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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Lawmakers urge DOD to re-ground Ospreys

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three lawmakers are asking Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to consider re-grounding the military's fleet of V-22 Ospreys until solutions can be put in place to address safety and design issues identified by The Associated Press in its recent indepth investigation of the aircraft's accident record.

In a letter sent to the Pentagon on Monday, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, and Rep. Richard Neal, all Democrats from Massachusetts, wrote to Austin that "given the current concerns about the safety of the V-22, the aircraft should be grounded, and should not be deployed again until the platform's significant deficiencies are fully addressed."

The letter was sent the same day an Osprey being used to ferry White House staff and government officials from an event in New York was grounded due to a safety concern. One witness reported flames under the right engine.

The staff and officials were

"The reality for pilots is that they have to push the aircraft to its limits to stay safe."

Democratic lawmakers in letter to Pentagon

removed from the aircraft, part of the Marine Corps HMX-1 presidential helicopter fleet, and transferred to a second Osprey to continue their trip accompanying President Joe Biden at a "Friendsgiving" event with members of the U.S. Coast Guard on Staten Island.

The issue caused only a minor delay for Biden's return to Washington on Monday evening.

The Marine Corps did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the New York incident. A journalist traveling with the president reported seeing a fire under the right engine shortly before staff were notified the Osprey would be grounded.

It's not the first time White House staff or reporters have had to be removed from an Osprey during a trip due to safety concerns. In November 2023, an Osprey ferrying White House reporters and staff returned to the ground shortly after takeoff after four loud "pops" were heard and smoke was seen.

The Osprey, which flies like both a helicopter and an airplane, has been in more than 21 major accidents, many of which can be tied back to choices made in its design, the AP found.

The whole fleet was grounded for three months this year following a crash in Japan in November 2023 that killed eight service members, including one from Massachusetts.

Ospreys, which are operated by the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and used in the presidential fleet, have now returned to flight operations, with some restrictions.

Osprey pilots have told the AP they do not want to see the aircraft grounded, despite safety concerns, because of its unique capabilities. Program officials have said they are working on fixes to improve the V-22's safety and reliability.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter.

The lawmakers also cited the AP's reporting that pilots are having to push the V-22's "interim power" feature to be able to land safely — but are advised against it because it can wear down parts. Interim power was a factor in the most recent accident in October when a Japanese self-defense forces Osprey violently tilted and struck the ground on takeoff. An investigation determined the pilots were to blame for not turning on the interim power during takeoff.

"The reality for pilots is that they have to push the aircraft to its limits to stay safe," the lawmakers wrote.

#### White House seeks \$5.7B to cover submarine cost overruns

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The White House asked Congress to provide about \$5.7 billion in additional funds to cover cost overruns for three Virginia-class submarines, as well as for shipyard enhancements and higher wages to attract welders, pipefitters and engineers.

Roughly \$3.5 billion of the request is to cover the projected extra costs for the three submarines, according to a senior Navy official who briefed reporters Monday. The remainder would be used for productivity improvement and wage increases at shipyards, which the Navy ex-

pects will speed up the use of robotics and other automation enhancements, as well as to stockpile key parts, the official said.

Rep. Ken Calvert of California, chairman of the House defense appropriations subcommittee, disclosed in September that the Virginia-class submarine program is projected to run \$17 billion over its planned budget through 2030. That shortfall could potentially increase the program's already projected \$184 billion total cost.

The special funding request from the Office of Management and Budget is

necessary because the federal budget for the current fiscal year is operating through Dec. 20 under stopgap funding known as a continuing resolution, which keeps spending frozen at fiscal 2024 levels.

The Navy is requesting Congress add the funding to the next CR or the fullyear spending bill if lawmakers complete that by the deadline.

The Navy also projects delivery delays of 24 to 36 months for the Virginia-class submarines, which are built by General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls Industries.

# Navy surveillance plane makes trip over Taiwan Strait

By ALEX WILSON Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy surveillance plane flew over the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, the first such transit there since mid-September, according to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

The P-8A Poseidon, a longrange aircraft equipped with an advanced sensor suite, flew through international airspace over the 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from Taiwan, the fleet announced in a news release.

"By operating within the Taiwan Strait in accordance with international law, the United States upholds navigational rights and freedoms of all nations," the release said.

The aircraft flew northeast, from the South China Sea to the East China Sea, over the course of about an hour, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Sarah Merrill said.

The flight was not in response to any particular event, she added

The fleet last advertised a Po-

seidon flight over the strait on Sept. 17, which marked the first time the aircraft had flown there in five months.

The U.S. routinely sends warships and, less frequently, aircraft, through the channel. So far this calendar year, three Navy planes and seven warships have made the trip.

While the Navy typically describes the transits as a routine means of traveling between the two seas, Beijing views them as provocative and regularly condemns them as support for Taiwan.

China considers the island a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary.

China's Eastern Theater Command on Wednesday said it scrambled aircraft and dispatched ships to monitor the Poseidon's trip.

