

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy says Gallagher review will proceed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy has been notified that the White House will not intervene to stop a disciplinary proceeding that could cost a SEAL his position in the elite unit, a senior Navy official said Sunday.

Although President Donald Trump had tweeted on Thursday that he would not let the Navy remove Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher from the SEALs, the Navy was given White House guidance on Friday that it can proceed as planned, the Navy official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

This would seem to have defused a conflict between the president and Navy leaders, although it remained possible that Trump could still use his authority as commander in chief to intervene in the volatile and politically charged Gallagher case, despite assurances received by the Navy.

Navy Secretary Richard

Spencer said Saturday at an international security forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that he did not consider a tweet by Trump an order and would need a formal order to stop the Navy review board, scheduled to begin Dec. 2, that would determine whether Gallagher is allowed to remain in the SEALs.

"I need a formal order to act," Spencer said. Of Trump's tweets, he said, "I don't interpret them as a formal order."

Trump tweeted Thursday that the Navy "will NOT be taking away Warfighter and Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher's Trident Pin," inserting himself into the ongoing legal review of the sailor's ability to hold onto the pin that designates him a SEAL.

The Navy on Wednesday had notified Gallagher that he will face the review board to determine if he should remain on the elite force.

Gallagher was acquitted of a murder charge in the stabbing death of an Islamic State

militant captive, but a military jury convicted him of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. He was demoted from chief petty officer to petty officer 1st class. Trump this month restored Gallagher's rank.

Spencer, speaking on the sidelines of the Halifax International Security Forum, said if the president requests the process to stop, the process stops.

"Good order and discipline is also obeying the orders of the president of the United States," he said.

Despite the differing views with the president over the appropriate handling of the case, Spencer told reporters that he has not threatened to resign. But he acknowledged that he serves at the pleasure of the president.

Gallagher's lawyers have accused the Navy of trying to remove the SEAL designation in retaliation for Trump's decision to restore his rank.

Gallagher filed a complaint

with the inspector general accusing Rear Adm. Collin Green, the Naval Special Warfare commander, of insubordination for defying Trump's actions.

Speaking Sunday on "Fox & Friends," Gallagher repeated his argument that the Navy was acting in retaliation. "They could have taken my Trident at any time they wanted," he said. "Now they're trying to take it after the president restored my rank."

Gallagher said he wanted to be allowed to retire on Nov. 30 "with all the honors that I've earned, get back to my family."

Green also notified three SEAL officers who oversaw Gallagher during the deployment — Lt. Cmdr. Robert Breisch, Lt. Jacob Portier and Lt. Thomas MacNeil — that they are also being reviewed, according to U.S. officials.

Removing their Trident pins means they will no longer be SEALs but could remain in the Navy.

## Navy warships sail twice through South China Sea

BY JOSEPH DITZLER  
AND CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. Navy twice over two days sent warships steaming into disputed areas claimed by China in the South China Sea, according to the 7th Fleet at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Both demonstrations, one each on Wednesday and Thursday, were meant to assert freedom of navigation, "consistent with international law," according to an email statement Friday from 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen.

On Thursday, the destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer cruised past the Paracel Islands, a region subject to competing claims by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The day before, the littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords steamed within 12 miles of Mischief Reef, a "low-tide" feature in the Spratly Islands, according to Mommsen's statement.

China, which took control of the atoll in the mid-1990s, improved the site and built underground ammunition storage, aircraft hangars, missile shel-

ters and radar and communication arrays, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The U.S. does not recognize China's claim to the reef. Taiwan and the Philippines also assert claims there.

"This freedom of navigation operation upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea," Mommsen said. "USS Gabrielle Giffords demonstrated that Mischief Reef, a low-tide elevation in its natural state, is not entitled to a territorial sea under international law."

The entire area, a busy

stretch of waterway for international commerce, is also fishing grounds and a potential source of gas and petroleum deposits.

Freedom-of-navigation operations are not the "end-all, be all" of maintaining open access to the South China Sea, but they "must be done," retired Rear Adm. Robert Girrier told an audience Nov. 18 at a defense conference in Tokyo.

"As painful or as provocative as it may seem, it's necessary to maintain the norm," said the former U.S. Pacific Fleet deputy commander and chief of staff.

# S. Korea opting to extend pact good news

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korea's last-minute decision to extend a U.S.-backed military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan was good news for Washington after a week of setbacks on the divided peninsula.

President Moon Jae-in's office announced the policy reversal Friday after a concerted push by the U.S. to save the General Security of Military Intelligence Agreement, or GSOMIA.

Seoul insisted it could change its mind at any time depending on the outcome of future nego-

tiations with Japan over trade and historical disputes.

The move lifted, for the time being, a major irritant in the relationship between South Korea and the U.S., which considers the security pact vital for monitoring the growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

However, the longtime allies still face a rare public dispute over defense cost-sharing and growing fears of a return to tensions with the North amid stalled talks aimed at persuading it to abandon its nuclear weapons.

The U.S. welcomed Seoul's decision not to terminate the GSOMIA, which had been due

to expire at midnight Friday.

