chief.”

Republican lawmakers immediately pushed Democrats to hear in closed session from the anonymous whistleblower.

Schiff denied the request at the time but said it would be considered later.

“We will do everything necessary to protect the whistleblower’s identity,” Schiff declared.

Nunes accused the Democratic majority of conducting a “scorched-earth” effort to take down the president after the special counsel’s Russia investigation into the 2016 election failed to spark impeachment proceedings.

“We’re supposed to take these people at face value when they trot out new allegations?” said Nunes, a top Trump ally.

He derided what he called the “cultlike atmosphere in the basement of the Capitol” where investigators have been inter-

viewing witnesses behind closed doors for weeks. Transcripts of those interviews have been released.

Nunes called the Ukraine matter a “low rent” sequel to the Russia probe. “Democrats are advancing their impeachment sham,” he said.

Both Taylor and the other public witness, George Kent, a deputy assistant secretary at the State Department, defied White House instructions not to testify. They both received subpoenas to appear.

The veteran foreign service officers delivered heartfelt history lessons about Ukraine, a young and hopeful democracy, situated next to Russia but reaching out to the West.

Kent, in his opening remarks, directly contradicted a core complaint against Joe Biden being raised by allies of the White House, saying he never heard any U.S. official try to shield a Ukraine company from investigations.

Kent acknowledged that he himself raised concerns in 2015 about the then-vice president’s son, Hunter Biden, being on the board of Burisma, a Ukraine gas company. He warned that it could give the “perception of a conflict of interest.”

But Kent indicated no one from the U.S. was protecting the company from investigations in Ukraine as Republicans have implied.

“Let me be clear; however, I did not witness any efforts by any U.S. official to shield Burisma from scrutiny,” Kent said.

The career diplomat did not go into detail about the issues central to the impeachment inquiry, but he voiced his concerns with them.

“I do not believe the United States should ask other countries to engage in selective, politically associated investigations or prosecutions against opponents of those in power, because such selective actions undermine the rule of law regardless of the country,” he said.

So far, the narrative being unspooled in weeks of investigations for the inquiry is splitting Americans, mostly along the same lines as Trump’s unusual presidency.

The Constitution sets a dramatic but vague bar for impeachment, and there’s no consensus yet that Trump’s actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of “high crimes and misdemeanors.”

# US cruiser sails through Taiwan Strait

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For the eighth time this year, a Navy vessel has sailed through the contentious waters between Taiwan and mainland China, officials said Wednesday.

The guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville made its way through the 110-mile-wide Taiwan Strait on Tuesday.

China views the strait as territorial waters and asserts that foreign vessels must get permission before sailing through the area. International law does not recognize that requirement and considers the strait an open waterway.

The transit was routine and in accordance with international law, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen said in an email Wednesday.

Mommsen said the Navy will continue

to “operate anywhere international law allows.”

The U.S. considers Taiwan’s status unsettled but adheres to the “One China” policy, acknowledging that Beijing asserts sovereignty over Taiwan.

This year, the U.S. markedly increased the number of trips its vessels make through the Taiwan Strait. It has sent a ship through the strait once a month from January through March and again in May, June, July, September and now November.

Last year, just two Navy vessels sailed through the strait. Prior to July 2018, a year had passed without a U.S. transit there.

In July, China’s State Council Information Office, in a defense white paper, said U.S. passage through waters China claims are “wrong practices and provocative activities.”

It also said China would “make no promise to renounce the use of force” against those who try separating Taiwan from the Chinese mainland. Beijing considers reunification a top national priority. The U.S. has not taken a stance on the separation.

Gen. Li Zuocheng, chief of the Chinese military’s Joint Staff Department, during a January meeting with former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson warned that “if anyone wants to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will safeguard the national unity at all costs, so as to protect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” according to the South China Morning Post.

Richardson later told reporters in Tokyo he assured Li that the U.S. was “committed to the One China policy with respect to Taiwan.”

## USS Truman repairs completed after carrier’s electrical malfunction

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The repairs to the USS Harry S. Truman are completed, nearly three months after the aircraft carrier returned to Norfolk, Va., for an electrical malfunction, the Navy announced Tuesday.

The repairs delayed the Truman from taking part in a planned deployment in September, according to USNI News.

During a predeployment exercise in late August, the Truman experienced the electrical malfunction, forcing the ship to return to Norfolk, USNI News reported at the time.

Damaged components were replaced and tested to make certain there were no additional issues, according to the Navy. They also determined the problem was limited to the Truman and no other Nimitz-class ship.

