

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, November 28, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Spencer criticizes Trump over SEAL case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Richard Spencer, who was fired as Navy secretary for his handling of a SEAL war crimes case championed by President Donald Trump, wrote that the commander in chief “has very little understanding” of how the American military works.

The extraordinary accusation came in an opinion piece published on The Washington Post’s website Wednesday evening, three days after he was fired. Spencer called Trump’s intervention in the case of Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher “shocking” and unprecedented.

Spencer was fired Sunday by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for working a private deal with the White House to ensure that Gallagher be allowed to retire without losing his SEAL status.

In his Post article, Spencer acknowledged his mistake but also asserted that Trump’s actions were detrimental to the military.

Spencer said Trump had involved himself in the Gallagher case “almost from the start,” by telephoning Spencer even before the SEAL’s court-martial started to ask that Gallagher be moved out of confinement at a Navy brig. Spencer said he re-

sisted Trump because the presiding judge had decided that confinement was important. Nonetheless, Trump ordered Spencer to transfer Gallagher from the brig to the equivalent of an enlisted barracks.

Spencer said he believes Trump’s interest in the case stemmed partly from the way Gallagher’s defense lawyers and others “worked to keep it front and center in the media.”

After Gallagher was acquitted of most charges but convicted of posing with the corpse of an Islamic State extremist in Iraq, he submitted his request to retire. In Spencer’s telling, that raised three questions for the Navy, including whether Gallagher should be allowed to retire at his current rank. The military jury had said he should be demoted.

Trump, who had tweeted support for Gallagher and stated that his case had been “handled very badly from the beginning,” short-circuited the Navy’s administrative review of Gallagher’s status by ordering Spencer to restore Gallagher’s rank.

“This was a shocking and unprecedented intervention in a low-level review,” Spencer wrote. “It was also a reminder that the president has very little understanding of what it means to be in the military, to fight

ethically or to be governed by a uniform set of rules and practices.”

Last week, Trump tweeted that Gallagher must be allowed to keep his Trident pin, the medal that designates a SEAL member. The Navy had planned to let an administrative board review the question starting Monday, but eventually Esper decided to stop that process and let Gallagher retire as a SEAL, as Trump had ordered.

Earlier Wednesday, the Navy announced that it had canceled the peer review boards for three SEAL officers who supervised Gallagher during the Iraq deployment that gave rise to the war crimes charges.

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said the case was becoming a distraction for the commando force, known for its quiet professionalism but recently roiled with controversy.

The decision was the latest twist in the Gallagher matter. Trump has made no mention of the three SEAL officers also ordered to be reviewed. All three had overseen Gallagher during his 2017 deployment to Iraq.

But Modly said there were better ways to address any “failures in conduct, performance, judgment, or professionalism exhibited by these officers.”

Seoul: North Korea fires projectiles into eastern sea

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired two rockets presumed to be from a multiple launching system on Thursday, Seoul said, in a fiery Thanksgiving message to the United States amid stalled nuclear talks.

The latest weapons test came as the clock ticks down to North Korea’s end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer a new approach to negotiations, which broke down after a failed summit in February.

The projectiles were launched at a 30-second inter-

val just before 5 p.m. Thursday from a northeastern province, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff.

They flew nearly 240 miles and reached a maximum altitude of 60 miles before splashing into the sea off the peninsula’s eastern coast, the military said.

It expressed “strong regret” about the launch, which came five days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw an artillery firing drill near the disputed maritime boundary in the western sea.

South Korea sent a strong protest to the North over that incident, saying it violated a bi-

lateral military agreement.

The JCS said it was maintaining readiness and on guard for the possibility of more launches.

“Our military ... urges (North Korea) to immediately stop acts that escalate military tensions,” Maj. Gen. Jeon Dong Jin, a senior operations officer with the JCS, told reporters Thursday.

The North has conducted more than a dozen missile tests as well as artillery drills since resuming activity in May. Senior officials also have warned that the North is not interested in continuing diplomacy unless Washington abandons its

“hostile policies” toward their country.

The latest launch took place as Americans were celebrating their Thanksgiving holiday.

The timing was also significant because it was the second anniversary of North Korea’s test-firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile on Nov. 28, 2017.

That was the last ICBM tested by the North before it declared its nuclear program complete and began engaging in diplomacy with Seoul and Washington. The move eased tensions that had pushed the divided peninsula to the brink of another war.

General demoted over disparaging talk

New York Daily News

An Air Force lieutenant general mercilessly mocked a female airman's weight and bullied staff to the point he was stripped of a star upon his official retirement this month, the Air Force Times reported.

"Oink, oink," Lt. Gen. Lee Levy allegedly said as he walked by the female airman's desk in one reported incident. "Are you really eating again?"

The comment was corroborated by witnesses who spoke to the Air Force's Office of the Inspector General, the report said.

The intimidating incident made one witness so uncomfortable, he reportedly stepped away, according to the IG report cited by the Times.