"Pres. Moon & Korea made a wise & judicious decision that greatly benefits our alliances & bilateral cooperation," Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote on Twitter.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said South Korea had weighed the need for cooperation with the U.S. in reversing course.

The decision "buys more time" to settle the trade dispute with Japan, she said.

However, relations between the allies remain strained over President Donald Trump's de-

mands for a sharp increase in South Korea's contribution to offset the costs of stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops on the peninsula.

Last week, U.S. negotiators stormed out of a meeting with their South Korean counterparts to discuss the Special Measures Agreement, as the defense cost-sharing contract is known, in Seoul.

"Unfortunately, the proposals that were put forward by the Korean negotiating team were not responsive to our request for fair and equitable burden-sharing," lead American negotiator James DeHart said Tuesday.

## USAF: Restrictions on pilots' size 'artificial barrier'

BY JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force general in charge of pilot training says prospective aviators shouldn't be dissuaded from flying careers because they think they're too short or too tall.

Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, commander since June of the 19th Air Force Air Education and Training Command, said he believes the 5-foot-4 minimum height requirement is an artificial barrier to service.

For example, half of all women in the U.S. are shorter

than the Air Force minimum height, he said.

"We don't want to unnecessarily turn off half of half the U.S. population," Wills told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Nov. 14. "In the Air Force, there is a waiver for everything. And the science proves that when you have a group of people from diverse backgrounds, you get better results."

The Air Force has issued height waivers for years, but Wills is shining light on the process in hopes of attracting

more people interested in becoming pilots. The service is also checking to make sure that current standards are the right standards.

Since 2015, the Air Force has received 223 body measurement, or anthropometric, waiver requests and has approved 194, or 87% of them, according to Air Education and Training Command.

"Don't let some numbers on a website keep you from applying to the best Air Force in the world," Wills said. "We want to make sure we get as many qual-

ified applicants as we can."

In fact, an individual's cumulative measurements may override his or her actual height, he said. Two people who stand 5 feet, 2 inches may have different leg or arm measurements, for example.

"We measure all of these dimensions on each applicant who applies for a waiver," Wills said. "Then we use software to compare their dimensions with every cockpit in the Air Force, which have all been measured using laser telemetry, and we identify what they can fly."

## Combat controller awarded Silver Star for saving lives

*Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cody Smith was hit by enemy fire in October 2018 during an ambush by a 600-member Taliban force in Afghanistan.

The attack on his convoy of U.S. special operations forces and Afghan allies included close mortar fire and roads lined with improvised explo-

sive devices.

But his wounds didn't stop him from leaving cover to save the lives of his fellow soldiers or from assisting with civilians who were wounded or killed in the firefight.

The airman from Iowa, who is stationed at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, has been awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Oct. 14, 2018. He received the medal Friday

during a ceremony at Cannon.

Smith said he was just doing his job.

"It's unreal and humbling," Smith said during a phone interview last week. "Amongst my peers, I don't feel remarkable or special."

Smith is a combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, based at Cannon. He was deployed with a special operations forces team during

Operation Freedom's Sentinel in support of the Resolute Support Mission during Afghanistan's national parliamentary elections.

According to the Air Force Times, which named Smith the 2019 Airman of the Year, Smith took part in a series of battles over a two-week period during the operation, including an intense eight- to 10-hour firefight on Oct. 7, 2018.

# Lawmakers reach deal on spending

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers involved in budget negotiations reached a deal Saturday that takes a major step toward fully funding the government through the end of September, agreeing to budget levels for a wide range of government programs.

The House and Senate committees that negotiated the deal declined to release details on the agreement, and one of the most crucial issues appears to remain unresolved.

In setting the new pact, congressional leaders reached an agreement on spending levels for the Department of Homeland Security, but they did not agree on how much of that money should be diverted toward constructing a wall along the Mexico border. President Donald Trump has demanded \$5 billion for that project.

The agreement, though, does set spending levels for the 12 annual must-pass appropriations bills that fund everything from the Pentagon to the Department of Health and Human Services. Because such a deal had remained elusive, lawmakers passed a bill in recent days that temporarily extended these programs through Dec.

20, giving them more time to negotiate.

Negotiations focused on overall spending levels for agencies — not specific projects, and those details will still need to be worked out in December by congressional appropriators. Instead, negotiators settled on a top-line budget number for DHS. Congressional appropriators will still need to negotiate how the DHS money is allocated before it can be voted on by Congress next month.

Due to Democratic opposition to the wall, the DHS spending bill is unlikely to provide the full \$5 billion Trump has sought for wall construction.

The administration has made clear that if it doesn't get all the wall money it wants from Congress it will use executive authority to take money from other accounts.

The new deal, if it holds, would provide for passage of all 12 annual spending bills by Dec. 20, according to Democratic and Republican aides in the House and Senate. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to disclose details of the new agreement. The breakthrough came after months of on-again-off-again talks.

## Schiff: Dems to press ahead with report

*The Washington Post*

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said Sunday that his panel will press ahead with its impeachment report even though key witnesses have not testified, in the latest signal that Democrats are moving swiftly in their probe of President Donald Trump's alleged efforts to pressure Ukraine.