While the Truman was undergoing repairs, its escort

ships, which include destroyers, deployed in September without the aircraft carrier. Those ships are now escorting the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, according to USNI News. The Lincoln had its own deployment extended for an unknown length of time because the Truman was not available to replace it, The Virginian-Pilot reported last month.

The Lincoln, which had been making its way across the world toward its new homeport in San Diego, has been in the Middle East since May, when U.S. Central Command requested the aircraft carrier deploy to the region early due to rising tensions with Iran.

Now that the Truman is repaired, “every effort is being made to make the carrier, air wing and sailors operationally ready to deploy,” the Navy said in its statement. The service did not say how soon the ship would deploy.

## Coast Guard to name cutters after reservists

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Two Sentinel-class fast-response cutters will be named for Coast Guard veterans who lost their lives as first responders in New York City on 9/11, the service announced recently.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Vincent Danz was a New York City police officer with the Emergency Services Unit in the Bronx, and Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Palazzo was a New York City firefighter for Rescue 5 on Staten Island when two planes struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

Danz and Palazzo, both Coast Guard reservists, were killed aiding victims at the scene.

“These cutters and their crews will sail into storms when others turn and flee, and like their namesakes, they will put service before self so others may live,” Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schul-

tz said during a ceremony Tuesday in lower Manhattan, according to WABC-TV New York.

The Coast Guard first announced Oct. 23 that Danz, Palazzo and eight other “Coast Guard heroes” will have ships named for them in coming years. The other eight honorees include Coast Guard legends, pioneers of gender and racial equality and heroes of World War II.

The cutters are slated to be delivered starting in 2023, according to a Defense Department statement.

The Sentinel-class fast-response cutters make up the backbone of the Coast Guard’s coastal patrol fleet. They are responsible for drug and migrant interdiction, patrolling and protecting ports, waterways and coastal security, fishery patrols, search and rescue and national defense. The ships are to be 154-foot-long, with crews of 24, Newsday reported, citing Coast Guard officials.



## Kabul jolted by bombing that kills 12

BY J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Twelve people were killed and at least 20 wounded Wednesday when a car bomb exploded in the north of Kabul, shattering weeks of relative calm in the Afghan capital, officials said.

The attack at 7:25 a.m. occurred near an Interior Ministry building, not far from the city's airport, said Interior Ministry deputy spokeswoman Marwa Amini.

NATO forces and the Air Force's 438th Air Expeditionary Wing are housed in the airport, but a Resolute Support spokesman said no service members were killed or wounded in the blast.

Three children were killed, Amini said. Four foreign employees of Canadian private security firm GardaWorld were among the injured, she said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which came a day after President Ashraf Ghani announced that the Afghan government would free three high-level Taliban leaders in exchange for the release of two professors from the American University of Afghanistan, who have been held captive by the Taliban since 2016.

# Study: Post-9/11 wars have cost US taxpayers \$6.4T

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — American taxpayers have spent \$6.4 trillion in nearly two decades of post-9/11 wars, which have killed about 800,000 people worldwide, the Cost of Wars Project announced Wednesday.

The numbers reflect the toll of American combat and other military operations across 80 nations since al-Qaida operatives attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington in 2001, launching the United States into its longest-ever wars aimed at stamping out terrorism worldwide.

The annual spending estimates released Wednesday show a general decline in war costs in 2019 as U.S. troops face less combat in major war zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Still, the estimated price tag for those wars increased \$500 billion since November 2018, and it has doubled since the Cost of Wars Project — a product of Brown University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs and Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee Center — first looked at cumulative wartime costs in

2011.

Sen. Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, praised the workers involved in the project — some 35 scholars, legal experts, human rights practitioners and physicians.

"The budget of the Pentagon is difficult to weed through is an understatement," Reed said. "My hope is that this report will continue to inform, educate and serve as a resource as we consider these wars going forward ... to give us a better sense of the costs of wars not in a snapshot, but the long-term costs."

The actual monetary and human costs of these wars is difficult to discern, said Neta Crawford, the report's author and a Boston University political science professor, who blasted the lack of budget transparency of federal institutions including the Pentagon and departments of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

She argued Wednesday that without proper accounting, the American public cannot shape informed opinions on the courses of these wars, which are generally viewed as "wind-

ing down" but continue to cost thousands of lives in 2019.

The Pentagon's share of the spending includes the nearly \$2 trillion since 2001 in overseas contingency operations funds — the wartime spending coffers used to fund most operations in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The Defense Department has added more than \$900 billion to its base budgets since those operations began, which it likely would not have needed in peacetime, Crawford said.