Another witness said Levy's conduct was "terribly degrading and rude" — evidence of the toxic climate he created as commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

He disparaged the woman again on a business trip to Washington around March 2017, the report said, remarking that she was to blame for the bumpy ride in their shared

vehicle.

"If you lose a few pounds, maybe the vehicle would have less strain on it," he allegedly said, according to an unidentified witness quoted in the report.

The female airman testified that during that drive, Levy also said she needed to watch how much she ate because her uniform pants might not fit anymore.

"His comments were inappropriate, particularly given his position and the public contexts in which they were made," the IG report said. "They un-

dermined (the airman's) dignity and were not respectful of her."

Levy also had a history of screaming at subordinates and intentionally dropping files on the floor as a "total power move" that forced others to pick them up, the report said.

Levy denied any wrongdoing in his interview with the IG and through his lawyer, the Air Force Times reported.

The Air Force essentially demoted Levy to two stars during the investigation and decided not to restore his third star after completing the probe.

US negotiates cost-sharing with Saudis over defense

The Washington Post

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The U.S. is negotiating cost-sharing terms with Saudi Arabia for an expanding military mission aimed at ensuring the kingdom is protected from attacks on critical oil infrastructure, officials said.

The Pentagon's deployment of new radar, air defense and other military assets to the Gulf nation was discussed during talks Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held with Saudi officials this week.

Milley, in his first visit to this key U.S. ally since becoming President Donald Trump's chief military adviser this fall, met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other leaders during his visit.

Trump authorized a boost to the relatively light U.S. footprint in Saudi Arabia, from an advisory mission that stood around 800 to a force of about 3,000, following the Sept. 14 assault on Saudi oil facilities, which Saudi and U.S. officials said was launched by Iran in an major escalation of regional tensions.

The troops will operate additional assets designed to help the Saudi military guard against Iranian attacks, including four Patriot batteries, a THAAD air defense system and two squadrons of fighter jets. Financial responsibility for the deployment has taken on unusual visibility after Trump, who has criticized allies for not contributing enough to shared defense, promised the oil-rich kingdom would pay "100 percent of the cost." The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the two countries are negotiating "burden-sharing" arrangements but the kingdom is expected to provide financial support for some elements of the expanded U.S. military presence, including upgrades to a major air base, fuel, water and logistics.

Military officials say the deployment has a dual purpose: to fill in gaps in Saudi Arabia's air defense network, which in recent years has been oriented southward toward threats from Houthi rebels in Yemen rather than east or north toward Iran, and to prevent any potential Iranian action by raising the stakes.

Macron eyes deep discussion on NATO at London summit

Associated Press

PARIS — NATO leaders must stop bickering over defense spending and have a deep discussion about the future of the military alliance and how ties with Russia can be improved at a summit, French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday.

Macron's call for intensive talks on how to shore up security in Europe, cope with volatile member Turkey and restore U.S. leadership came as NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Washington will pay less into the alliance's budget from next year, with Germany filling the spending gap.

Ahead of a summit of NATO leaders in London next week, Macron held discussions with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Paris.

At a joint press conference, Macron posed a series of questions about NATO, an organization that he termed as "brain dead" just a few weeks ago, a charge that was criticized by others within the alliance.

"NATO is an organization of collective defense. Against

what, against who is it defending itself? Who is our common enemy? What are our common topics? This question deserves clarifications."

Macron said he was glad his recent comments have acted as a "wake-up call" and that it was "irresponsible" to just talk about financial and technical matters.

"A real alliance is action, decisions, not words. So, I want us to have a real dialogue among allies," he insisted.

Macron complained that NATO's two previous summits have focused almost exclusively on defense spending and "how to alleviate the financial cost for the United States."

At the Dec. 3-4 summit in London, Trump is expected to repeat his demand that European nations and Canada increase their defense spending. The U.S. spends more on defense than all other 28 allies combined.

In an announcement Thursday, Stoltenberg said the allies have agreed to reformulate NATO's relatively small in-house budget and that Washington would now pay less.

Officials: Trump knew of whistleblower in August

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump was briefed on the whistleblower complaint about his dealings with Ukraine before the White House released nearly \$400 million in military aid to Kyiv, officials say, shedding new light on events that triggered the impeachment inquiry.

Trump was told about the complaint in late August in a briefing by White House counsel Pat Cipollone and John Eisenberg, an attorney with the White House National Security Council, according to two officials not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

The lawyers told the president about the

complaint, explaining that they were trying to determine whether they were legally required to give it to Congress, the officials said. The aid was released on Sept. 11 amid growing pressure from lawmakers.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The White House has claimed there was no link between the military aid suspension and the president's request for Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden and his family.

But it was his request to Ukraine's president in a July phone call that prompted the government whistleblower's complaint about a link. The assertion of such a link has since been corroborated by a parade of

witnessed testifying on Capitol Hill.

The August briefing with Trump was first reported by The New York Times.