The U.S. "distorted legal principles, confused the public and misled international cognition," according to a Tuesday post to the command's official Weibo social media account.

#### Mullin blames general for Afghanistan exit 'disaster'

By Svetlana Shkolnikova Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma had included Army Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue on a list of people he deemed responsible for the Afghanistan withdrawal "disaster."

"No one has been held accountable," he wrote on X in September.

Last week, Mullin blocked the promotion of Donahue to four-star general and new commander of U.S. Army forces in Europe, according to a Senate aide who spoke on condition of anonymity. The aide said the block was reportedly at the request of President-elect Donald Trump's transition team.

Donahue led the 82nd Airborne Division as it worked to secure Kabul's airport during the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 and is best known for being the last U.S. service member to leave the country after 20 years of war.

Trump has threatened to fire senior officers and officials who oversaw the evacuation of American troops and Afghan refugees and blames President Joe Biden's administration for not preventing a suicide bomber attack at the airport that killed 13 U.S. service members.

Mullin, 47, has his own grievances with how the withdrawal was carried out. In 2021, as a House member, he twice attempted to embark on unauthorized travel to aid evacuation efforts in Afghanistan but was stopped by the U.S. government.

The Defense Department declined to give Mullin permission to rent a helicopter and fly an American family out of Afghanistan. The State Department then refused to help Mullin enter Tajikistan with large sums of money for a helicopter rental, deeming the plan in violation of Tajikistan's laws on cash limits.

Mullin has continued to be an outspoken critic of the withdrawal even though a government watchdog investigation in 2022 found Biden and Trump equally at fault for the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's security forces.

The committee approved nearly 1,000 promotions — including Donahue's — early last week before advancing them to the full upper chamber.

Mullin has not publicly disclosed why he stepped in to block Donahue's promotion from being approved in a traditional voice vote by the full Senate. His office did not respond to a request Monday for comment.

#### Marine rifle with caliber conversion options ready early

By John Vandiver

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps has deemed a new sniper rifle fully operational a year ahead of schedule, providing troops with a weapon that is expected to give reconnaissance and infantry units the ability to strike with greater range.

Marine Corps Systems Command said the MK 22 Mod 0 Ad-

vanced Sniper Rifle has been fielded to all relevant units, marking a step forward in the Corps' modernization efforts.

The weapon amounts to a "game changer" and a "huge leap" in capability when compared to previous sniper systems, Brian Nelson, a project officer with Marine Corps Systems Command, said in a service statement Thursday.

The rifle, which is also used by U.S. Special Operations Command forces, includes caliber conversion options, allowing Marines to fine-tune their missions. Barrels can fire 7.62 mm, .300 Norma Magnum and .338 Norma Magnum calibers, giving Marines the flexibility to adapt and fire with more precision and at varied ranges, the Marine Corps said.

"Marines like the ability to conduct caliber conversions at their level and the fact that they only have one rifle instead of the two it replaced," said Kevin Marion, a logistics management specialist with Marine Corps Systems Command. "This shift improves operational efficiency, reduces the logistical burden on units, and lightens the individual Marine's load."

### Trump adviser probed on pay-to-play allegations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top lawyer on Donald Trump's transition team investigated a long-time adviser to the president-elect over allegations he used his proximity to Trump to score payments from those seeking roles or influence in the new administration.

The review conducted by lawyer David Warrington recommended that Trump aides sharply constrain adviser Boris Epshteyn's access to the presidentelect, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an internal matter. The personnel drama spotlights the unusual and often-disorganized cast of characters around Trump who contributed to the chaos of his first term, some of whom are part of the transition to the second as he looks to build out his administration before he takes office Jan. 20.

Among those Epshteyn is alleged to have sought payments from is Scott Bessent, Trump's nominee to be treasury secretary. Bessent mounted a monthslong campaign to win the job but was opposed by Epshteyn allegedly after the hedge fund executive didn't agree to pay him a substantial retainer.

The review also examined a complaint from former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, who resigned in scandal but has expressed interest in joining Trump's administration. Greitens signed a declaration last week recounting a Nov. 7 conversation with Epshteyn that alleged that his "overall tone and behavior gave me the impression of an implicit expectation to engage in business dealings with him before he would advocate for or suggest my appointment to the President. This created a sense of unease and pressure on my part."

Epshteyn isn't accused of do-

ing anything illegal — securing fees for access to senior government officials is the bread and butter of Washington's lobbying establishment — but the investigation appeared designed to weaken or eliminate his prominent position within Trump's orbit. The president-elect has long chafed at those he viewed as using him for their own personal gain.

"As is standard practice, a broad review of the campaign's consulting agreements has been conducted and completed, including as to Boris, among others," said Trump communications director Steven Cheung.

# Trump threatens new tariffs on Mexico, Canada, China

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Presidentelect Donald Trump threatened to impose sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs.

He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the country from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China, as one of his first executive orders.