But the project's cost estimates consider not only Pentagon wartime spending, but also about \$1 trillion in spending on homeland anti-terrorism measures, \$131 billion for State Department wartime spending, \$437 billion for veterans care through fiscal year 2020 and \$925 billion of interest payments that the U.S. will pay on money borrowed to fund those operations.

It also includes more than \$1 trillion in future spending on medical care through fiscal year 2059 for the men and women who have fought these wars, which is anticipated to grow further, even if the wars were to end in the next year.

## Fort Meade families sue over mold, other housing issues

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Ten military families filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the company responsible for on-base housing at Fort Meade, Md., because they were provided mold-infested residences and offered insufficient remediation efforts, according to court documents.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for Maryland against Corvias, the private property management company responsible for housing at Fort Meade, and its subsidiary

Meade Communities, states maintenance requests went ignored or received substandard responses that did not fix the underlying issues in the homes.

The problems cited in the lawsuit filed by the Fort Meade families are similar to complaints raised in another lawsuit filed two weeks ago by eight families living in base housing on an Air Force installation in Texas managed by Hunt Military Communities. In September, a San Diego jury awarded \$2 million to a Marine Corps family for mold problems in family housing managed by Lin-

coln Military Housing, another of the 14 private companies that manages base housing.

Another Marine Corps family also received \$350,000 in a lawsuit against Lincoln in Virginia in 2016, though it took more than five years to conclude the case.

The 14-count complaint filed Tuesday seeks damages "in an amount to be proven at trial" from Corvias to cover expenses related to economic harm, medical expenses and mental anguish of the 10 Fort Meade families named in the suit, as well as a classwide injunction

requiring Corvias to arrange for independent certification of safe housing and prohibiting the company from receiving any service members' housing allowance for a property that has not been certified.

Corvias spokeswoman Kelly M. Douglas said Tuesday that the company is aware of the lawsuit.

"[The lawsuit] does not reflect the significant resources, attention and rigor that has been brought to assuring quality resident housing," she said.

# Pentagon: F-35 falls short in 5 key metrics

*Bloomberg*

The Pentagon's chief weapons tester said the next-generation F-35 jet continues to fall short of full combat readiness targets and, despite some progress on reliability issues, all three versions of the fighter are breaking down "more often than planned."

None of the Air Force, Marines and Navy variants of the Lockheed Martin fighter are meeting their five key "reliability or maintainability metrics," Robert Behler, the Pentagon's director of operational testing, said in prepared remarks Wednesday before two House Armed Services Committee panels.

The House subcommittees are reviewing the \$428 billion program's status and progress recovering from years of cost overruns and production delays.

"The operational suitability of the F-35 fleet remains at a level below service expectations," Behler said in the prepared remarks. "In short, for all variants, aircraft are breaking down more often than planned and taking longer to fix."

His statement is a reality check just weeks after the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin announced that they finalized the largest contract in the program's history, a deal valued at \$34 billion for 478 additional aircraft. About \$27 billion worth of F-35s have already been placed on contract even though the program hasn't completed all its combat testing and struggles with reliability.

The program continues in its most rigorous phase of combat testing, a stage that will stretch into next year. So far, 458

jets have been fielded out of about 3,500 planned purchases by U.S. and allies from Australia to Poland. Pentagon approval for full-rate production, delayed from December, looms for 2020.

Even with that 2020 target approaching, analysis to date shows that neither the Marine Corps nor Navy F-35 models are currently "on track" to meet their reliability metrics even as they log more hours, according to the latest assessment.

Among the key lagging metrics cited by Behler are "mean flight hours between critical failure" — a data point that refers to the time between failures that result in the loss of capability to perform a mission-critical task, or mean time between part removals for replacement from the supply chain.

## Teen with damaged lungs from vaping has double transplant

*The Washington Post*

Doctors in Michigan said Tuesday they had performed what they believe is the first double lung transplant on a patient whose lungs were damaged from vaping, highlighting the extreme steps medical experts are taking as they confront a nationwide rash of vaping-related illnesses.

The medical team from Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital said the patient, a 17-year-old

male, underwent the roughly six-hour transplant surgery on Oct. 15. He spent a month on a life-support machine after suffering "complete lung failure" and would have faced "certain death" without the operation, according to the doctors.

The teen's family described him as an athlete who was in perfect health before he was admitted to the hospital in early September with what appeared to be pneumonia. Within weeks, his condition had become so

dire that he shot to the top of a national transplant list, where most patients spend months waiting for a donor.

Surgeons said they were aghast when they first examined him.

"What I saw in his lungs was nothing that I've ever seen before, and I've been doing lung transplants for 20 years," Dr. Hassan Nemeh, the hospital's surgical director of thoracic organ transplant, said in a Tuesday news conference.