In an interview on CNN's "State of the Union," Schiff said the evidence against Trump is "already overwhelming," although he stopped short of saying whether he would support impeachment himself.

"Yes, we'd love to have these witnesses come in," Schiff said. "But we're not willing to simply allow them to wait us out — to stall this proceeding — when the facts are already overwhelming."

Democrats are seeking to prove Trump leveraged military assistance and an Oval Office meeting in exchange for investigations of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, and a debunked theory concerning purported Ukrainian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Several key figures, including acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo,

former national security adviser John Bolton and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, have declined to cooperate with the impeachment inquiry.

A federal judge is expected to rule Monday on whether former White House counsel Donald McGahn must testify under subpoena.

Some have argued that Democrats should litigate the matter in the courts to force more witnesses to testify. But Schiff said Sunday that time is of the essence and that Democrats will continue to investigate even after they have submitted their report to the House Judiciary Committee.

"We're going to continue our investigation. ... The investigation isn't going to end," he said, adding that "we may have other depositions and hearings to do."

He took particular aim at Bolton, arguing that the former national security adviser will have to explain why he chose to give his account of events "in a book" rather than show the "courage" that Fiona Hill, the former National Security Council Russia adviser, did in testifying before lawmakers last week.

Schiff declined to say how long it might take impeachment investigators to finish their report, saying only that "we'll take the time that's necessary."

## Ginsburg released from hospital after treatment

*From wire reports*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court says Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was released from a Baltimore hospital where she had been treated for a possible infection.

Ginsburg, 86, returned to her home in Washington, and is "doing well," court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said Sunday.

Ginsburg spent two nights at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She was taken there Friday after experiencing chills and fever.

The court says she received intravenous antibiotics and fluids and that her symp-

toms abated.

Ginsburg has had four occurrences of cancer, including two in the past year.

She had lung cancer surgery in December and received radiation treatment for a tumor on her pancreas in August.

She had a rare absence from a public session of the court in mid-November because of what the court said was a stomach bug.

She was back on the bench the next time the justices met.

Her latest hospital stay began Friday, after the justices met in private to discuss pending cases.

She was initially evaluated at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington before being transferred to Johns Hopkins for further evaluation and treatment of any possible infection.

Ginsburg has been on the court since 1993, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Only Justice Clarence Thomas has served longer among the current members of the court.

Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. said Ginsburg would participate in deciding cases by reading the briefs and transcripts of the oral arguments she missed.

# Bloomberg launches 2020 presidential bid

*The Washington Post*

Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg, one of the world's richest men, announced his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination Sunday by promising to "rebuild America" and defeat President Donald Trump.

The announcement, which Bloomberg telegraphed for weeks even after deciding earlier this year to not run, reflects his view that the current field of Democratic candidates is not well positioned to win in 2020.

Bloomberg has promised a disruptive campaign that could break spending records with a massive advertising buy aimed at states that vote in March and April.

"I believe my unique set of experiences in business, government and philanthropy will enable me to win and lead," Bloomberg said in a statement on his redesigned campaign website. "As a candidate, I'll rally a

broad and diverse coalition of Americans to win. And as president, I have the skills to fix what is broken in our great nation. And there is a lot broken."

In an accompanying video, Bloomberg offered a preview of what he will focus on in the race, including his philanthropic work fighting gun violence, closing coal-fired power plants and funding medical research. Without offering specifics, his announcement video says he will push for the wealthy to pay more in taxes and to guarantee health care to all Americans without removing private insurance from anyone who wants it.

His campaign has made more than \$30 million in television advertising reservations to help introduce him as a candidate. The ads will start Monday. He also has plans for what advisers call an "aggressive and robust digital strategy."

Bloomberg has also announced a \$100

million ad campaign to criticize Trump in key battleground states and a \$15 million voter registration effort in those same places. Those initial spending plans are already double the amount raised by the top fundraiser in the Democratic field, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., through September.

The initial Bloomberg ad campaign, in English and Spanish, will focus on his biography in an effort to introduce himself to voters.

Bloomberg does not plan to raise any money for his race, though his campaign signaled an aggressive effort to attract volunteers and build an email list of supporters. His campaign will have an online store of campaign merchandise.

One of the first products is a T-shirt with one of his favorite aphorisms, "In God we trust. Everyone else bring data."

## Boy tossed off 3rd floor of mall goes back to school

*The Washington Post*

The boy who was thrown off a third-floor balcony at the Mall of America in Minnesota earlier this year has returned to school.

The child, identified only as Landen, is walking "perfectly" after suffering from injuries that resulted from the incident in April, according to a GoFundMe page run by a family friend.

Noah Hanneman, the organizer of the page, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Landen, who was 5 years old at the time of the incident, went home in August with a limp and uneven legs from a broken femur and an open wound on his abdomen, according to the page.

The boy spent months in intensive care to recover from two broken arms, a broken leg, the removal of his spleen and procedures to remove fluid from his lungs and stomach, among other injuries, according to a family statement.