The revelation comes just days before the House Judiciary Committee takes over the impeachment probe, scheduling a hearing for next week as it pushes closer to a possible vote on charges of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

The Judiciary panel scheduled the hearing as the Intelligence Committee on Tuesday released two last transcripts from its depositions, including from a White House budget official who detailed concerns among colleagues as Trump ordered them, through intermediaries, to put a hold on military aid to Ukraine.

Wintery weather threatens holiday travelers

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A day after bringing havoc to the Rocky Mountains, a powerful winter storm rolled across the Midwest on Wednesday, threatening to scramble Thanksgiving plans for millions of people during one of the busiest travel weeks of the year.

The storm, which was blamed for one death and hundreds of canceled flights, pushed east into South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It dropped close to a

foot of snow in some areas even as the system weakened and headed toward New York and Pennsylvania.

But the West was not free of heavy weather.

A "bomb cyclone" caused by a rapid drop in air pressure brought snow to the mountains and wind and rain along the California and Oregon coasts. Drivers on Interstate 5 near the Oregon-California border spent 17 hours or more in stopped traffic as blizzard conditions whirled outside. Some slept in their vehicles.

"It's one of those things, you couldn't make it up if you tried," National Weather Service meteorologist Brent Hewett said of back-to-back storms forming around the holiday.

Christina Williams and her 13-year-old son, who live in Portland, Ore., got stuck in the storm as they tried to drive to the San Francisco area for Thanksgiving.

"There were spinouts everywhere," Williams said. "There were trucks that were abandoned. And every time we stopped and started moving

again, there were people who couldn't start moving again.

"Every time we stopped I was like, 'Is this it? Are we going to be here overnight?'"

Minneapolis awoke to as much as 9 inches of snow. Drivers were warned to stay off the roads at least until the winds died down.

"If you can wait a little bit today, the better off you'll be because the roads will be being cleared, and our snow is pretty much wrapping up," said Tyler Hasenstein, a weather service meteorologist in Minneapolis.

Holloway, ex-naval operations chief, dies at age 97

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Retired Adm. James L. Holloway III, a former chief of naval operations and a veteran of three wars, died Tuesday in Alexandria, Va., at age 97, the U.S. Navy said in a statement.

A native of Charleston, S.C., Holloway was the Navy's 20th chief of naval operations, filling the post from 1974 to 1978 and serving under Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

"Adm. Holloway's far-reaching impacts include advocating for the Navy's future F-18

aircraft and developing the Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) program, which we still use today," Adm. Mike Gilday, the current chief of naval operations, said in the statement.

Holloway holds the distinction of serving as a four-star admiral at the same time his father held the same rank — the only father and son in the history of the Navy to do so.

Holloway's father, James L. Holloway Jr., who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1919, also attained the rank of four-star admiral.

Holloway graduated from the Naval Academy in 1942 and served aboard ships during World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

He saw combat in waters near Saipan, Tinian, Palau and Leyte Gulf as a gunnery officer aboard the destroyer USS Bennion. The Bennion helped sink the Japanese battleship Yamashiro with torpedoes during the 1944 Battle of Surigao Strait near the Philippines.

Holloway was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for his actions during

that battle.

With the end of World War II, he began flight training and became a naval aviator.

During the Korean War, he flew combat sorties in the Grumman F9F-2 Panther jet fighter, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

From 1965 to 1967, during the Vietnam War, he commanded the USS Enterprise, the Navy's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Although the carrier's third commander, Holloway was the first to take the ship into combat.

Violence spirals amid protests in Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Security forces in Iraq shot dead 27 anti-government protesters in a 24-hour period, amid spiraling violence in the capital and the country's south, as Iran condemned the burning of its consulate.

Security forces Thursday fired live ammunition, killing four protesters and wounding 22 on the strategic Ahrar Bridge in Baghdad, security and medical officials said.

Violence across southern Iraq continued throughout the night, with security forces killing 23 protesters and wounding 165 since Wednesday evening. Protesters closed roads and police and military forces were deployed across key oil-rich provinces.

In Baghdad, protesters attempted to cross the Ahrar

Bridge leading nearby to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government. Protesters are occupying parts of three bridges — Jumhuriya, Sinak and Ahrar — all leading to the fortified area.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Protesters had set fire to the Iranian consulate in the holy city of Najaf late Wednesday, in one of the worst attacks targeting Iranian interests in the country since the anti-government protests erupted two months ago. The Iranian staff were not harmed and escaped out the back door.

Anti-government protests have gripped Iraq since Oct. 1, when thousands took to the streets in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite south. The largely leaderless move-

ment accuses the government of being hopelessly corrupt and has also decried Iran's growing influence in Iraqi state affairs.

At least 350 people have been killed by security forces, which routinely used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse crowds, sometimes shooting protesters directly with gas canisters, causing several fatalities.

Separately, the U.S. Embassy denounced a recent decision by Iraq's media regulator to suspend nine television channels, calling for the Communications and Media Commission to reverse its decision. Thursday's statement from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad also condemned attacks and harassment against journalists.