The tariffs, if implemented, could dramatically raise prices for American consumers on everything from gas to automobiles to agricultural products. The United States is the largest importer of goods in the world, with Mexico, China and Canada its top three suppliers, according to the most recent U.S. Census data.

Trump made the threats Monday in a pair of posts on his Truth Social site in which he railed against an influx of illegal migrants, even though southern border apprehensions have been hovering near four-year lows.

He said the new tariffs would

remain in place "until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

A senior Canadian government official said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Trump spoke after Trump's posts. The two spoke about the border and trade and had a good conversation, the official said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump also turned his ire on China, saying he has "had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States — But to no avail."

The Chinese Embassy in Washington cautioned on Monday that there will be losers on all sides if there is a trade war.

"China-US economic and trade cooperation is mutually beneficial in nature," embassy spokesman Liu Pengyu posted on X. "No one will win a trade war or a #tariff war." He added that China had taken steps in the last year to help stem drug trafficking.

# Biden moves to increase weight-loss drug access

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of Americans with obesity would be eligible to have popular weight-loss drugs like Wegovy or Ozempic covered by Medicare or Medicaid under a new rule the Biden administration proposed Tuesday morning.

The costly proposal from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services immediately sets the stage for a showdown between the powerful pharmaceutical industry and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an outspoken opponent of the weight-loss drugs who, as President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the agency, could block the measure.

While the rule would give millions of people access to weekly injectables that have helped people shed pounds so quickly that some have labeled them miracle drugs, it would also cost taxpayers as much as \$35 billion over the next decade.

"It's a good day for anyone who suffers from obesity," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's a game-changer for Americans who can't afford these drugs otherwise."

The rule would not be finalized until January, days after Trump takes office. A bipartisan coalition of congressional members has lobbied for the drugs to be covered by Medicare, saying it could save the government from spending billions of dollars on treating chronic ailments that stem from obesity.

While it's unclear where Trump stands on coverage of the weight-loss drugs, his allies and Cabinet picks who have vowed to cut government spending could balk at the price tag.

Under the proposal, only those who are considered obese — someone who has a body mass index of 30 or higher — would qualify for coverage. Some people may already get coverage of the drugs through Medicare or Medicaid, if they have diabetes or are at risk for stroke or heart disease.

# Israel bombs Beirut, warns of more

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Israeli warplanes struck central Beirut and the city's southern suburbs on Tuesday, raising palls of smoke over the Lebanese capital ahead of a planned vote by Israel's leadership on whether to accept a U.S.-brokered ceasefire aimed at ending more than a year of fighting with Hezbollah.

The Israeli military also issued warnings for 20 more buildings in Beirut's suburbs to evacuate before they too were struck — a sign it was aiming to inflict punishment on Hezbollah down to the last moments before any ceasefire takes hold. Israeli ground troops also reached parts of Lebanon's Litani River for the first time in the conflict—a focal point of the emerging ceasefire.

A ceasefire was still not a sure thing, but Israel's security Cabinet, meeting Tuesday afternoon, was expected to approve the U.S.-backed proposal. Lebanese officials have said Hezbollah also supports the deal. If approved by all sides, the deal would be a major step toward ending the Israel-Hezbollah war that has inflamed tensions across the region and raised fears of an even wider conflict between Israel and Hezbollah's patron, Iran.

The deal calls for a two-month initial halt in fighting and would require Hezbollah to end its armed presence in a broad swath of southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops would return to their side of the border. Thousands of Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers would deploy in the

south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor all sides' compliance.

But implementation remains a major question mark. Israel has demanded the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations. Lebanese officials have rejected writing that into the proposal. Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz insisted on Tuesday that the military would strike Hezbollah if the U.N. peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, doesn't provide "effective enforcement" of the deal.

The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said Tuesday that Israel's security concerns had been addressed in the U.S.-French-brokered deal.

"There is not an excuse for not

implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart," Borrell told reporters in Fiuggi, Italy, on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting. He said the U.S. would chair a ceasefire implementation committee, and France would participate at the request of Lebanon.

Even as Israeli, U.S, Lebanese and international officials have expressed growing optimism over a ceasefire, Israel has continued its campaign in Lebanon, which it says aims to cripple Hezbollah's military capabilities.

An Israeli strike on Tuesday leveled a residential building in the central Beirut district of Basta — the second time in recent days warplanes have hit the crowded area near the city's downtown.

# Ukraine: Russia attacks with record drone assault

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched 188 drones against most regions of Ukraine in a nighttime blitz, the Ukrainian air force said Tuesday, describing it as a record number of drones deployed in a single attack.

Most of the drones were intercepted, according to the air force, but apartment buildings and critical infrastructure such as the power grid were damaged. No casualties were immediately reported in the 17 targeted regions.

Russia has been hammering civilian areas of Ukraine with increasingly heavy drone, missile and glide bomb attacks since the middle of the year. At the same time, Russia's army has largely held the battlefield initiative for the past year and has been pushing hard in the eastern Donetsk region where it is making significant tactical advances, according to Western military analysts.