He is now walking without a

limp and able to blow kisses to his mother before heading off to school each day, an update on the GoFundMe page said.

The kindergartner tells people that he fell off a cliff, was caught by angels and that Jesus loves him, so he'll be fine, according to the site.

Since the GoFundMe account launched the day after Landen's attack, it has received more than \$1 million from well-wishers to cover his medical bills.

On April 12, Emmanuel Aranda arrived at the Mall of America "looking for someone to kill" and then threw Landen off a third-floor balcony, according to authorities.

Aranda pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree murder in May and was sentenced to 19 years in prison. At his trial, he did not make a statement on his behalf and did not appear to show remorse, according to a report by the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

In September, Aranda filed to appeal his case, without providing a reason, the newspaper reported.

## Small plane crashes into homes in Congo

*Associated Press*

GOMA, Congo — A small passenger plane carrying at least 17 passengers crashed shortly after takeoff Sunday in Congo's eastern city of Goma, killing at least 26 people, including people on the ground.

The 19-seater aircraft crashed into residential homes in the Mapendo district near Goma's airport in the North Kivu province shortly after "missing" its takeoff, according to provincial governor Nzanzu Kasivita Carly. Black smoke rose in the morning from the plane, whose wreckage could be seen amid destroyed homes as dozens of men tried to help with the rescue efforts. The smoke cleared as rescue workers carried bodies in stretchers and hundreds gathered at the scene.

The provisional death toll jumped to 26 dead later Sunday, including 17 passengers, two crew members and seven residents in Goma, the Ministry of Transportation said after collecting information from other

government departments.

The government extended its condolences to all the families of those killed.

Placide Kambale, a local pilot, said he took a taxi to the scene of the crash to help out. When he got there, the plane was on fire.

"I called other young people from the neighborhood. They helped me to try to remove those who still moved," he said. "We have managed to recover two that was quickly sent to the hospital," but then the fire expanded.

Joseph Makundi, coordinator of the North-Kivu civil protection, said that at least 25 people had been killed.

The Dornier 228-200 was owned by private carrier Busy Bee and was headed to Beni, about 220 miles north of Goma in the same province.

The U.N. mission in Congo said it sent an Emergency Crash and Rescue team with two fire engines to support Congolese authorities.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Dog bumps car into motion, gets joyride

**FL** PORT ST. LUCIE — Authorities said they responded to a rogue vehicle spinning in reverse around a suburban cul-de-sac with a lone occupant inside: a black Labrador.

News outlets reported residents called police Thursday after seeing the dog trapped and clambering around in the car as it spun in circles in a Port St. Lucie neighborhood.

Police said they think the dog's owner stepped away from the running car and that's when the pet knocked it into reverse.

Police stopped the joyride by punching a passcode into the driver's door.

## Police: Woman forced to drink toilet water

**MO** ST. PETERS — An eastern Missouri man is accused of holding his pregnant girlfriend captive, punching her and forcing her to drink toilet water and bleach.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Ronnie William Howard, 40, of St. Peters was charged with kidnapping, domestic assault and unlawful use of a weapon. He was jailed on \$300,000 bail.

Police said the assault took place Wednesday at the 20-year-old victim's apartment in St. Peters. She made a video call to a relative about the crime. The relative called the woman's mother, who called police.

The victim was treated at a hospital.

## Police: 'Alphonse Capone' theft suspect

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Police are looking for

Alphonse Capone. No, not the infamous Chicago gangster.

Providence police said a 19-year-old city man was robbed Wednesday of a \$415 pair of sneakers he was trying to sell to a man who used the name "Alphonse Capone" on Facebook.

Commander Thomas Verdi told The Providence Journal the victim posted the sneakers for sale on Facebook Marketplace and the pair arranged to meet.

Verdi said that after the victim handed over the sneakers in a box, "Capone" pulled a knife and took off. The victim chased him, but the thief turned around with the knife and told the man to get away.

## Police: Sitters duped into changing diapers

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Prosecutors have filed criminal charges against a Louisiana man they say pretended to be a disabled teen to dupe hired caregivers into changing his diapers.

News outlets reported that the prosecutors in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office are charging Rutledge Deas IV, 29, with four counts of human trafficking.

Authorities said he fraudulently portrayed himself as disabled to get the female caregivers to perform the tasks.

## Man arrested as drugs found in goat guts

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A man found with \$400,000 in illegal drugs hidden in spoiled goat intestines at an airport was arrested.

Cenen Placencia, 71, of Kodiak, was arrested Wednesday at Anchorage's international airport, authorities said.

Investigators with Alaska State Troopers searched a

large fish box the man had checked as luggage, according to an affidavit.

Inside the box was loosely wrapped frozen meat, with multiple small pieces of meat frozen together, according to the affidavit. Investigators smelled the odor of rotting meat as it thawed, and a police dog detected the presence of drugs, the affidavit said.

Investigators found packages wrapped in plastic that contained about 740 grams of heroin and 389 grams of methamphetamine.

## Groomer accused of mistreating dogs

**OH** ARCHBOLD — A dog groomer accused of strangling, shaking and hitting dogs at her business has been indicted on six fifth-degree felony counts of animal cruelty.