Local channel Dijla TV had its license suspended Tuesday for its coverage of the protests, and its office was closed and

equipment confiscated, according to an official from one of the channels under threat. Other channels have been asked by the regulatory commission to sign a pledge "agreeing to adhere to its rules," said the official, who requested anonymity out of fear of reprisal.

The Islamic State also claimed responsibility for Tuesday's coordinated bombings in three Baghdad neighborhoods, which killed five people. That was the first apparent coordinated attack since anti-government protests began.

The bombings took place far from Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of weeks of anti-government protests that have posed the biggest security challenge to Iraq since the defeat of ISIS.

US signing of Hong Kong bills draws China's ire

Associated Press

BEIJING — China reacted furiously Thursday to President Donald Trump's signing two bills aimed at supporting human rights in Hong Kong, summoning the U.S. ambassador to protest and warning the move would undermine cooperation with Washington.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that was granted special autonomy when China took control in 1997, has been rocked by six months of sometimes violent pro-democracy demonstrations.

Trump's approval of the bills was not unexpected. Neither was the reaction from Beijing, given China's adamant rejections of any commentary on what it considers an internal issue.

Nevertheless, the clash comes at a sensitive time and could upset already thorny trade negotiations between the two nations.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng told U.S. Am-

bassador Terry Branstad that the move constituted "serious interference in China's internal affairs and a serious violation of international law," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Le called it a "nakedly hegemonic act." He urged the U.S. not to implement the bills to prevent greater damage to U.S.-China relations, the ministry said.

In a statement about the meeting, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said "the Chinese Communist Party must honor its promises to the Hong Kong people."

The U.S. "believes that Hong Kong's autonomy, its adherence to the rule of law, and its commitment to protecting civil liberties are key to preserving its special status under U.S. law," it said.

The U.S. laws, which passed both chambers of Congress almost unanimously, mandate sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who carry out human rights abuses in Hong Kong.

Mexican drug cartels to be labeled as terrorist groups

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump put the Mexican government on the defensive when he said he "absolutely" will move ahead with plans to designate Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations.

Trump said in a radio interview this week that tens of thousands of Americans are killed every year because of drug trafficking and other activity by the cartels. But Mexico is pushing back, worried that such a step would allow its neighbor to the north to violate its sovereignty by operating unilaterally inside Mexico.

"I've been working on that for the last 90 days," Trump said in a radio interview with Bill O'Reilly, who asked whether such a designation would be forthcoming.

O'Reilly had asked Trump if he would designate the cartels "and start hitting them with drones and things like that?"

Trump replied, "I don't want

to say what I'm going to do, but they will be designated."

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Wednesday that he did not want to enter a "political confrontation" with the U.S. government on the eve of its Thanksgiving holiday. He said that he would leave it at "cooperation, yes; interventionism, no," and that he had instructed Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard to explain Mexico's position to Washington.

Ebrard later tweeted that he'd already been in contact with the U.S. government and would use diplomacy to "defend sovereignty."

Trump offered no timetable for the designation. After the U.S. labels an individual or organization as a terrorist group, it then becomes illegal for anyone in the United States, including banks and other financial institutions, to knowingly provide them with support. Members of terrorist groups are also denied entry into the U.S.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police document loss of spilled doughnuts

GA BROOKHAVEN — The loss of Krispy Kreme doughnuts documented by police in Georgia has come to a bittersweet ending.

A Facebook post from Brookhaven police shows officers responding to a scene of “total carnage.” It said dozens of doughnuts fell from a delivery truck onto the curb and into the gutter of a road.

Police said their response time to the call was stellar, but they missed the five-second rule.

Police later added a comment with an update to the so-called tragedy. It said officers in Gainesville sent a batch of sympathy doughnuts to Brookhaven police in their time of mourning.

White Castle plans to return to state

FL TALLAHASSEE — White Castle announced plans to open its first fast-food restaurant in Florida since closing its Miami burger joint decades ago.

The company announced that its new restaurant in Orlando will be among the national chain’s biggest. But so-called “Cravers” will have to wait about 18 months before the store is built and open for business.

White Castle is best known for its sliders.

A White Castle restaurant operated in Miami in the 1960s. The chain now operates 375 restaurants in 13 states.

Woman, 104, kills buck to set record

WI MADISON — A 104-year-old woman

bagged a buck to become the oldest person in Wisconsin to ever harvest a deer.

The Department of Natural Resources said Florence Teeters, of Phillips, was inspired to purchase her first hunting license while sitting in a blind on her land in Price County with her son, Bill, during last year’s gun deer season.

She and Bill set up their blind on opening day of the 2019 nine-day gun season. Two hours into their day they saw a spike buck and Florence took it down.

DNR officials said a preliminary check of records indicates Florence is the oldest person to date to purchase a gun deer license and harvest a deer.

Tombstone falls on man; no serious injury

PA PITTSBURGH — A man escaped serious injury when a 400-pound tombstone fell on him at a Pittsburgh cemetery.

The 47-year-old man and his mother were at St. Michael’s Cemetery when he lost his balance and grabbed onto the tombstone. It then fell on top of him, landing on his back.

Two police officers and another man lifted the tombstone off the man. He suffered some bruising and was treated to a hospital.

Dog DNA collected to collar scoop scofflaws

NY NISKAYUNA — Dog owners at an upstate New York apartment complex have to present their pets for cheek-swab DNA testing to help their landlord catch poop scooper scofflaws.

Iroquois Village manager Jillian Ferrera sent residents an email saying the Niskayuna complex is contracting with a company that creates a genetic

database of dogs.

Ferrera said the action is in response to resident complaints about an increase in dog waste around the landscape.

The Times Union reported the complex will fine neglectful pet owners \$300 and may refuse to renew their lease if they don’t pay.

Family of female WWII pilot donates artifacts

LA NEW ORLEANS — The family of a woman who flew military planes to help the World War II effort donated her artifacts to a New Orleans museum that commemorates the war.

At a ceremony, the National WWII Museum said Dorothy Mann’s family donated mementos such as her flight suit, dog tags and insignia, her leather flight jacket and her pilot’s kneeboard — a clipboard used by pilots for notes and charts.

Mann, of Plaska, Texas, left her university studies to get her pilot’s license and log the flight hours she needed so she could apply for the WASP program on the day she turned 21.

Express checkout lane dispute sparks brawl

NJ HOWELL — Authorities said two women brawled in a New Jersey supermarket after one accused the other of having too many items in an express checkout lane.

The fight was at the ShopRite in Howell.

Authorities said a 43-year-old Brick woman was challenged by a 45-year-old Howell woman over the number of items she had in the express checkout. Their verbal dispute soon turned physical.

Witnesses said the Brick woman also scratched and bit the leg of a 43-year-old Free-

hold Township woman who tried to intervene.

Zoo announces the birth of white rhino

CA SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Zoo Safari Park has a new baby — a white rhino conceived through artificial insemination.

The park said the female southern white rhino was born to an 11-year-old mother named Amani.

She’s the 100th southern white rhino to be born at the Safari Park and the second conceived through artificial insemination. The first, Edward, was born to a different mother in July.

The zoo said the births are part of efforts to develop knowledge required to save a subspecies called the northern white rhino. Only two currently remain and both are female.

Neighbors evacuated as dynamite removed

NH PORTSMOUTH — Police in New Hampshire said they evacuated a Portsmouth neighborhood and closed surrounding streets to remove dynamite from a house.

The dynamite was recently discovered in the basement of the home that had belonged to Nancy Beck, who died Sept. 29. Her husband, Peter, died in 2016. The couple had left the contents of the home to the Strawberry Banke Museum.

Family members said Peter Beck once was excavating under a barn when he decided to speed things up and use dynamite. Rocks rained on neighboring homes and the city responded with a cease-and-desist order.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news
updated 24/7 from bases
around the world.
Now online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Transfer of power: QBs crucial in matchup

Michigan's Patterson, Ohio State's Fields shining in second collegiate stops

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — While being led to the Ohio Stadium visitors dressing room through a crowd of Ohio State fans raining abuse on him, Shea Patterson looked up and retorted.

"We've got you next year at our place," the Michigan quarterback shouted before disappearing into the tunnel after the Wolverines had lost The Game for the fourth straight time in the Jim Harbaugh era.

Now comes the put-up-or-shut-up chance for Patterson, who is in his second year leading Michigan after transferring from Ole Miss. He spent his early years in Toledo, Ohio, as a huge Wolverines fan, so he knows the significance of this game.

"Just the word Ohio State means everything for us," Patterson said.

To get his one and only career

win in an Ohio State-Michigan game, he's going to have to outplay another quarterback who has found an ideal home via transfer: Justin Fields, whose cool approach helped the second-ranked Buckeyes survive fumbles at critical times to beat Penn State 28-17 last Saturday and remain undefeated and on course for a playoff berth. Growing up in Kennesaw, Ga., and spending his freshman year at Georgia, Fields knows less about The Game, but he's quickly getting it, especially after hearing coach Ryan Day talk about it all season long.

While Fields finally got a chance to show how stout he can be in a tight game for the Buckeyes, Patterson is playing his best football of the season, clicking just in time in a no-huddle, spread offense for the 10th-ranked Wolverines under first-year offensive coordinator Josh Gattis.

"He's going into these games very confident about his reads," coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Very confident about his job, being able to see coverages, anticipate defenses."

Patterson won Big Ten co-offensive player of the week for the second straight week after throwing for 366 yards and five touchdowns in Michigan's 39-14 win over Indiana, becoming the first quarterback in school history with five touchdown passes in regulation.

Fields, who transferred from Georgia in January, has been a revelation for Day, who oversaw Dwayne Haskins Jr.'s record-breaking season last year before going to the NFL as a first-round pick.

Because he didn't play in the second half of blowouts — which Ohio State's first 10 games were — Fields' numbers aren't gaudy as say those of LSU's Joe Burrow or Wash-

ington State's Anthony Gordon. But he's accurate, highly efficient, runs the ball like a tailback and is simply unflappable. He's completing 72.7% of his passes and has thrown 33 touchdown passes against a single interception while rushing for 10 more scores.