"There was an enormous amount of inflammation and scarring in addition to multiple spots of dead tissue. And the lung itself was so firm and scarred, literally we had to deliver it out of the chest," he said. "This is an evil that I haven't faced before."

The extraordinary operation underscored the severity of the public health crisis that has unfolded across the country as vaping products have surged in popularity.

## Venice sees worst flooding in more than 50 years

*Associated Press*

VENICE, Italy — The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years prompted calls Wednesday to better protect the historic city from rising sea levels as officials calculated hundreds of millions of euros in damage.

The water reached 6.14 feet above sea level Tuesday, the second-highest level ever recorded in the city and just 2.75 inches lower than in the historic 1966 flood. Another wave of exceptionally high water followed Wednesday.

"Venice is on its knees,"

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter. "St. Mark's Basilica has sustained serious damage, like the entire city and its islands."

One death was blamed on the flooding on the barrier island of Pellestrina. A man in his 70s was apparently electrocuted when he tried to start a pump in his dwelling, said Danny Carrella, an official on the island of 3,500 inhabitants.

In Venice, the crypt beneath St. Mark's Basilica was inundated for only the second time in its history as water entered through the windows and past all protections. Damage was

also reported at the Ca' Pesaro modern art gallery, where a short circuit set off a fire, and at La Fenice theater, where authorities turned off electricity as a precaution after the control room was flooded.

Tourists floated suitcases through St. Mark's Square, where officials removed walkways to prevent them from floating away. The water was so high that nothing less than thigh-high boots afforded protection. Water poured through wooden boards that shop and hotel owners have previously placed in front of doors to hold back water during flood-

ing. Tourists staying on the ground floor of hotels were forced to move to upper floors overnight.

The flooding was caused by heavy rains coinciding with a full moon that brought high tides that were pushed into Venice by southerly winds. At the same time, rising sea levels because of climate change make the city built amid a system of canals even more vulnerable.

Brugnaro blamed climate change for the "dramatic situation" and called for a speedy completion of a long-delayed project to construct offshore barriers.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## \$140K in items stolen from mansion

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a group of burglars stole \$140,000 worth of luggage and jewelry from a shopping mall magnate's New York City mansion.

The Bronx home belongs to Don Ghermezian, the CEO of the company that runs Mall of America in Minnesota and the new American Dream complex in New Jersey.

The New York Police Department said a group of unidentified people broke into the house in the affluent Riverdale neighborhood through a rear window on a balcony.

Police released security camera footage showing four people were involved.

## 2 men running for vet suicide awareness

**MA** BOURNE — Two Massachusetts men embarked on a 500-mile run to raise awareness about veteran suicide.

Josh Milich and Brian Tjersland left Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne on Monday and will run to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Milich, who serves in the Coast Guard, and Tjersland are avid runners who have finished 100-mile races.

The men are aiming to raise \$100,000 for Mission 22, a non-profit organization that treats veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder. They hope to complete the journey in 11 days.

## Deer jumps through med center window

**TN** KNOXVILLE — Hospital officials said a

deer crashed through a window of a Tennessee medical center, alarming patients in the waiting room.

WATE-TV reported that three patients at Tennova's North Knoxville Medical Center had to be treated for minor injuries after the deer unexpectedly jumped through the lobby window.

The six-point buck left through the same window and was then struck and killed by a vehicle.

## 1 airlifted to hospital after alligator attack

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A person was airlifted to the hospital after an alligator attack near a wildlife reserve near Palm Beach County.

According to 12 News, Martin County Fire Rescue found the person in DuPuis Management Area, a reserve bridging southwestern Martin County and northwestern Palm Beach County.

At first, rescuers hadn't been able to locate the person after the initial call of an alligator attack came in. The person was taken to a hospital.

## Yule trees headed to troops overseas

**OH** COLUMBUS — Tree farmers in Ohio are joining forces with the state to send a little holiday cheer to the troops overseas.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Christmas Tree Association are partnering on an effort that will ship more than 100 Christmas trees to service members stationed overseas.

Growers will donate the trees and state inspectors will make sure they are free of pests and disease. Both groups will work

with volunteers to wrap, load and ship the trees at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Columbus.

Each shipment will also include decorations provided by schoolchildren, churches and veterans' groups.

## Man accused of stealing scrap metal

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Police in Kentucky arrested a man they say broke into 17 homes within a few miles of each other, stealing metal and parts to sell at local scrap yards.

News outlets reported David Lee Thurman, 48, pleaded not guilty during an arraignment in Louisville on 17 counts of second-degree burglary.