Ukraine faces a difficult winter, with worries about the relia-

bility of the electricity supply amid Russia's attacks and how much U.S. support it can count on next year after President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January.

The air raid alert in the Kyiv region overnight lasted more than seven hours. Russia is trying to unnerve civilians and wear down their will to resist in the almost 3-vear-old war.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Tuesday its forces destroyed 39 Ukrainian drones overnight over Russian regions near the border with Ukraine. Meanwhile, Ukraine's General Staff said Tuesday that over the past 24 hours roughly half of the clashes along the about 100 mile front line occurred near Pokrovsk and Kurakhove in the Donetsk region.

Ukraine has a critical manpower problem on the front line, and though the Russian army's gains have been incremental its momentum is adding up as the Ukrainians yield ground.

#### Philippine investigators summon VP over threats

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities handed a subpoena to Vice President Sara Duterte's office Tuesday, inviting her to answer investigators' questions after she publicly threatened to have the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker assassinated if she herself were killed in an unspecified plot.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday described her threat as a criminal plot and vowed to fight it and uphold the rule of law in the country in a looming showdown between the country's two top leaders. The national police and the military expressed alarm and immediately boosted Marcos's security.

National security adviser Eduardo Ano said the threats were a national security concern.

Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, said her remarks were not an actual threat but an expression of concern over her own safety due to unspecified danger to her life.

The Marcos administration's statements against her were "a farce" and part of efforts to persecute critics like her, Duterte said.

The subpoena ordered Duterte to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation on Friday to "shed light on the investigation for alleged grave threats."

Duterte said Monday she was willing to face an investigation but demanded the Marcos administration also respond to her questions, including alleged irregularities in government.

Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in 2022 elections and both won land-slide victories on a campaign call of national unity. (In the Philippines, the two positions are elected separately.) The two leaders and their camps, however, soon had a bitter falling out over key differences, including in their approaches to China's aggressive territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea.

#### **AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

#### Community reaches deal with striking teachers

BOSTON — One of three Massachusetts communities reached a deal with their striking teachers union on Friday, leaving two left to hammer out a final agreement.

The Union of Gloucester Educators said in a Facebook post that the union and the Gloucester School Committee "came to a tentative agreement for successor collective bargaining agreements for both the teachers and paraprofessional units, as well as a satisfactory Return to Work Agreement." School resumed Monday.

The agreement came as a judge pledged to waive mounting fines against striking teachers in the three Massachusetts communities for Friday if they agree to return to the classroom by Monday.

Classrooms remained shuttered Friday in Beverly, Gloucester and Marblehead — three communities north of Boston — marking the end of the second full week that teachers have taken to the picket lines.

#### Court agrees: No medical marijuana advertising

JACKSON—Medical marijuana businesses in Mississippi don't have the right to advertise on bill-boards or other places because marijuana itself remains illegal under federal law, an appeals court says.

The owner of a medical marijuana dispensary argued that the First Amendment protects the right to advertise because Mississippi law permits the sale of cannabis products to people with debilitating medical conditions. The state enacted its law in 2022.

A three-judge panel of 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday rejected the arguments about advertising. They cited the federal Controlled Substances Act, which since 1970 has prohibited the manufacture, distribution, dispensing and possession of marijuana.

The state allows medical marijuana businesses to have websites or social media accounts that provide information about their retail dispensing locations and a list of products available. It allows them to be listed in phone books or business directories and to display cannabis in company logos. The businesses can also sponsor not-for-profit charity or advocacy events.

#### Ex-casino dealer accused of skimming 14 times

**OH** CLEVELAND — A former dealer at the JACK Cleveland Casino in Ohio has been charged with skimming from the pot more than a dozen times this summer.

The 51-year-old man, of North Olmsted, Ohio, pleaded not guilty on Nov. 15 to violating casino gaming laws and misdemeanor theft. He's due back in court for another hearing in early December.

Authorities began investigating after a poker player accused the dealer of stealing from the pile of chips being wagered during a hand in September, according to records from the Ohio Casino Control Commission, which regulates casinos and investigates gambling crimes.

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found other instances where he stole from the table, according to the commission. He was fired a day later. Court records show he is accused of stealing 14 times since early August.

#### Man arrested for fatal shooting of woman, baby

HARTFORD — A suspect in the fatal shooting of a woman and her 4-month-old son inside a car in Hartford was arrested Saturday in Puerto Rico, officials said.

The U.S. Marshals Service said they found Lance "Macho" Morales at a residence in the barrio of Fajardo. Police believe the 23-year-old Waterbury, Conn., resident pulled up alongside a car Tuesday and began firing because of a dispute over a vehicle with a woman in the car, Jessiah Mercado.

Mercado, 20, and her infant son were killed. A man in the car was shot and injured.

Morales was being held on a \$3 million bond as he awaited extradition to Connecticut. An arrest warrant charged Morales with two counts of murder and other charges, according to authorities.