In his first four-quarter game against Penn State last week, he experienced some adversity for the first time, fumbling away the ball while crossing the goal line in the first quarter and coughing it up again in the second half. That turnover led to a Penn State field goal that pulled the game to within 21-17.

Fields responded with a 28-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave late to seal it. He also created some tense moments in the fourth quarter and was slow to get up. He appeared to be shaken up, but Day said he's good to go for Michigan.

Kittle's return provides boost to 49ers offense

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — George Kittle's absence from the San Francisco 49ers was evident in almost every aspect of the offense for two weeks.

The running game missed his dominant blocking on the edge, the passing game missed the threat he poses as one of the most dangerous players after the catch and the huddle missed his energy.

Kittle's return last Sunday night got San Francisco off to a resounding start as the 49ers began a tough, three-game stretch, and the Niners know they will need him even more the next two weeks with road games against first-place Baltimore and New Orleans.

"You can't replace a player like George Kittle," right tackle Mike McGlinchey said. "I think he's one of the best, if not the best player in the league. He's somebody that I'll be able to tell my kids about someday, that I played with that guy. ... Our offense goes through him as much as anybody else. He's a special player, a special leader, and we're very, very lucky to have 85 back."

Kittle initially got hurt when he broke his

ankle on the first play at Arizona on Oct. 31. Coach Kyle Shanahan described the injury as being akin to having bark coming off a tree and Kittle dealt with the pain and stayed in the game until a knee injury finally forced him to the sideline.

He missed two games with the injury before returning despite still feeling significant pain in his ankle. He took Wednesday off from practice but should be good to go again this week.

"It's football," Kittle said. "It's fine. It's a mindset. You just go out and play football. That's all it is."

The Niners offense dipped a bit in Kittle's absence, struggling to move the ball at all in a loss to Seattle and generating no running game the following week against Arizona.

San Francisco averaged only 2.9 yards per carry in the three games with Kittle either sidelined or limited but hit on all cylinders in the 37-8 victory over Green Bay on Sunday.

The 49ers averaged 5.1 yards per carry and Jimmy Garoppolo set career bests with 12.7 yards per attempt and a 145.8

passer rating. He completed all six of his throws to Kittle for 129 yards, with the biggest highlight coming on a 61-yard TD pass in the third quarter.

"George, he's awesome," Garoppolo said. "The energy he brings on the sideline, getting guys involved, getting guys talking in the huddle even, it's little things like that. Obviously, you guys see what he does on the field. I throw him a 2-yard route and he takes it for whatever, 20-30 yards, runs a great route, scores a touchdown. It's all the little things that he does, though, that goes so unnoticed."

Kittle is such a big part of an offense that relies so heavily on play-action passes because his blocking helps key success on the ground and he is one of the most dangerous receivers, especially when he gets in open space.

Kittle set a record for tight ends last season with 1,377 yards receiving, with a staggering 870 coming after the catch. He hasn't been as prolific this year with 52 catches for 670 yards but he's still as important.

NHL roundup

Coyotes, Dvorak top Ducks in shootout

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Christian Dvorak scored in the fourth round of a shootout after getting two goals in regulation to help Arizona beat Anaheim 4-3 on Wednesday.

Alex Goligoski scored to force overtime and Darcy Kuemper stopped 31 shots as the Coyotes won for the fourth time in six games.

Brendan Guhle, Sam Steel and Troy Terry scored for the Ducks, who have lost four of five. John Gibson finished with 25 saves.

Blues 4 Lightning 3: Oskar Sundqvist had two goals before leaving with an injury, and St. Louis won at Tampa Bay.

Zach Sanford and Brayden Schenn scored in the third period and Jordan Binnington stopped 32 shots for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Ivan Barbashev had three assists after going six games without a point.

Flames 3, Sabres 2 (OT): Elias Lindholm scored on a wraparound 1:17 into overtime to lift Calgary to a win at Buffalo.

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and set up the winner for the Flames, still playing without embattled coach Bill Peters. TJ Brodie also had a goal and an assist, and David Rittich stopped 34 shots as Calgary improved to 2-0-1 in its past three games, and with associate coach Geoff Ward behind the bench.

Golden Knights 4, Predators 3 (OT): Max Pacioretty tied it with less than a second left in regulation and Paul Stastny scored at 1:52 of overtime to give Vegas a comeback victory at Nashville.

Mark Stone, Reilly Smith and Pacioretty each had a goal and an assist for the Golden Knights, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Malcolm Subban made 31 saves for his first win of the season.

Rangers 3, Hurricanes 2: Adam Fox had a goal and an assist, Henrik Lundqvist stopped 41 shots and host New York held off Carolina.

Mika Zibanejad scored in his return after missing 13 games with an upper body injury. Brendan Smith also had a goal and Artemi Panarin added two assists to help the Rangers build a 3-0 lead in the first period and improve to 9-4-1 in their last 14 games.