In court documents obtained by news outlets, Louisville police said Thurman admitted to investigators he entered multiple homes to steal copper, wiring and air-conditioning units then sell the items to Jefferson County scrap yards for cash.

## Homeless man hurt trying to stop robbery

**CA** LA HABRA — Police said a homeless man was stabbed when he tried to stop a robbery at a suburban Southern California doughnut shop.

The La Habra Police Department said officers responding to a robbery call found a stabbing victim in his 40s.

Police said the man had stepped in to help the owner of the Donuts & Deli Shop when he saw him struggling with two people making off with items from the store. The man, whose name was not released, was hospitalized in stable condition.

Officers, following the store owner's description, arrested two people a short time later.

## Suit against waiter over purse dropped

**NJ** DEMAREST — A New Jersey country club no longer intends to sue a waiter accused of spilling wine and ruining a woman's handbag that she claims is worth \$30,000.

In court documents, the Alpine Country Club's attorney dropped its cross-claim against the waiter. Kenneth Merber also questioned the authenticity and value of the bag.

Maryana Beyder said in a lawsuit filed Oct. 29 that she was dining at the country club in Demarest in September 2018 when a waiter spilled red wine on her rare Hermes handbag, ruining it.

Beyder's attorney, Alexandra Errico, told NorthJersey.com said she plans to file a defamation and libel lawsuit.

## Post office won't deliver to new building

**PA** STATE COLLEGE — A dispute between the U.S. Postal Service and the owners of a new apartment building has left more than 100 residents without mail delivery.

The post office won't deliver mail to individual residents of the Bellaire in State College because it considers the privately owned building to be a residence hall for Penn State students. The post office said the building owner is responsible for final delivery of student mail.

David Jones, project manager for the building's developers, said the post office had previously approved the building's mailboxes for delivery.

The building, which opened in August, houses students and nonstudents alike.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Evansville knocks off No. 1 Kentucky

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Evansville showed no fear of Kentucky or venerable Rupp Arena, where the Wildcats had been perfect at ruining visitors' dreams of pulling off the seemingly impossible.

Until Tuesday night.

Not only did the Purple Aces deal No. 1 Kentucky a stunning 67-64 upset, but they beat the bigger, stronger Wildcats at their own game. When it was over, players, coaches and their fans whooped it up in a corner of the famed court, making sure they savored every bit of a momentous victory.

"To be here is a dream come true," Evansville sophomore forward DeAndre Williams said. "We took advantage and

we made history."

Sam Cunliffe scored 17 points, including two free throws with 6.8 seconds remaining to silence Kentucky (2-1) and a crowd of 19,101 — most of whom had expected a routine nonconference victory from the Wildcats, who were 25-point favorites and had earned the top ranking Monday.

Those expectations never materialized as Evansville (2-0) controlled the younger Wildcats on both ends of the floor.

K.J. Riley added 18 points as the Purple Aces — coached by Walter McCarty, who won a national title with Kentucky in 1996 — pulled off the biggest upset in program history with their first victory over a No. 1 team in three tries.

Evansville led much of the

game and answered each Kentucky rally with clutch baskets to grab the lead and then maintain it for the season's biggest upset so far.

Kentucky had been 39-0 at home against unranked, non-conference opponents when ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll. Evansville, meanwhile, got its first-ever road win over an AP-ranked team.

"Walter and their team deserved to win," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "If we would have somehow pulled it out, it would have been, kind of wouldn't even have been fair because they fought us the whole game and they were the tougher team.

"They executed, they made shots and threes and free throws. My hat's off to them.

It's hard to do that in this building, but they were more ready to play. He had his team better prepared than I had my team."

Tyrese Maxey's layup with 8 seconds remaining got Kentucky within 65-64, but Cunliffe stepped to the line and calmly made both ends of the 1-and-1 as his teammates locked arms on the bench. The Purple Aces raised their hands and ran around a silent Rupp Arena after the final horn as the Wildcats slowly walked off.

Immanuel Quickley led Kentucky with 16 points, and Maxey scored 15.

Cunliffe, a redshirt junior guard who played at Arizona State and Kansas, did most of his damage with 15 first-half points off the bench.

## Top 25 roundup

### No. 14 Oregon holds off Wiseman, 13th-ranked Memphis

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon weathered some early season mistakes in a competitive November matchup with Memphis.

Shakur Juiston had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and No. 14 Oregon overcame the lapses to hold off the 13th-ranked Tigers 82-74 in the inaugural Phil Knight Invitational on Tuesday night.