Court records show the charges against Theresa Taylor, of Bryan, are in connection with episodes over four days in August with various dogs at Theresa Taylor's Grooming in Archbold.

The charges came after a former employee spoke with police and provided surveillance footage that showed Taylor, 63, gripping and pulling dogs by their ears and the skins on their heads, The Blade in Toledo reported.

Taylor was freed on \$10,000 bond.

## Construction crew free donkey from sinkhole

**CA** PALM SPRINGS — Members of a construction crew dug a path to freedom for a donkey stuck in a sinkhole.

The Desert Sun reported Thursday the Riverside County Department of Animal Service-

es confirmed the animal was found in Reche Canyon north of Moreno Valley.

Agency spokesman John Welsh said a resident noticed the donkey's head and neck peeking from underground. Welsh said he believes the animal was grazing and walked over a spot of soil compromised by heavy rainfall Wednesday before falling into the crevice.

Welsh said a six-man crew from Temecula-based Inland Erosion Control Inc. was working nearby and went over.

Welsh said the crew widened the hole and made a makeshift exit ramp so the donkey could walk out.

Agency officials said the animal did not appear injured.

## Tow truck operator charged with assault

**NC** RALEIGH — A North Carolina tow truck operator shot, wounded and slashed a driver who objected to his attempt to haul away the man's vehicle while he was still in it, police said Friday.

The argument began around 4 a.m. at an apartment complex in Durham when Brandon Ayscue, 24, tried to tow the vehicle with the driver still inside, according to a Durham Police Department statement.

Police said the driver was slashed and shot in the chest during the struggle, and a woman who tried to intervene to help the driver was also cut on the hand.

The driver, a 45-year-old man, was hospitalized with serious wounds, said police spokeswoman Kammie Michael. Ayscue was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and second-degree kidnapping, among other counts.

From wire reports

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## Top 25 college football roundup

# No. 2 Ohio St. holds off No. 9 Penn St.

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — J.K. Dobbins rushed for 157 yards and two touchdowns and No. 2 Ohio State locked up the Big Ten East title Saturday, surviving its first real test of the season with a 28-17 victory over No. 9 Penn State.

The Buckeyes held on after Penn State (9-2, 7-2) took advantage of two second-half turnovers to climb back into the game in the third quarter after going down 21-0. This was a far different scenario for Ohio State, which blew out its first 10 opponents.

The Buckeyes (10-0, 8-0 Big Ten) were clinging to a 21-17 lead early in the fourth quarter when Justin Fields threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave to create some breathing room.

The Ohio State defense, with Chase Young back from a two-game suspension, then shut down two late Penn State drives on fourth down. The last drive included back-to-back sacks of backup quarterback Will Levis by Young and linebacker Baron Browning.

**No. 4 Georgia 19, No. 24 Texas A&M 13:** George Pickens scored Georgia's only touchdown, Rodrigo Blankenship booted four field goals and the defense stymied visiting Texas A&M.

The Bulldogs (10-1, 7-1 Southeastern Conference, No. 4 CFP) wrapped up their conference schedule and stayed on course to make a run at the College Football Playoff.

**Arizona State 31, No. 6 Oregon 28:** Freshman Jayden Daniels completed 22 of 32 passes for 408 yards and three touchdowns, and the host Sun Devils State intercepted two of Justin Herbert's passes in the fourth quarter.

Arizona State (6-5, 3-5 Pac-12) ended the Ducks' College Football Playoff hopes and their nine-game winning streak. The Sun Devils snapped a four-game losing streak with their first victory over a top-

five team since Oct. 14, 2017, against then No. 5 Washington.

**No. 1 LSU 56, Arkansas 20:** Joe Burrow passed for 327 yards and three touchdowns, Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for a career-high 188 yards and three TDs and the host Tigers clinched its first trip since to the Southeastern Conference championship game since 2011.

LSU (11-0, 7-0) can finish no worse than a tie for first with Alabama (10-1, 6-1) and owns the tiebreaker by virtue of the Tigers' 46-41 triumph in Tuscaloosa on Nov. 9.

**No. 5 Alabama 66, Western Carolina 3:** Mac Jones passed for 275 yards and three touchdowns in little more than a half and the host Crison Tide began life without Tua Tagovailoa with a romp.

With Tagovailoa watching much of the game from a cart behind the bench, Alabama (10-1) treated its injured quarterback to a one-sided show against the Catamounts (3-9). The Crimson Tide is ranked fifth in the College Football Playoff rankings and hoping to somehow make the field despite failing to win the SEC West.

**No. 7 Utah 35, Arizona 7:** Zack Moss ran for a season-high 203 yards and the Utes won on the road. Utah (10-1, 7-1 Pac-12, No. 7 CFP) has won seven straight games and is the lone Pac-12 team in serious contention for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

The Utes' defense was dominant again, holding an opponent to seven points or fewer for the fifth time in six games. Arizona managed just 196 total yards and a big chunk of those came in the fourth quarter when mostly backups were playing.

**No. 8 Oklahoma 28, TCU 24:** Jalen Hurts passed for two touchdowns and ran for two more and the host Sooners clinched a spot in the Big 12 championship game.

Hurts ran for 173 yards and passed for 145. He became the third Oklahoma quarterback to

rush for at least 1,000 yards in a season.

**No. 11 Minnesota 38, Northwestern 22:** Tanner Morgan led the visiting Gophers to scores on their first three possessions and finished with four touchdown passes.

**No. 12 Michigan 39, Indiana 14:** Shea Patterson threw five touchdown passes and Nico Collins scored a career-high three times for the visiting Wolverines.

**No. 13 Baylor 24, Texas 10:** Charlie Brewer accounted for 296 yards and two touchdowns and the Bears wrapped up a spot in the Big 12 championship game.

Baylor (10-1, 7-1 Big 12, No. 14 CFP) has its sixth 10-win season, and fifth since 2011.

**No. 14 Wisconsin 45, Purdue 24:** Jonathan Taylor ran for 222 yards — the 12th time he's had at least 200 in his career — and a touchdown for the host Badgers.

**No. 15 Notre Dame 40, Boston College 7:** Ian Book threw three touchdown passes and the host Irish corralled Boston College star running back AJ Dillon.

The fourth straight victory by Notre Dame (9-2, No. 15 CFP) completed their second straight unbeaten its (7-0) at Notre Dame Stadium.

**No. 16 Auburn 52, Samford 0:** The Tigers held the visiting Bulldogs to 114 yards and forced four turnovers, Ja'Tarvious Whitlow scored twice and Auburn tuned up for the Iron Bowl against Alabama with a rain-drenched rout.

**No. 17 Cincinnati 15, Temple 13:** Michael Warren II ran 13 yards for a touchdown on a cold, raw night in Cincinnati, Coby Bryant went 98 yards with a blocked extra-point attempt and the Bearcats clinched a spot in the American Athletic title game. The Bearcats (10-1, 7-0) secured the AAC East title.

**No. 18 Memphis 49, South Florida 10:** Brady White threw for 222 yards and two touch-

downs and the visiting Tigers shrugged off two early turnovers to beat the Bulls and retain a share of first place in the American Athletic Conference West Division.

Memphis (10-1, 6-1, No. 18 CFP) has won five straight since its only loss, at Temple, and it can clinch a third straight appearance in the AAC championship game with a home win over No. 17 Cincinnati next week.

**No. 19 Iowa 19, Illinois 10:** Nate Stanley threw for 308 yards and Keith Duncan kicked four field goals to set a Big Ten-season mark in the host Hawkeyes' victory over the Illini.

**Navy 35, No. 21 SMU 28:** Navy quarterback Malcolm Perry generated 357 yards of total offense and scored the winning touchdown in a win at home.

Perry found a seam and scampered 70 yards with just over 6 minutes remaining to break a tie. He finished with 195 yards on 38 carries with two touchdowns on the ground and completed 9 of 15 passes for 162 yards and another score.

The Midshipmen (8-2, 6-1) still have a shot at the West Division crown of the American Athletic Conference should No. 18 Memphis falter down the stretch.

**No. 22 Oklahoma State 20, West Virginia 12:** Dru Brown threw two touchdown passes in his first start, Chuba Hubbard surpassed 100 yards rushing for the ninth consecutive game and the Cowboys won on the road.

**No. 23 Appalachian State 35, Texas State 13:** Darrynton Evans ran for 154 yards and three second-half touchdowns to lead the host Mountaineers.

**No. 25 Virginia Tech 28, Pittsburgh 0:** Hendon Hooker threw for 153 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Hokies to a home win.

## NBA roundup

## LeBron helps Lakers win 7th straight

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — LeBron James scored on a driving layup with 1:30 left to put Los Angeles ahead to stay as the Lakers held off the Memphis Grizzlies 109-108 Saturday night for their seventh straight victory.

The Grizzlies had a final chance with the ball and 1.3 seconds left. Jaren Jackson Jr. went sprawling trying to corral Kyle Anderson's pass inbound-ing the ball.

James finished with 30 points. Anthony Davis added 22, Rajon Rondo had 14, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 and Dwight Howard had 10.

Rookie Ja Morant led Memphis with 26 points. Jae Crowder added 21, Jackson finished with 20, Dillon Brooks had 12 and Anderson scored 10.

**Bucks 104, Pistons 90:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 10 rebounds for his

16th consecutive double-double to help host Milwaukee win its seventh straight victory.

Wesley Mathews added 13 points and Eric Bledsoe scored 11 for the Bucks, who improved their record to an Eastern Conference best 13-3.

Derrick Rose had 20 points, Langston Galloway had 13, and Andre Drummond had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit, which played without Blake Griffin.

Antetokounmpo is the first player to open the season with 16 consecutive double-doubles since Moses Malone did it with the Houston Rockets in 1981.

**76ers 113, Heat 86:** Josh Richardson scored 32 points and Philadelphia led from start to finish over Jimmy Butler and Miami. Joel Embiid added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers, who won their fourth straight overall while improving to 7-0 at home.

Butler struggled to 11 points, missing nine of 13 field goal attempts in his return to Philadelphia. He sat out the fourth quarter.

**Suns 100, Timberwolves 98:** Devin Booker had 35 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and Phoenix won at Minnesota in a matchup of short-handed teams.

Kelly Oubre Jr. added 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who had lost three in a row.

**Pacers 111, Magic 106:** Domantas Sabonis scored 25 points, Aaron Holiday hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 8.7 seconds left, and host Indiana beat Orlando.

Holiday, who finished with 13 points, had missed three other attempts from beyond the arc before breaking a 106-all tie.

**Bulls 116, Hornets 115:** Zach LaVine had a career-high 49 points, including the win-

ning three-pointer with 0.8 seconds left to give Chicago the win at Charlotte.

**Spurs 111, Knicks 104:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points and San Antonio snapped its longest losing streak under coach Gregg Popovich at eight games by winning at New York.

**Raptors 119, Hawks 116:** Pascal Siakam scored 34 points and Fred VanVleet had 25, helping Toronto win at Atlanta.

**Cavs 110, Trail Blazers 104:** Jordan Clarkson made all six of his three-point attempts and scored 28 points, and host Cleveland ended a six-game losing streak by beating Portland.

**Jazz 128, Pelicans 120:** Donovan Mitchell scored a season-high 37 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 28 to help host Utah overcome the absence of Rudy Gobert.

## NHL roundup

## Couture's OT goal sends Sharks past Islanders

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Logan Couture scored in overtime for the second straight game, giving the San Jose Sharks a 2-1 win over the streaking New York Islanders on Saturday night.

Couture scored at 2:30 of the extra period to lead the Sharks to their eighth win in nine games.

Marcus Sorensen also scored and Martin Jones stopped 27 shots for San Jose. The Sharks tied an NHL record with their 43rd straight win in a game it allowed two goals or fewer. The streak, which matched the mark set by Pittsburgh from Feb. 21, 2012, to Oct. 17 2013, dates back to March 10, 2018.

**Maple Leafs 5, Avalanche 3:** Tyson Barrie had a goal and an

assist in his return to Colorado, leading Toronto to its second straight win under new coach Sheldon Keefe.

**Hurricanes 4, Panthers 2:** Dougie Hamilton and Brett Pesce scored to help host Carolina to the victory.

Hamilton also assisted on Martin Necas' goal.

**Lightning 6, Ducks 2:** Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 36 shots at home and set a franchise record with his 132nd victory.

Brayden Point had two goals, and Nikita Kucherov, Pat Maroon, Anthony Cirelli and Ondrej Palat also scored for the Lightning, who have won five of their last seven games.

**Canucks 2, Capitals 1 (SO):** Jacob Markstrom stopped 32 shots and then denied seven

more during an extended shootout, helping Vancouver to the road win.

**Coyotes 3, Kings 2:** Arizona's Lawson Crouse scored the go-ahead goal before a scary fall that forced him to leave the game at Los Angeles.

**Rangers 6, Canadiens 5:** Jacob Trouba scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and New York overcame a four-goal deficit to win at Montreal.

**Bruins 5, Wild 4 (OT):** Torey Krug scored 2:41 into overtime after host Boston's David Krejci had two goals in the final two minutes of regulation.

**Jets 4, Blue Jackets 3:** Andrew Copp scored with 1:54 left to lift host Winnipeg to the win.

**Flames 3, Flyers 2 (SO):** Matthew Tkachuk scored the only goal in the shootout, and

Calgary won at Philadelphia to stop a six-game slide.

**Stars 2, Blackhawks 1 (SO):** Joe Pavelski and Tyler Seguin scored in a shootout to lift host Dallas to its sixth consecutive victory.

**Oilers 4, Golden Knights 2:** Connor McDavid scored two goals, Leon Draisaitl had three assists, and Edmonton won at Vegas.

**Predators 4, Blues 2:** Filip Forsberg scored 20 seconds into the game and Juuse Saros made 24 saves to help Nashville win at St. Louis..

**Devils 5, Red Wings 1:** Will Butcher scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and host New Jersey handed Detroit its fifth straight loss.

# Wilder's big right hand stops Ortiz

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — One rematch down, one to go for Deontay Wilder

Wilder landed a vicious right hand to stop Luis Ortiz in the seventh round Saturday night to retain his heavyweight title and set up a rematch with Tyson Fury in February.

Wilder's punch came out of nowhere in a fight he had done little in up until that time. It landed flush on the face of Ortiz, who crumpled to the canvas and was unable to get up at the count of 10.

The sudden ending came after a lackluster first six rounds in which Wilder did little. But the devastating power that has gotten him knockouts in all but two of his fights came through again.

"I finally found my measurement and I took the shot," Wilder said. "I had to calculate certain moves."

The fight was a rematch of a bout last year when Wilder stopped Ortiz in the 10th round. It set up a Feb. 23 fight against Fury that has already been signed.

Wilder fought cautiously for the first six rounds, finding himself in the hole on the cards of the three ringside judges. Two gave him just one of the six, while a third gave him two rounds.

Wilder began to pick up the pace in the seventh round, then caught Ortiz with the right hand that brought the fight to an end at 2:51 of the round.

"My intellect is very high in the ring and no one gives me credit," Wilder said. "I think I buzzed him with a left hook earlier in the round and I took it from there."

Ortiz (31-2) didn't protest the ending, but said he thought he beat the count.

"I was clearheaded when I hit the canvas" he said. "When I heard the referee say seven, I was trying to get up but I guess the count went a little quicker than I thought."

Wilder (42-0-1, 41 knockouts) displayed the massive power that has made him a force in the heavyweight division, but won no style points in winning the fight. He did little until the big punch that ended the fight, wary of the power that Ortiz showed when he hurt him in their first fight in March 2018.

Wilder made at least \$3 million for the fight, but figures to make much more when he and Fury meet in a rematch of their fight a year ago that ended in a disputed draw. His win helped clarify the top of the heavyweight division, though, which will be sorted out further when Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz Jr. meet Dec. 7 in their title rematch in Saudi Arabia.

## Top 25 roundup

# No. 16 Memphis survives Mississippi State's late run

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Precious Achiuwa scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as 16th-ranked Memphis held off Mississippi 87-86 on Saturday for its third consecutive victory without heralded freshman center James Wiseman.

D.J. Jeffries dunked with a second left for Memphis, then Blake Hinson beat the buzzer with a three for the final margin as the Tigers avoided blowing a 16-point lead.

Memphis (5-1) snapped a three-game streak by Ole Miss (4-1) in this series.

Penny Hardaway has the youngest team in the country, according to KenPom.com. He still has the No. 1 recruiting class even with Wiseman sitting out an NCAA-mandated 12-game suspension for what college sports' governing body ruled were impermissible benefits from 2017 when the Memphis coach was overseeing a local high school team.

Jeffries finished with 23 points for Memphis.

Breein Tyree led Ole Miss with 24 points.

**No. 7 Virginia 58, UMass 46:** Braxton Key scored 16 points and the Cavaliers used stifling defense to hand the Minutemen their first loss of the season in the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament in Uncasville, Conn.

Kihei Clark added 14 points and Jay Huff chipped in with 10 points and eight rebounds for Virginia (5-0), which limited UMass to just 15 baskets and 30% shooting. Carl Pierre had 14 points for the Minutemen (5-1).

**No. 8 Gonzaga 77, Cal State Bakersfield 49:** Filip Petrushev scored 15 points, Killian Tillie added 13, and the Zags pounded the visiting Roadrunners.

Drew Timme had 11 and Admon Gilder and Joel Ayayi each added 10 for Gonzaga (6-0), which has won 26 straight regular season games, the longest streak in the nation.

Justin Elder-Davis scored 11 points for Cal State Bakersfield (2-4), which has never beaten a ranked opponent. The Roadrunners were undone by 40% shooting and 27 turnovers.

The Zags shot just 44.9%, but made 25 of 39 free throws and committed just 10 turnovers.

## No. 13 Seton Hall 87, Florida A&M 51

Myles Powell scored 23 points and Jared Rhoden had 10 points and 12 rebounds to lead the host Pirates to a romp over the winless Rattlers.

Florida A&M (0-5) would jump out 2-0 on a jumper by D.J. Jones, but that would be the Rattlers' only lead. Seton Hall (4-1) led by 18 before taking a 36-24 halftime lead.

Rod Melton Jr. led Florida A&M with 12 points while M.J. Randolph had 11 points and nine rebounds. Quincy McKnight had 14 points and five assists for the Pirates.

The Rattlers pulled within single digits several times in the second half. First, after Randolph's fastbreak layup off a steal by Melton Jr. to make it 40-31 with 17:27 left. Florida A&M would have another steal a couple of possessions later when Sandro Mamukelashvili turned it over to Melton Jr., whose dunk off a break drew the Rattlers to 43-35.

## No. 21 VCU 78, Florida Gulf Coast 48:

Marcus Evans scored 16 first-half points and the host Rams bookended the first half with big runs in a victory over the Eagles.

Evans' total in the opening 20 minutes matched what FGCU managed as a team as VCU (5-0) rolled to a 43-16 lead. The Rams scored 16 of the first 18 points and, already leading 26-16, closed the half by holding the Eagles scoreless for nearly 16 minutes and running off 17 more in succession.

Caleb Catto scored 14 points for FGCU (1-5). The Eagles committed 27 turnovers that VCU turned into 37 points.

The Rams took their largest lead at 63-28 with just over 12 minutes to play before FGCU made it respectable with a 17-3 run over the next seven minutes.

**Binghamton 88, Army 73:** Sam Sessoms and Pierre Sarr scored 16 points apiece as the host Bearcats got past the Black Knights.

Sarr also had 13 rebounds and three blocks. Brenton Mills added 15 points and Yarden Willis had 14 points for Binghamton (3-3).

Matt Wilson had 22 points and nine rebounds for Army (2-3). Tommy Funk added 20 points and six assists. Lonnie Grayson had 11 points.

Army plays Marist on the road next Saturday.