Flyers 3, Blue Jackets 2: Claude Giroux scored on Philadelphia's fifth power play in a win at Columbus.

Maple Leafs 6, Red Wings 0: Andreas Johnsson had two goals and an assist, and host Toronto rolled to its third straight win under new coach Sheldon Keefe.

Penguins 8, Canucks 6: Kris Letang capped a wild comeback, scoring the deciding goal with 3:06 to play, and host Pittsburgh rallied with six goals in the third period to beat Vancouver.

Bruins 2, Senators 1: Zdeno Chara broke a tie midway through the third period in Boston's victory at Ottawa.

Capitals 4, Panthers 3: Lars Eller broke a third-period tie and host Washington defeated Florida to stop a two-game skid despite posting a season-low 20 shots.

Avalanche 4, Oilers 1: Nathan MacKinnon had a goal and an assist as part of a three-goal flurry early in the third period that carried host Colorado past Edmonton.

Jets 5, Sharks 1: David Gustafsson scored his first NHL goal and Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist as Winnipeg won at San Jose.

Kings 4, Islanders 1: Dustin Brown and Alex Iafallo each had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Quick stopped 24 shots and host Los Angeles topped New York.

Top 25 roundup

No. 4 Kansas outlasts Dayton in OT for 3rd Maui Invitational title

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Devon Dotson scored 31 points, Udoka Azubuike had seven of his 29 in overtime and No. 4 Kansas outlasted Dayton 90-84 to win its third Maui Invitational title on Wednesday.

The Flyers and Jayhawks spent much of the afternoon trading leads and highlight-reel plays in a bleacher-shaking atmosphere inside the bandbox Lahaina Civic Center.

Kansas (6-1) used a late 11-0 run to go up by three, but Dayton's Jalen Crutcher buried a three-pointer from about 5 feet behind the new, deeper arc with 2.1 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 73.

The Jayhawks went to Azubuike early in the overtime and the 7-footer delivered, scoring three baskets at the rim. A 32% free throw shooter entering the game, he also hit three from the line in overtime.

Marcus Garrett made three free throws in the final 18 seconds to seal Kansas' second Maui title in four years.

Ryan Mikesell led Dayton with 19 points but missed two free throws with 11.5 seconds left and the Flyers (5-1) down five.

No. 3 Michigan State 75, UCLA 62: Cassius Winston scored 20 points, Xavier Tillman had 14 and the Spartans beat the Bruins in the Maui Invitational fifth-place game.

Michigan State (5-2) opened the tournament with a loss to Virginia Tech, but bounced back with consecutive solid performances.

Winston had a second-straight strong performance after struggling in the opener and the Spartans used an 18-2 advantage in fast break points to close its Maui trip with a flourish.

No. 6 North Carolina 76, Alabama 67: Garrison Brooks scored 16 of his 20 points in

the first half and the Tar Heels overwhelmed the Crimson Tide on the glass in a Battle 4 Atlantis first-round game at Paradise Island, Bahamas.

Freshman big man Armando Bacot had 12 points and 15 rebounds for North Carolina (5-0), which entered the game as the nation's No. 1 team in rebounding margin. The Tar Heels nearly doubled Alabama to finish with a 60-31 edge on the glass.

No. 7 Virginia 46, Maine 26: Mamadi Diakite scored 15 points and Jay Huff had 13 as the host Cavaliers beat the Black Bears.

Maine (2-4) kept it close for much of the game, more because Virginia had trouble scoring than anything else.

Vilgot Larsson led the Black Bears with nine points. They finished 8-for-43 from the field (18.6%) and had 21 turnovers that led to 20 Cavaliers points.

No. 8 Gonzaga 94, Southern Miss 69: Corey Kispert broke loose from a brutal three-game shooting funk to match his career high with 28 points and hit seven three-pointers as the Bulldogs beat the Golden Eagles in the first round of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Joel Ayayi added 21 points and 12 rebounds for Gonzaga (7-0), which had no trouble against a team picked to finish last in Conference USA.

Killian Tillie, a preseason all-West Coast Conference pick, didn't play.

LaDavius Draine shook free of his own outside shooting struggles for Southern Miss, scoring 19 points and making 5 of 9 three-pointers.

No. 11 Oregon 71, No. 13 Seton Hall 69: Shakur Juiston scored on a putback with 14.4 seconds left and the Ducks rallied from 19 points down in the second half to beat the Pirates in the opening round of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Davis scores 41 in return to New Orleans

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis shrugged off a constant cascade of boos and reminded a packed crowd exactly what it lost when the six-time All-Star's trade request was finally fulfilled.

Davis capped a 41-point performance in his return to New Orleans by intercepting Jrue Holiday's inbounds pass with 5 seconds left and making a pair of game-sealing free throws, and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to nine with a 114-110 victory over the Pelicans on Wednesday night.

"Obviously, the emotions was high," Davis said. "I think this game was circled on both calendars. And they came out guns blazing and we were able to come out with the win."

An energetic crowd booed Davis during introductions and virtually every time he handled the ball, only to see him and new teammate LeBron James take over in the fourth quarter.

James had 29 points and 11 assists, scoring 15 points in the final period, when Kyle Kuzma added nine of his 16 points to help the Lakers erase a 10-point deficit.

"My teammates kept telling me, 'AD, don't worry about it. We're going to get this win. We'll find a way to win it for you,'" said Davis, who spent his first seven years in New Orleans.

Kuzma gave the Lakers the lead for good when he hit a three-pointer from the left corner with 1:07 to go, making it 111-109.

New Orleans trimmed it to 111-110 when Josh Hart hit one of two free throws, and after a turnover by James as he was swarmed in the paint, JJ Redick's open three for the lead rimmed out. The Pelicans were forced to foul Davis, who missed one of two free throws, giving the Pelicans 5 seconds to run a play for the tie or lead. But that's when Davis sealed it, stepping in front of Brandon Ingram for his third steal.

"We were going to try to run JJ off a screen and back off," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "If not, we were going to try to get the ball to Brandon to try and dribble and create something. AD just made a great defensive play."

Holiday had 29 points and 12 assists, and Ingram had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans, who have lost three straight.

"It was a great atmosphere. I thought the

energy was our way," Holiday said. "Toward the end of the game, we had some execution issues, but we still gave ourselves a chance."

After trailing by 16 in the third quarter, the Lakers seized momentum with a 9-0 run to open the fourth, trimming New Orleans' lead to 89-88. Los Angeles tied the game at 91 on Kuzma's third three. New Orleans briefly went back up by four before Davis, who'd received treatment after banging his right elbow at the end of the third quarter, returned to the game and threw down an alley-oop feed from James.

"Any time you go back to a place where you've made a mark, where you started your career ... and gave a lot to the community and the franchise, you want to come back and play well and win," James said.

The Lakers took their first lead since the opening five minutes of the game when James hit a jumper over Ingram, pulling up as the Pelicans forward glanced over his shoulder to see if a screen was being set.

New Orleans led 64-54 at halftime, thanks in large part to Holiday's 10 of 15 shooting to that point, including his 4 of 4 mark from three-point range.

Roundup

Walker returns, carries Boston past Brooklyn

Associated Press

BOSTON — Kemba Walker returned from a neck injury to score a season-high 39 points — to the delight of the crowd that came to taunt the person he replaced — and Boston beat Brooklyn 121-110 on a night the fans seemed more interested in taunting former Celtics guard Kyrie Irving.

Missing one game after leaving the court on a stretcher wearing a neck brace following a head-to-torso collision with Semi Ojeleye, Walker had 13 points in the third quarter, when Boston scored nine straight to turn a one-point deficit into a 91-83 lead. Jaylen Brown added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum had 16 points and nine boards to help the Celtic improved to 7-0 at home.

Garrett Temple scored 22 points, and Joe Harris had 21

for Brooklyn, which made a season-high 21 of the 56 three-point shots it attempted. Jarrett Allen had 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Spencer Dinwiddie had 16 points and 11 assists.

Rockets 117, Heat 108: James Harden scored 34 points, Russell Westbrook had 27 and host Houston beat Miami to end a three-game skid.

76ers 97, Kings 91: Joel Embiid rebounded from the worst game of his career with 33 points and 16 rebounds to lead host Philadelphia past Sacramento.

Bucks 111, Hawks 102: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 10 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 16 points in his return from injury and host Milwaukee won its ninth straight game. Middleton, who had been out since Nov. 10 with a thigh contusion, didn't start and played 20 minutes.

Clippers 121, Grizzlies 119: Montrezl Harrell tipped in Lou Williams' miss with 2.3 seconds left and Los Angeles extended its winning streak to seven games with a win at Memphis.

Trail Blazers 136, Thunder 119: Damian Lillard had 27 points, Carmelo Anthony added 19 in his home debut for Portland.

Raptors 126, Knicks 98: Pascal Siakam scored 31 points, OG Anunoby had 13 points and a career-high 12 rebounds and Toronto beat New York for its franchise-record eighth straight home victory to begin the season.

Pacers 121, Jazz 102: Domantas Sabonis and T.J. Warren each scored 23 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 22 to help host Indiana beat Utah for its fourth straight victory.

Wizards 140, Suns 132: Bradley Beal scored 35 points,

Thomas Bryant added 23 and Washington held on to win at Phoenix.

Hornets 102, Pistons 101: Bismack Biyombo scored 19 points, Devonte Graham had 16 points and a career-high 15 assists and Charlotte beat visiting Detroit.

Timberwolves 113, Spurs 101: Andrew Wiggins scored 26 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 14 rebounds and Minnesota snapped an 11-game skid at San Antonio.

Magic 116, Cavaliers 104: Evan Fournier scored a season-high 30 points and short-handed Orlando won on the road for first time this season.

Warriors 104, Bulls 90: Eric Paschall scored 25 points and Golden State emphatically closed out a tight game after its failure two days earlier, holding off Chicago for just its second win at new Chase Center.