"As a team we knew that we were just making a lot of mistakes, with the ball and defense," Ducks guard Will Richardson said. "We never really hung our heads, we always kept our heads and kept fighting because we knew it was all things we could fix, and if we fixed those things, we'd be right back in the game."

Payton Pritchard added 14 points and six assists as the Ducks collected their third straight win to open the season.

James Wiseman had 14 points and 12 rebounds as controver-

sy continued to swirl around the Tigers' 7-foot-1 freshman phenom. Memphis (2-1) was led by Lester Quinones with 16 points.

Wiseman played sparingly in the first half after collecting two quick fouls.

Memphis issued a statement on Friday saying Wiseman, the nation's top-rated recruit and likely a first-round NBA Draft pick next year, would miss games while the university worked to restore his eligibility.

But the school also said it supports Wiseman challenging the NCAA and has let him play under a temporary restraining order obtained by his attorney.

**No. 2 Duke 105, Central Arkansas 54:** Freshman Matthew Hurt scored 19 points to help the host Blue Devils beat the Bears.

Fellow freshman Vernon Carey Jr. added season highs of 17 points and 10 rebounds for Duke, which played much of the night without starting point guard Tre Jones after he was

shaken up during a first-half collision.

**No. 8 Gonzaga 97, North Dakota 66:** Filip Petrushev had 19 points, 15 rebounds and four blocked shots as the host Bulldogs beat the Fighting Hawks.

Corey Kispert scored 20 points and Anton Watson added 15 for Gonzaga (3-0), which has romped to victory in all three games. Six Bulldogs scored in double figures.

**No. 17 Utah State 97, Denver 56:** Brock Miller scored a career-high 27 points, and the host Aggies cruised past the Pioneers.

Alphonso Anderson added 15 points and Sam Merrill had 14.

**No. 20 Washington 56, Mount St. Mary's 46:** Isaiah Stewart scored 16 points and blocked five shots, Nahziah Carter scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and the host Huskies (2-0) overcame an awful first half offensively to pull away from the Mountaineers.

Stewart was again a force on

the interior as the freshman made seven of 10 shots, mostly from close range, and was imposing defensively.

**No. 21 Xavier 63, Missouri 58 (OT):** Naji Marshall hit a three-pointer that tied it in regulation and made a pair of free throws in overtime as the host Musketeers overcame poor outside shooting and rallied past the Tigers.

Xavier (3-0) let a 15-point lead slip away because it couldn't hit an outside shot, going only 3-for-21 from beyond the arc. Marshall's three-pointer — Xavier's only one in the second half — tied it 51-all with 27.1 seconds left. Marshall finished with 17 points and eight rebounds.

**No. 22 Auburn 70, South Alabama 69:** At Mobile, Ala., freshman Isaac Okoro made a layup with 2.9 seconds left to lift the Tigers past the Jaguars.

Samir Doughty twice rebounded missed three-pointers for Auburn (3-0), setting up the game-winning shot.



# Alabama drops to fifth in CFP rankings

Associated Press

Alabama is fifth in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, behind LSU, Ohio State, Clemson and Georgia, which took over the fourth spot in the selection committee's second top 25.

LSU replaced Ohio State as No. 1 on Tuesday night after the Tigers won at Alabama on Saturday. The Buckeyes were bumped to No. 2. Clemson moved up two spots to No. 3 after two teams ahead of the Tigers lost for the first time last week, including Alabama.

The Crimson Tide fell 46-41 to LSU and dropped two spots. Penn State, which had been No. 4, lost 31-26 at Minnesota and fell to ninth. The unbeaten Gophers climbed nine spots to eighth, the largest one-week jump in the six-year history of the College Football Playoff.

Georgia moved up two spots to give the Southeastern Conference two of the top four for the second straight week.

Selection committee chairman Rob Mullens, the Oregon athletic director, said Georgia's loss to South Carolina (4-6) was noted by the committee, but the Bulldogs' victories against No. 11 Florida and No. 16 Notre Dame pushed them past Alabama.

Oregon was sixth and fellow Pac-12 team Utah was seventh.

Oklahoma, the highest-ranked Big 12 team at No. 10, dropped a spot after a one-point victory against Iowa State. The Sooners face 13th-ranked Baylor on Saturday. The Bears are the lowest-ranked unbeaten team.

The highest-ranked Group of Five teams were 17th-ranked Cincinnati and 18th-ranked Memphis out of the American Athletic Conference. The highest-ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences receives an automatic bid to a New Year's Six bowl.

The final rankings and pairings for the College Football Playoff semifinal will be re-

vealed Dec. 8.

Alabama is the only team to make the playoff all five years. Can it get there again?