#### Listeria outbreak leaves infant dead, 10 more sick

SPARTANBURG — A California infant has died and at least 10 other people have been sickened in an outbreak of listeria food poisoning tied to ready-to-eat meat and poultry products that include chicken feet, duck neck, beef shank and pork hock, federal health officials reported Friday.

Yu Shang Food Inc., of Spartanburg, S.C., has recalled more

than 72,000 pounds of meat and poultry products tied to the outbreak, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Some products were initially recalled Nov.

The foods were shipped to retail locations nationwide and available online, and illnesses have been reported in four states. The problem was discovered in October after routine tests detected listeria in the foods and the production environment.

Of the 11 people sickened, nine were hospitalized, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said. A California woman who was pregnant with twins was sickened and both infants died, the CDC said, but listeria was only found in a sample from one of the infants.

#### Earth bids farewell to temporary 'mini moon'

CAPE CANAVERAL
—Planet Earth is parting company with an asteroid that's been tagging along as a "mini moon" for the past two months.

The harmless space rock peeled away on Monday, but it will zip closer for a quick visit in January.

NASA will use a radar antenna to observe the 33-foot asteroid then. That should deepen scientists' understanding of the object known as 2024 PT5, quite possibly a boulder that was blasted off the moon by an impacting, crater-forming asteroid.

While not technically a moon — NASA stresses it was never captured by Earth's gravity and fully in orbit — it's "an interesting object" worthy of study.

-From wire reports



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## **Jackson pushes Ravens past Chargers**

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry made sure Ravens coach John Harbaugh could maintain bragging rights over his younger brother.

Jackson threw two touch-down passes and ran for a score, and Henry rushed for 140 yards as Baltimore beat Jim Harbaugh's Los Angeles Chargers 30-23 on Monday night.

John Harbaugh improved to 3-0 in the Harbaugh Bowl.

"It means a lot. With me being a big brother, I can't lose to my little brother. That's what I believe going into the game he was thinking about that a lot. We came out victorious today," Jackson said.

It was the first matchup between the Harbaughs since Super Bowl 47 in February 2013, when John's Ravens beat Jim's San Francisco 49ers. Jim Harbaugh returned to the NFL this year after nine seasons at Michigan, where he won a national

title.

The brothers shared a quick hug and handshake at midfield after the game.

"I just told him, 'You're a great coach and you have a great team. And I love you.' And he said, 'I love you and congratulations.' It was good," John Harbaugh said.

Justice Hill ran for a 51-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to put it out reach for the Ravens (8-4).

Justin Herbert completed 21 of 36 passes for 218 yards ran for a 5-yard score on a scramble up the middle on the Chargers' opening drive.

The Chargers went 54 minutes between touchdowns. Gus Edwards went 1 yard off left guard to get them to 30-23 with 45 seconds remaining. Baltimore recovered the onside kick.

Cameron Dicker had three field goals as the Chargers (7-4) had their four-game winning streak snapped.

"I thought we did a good job of

limiting turnovers and keeping the ball. We've just got to score more points," Herbert said.

The Chargers had to rely more on Herbert and the passing game after running back J.K. Dobbins suffered a knee injury in the second quarter. Meanwhile, the Ravens finished with 212 yards rushing and outgained the Chargers 389 yards to 285. Henry didn't score a touchdown for the first time this season but had a productive night with 24 carries.

"They ran the ball real well. We need better block destruction just across the board, but you've got to give them credit. They did a heck of a job," Jim Harbaugh said.

The Ravens trailed 10-0 but scored on five straight drives to take control. They also converted three fourth downs, including a 2-yard gain by Mark Andrews on a direct snap late in the second quarter on fourth-and-1 at their own 16 on what ended up being the go-ahead drive.

"This is a big win for our guys. I'm proud of the way they came out and responded. We were down 10-0 and our guys stepped up," John Harbaugh said. "They really didn't flinch and kept fighting. They locked in on the details and played good, winning football."

Jackson, who leads the league in total yards, completed 16 of 22 passes for 177 yards. He also had 17 rushing yards, including a 10-yard keeper off right end early in the second quarter to get the Ravens within 10-7.

Henry was held to 13 yards on three carries on the Ravens' first two drives, but got back in gear on the team's third possession with three carries for 44 yards.

"It definitely added a spark, you know, got us some momentum on our side and be able to get in there and get in the end zone," Henry said. "It just happened that we were able to get a drive together and finish a drive with points and get us going."

#### Hurley has a lot to say after UConn loses to Memphis

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Dan Hurley fell. So did UConn.

Hurley, the often-fiery coach of the two-time defending national champions, was livid over an over-the-back call in the final minute of overtime in what became No. 2 UConn's 99-97 loss to Memphis on Monday in the opening round of the Maui Invitational.

The foul was called on UConn's Liam McNeeley on an offensive rebound in what was a tie game with 40.3 seconds remaining. Hurley dropped to his knees and got a technical foul, and Memphis' PJ Carter made all four free throws — two for the personal, two for the technical — to put the Tigers ahead for good.

Tyrese Hunter scored 17 of

his 26 points after halftime to lead Memphis.

With that, UConn's 17-game winning streak dating back to last season was over. The fireworks were not.

"I had a lot of issues with what went on out there in the game," Hurley said. "That over-the-back call at that point of the game, there was no attempt to block out. There was a player on Memphis that made a half-assed effort to rebound that basketball and Liam McNeely high-pointed that rebound. For that call to be made at that point of the game was a complete joke."

Hurley then offered an explanation for his falling-to-the-floor move.

"I don't know what happened. I might have lost my balance by the absurdity of the call, or maybe I tripped," Hurley said. "But if I made that call at that point, I would have ignored the fact that I was on my back."

Tarris Reed Jr. had 22 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Huskies (4-1). Alex Karaban had 19 points and six assists.

**No. 4 Auburn 83, No. 5 lowa State 81:** Johni Broome scored on a putback with one second left to help the Tigers rally to a win over the Cyclones in a Maui Invitational quarterfinal.

Broome had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Chad Baker-Mazara had 16 of his 18 after halftime for Auburn (5-0), which trailed by as many as 18 late in the first half.

Keshon Gilbert scored 23 points to lead Iowa State (3-1).

No. 12 North Carolina 92, Dayton 90: RJ Davis scored 30 points, Seth Trimble added 27, and the Tar Heels came back from a 21-point deficit for a win in the Maui Invitational.

North Carolina (4-1) outscored the Flyers 59-39 in the second half and took the lead for good at 88-87 on Drake Powell's 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:13 remaining.

No. 19 Arkansas 109, Maryland Eastern Shore 35: The host Razorbacks had their largest halftime lead ever and hardly let up in the second half, leading to a 74-point win that tied for the third largest margin in school history.

**No. 22 Xavier 75, South Carolina 66:** Zach Freemantle scored 16 points, Dailyn Swain added 14, and the Musketeers defeated the Gamecocks in the Fort Myers Tip-Off.

## Celtics top Clippers to win 6th straight

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics made 22 3-pointers in a 126-94 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

Payton Pritchard added 20 points for the Celtics, who extended their season-high win streak to six games.

Kristaps Porzingis finished with 16 points on 6-for-12 shooting, to go along with six rebounds and two blocks in his season debut following offseason ankle surgery. He made the start and played 23 minutes with Al Horford (illness) and Luke Kornet (hamstring) out.

Ivica Zubac led the Clippers with 23 points and 10 rebounds. James Harden added 19, nine assists and eight rebounds. The loss snapped a five-game win streak for LA.

Boston went 4 for 17 from 3-point distance in the first quarter, then opened the second by connecting on 10 of its first 13 attempts from beyond the arc. It helped stretch what had been a seven-point lead after the opening 12 minutes to 19 points.

Boston finished the second quarter 12 for 17 from 3, tying the NBA record for 3-point makes in a quarter.

Pacers 114, Pelicans 110: Tyrese Haliburton finished with 34 points and 13 assists and made a season best nine 3-pointers, leading host Indiana past short-handed New Orleans.

Haliburton's tie-breaking 3 with 3:06 to go and Bennedict Mathurin's alley-oop dunk off Haliburton's pass with a minute left finally secured the win.

Myles Turner added 17 points, including seven straight during a fourth-quarter flurry that swung the momentum back to the Pacers.

Trey Murphy III led the Pelicans with 24 points, matching his season high. CJ McCollum added 23 in his first action in nearly a month, and Elfrid Payton had a career-high 21 assists

— the most in an NBA game this season.

New Orleans has lost five straight, this one with WNBA star Caitlin Clark watching inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse to the delight of some girls dressed in Clark's Indiana Fever and Iowa jerseys.

Magic 95, Hornets 84: Franz Wagner scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting Orlando withstood a 44-point performance by La-Melo Ball to beat short-handed Charlotte.

Moritz Wagner and Cole Anthony each had 16 points and eight rebounds off the bench, and Jonathan Isaac hit three fourth-quarter 3s to finish with 11 points for the Magic.

Ball, coming off a career-high 50-point performance against the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night, also had nine rebounds and seven assists. Brandon Miller added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

Ball and Miller also combined for 13 of Charlotte's 27 turnovers. Those giveaways led to 33 Orlando points, and the rest of the Hornets players combined for just 20 points.

Orlando shot just 39% from the field. But Charlotte, missing several players, was only slightly better at 41%.

**Pistons 102, Raptors 100:** Jaden Ivey hit a jumper as time expired to give host Detroit a victory over Toronto.

The Raptors took a 98-96 lead on RJ Barrett's 3-pointer with 1:47 left, but Ivey's driving layup tied it with 1:07 to go.

After both teams missed, Isaiah Stewart got free for a goahead dunk, but Scottie Barnes hit a layup in traffic to make it 100-100 with 22.3 seconds to play.

The Pistons called a timeout to set up the play. Ivey ran the clock down before driving past Ochai Agbaji for an off-balance jumper from the right baseline.

Ivey finished with 25 points as Detroit broke a three-game

losing streak.

**Mavericks 129, Hawks 119:** Kyrie Irving had 32 points, six assists and seven rebounds, and Dallas won at Atlanta without star Luka Doncic.

Jaden Hardy had a seasonhigh 23 points in his first start of the season for the Mavericks, who have won five of six. Naji Marshall and Spencer Dinwiddie had 22 points each.

Irving had 10 points at halftime after being stifled by Hawks guard Dyson Daniels but heated up in the second half, including a stretch where he hit five consecutive field goals.

Doncic missed his third straight game with a right wrist strain.

Jalen Johnson had 28 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which has lost four of five. Trae Young had 18 points and 16 assists.

**Knicks 145, Nuggets 118:** OG Anunoby scored a careerhigh 40 points, and Jalen Brunson had 17 of visiting New York's team record-tying 45 assists in a rout of Denver.

Brunson had 23 points to go with his career-best assist performance. The Knicks' 45 assists matched the single-game team record set against Cleveland on Nov. 24, 1979.

New York led by 12 after the first, 23 at halftime and by many as 30 points on a night the team shot a sizzling 60.9% from the floor. The starters for the Knicks played late in the game despite the large lead.

Karl-Anthony Towns was a game-time decision with a sore calf, but came up big with 30 points and 15 rebounds.

Reserve Russell Westbrook had 27 points and Nikola Jokic finished with 22 points along with a season-low seven rebounds for the Nuggets.

**Nets 128, Warriors 120:** Dennis Schroder scored 31 points, Cam Thomas added 23 and undermanned Brooklyn rallied to beat Stephen Curry and host Golden State.

Curry made a 3-pointer with 3:26 left and pulled the Warriors within three, but Golden State couldn't make the crucial stops and squandered an 18-point lead. Curry scored 28 and Andrew Wiggins added 18 points.

Schroder's 3 with 11:10 remaining tied the game at 92, and he put his team ahead with another at the 9:43 mark.

Jalen Wilson had 18 points for the short-handed Nets in a road back-to-back after a 108-103 win at Sacramento a night earlier.

Schroder missed Sunday's game at Sacramento with right ankle soreness but returned for Brooklyn, which jumped ahead 9-2 before a Warriors timeout and ensuing run got the home team going.

**Grizzlies 123, Trail Blazers 98:** Ja Morant had 22 points and 11 assists in his return to the lineup after missing eight games with a hip injury, leading host Memphis past Portland.

Morant shot 6-for-12 from the field, including 2-for-3 from 3-point range. Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 21 points, and Santi Aldama finished with 13 points and a career-high 17 rebounds.

Deni Avdija led the Trail Blazers with 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Shaedon Sharpe added 15 points for Portland, which lost for the third time in four games.

**Thunder 130, Kings 109:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 37 points and Oklahoma City's bench players combined for 40 points in a win over host Sacramento.

Jalen Williams scored 28 points and Isaiah Hartenstein returned from a stint on the injured list with 17 points for the Thunder.

DeMar DeRozan scored 19 points in the first half and finished the game with 30 for the Kings. Sacramento's bench scored half of what Oklahoma City's bench did, and the Kings shot just 25% from 3-point range.

## Hellebuyck, lafallo key Jets' win over Wild

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Connor Hellebuyck made a season-high 43 saves, Alex Iafallo scored twice, and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Minnesota Wild 4-1 on Monday night in a game between two of the Western Conference's best.

Hellebuyck earned his league-leading 15th win. Only defenseman Jacob Middleton beat the reigning Vezina Trophy winner, on a rebound in the first period.

Iafallo tied the game less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes later. His second goal, the 100th of his career, came on a tip-in on the power play with 6:40 left in the game.

Nino Niederreiter's backhand from in front of Filip Gustavsson made it 2-1 with 8:55 remaining in the second period. Niederreiter spent 2013-18 in Minnesota and now has seven goals and four assists against his former team.

The Wild have lost seven straight to the Jets.

Blues 5, Rangers 2: Brayden Schenn scored the goahead goal early in the third period, Zack Bolduc scored twice and St. Louis won at New York in Jim Montgomery's coaching debut for the Blues.

Montgomery was fired by the Boston Bruins on Tuesday and replaced Drew Bannister, who the Blues let go on Saturday.

Schenn snapped a 2-2 tie with his fourth goal of the season at the 1:12 mark, beating Rangers goaltender Igor Shesterkin from the left circle.

Jordan Kyrou and Pavel Buchnevich also scored for the Blues, and Dylan Holloway had two assists. Joel Hofer made 27 saves.

Will Cuylle scored twice for the Rangers, who lost their third straight game.

**Hurricanes 6, Stars 4:** Martin Necas scored on the power play with 2:07 remaining as Carolina rallied past visiting Dallas behind a five-goal third period.

Shayne Gostisbehere, Brent Burns and Sebastian Aho also scored in the third for Carolina before Andrei Svechnikov added an empty-netter with 15 seconds left.

Spencer Martin, in just his fourth start of the season, made 15 saves as Carolina notched its eighth straight victory at home.

Tyler Seguin, Thomas Harley, Mason Marchment and Miro Heiskanen scored goals for Dallas.

**Capitals 4, Panthers 1:** Lars Eller scored two goals, Jakob Chychrun had a goal and two assists, and visiting Washington beat reeling Florida.

Logan Thompson improved to 9-1-1 on the season and Dylan Strome got his 23rd assist for the Capitals, who improved to 6-1-0 in games immediately following a loss this season.

Thompson made 21 saves and has given up two goals or less in seven of his 11 appearances.

The Panthers lost for the sixth time in seven games and have just one win in their last five home games as well. Niko Mikkola got the goal for Florida and Spencer Knight made 27 saves.

Eller and Ivan Miroshnichenko had empty-netters to seal the victory for the Capitals.

**Lightning 8, Avalanche 2:** Brandon Hagel tied an NHL record with four assists in the opening period and finished with five as Tampa Bay cruised past visiting Colorado.

Jake Guentzel scored twice while Mikey Eyssimont, Nikita Kucherov, Brayden Point, Nick Perbix, Anthony Cirelli and Luke Glendening also scored for Tampa Bay. Hagel tied a franchise record with five assists.

Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped

Ivan Ivan scored both goals for Colorado, which had a three-game winning streak come to an end. Justus Annunen, who was pulled in the first period but returned for the third, allowed five goals on 16 shots. Alexandar Georgiev allowed three goals on 17 shots.

**Devils 5, Predators 2:** Nico Hischier recorded his first career hat trick to give host New Jersey a victory over Nashville.

Hischier ended a 10-game scoring drought with his 11th, 12th and 13th of the season. All three goals occurred in the second period.

Erik Haula added a goal for New Jersey and Justin Dowling scored an empty-netter. Johnathan Kovacevic had two assists.

Filip Forsberg and Zachary L'Heureux scored for Nashville.

Jacob Markstrom stopped 19 shots for New Jersey. Juuse Saros recorded 26 saves for Nashville. He was pulled after two periods in favor of former Devils goalie Scott Wedgewood, who had 15 saves.

**Red Wings 4, Islanders 2:** Lucas Raymond scored the goahead goal in the third period as Detroit rallied to win at New York.

Dylan Larkin and Moritz Seider also scored for Detroit, while Alex Lyon finished with 28 saves. Simon Edvinsson added an empty-netter in the final minute.

Anders Lee and Kyle Palmieri scored for New York, which led 2-1 after two periods. Semyon Varlamov made 17 saves as the Islanders lost for the fourth time in their past five games.

**Golden Knights 5, Flyers 4 (S0):** Jack Eichel got the lone goal in the shootout as visiting Vegas overcame a three-goal deficit to defeat Philadelphia.

Ilya Samsonov followed up a 32-save performance by stopping all three shootout attempts.

Eichel scored in the second period, and Ivan Barbashev, Pavel Dorofeyev and Tanner Pearson also scored for Vegas, which won its third straight.

Emil Andrae scored his first

career goal for Philadelphia, and Matvei Michkov netted his eighth goal of the season — the most among NHL rookies. He also leads the NHL in points among rookies with 17.

**Senators 4, Flames 3:** Brady Tkachuk's power-play goal early in the third period stood as the winner as Ottawa held on for a win over visiting Calgary.

Adam Gaudette, Drake Batherson and Cole Reinhardt also scored as Ottawa snapped a five-game losing skid.

Jonathan Huberdeau opened the scoring for the Flames, while Yegor Sharangovich and Mikael Backlund added goals.

Anton Forsberg made 24 saves for Ottawa, while Calgary's Dustin Wolf stopped 26.

**Kraken 3, Ducks 2:** Andre Burakovsky and Brandon Montour scored 24 seconds apart early in the third period and visiting Seattle extended its winning streak over Anaheim to eight games with a victory.

Shane Wright also scored, while Joey Daccord made 21 saves as the Kraken improved to 6-2-0 since Nov. 8.

Frank Vatrano and Trevor Zegras scored for the Ducks, who saw their season-best fourgame points streak come to an end. Lukas Dostal made 24 saves for Anaheim.

**Sharks 7, Kings 2:** Macklin Celebrini scored two goals and had an assist for his first three-point game, Will Smith had two assists, and host San Jose shocked Los Angeles.

Celebrini's goals highlighted a three-goal outburst early in the third period for the Sharks, who had lost six of their past seven.

The No. 1 overall pick in last year's draft scored at 1:03 of the third to snap a 2-2 deadlock. Timothy Liljegren scored just over a minute later and Celebrini scored on a five-on-three power play to break the game open.

Anze Kopitar and Brandt Clarke scored for Los Angeles.