Barring a stunning November collapse by LSU, the Crimson Tide will not reach the SEC championship game. Looking back at the teams that already took that route might provide clues.

The Ohio State team that reached the playoff in 2016 had a three-point loss at Penn State that kept it out of the Big Ten title game. The Nittany Lions finished fifth in the committee's final rankings with an 11-2 record. The Buckeyes on selection Sunday owned victories against the committee's sixth- (Michigan), seventh- (Oklahoma) and eighth- (Wisconsin) ranked teams, two on the road. They were exactly the type of team the playoff architects had in mind when they determined a conference championship should not be a requirement to make the playoff.

Ohio State was the third seed

in those semifinals, so while there was some debate about whether it was fair to have Ohio State in over Penn State, the final choice for the selection committee was between Penn State and Washington, the 12-1 Pac-12 champion. The Huskies didn't have much of a nonconference résumé, but one loss was better than two and Washington got the nod.

That was also the story of the 2017 selection process. Alabama was the fourth choice that year despite getting squeezed out of the SEC championship game by West rival Auburn. The Crimson Tide finished 11-1 and on selection Sunday held victories against teams the committee ranked 17th (LSU) and 23rd (Mississippi State). Alabama got the nod over Ohio State because of what it didn't do: Lose twice and get blown out by an unranked team. The Buckeyes (11-2) had both of those marks on their résumé, and even though they won the Big Ten, it wasn't enough.

## Shildt, Baldelli selected MLB's Managers of the Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Shildt began his life in baseball at his mom's side, tagging along with her to work at a Double-A ballpark and picking up odd jobs around the clubhouse.

When Shildt was recognized Tuesday night for the career that has followed, the late Lib Shildt was the first thing on his mind.

"My mom was remarkable," he said.

Less than a week after his mother died, Shildt was honored for piloting the St. Louis Cardinals back into the playoffs, narrowly beating Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

Shildt earned the award in his first full season on the job, even though Counsell received more first-place votes (13-10) from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli won the AL prize in a tight finish over Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees. Both received 13 first-place votes, but Baldelli got more second-place nods (13-9). The 38-year-old is the youngest to win the award.

Shildt teared up upon learning he'd been chosen. The 51-year-old is the first manager of the year who never played pro ball, but he's been around the game since he was a child. His mom worked as an administrative assistant for the Charlotte O's in the Baltimore Orioles' system, and Shildt was a regular in the clubhouse.

"Appreciative of the time and love she and my dad invested in me," Shildt said.

Hospitalized for her final days, Shildt's mother repeatedly told her nurses how important it was that she live until Tuesday to find out if her son had won.

"She was emotional about knowing it was likely she wasn't going to be here," Shildt said. "I said, 'You know what? You're going to know before I am.'"

Shildt replaced Mike Matheny as Cardinals manager during the 2018 season, and under his steady guidance, St. Louis has been among baseball's best teams since. The club won 91 games and the NL Central crown this year, ending the franchise's three-year postseason drought. The Cardinals gave Shildt a contract extension through the 2022 season.

Atlanta's Brian Snitker finished third after winning the award last year. The Dodgers' Dave Roberts was fourth and Nationals manager Dave Martinez came in fifth. Washington turned a 19-31 start into a World Series championship, but voting for the award concluded before the postseason began.

Baldelli and Shildt are the

eighth and ninth managers to win this award in their first full seasons on the job.

Baldelli took over a team that won 78 games in 2018 and pushed them to 101 victories and an AL Central title. He worked tightly with Minnesota's analytics-focused front office — a shift from predecessor Paul Molitor, who won the award in 2017 — and oversaw a turnaround powered by the team's major league-record 307 home runs.

"There's really no playbook," Baldelli said. "You certainly take advantage of the resources around you, the people who you trust, you rely on them in a lot of ways. I did that in a lot of different ways."

The self-dubbed Bomb Squad thrived under Baldelli, whose big league playing career was cut short by a rare disorder that led to frequent fatigue and soft tissue injuries.

## NBA roundup

# Kuzma helps power Lakers past Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Kyle Kuzma was out on the floor in the crucial final minutes on Tuesday night when his teammates made the extra pass and found him at the three-point line. Both times, he never hesitated to take the shots that splashed through the net and pushed the Lakers to a 123-115 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Nobody looked happier than Anthony Davis and LeBron James. They'll take all the help they can get.

"Welcome back," Davis said they told Kuzma.

Davis had 24 points and 12 rebounds and Kuzma added a season-high 23 points on 9-for-16 shooting to push the Lakers (8-2) to their best 10-game start since 2010 and help them bounce back from a home loss to Toronto on Sunday.

James added 19 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds.

Phoenix (6-4) trailed for a big chunk of the fourth quarter but

pushed ahead 113-111 on Devin Booker's fastbreak layup with 3:29 left. The Lakers responded with three straight three-pointers — one from James and two more from Kuzma — to lead 120-113 and put the game out of reach.

Kuzma missed the first four games of the season this year because of an ankle injury he suffered during the summer while playing for USA basketball.

**Hawks 125, Nuggets 121:** Trae Young scored 15 of his season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter and added 11 assists to lead visiting Atlanta past Denver.

Young was 13-for-21 from the field and finished 8-for-13 on three-pointers.

**Pacers 111, Thunder 85:** T.J. Warren scored 11 of his 23 points in the third quarter to lead host Indiana past Oklahoma City.

Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, six rebounds and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis

had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the surging Pacers, who have won seven of eight, including four straight.

**76ers 98, Cavaliers 97:** Joel Embiid scored 27 points, including the go-ahead dunk with 13.2 seconds remaining, to lift host Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Josh Richardson added 17 points for Philadelphia, which won despite missing 30 of 38 three-point attempts.

**Heat 117, Pistons 108:** Jimmy Butler scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, added 13 assists and host Miami wasted most of what was a 29-point lead before hanging on to beat shorthanded Detroit.

Kendrick Nunn also had 20 points for Miami, while Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Heat. Goran Dragic also had 18 points.

**Bulls 120, Knicks 102:** Coby White made a franchise-record seven three-pointers in the fourth quarter, and host

Chicago pulled away from slumping New York.

White missed his first five shots from the field and began the final period with just four points. But the rookie guard put on a dazzling show down the stretch.

**Jazz 119, Nets 114:** Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and host Utah beat Brooklyn.

Utah went ahead for good after Gobert scored on back-to-back possessions in the final 90 seconds.

**Kings 107, Trail Blazers 99:** Bogdan Bogdanovic had 25 points and 10 assists, Nemanja Bjelica added 19 points and 12 rebounds and host Sacramento won its first game since losing leading scorer De'Aaron Fox to an ankle injury, beating slumping Portland.

Bjelica helped make up for the loss of Fox. He made eight of his 14 shots and set a season-high for rebounds in his first double-double of the season.

## NHL roundup

# Florida rallies from four down to beat Bruins in SO

Associated Press

BOSTON — Down four goals after two periods, Florida coach Joel Quenneville switched goalies and the Panthers responded with the biggest comeback in club history.

Mike Hoffman scored one of four Florida goals in the third period and added the winner in a shootout as the Panthers rallied from a four-goal deficit and beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 on Tuesday night.

"Obviously, you don't want to be down 4-0 at any point in the game — especially with only one period left," Hoffman said. "But the guys in here stuck together, dug deep and just tried to chip away."

The Panthers continued

chipping away and won a game they trailed by four goals for the first time since they joined the NHL as an expansion club in 1993-94.

Keith Yandle had a goal and two assists for Florida and Sam Montembeault didn't allow a goal after replacing Sergei Bobrovsky at the start of the third period.

Montembeault finished with 15 saves, six in overtime, and stopped Charlie McAvoy on Boston's last chance in the shootout.

**Canadiens 3, Blue Jack-ets 2 (SO):** Jonathan Drouin scored the shootout winner and host Montreal rallied to beat Columbus.

**Rangers 3, Penguins 2 (OT):**

Kaapo Kakko scored his second goal of the game 2:36 into overtime, giving host New York a victory over Pittsburgh.

**Avalanche 4, Jets 0:** Adam Werner made 40 saves in his NHL debut and Nathan MacKinnon finished with two goals and two assists as visiting Colorado extended its winning streak to three games.

**Coyotes 3, Blues 2 (SO):** Nick Schmaltz and Conor Garland scored in the shootout, and visiting Arizona snapped St. Louis' seven-game winning streak.

**Canucks 5, Predators 3:** Elias Pettersson scored two goals on his 21st birthday and host Vancouver snapped a four-game winless streak with a win over Nashville.

**Red Wings 4, Ducks 3 (OT):** Dylan Larkin scored the tying goal during a 6-on-3 advantage with 37 seconds left in regulation, and Dennis Cholowski scored with 2:56 on the clock in overtime to send visiting Detroit to its third straight victory.

**Sharks 6, Oilers 3:** Tomas Hertl scored and extended his point streak to four games on his 26th birthday, Evander Kane added his team-leading 11th goal of the season and host San Jose beat Edmonton.

**Kings 3, Wild 1:** Anze Kopitar extended his point streak to four games, Jonathan Quick made 27 saves and host Los Angeles snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota.