

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, October 12, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Artillery fire hits near US troops in Syria

*From wire reports*

Turkish artillery fire landed near U.S. troops in Syria on Friday, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Navy Capt. Brook DeWalt said no troops were injured when the artillery explosion occurred within a few hundred yards of U.S. troops positioned outside Kobani, a Syrian border town. DeWalt said the blast occurred in an area where Turkey knew Americans are present.

A U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, told The Washington Post the troops were in position at a small military outpost when the explosion happened.

A few hours earlier, the Pentagon's top general, Army Gen. Mark Milley, said that Turkish forces know where American

troops are in Syria "down to the grid" on a map. He said U.S. troops retain the right to defend themselves as needed. He said that some U.S. forces in the region had been "repositioned" for force protection as Kurdish fighters, who were providing security for U.S. installations, had headed north toward Turkey.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said in a statement that its troops had not fired on the U.S. soldiers. A Turkish border post south of the Turkish town of Suruc had come under attack Friday from hills approximately a kilometer southwest of a U.S. observation post and Turkish troops had fired back "in self-defense," the statement said.

"All precautions were taken prior to opening fire in order to prevent any harm

to the U.S. base."

The Turks acknowledged they had stopped firing after "receiving information" from the United States.

On Sunday, President Donald Trump ordered a pullback of U.S. troops from Syria's border with Turkey. Trump's decision drew swift bipartisan criticism that he was endangering regional stability and risking the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who brought down the Islamic State in Syria.

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Washington is not abandoning its Syrian Kurdish allies and pushed back hard for NATO-ally Turkey not to launch the operation. He said U.S. troops are still working with Kurdish fighters.

The Associated Press and The Washington Post contributed to this report.

## Turkish forces capture key town in Syria

*Associated Press*

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey — Turkey's military said it captured a key Syrian border town under heavy bombardment Saturday in its most significant gain, as its offensive against Kurdish fighters pressed into its fourth day with little sign of relenting despite mounting international criticism.

Turkish troops entered central Ras al-Ayn, according to Turkey's Defense Ministry and a war monitor group. The ministry tweeted: "Ras al-Ayn's residential center has been taken under control through the successful operations in the east of Euphrates" river. It marked the biggest gain made by Turkey since the invasion began Wednesday.

The continued push by Turkey into Syria comes days after U.S. President Donald Trump cleared the way for Turkey's air and ground offensive, pulling back U.S. forces from the area and saying he wanted to stop getting involved with "endless wars." Trump's decision drew swift bipartisan criticism that he was endangering regional stability and risking the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who brought down Islamic State in Syria. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces was the main

U.S. ally in the fight against IS and lost 11,000 fighters in the nearly five-year battle against the extremists.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters have made gains recently capturing several northern villages in fighting and bombardment that left dozens of people killed or wounded. The invasion also has forced nearly 100,000 people to flee their homes amid concerns that ISIS might take advantage of the chaos and try to rise again after its defeat in Syria earlier this year.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, also known as the SDF, called on the United States to carry out its "moral responsibilities" and close northern Syrian airspace to Turkish warplanes. The group's statement did not directly name the U.S., referring to them only as "our allies."

"We don't want them to send their soldiers to the front lines and put their lives in danger," the statement said. "What we want is for them" to close the airspace for Turkish warplanes.

During a meeting Saturday in Cairo, the 22-member Arab League condemned what it described as "Turkey's aggression against Syria" and warned that Ankara will be responsible for the spread of terror-

ism following its invasion. The league said Arab states might take some measures against Ankara. It called on the U.N. Security Council to intervene and force Turkey to stop its military operations.

The Turkish offensive was widely criticized by Damascus and some Western countries who called on Turkey to cease its military operations.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday that Turkey won't stop until the Syrian Kurdish forces withdraw below a 20 mile deep line from the border.

During the capture of Ras al-Ayn's residential center, an Associated Press journalist across the border in Turkey heard sporadic clashes as Turkish howitzers struck the town and Turkish jets screeched overhead. Syrian Kurdish forces appeared to be holding out in some areas of the town.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, also called the SDF, released two videos said to be from inside Ras al-Ayn, showing fighters saying that it was Saturday and they were still there.

The fighting was ongoing as the Kurdish fighters sought to reverse the Turkish advance into Ras Al-Ayn, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

# Turkish invasion suspends ISIS fight

*The Washington Post*

BEIRUT — The Turkish invasion of northeastern Syria has forced the U.S. military and its Syrian Kurdish allies to sharply curtail military operations against Islamic State at a critical moment in the ongoing fight to stamp out the group's residual presence, creating an opening for the militants' comeback, U.S. and Kurdish officials say.

Hundreds of fighters with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have been relocated from areas where the anti-ISIS operations were focused on the front lines with Turkey, drawing manpower and resources away from the daily raids and missions that have thwarted an ISIS revival.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Friday that the United States had not abandoned its Kurdish allies and that the 1,000 troops deployed there would continue hunting down the remnants of ISIS. The militant group lost territorial control of its self-proclaimed caliphate earlier this year but is making strenuous efforts to resuscitate its organizational structures across Syria and Iraq.

"We will continue to work with the 80 members of the Defeat-ISIS coalition and the Syrian Democratic Forces to ensure the defeat of ISIS," he said.

U.S. officials privately acknowledged, however, that the tempo of operations against ISIS in Syria has "significantly tapered off" since the Turkish offensive began, according to one official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news

media.

A senior SDF official said the anti-ISIS fight had come to a complete halt, because U.S. troops cannot operate without their SDF partners on the ground, and the SDF is unable to participate in missions while also confronting Turkey. "We are focusing on the Turkish fight," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity in accordance with ground rules established by the SDF.

The most immediate concern is that ISIS fighters and their families will escape from any of the 20 or so prisons and camps dotted around SDF-held territory. Only about 1,500 of the 10,000 fighters, including foreigners, Iraqis and Syrians, are detained in prisons in the border area. The SDF continues to guard all the prisons and camps where ISIS fighters or family members are being held, it said.

In the first instance of a prisoner escape since the invasion began, five ISIS detainees managed to flee Friday during the panic triggered by a mortar strike on a prison on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Qamishli, according to SDF officials and CCTV video. Tensions have also been rising at the al-Hol camp near the Iraqi border, which houses 70,000 women and children displaced by the fighting.

There are also thousands of ISIS fighters still on the run. They have managed to blend in among the Arab communities they once ruled or are camped out in desert hideouts, officials say.

The most worrisome pockets are hundreds of miles to the south of the front

lines with Turkey, in the province of Deir al-Zour and along the Euphrates River valley leading to their former capital of Raqqa, overwhelmingly Arab areas that were already chafing under the rule of the Kurdish-dominated SDF.

Until this week, U.S. troops and their SDF partners had been conducting raids and missions daily to root out sleeper cells, financiers and recruiters, and they believed they were managing to stay a step ahead of the militants' efforts to regroup, according to U.S. officials. In the week immediately preceding the Turkish incursion, SDF forces alongside coalition partners captured three ISIS figures linked to explosive attacks and militant sleeper cells, the U.S. military said.

The progress could be reversed with the pause in the effort, risking a vacuum that ISIS could exploit to step up its attacks or perhaps seek to seize territory again, said the SDF commander, Gen. Mazloum Kobane. "We have to keep them under pressure so that they cannot regroup," he said.

Although the militants lost control of their territory, their organizational structures remain largely intact, said Hassan Hassan of the Center for Global Policy, who is from Deir al-Zour, Syria.

"Vigilance is important. ISIS is coming back slowly, but the danger is real," he said. "Their organization still functions. You would imagine it shattered, but it seems to be robust. It's not back yet, but they are rebuilding and still have that kind of fear and ability to scare and terrify people in the areas."

## Lawmakers propose more Turkey sanctions

*Bloomberg News*

WASHINGTON — The House Foreign Affairs Committee presented a bipartisan bill to sanction Turkey for invading Syrian territory controlled by the Kurds, as U.S. lawmakers respond to President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw troops from the region.

"I strongly condemn both President Erdogan's decision to attack America's partners in Syria and President Trump's decision to step back and let it happen," Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel, the chairman of the committee, said. "Congress

must continue to work in a thorough, bipartisan manner to address the disastrous consequences of President Trump's decision."

The legislation, co-sponsored by Engel and Rep. Michael McCaul, the committee's ranking Republican, would sanction and ban senior Turkish officials involved in the invasion from entering the United States. It would also prohibit the transfer of U.S. defense articles, services, technology or material to Turkey for use in Syria.

The legislation would impose immediate sanctions on Turk-

ish financial institutions that facilitate transactions for the military and defense industry, as well as for the purchase of the Russian-made S-400 missile system. It would also require the administration to come up with a plan to deal with imprisoned Islamic State, or ISIS, fighters in the territory and to assist Syrian Kurdish communities.

The House bill joins a Senate proposal from Republican Lindsey Graham and Democrat Chris Van Hollen that would impose sanctions unless the Trump administration cer-

tifies every 90 days that Turkey isn't "operating unilaterally" in Syria.

Republican Rep. Liz Cheney, a member of House leadership, also said Thursday she and nearly 30 of her GOP colleagues planned to introduce a similar measure in the House.

The sanction bills probably will be formally introduced when Congress returns from recess. It would ultimately be up to Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to decide whether to put them on the floor for a vote.

# Winds dying as crews fight flames in Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Edwin Bernard, 73, is no stranger to flames that have frequently menaced his sunburnt corner of Los Angeles, but they never arrived as quickly or came as close to his home before.

Fire swept down the hill across the street and spit embers over his home of 30 years, sizzling through dry grass and igniting trees and bushes. He and his wife scrambled to go, leaving behind medication, photo albums and their four cats.

“It was a whole curtain of fire,” Bernard said. “There was fire on all sides. We had to leave.”

Bernard’s home and the cats left inside survived — barely. His backyard was charred.

Bernard and his wife were among some 100,000 residents ordered out of their

homes because of a wind-driven wildfire that broke out Thursday evening in the San Fernando Valley. It spread westward through tinder-dry brush in hilly subdivisions on the outskirts of the nation’s second-largest city and was only 13% contained Friday night.

Fire officials said 13 buildings were destroyed, many probably homes. Another 18 were damaged. A middle-aged man who was near the fire went into cardiac arrest and died after apparently trying to fight the fire himself, authorities said.

Those under mandatory evacuation orders packed shelters. On Friday, police allowed some to return to their homes for five minutes to gather precious items.

They won’t be allowed to return permanently until the danger had passed.

“It’s not the fire itself but the danger of

wind taking an ember, blowing it someplace, and seeing entire neighborhoods overnight get lit,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Friday.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas said he flew over the fire Friday and saw “hundreds, if not thousands of homes” with charred backyards where firefighters had just managed to halt the flames.

“Be patient with us,” he urged evacuees. “We want to make sure you’re safe.”

About 450 police were deployed in the area, and Police Chief Michel Moore said there would be “no tolerance” for looters.

Smoke belching from the burning chaparral covered some neighborhoods in gray haze. Interstate 5, the main north-to-south corridor in the state, was shut down for much of the day, choking traffic until finally reopening.

## Democratic race enters season of uncertainty

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Democratic presidential race that had been largely static through the summer has tumbled into a chaotic fall, shaped by unpredictable events and the deepening impeachment crisis surrounding President Donald Trump.

Less than four months before voting begins, front-running candidates are facing urgent questions about their ability to challenge Trump, prompted by a health scare for Sen. Bernie Sanders, an uneven response by Joe Biden to the president’s efforts to tie him to the impeachment inquiry and nagging questions about liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s electability. Lower-tier candidates are struggling just to be heard.

The uncertainty is heightening anxieties among Democrats desperate to defeat Trump in 2020. Although impeachment could imperil Trump’s presidency, the process has also highlighted Trump’s skill at discrediting his opponents, sometimes with baseless conspiracy theories. And Democrats appear no closer to sorting out what tactics, what ideology

and what person is best-suited to overcome that.

Progressive candidates like Sanders and Warren are surging in fundraising and drawing support from a wide swath of voters, according to polls, but face opposition from moderates who question whether now is the time to start the kind of sweeping — and divisive — economic and societal reforms they are pushing. It’s a concern some moderates say has only increased against the backdrop of impeachment.

“The divisions we have in the country threaten the health and stability of our democracy. President Trump has fractured so many norms,” former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack said in an interview. “Like a patient getting over an illness or injury, we have to first heal the nation’s divisions and reestablish our norms before we have the needed strength to successfully embrace and implement an array of big ideas.”

Vilsack, a longtime friend of Biden’s, has not endorsed anyone in the 2020 race. He’s been courted by, and consulted with, numerous candidates, and has spoken regularly with Warren.

## Acting DHS secretary stepping down from post

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kevin McAleenan, a career civil servant who became the unlikely point man for President Donald Trump’s hardline immigration policies, is stepping down as acting Homeland Security secretary after six months on the job.

McAleenan told The Associated Press he was leaving on his own terms — a contrast to other top administration officials pushed out during Trump’s tenure. But his departure ends an awkward period of leadership — one in which McAleenan delighted Trump by getting border crossing numbers to fall yet remained an outsider in an administration where top figures — including in his own department — were brash Trump supporters popular on conservative media.

A White House official with knowledge of the decision confirmed that it was McAleenan’s decision. The official wasn’t authorized to speak publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. Trump tweeted that McAleenan was leaving to spend more time with his family and go to the private sector.

No replacement was yet named at the department, which has seen its ranks decimated through firings and resignations.

And it creates yet another top-level vacancy in Trump’s Cabinet — at the department responsible not only for immigration enforcement but also for helping states secure elections.

“We have worked well together with Border Crossings being Way down,” Trump tweeted of McAleenan.

McAleenan tweeted that he had worked — with the president’s support — to help stem the border crisis and that he would help ensure a smooth transition at DHS.

“I want to thank the President for the opportunity to serve the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security,” McAleenan wrote.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called McAleenan’s departure “the latest sign of this Administration’s failed leadership, which has worsened the humanitarian situation at the border, and injected pain and tragedy into countless lives.”

# US, China set brief trade truce

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration and China declared a temporary truce Friday in their 15-month trade war. Yet the grievances that led them to impose tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods remain largely unresolved.

The administration agreed to suspend a tariff hike on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports that was set to take effect Tuesday. And China agreed to buy up to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

The de-escalation in tension between the world's two largest economies was welcomed by financial markets. The U.S.-China hostilities have alarmed investors and escalated costs and uncertainties for many businesses.

President Donald Trump announced the cease-fire in a White House meeting with the top Chinese negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He. The news followed two days of talks in Washington, the 13th round of negotiations between the two countries' delegations.

"It took us a long time to get here, but it's something that's going to be great for China and great for the USA," Trump said.

Many of the details, though, remained to be worked out. And some of the thorniest issues —

such as U.S. allegations that China forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets — were dealt with only partially, or not at all, and will require further talks.

"The president is acting as if a lot of Chinese concessions have been nailed down, and they just haven't," said Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

The negotiators have so far reached their tentative agreement only in principle. No documents have been signed.

And the threat of escalation still hangs over the two countries: Trump has yet to drop plans to impose tariffs that are set to take effect Dec. 15 on an additional \$160 billion in Chinese products — a move that would extend the sanctions to just about everything China ships to the United States.

While providing scant details of what was agreed to Friday, the White House said Beijing pledged to be more transparent about how it sets the value of its currency, the yuan. The administration has long accused China of manipulating the yuan lower to give its exporters a competitive edge in foreign markets.

China has also agreed to open its markets to U.S. banks and other financial services providers, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

# 1 dead, 1 injured in dead dog shooting

Associated Press

VERBENA, Ala. — A confrontation that began after a vehicle struck and killed a dog on a rural Alabama road ended with a woman shot dead, her husband wounded by gunfire and another man charged with murder, police said Friday.

A car hit a dog belonging to Debra and Paul Chapman on a country road in the central Alabama town of Verbena after dark Wednesday, said Chilton County Sheriff John Shearon. The driver got out, attempted without success to determine who owned the animal, and then drove on.

"He tried to do the right thing," said Shearon.

Moments later, Paul Chapman emerged from his house and began shooting, Shearon said. Dallas Clint Gray, who was visiting at a nearby home, responded by returning the fire and hit both of the Chapmans, he said.

The 60-year-old woman was killed and the man was seriously wounded.

Gray, 23, "had a right to fire back" and wasn't charged with attempted murder for the shot that hit the man, Shearon said.

"The problem was that the woman was struck," he said. "That's where the murder charge comes in."

Gray was being held in the county jail, and court records weren't available to show whether he had a lawyer to speak on his behalf.

A grand jury will review the case and could either indict Gray or determine he didn't commit a crime, Shearon said.

Paul Chapman remains hospitalized in Birmingham, the sheriff said. It was unclear whether he may have mistakenly believed that Gray was the driver who struck and killed his pet.

# Rain, winds lash Tokyo as typhoon nears

Associated Press

TOKYO — A heavy downpour and strong winds pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas Saturday as a powerful typhoon forecast as the worst in six decades approached landfall, with streets and train stations deserted and shops shuttered.

Store shelves were bare after people stocked up on water and food ahead of Typhoon Hagibis. Nearby beaches, deserted of surfers, were lashed with towering waves.

The Japan Meteorological Agency called an afternoon news conference to warn of heavy rainfall in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, including Gunma, Saitama and Kanagawa.

"Be ready for rainfall of the kind that you have never experienced," said agency official Yasushi Kajihara, adding that areas usually safe from disasters may prove vulnerable.

"Take all measures neces-

sary to save your life," he said.

Kajihara said people who live near rivers must take shelter on the second floor or higher of any sturdy building if an officially designated evacuation center wasn't easily accessible. He also expressed fears that disaster may have already struck in some areas.

Hagibis, which means "speed" in Filipino, was advancing north-northwestward with maximum sustained winds of 100 miles per hour, according to the meteorological agency. It was expected to make landfall near Tokyo later Saturday, unleashing up to 20 inches of rain before blowing out to sea.

The storm brought heavy rainfall in wide areas of Japan ahead of its landfall, including Shizuoka and Mie prefectures, southwest of Tokyo, as well as Chiba to the north, which saw power outages and damaged homes in a typhoon last month.

Under gloomy skies, a tornado ripped through Chiba on

Saturday, overturning a car in the city of Ichihara and killing a man inside, city official Tatsuya Sakamaki said. Five people were also injured when the tornado ripped through a house. Their injuries were not life-threatening, Sakamaki said.

The heavy rain caused rivers to swell, flipped anchored boats and whipped up sea waters in a dangerous surge along the coast, flooding some residential neighborhoods and leaving people to wade in ankle-deep waters and cars floating.

Authorities also warned of mudslides, common in mountainous Japan.

Public broadcaster NHK said Shiroyama dam in Kanagawa prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, may release some of its waters, which were nearing limits. An overflowed dam is likely to cause greater damage, and so releasing some water gradually is a standard emergency measure.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Officers use placards to avoid parking rules

**IL** CHICAGO — Chicago's independent watchdog said the city's police officers are abusing parking privileges with the help of department-issued placards that allows them to avoid parking fees and rules.

Inspector General Joe Ferguson said the Chicago Police Department used police placards to park illegally in fire lanes, no-parking areas and tow-away zones near City Hall. An investigative report also found officers parked their personal vehicles illegally in police station lots so they or loved ones could attend Cubs and Bears games for free.

## Man cleared of murder after 27 years in prison

**PA** PHILADELPHIA—A Philadelphia man who has maintained his innocence in a murder case for nearly three decades was ordered free from prison after a judge overturned his conviction.

Willie Veasy's long-running appeal came to an end when a judge tossed out the murder conviction.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported the judge told Veasy, 54, "You're a free man," as a crowd in the courtroom erupted in applause. He'd spent 27 years in prison.

Veasy insisted for decades that he didn't kill John Lewis on a Philadelphia street corner in 1992.

## Man injured in 16-foot fall on cruise ship

**LA** VENICE — A man injured in a fall on a Carnival cruise ship was identified as an Alabama police officer.

News outlets reported Hunts-

ville, Ala., police say officer John Thomas Holliday was hurt when he fell nearly 16-feet to the ship's deck off the Louisiana coast. It described his injuries as not life threatening.

Holliday crashed onto the Carnival Valor's deck while the ship was dozens of miles off the coast of Venice. Authorities arrived at the scene several hours later. It's unclear what caused Holliday to fall.

## Woman charged for meth after burning tree

**FL** SANFORD — Authorities said a Florida woman who accidentally burned down a historic, 118-foot-tall tree while smoking meth is now accused of selling meth.

The Orlando Sentinel reported Sara Barnes, 33, was charged with drug trafficking.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office said deputies found 38 grams of methamphetamine at Barnes' Altamonte Spring home.

Barnes is known in central Florida for burning down a bald cypress known as "The Senator" in 2012.

Barnes climbed the fence at Big Tree Park in Longwood early one morning and went into a hollow part of the 3,500-year-old tree. She lit a fire to see her drugs, and it quickly burned out of control.

## Man with gun, armor tried to rob Apple store

**TX** DALLAS — Dallas police said a security officer at an Apple store fatally shot a robbery suspect who was armed with an assault rifle and wearing body armor.

Police said the suspect tried to disarm the security guard but was unsuccessful. Police said the security officer fired

multiple times, striking the suspect, who ran a short distance before collapsing in an alley behind the building.

The suspect, a man who hasn't been identified, was pronounced dead at a hospital.

## Speeds top 100 mph in pursuit of teen driver

**SD** BOX ELDER — Sheriff's officials said a 16-year-old girl who stole a car and led deputies on a chase was injured when she crashed the vehicle in Pennington County.

Authorities said speeds reached in excess of 100 miles per hour before the girl crashed on Interstate 90 near Box Elder after deputies laid down stop sticks to deflate the tires. The vehicle landed on its side with its roof torn off.

The Rapid City Journal said the girl was taken to the hospital to be treated for her injuries.

## 50 animals found alive in feces-filled home

**AL** PELL CITY — Authorities in Alabama said they arrested a woman whose mobile home was filled with feces, dead carcasses and 50 malnourished animals.

News outlets reported Donna Mullins, 51, was charged with obstruction of governmental operations. Police said more charges were expected.

Pell City Police Chief Paul Irwin said officers responded to an animal cruelty call at the Shady Dale Mobile Home Park, where they found 47 cats and three dogs living inside Mullins' trailer.

Irwin said the home was the worst living situation he's ever seen. He said the home was toxic, didn't have running water and smelled, forcing officers to wear masks.

## Wild pigs looking for food tear up city park

**CA** LAFAYETTE — An official said more than two dozen wild pigs have been ripping up a San Francisco Bay Area city's community park, soccer fields, lawns and landscaping looking for food.

Jonathan Katayanagi, Lafayette's director of parks, told the East Bay Times feral hogs were spotted on occasion in Lafayette for at least the past decade. But he said they seem to be especially prevalent this fall.

Official said Lafayette's maintenance staff was working with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to find the best way to protect the fields during the height of the busy soccer season.

## Woman tried to carjack officers' cars, crashes

**PA** PITTSBURGH — A woman who allegedly tried to carjack four vehicles in a Pittsburgh neighborhood — including two owned by law enforcement officers — was captured after police pursuit that ended in a crash.

Ajanay Watson, 19, faces numerous counts, including robbery and weapons charges.

Authorities said Watson had a gun when she tried to carjack an off-duty sheriff's deputy. The deputy then pulled out her own gun, prompting Watson to run to another vehicle occupied by an off-duty Pittsburgh police officer.

The deputy and officer then chased Watson on foot. She allegedly tried to carjack a third vehicle before she forced a driver out of a fourth car and drove off.

The police pursuit ensued and the crash soon occurred. Watson was captured at the scene.

From wire reports

# STARS AND STRIPES

On a mission to provide credible reporting and daily news to America's military, wherever they serve.

Mobile apps available: [www.stripes.com/apps](http://www.stripes.com/apps).

# Sanchez, Nats take Game 1 of NLCS

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — It turns out Washington's Big Three is a Big Four.

Don't forget about Anibal Sanchez.

The right-hander carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning, Howie Kendrick had two more big swings and the Nationals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 on Friday night in the NL Championship Series opener.

"Tonight was obviously vintage Anibal," first baseman Ryan Zimmerman said.

Sanchez had allowed just three runners when he took the mound for the eighth. Zimmerman robbed Tommy Edman with an outstanding diving grab at full stretch for the first out, but pinch-hitter Jose Martinez cleanly singled to center with two down for the Cardinals' first hit.

"I just tried to keep focused on every pitch that I'm going to throw," Sanchez said. "I don't want to miss any kind of

pitch in the middle in the zone against those guys."

Sanchez thought he was going to finish the no-hitter after the big grab.

"When Zimmerman caught the ball I said, 'OK, I've got it,'" the pitcher recalled.

Sean Doolittle relieved and got four straight outs to finish the one-hitter for his first postseason save in two years.

Sanchez and Doolittle made life easy on manager Dave Martinez after the Nationals placed closer Daniel Hudson on the paternity list before the franchise's first appearance in the NLCS since the Montreal Expos moved to Washington ahead of the 2005 season.

"I think the mood of the guys in the bullpen, we really wanted to find a way to pick him up and allow him to enjoy a really special moment with his wife and his family," Doolittle said.

Game 2 was back at Busch Stadium on Saturday. Washington ace Max Scherzer was scheduled to start in his home-

town, and Adam Wainwright was to get the ball for St. Louis. Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin will follow when the series moves to Nationals Park.

"People were talking about the Big Three," Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said, "but we got a guy tonight that we got to contend with and not overlook him."

St. Louis wasted a solid performance by Miles Mikolas, who pitched six innings of one-run ball in his second career playoff start.

Washington scored each of its runs with two outs. Kendrick doubled and came home on Yan Gomes' double in the second. Kendrick then singled in Adam Eaton in the seventh after Eaton reached on a one-out triple against Giovanny Gallegos.

Kendrick also had the big blow in Washington's Game 5 victory at Los Angeles on Wednesday night, a 10th-inning grand slam.

"It's going to be a fun series,"

Kendrick said. "Hopefully we can continue to play really good baseball and put up runs and get some wins."

Gomes finished with two hits while subbing for catcher Kurt Suzuki, who left the Nationals' clinching victory against the Dodgers with a head injury.

Sanchez became the first pitcher to start two postseason games with six hitless innings. Facing Boston for Detroit in the 2013 AL Championship Series opener, he was replaced by Al Alburquerque at the start of the seventh. The Tigers won 1-0, allowing their only hit when Daniel Nava singled off Joaquin Benoit with one out in the ninth.

Sanchez got his first playoff win since he struck out 12 in that game. He threw a no-hitter for the Florida Marlins in his 13th big league start as a rookie in 2006 and also has pitched four one-hitters.

He started this year 0-6 in his first nine starts but went 11-2 in his final 19.

## Kenyan Kipchoge breaks 2-hour barrier in marathon

Associated Press

VIENNA — Eliud Kipchoge sent shockwaves through the world of sport by becoming the first athlete to break the two-hour barrier for a marathon, although it will not count as a record.

The Olympic champion and world record holder from Kenya clocked 1 hour, 59 minutes and 40.2 seconds at the INEOS 1:59 Challenge on Saturday, an event set up for the attempt.

Kipchoge, who compared his attempt earlier to a man landing on the moon, twice punched his chest in celebration and smiled when he finished.

"That was the best moment of my life," he said before adding that he trained four-and-a-half months for his extraordinary race against the clock. "The pressure was very big on my

shoulders. I got a phone call from the President of Kenya. I am the happiest man today."

Kipchoge pointed out his mission went beyond athletics.

"We can make this world a beautiful world and a peaceful world," he said. "The positivity of sport. I want to make it a clean sport and an interesting sport."

Kipchoge was cheered by spectators along the course in Prater Park and there were celebrations in his home country before he had even finished.

"Hearty congratulations, Eliud Kipchoge," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a statement. "You've done it, you've made history and made Kenya proud. Your win today will inspire future generations to dream big and aspire to greatness. We celebrate you and wish you God's blessings."

Hundreds of joyous Kenyans brought traffic to a standstill in the middle of the capital, Nairobi, as they gathered to watch the end of the run on a large screen. People pumped their fists, clapped and fell to their knees as Kipchoge cruised to the finish line.

In Kenya's running mecca of Eldoret, called the home of champions, hundreds of people burst on to the streets in celebration.

"We should line up the entire road from the airport to Nairobi. Receive him like the hero he is," prominent activist Boniface Mwangi said on Twitter.

Starting at 8:15 a.m., Kipchoge was supported by 36 pacemakers who accompanied him in alternating groups, one of the reasons the IAAF will not ratify the time as a world record.

The groups were also helped by a pace car with a laser beam, projecting the ideal position on the road, and they received drinks handed over by cyclists and other runners to prevent them from having to slow down.

Running at an average pace of 4:33.5 minutes per mile, Kipchoge was 11 seconds ahead of schedule halfway through his run. He then maintained his tempo until the pacemakers left him for the final 500 meters, where he sped up.

"I was really calm, I was just trying to maintain the pace," said Kipchoge, adding he was never in doubt about breaking the barrier. "For me it was not 50-50, it was 90 percent."

Jim Ratcliffe, founder of the chemicals company backing the attempt, exchanged high-fives with Kipchoge after the finish.

# Unranked Miami upsets No. 20 Virginia

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Miami used its backup quarterback and a kicker whose name was a mystery to some of his own teammates.

And the Hurricanes might have saved their season.

N’Kosi Perry threw for a touchdown on the opening drive and ran for another with 2:31 remaining, Turner Davidson was 3-for-3 on kicks to at least temporarily solve a Miami problem at that position, and the Hurricanes knocked off No. 20 Virginia 17-9 on Friday night.

“I think the neatest thing about our team this year is that we just don’t panic,” Miami coach Manny Diaz said. “When things are going poorly, our guys get back out there and continue to fight again.”

Deejay Dallas caught the touchdown pass for Miami (3-3,

1-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), plus rushed for 63 yards on 13 carries. Pat Bethel blocked a field goal for Miami and K.J. Osborn caught four passes for 60 yards.

The win kept the Hurricanes from falling to 0-3 in conference play — any conference — for what would have been the first time in school history. Perry, playing in place of injured starter Jarren Williams, finished 16-for-27 for 182 yards.

“Virginia is a tough nut to crack on defense,” Diaz said.

Bryce Perkins connected on his first nine passes and finished 24-for-41 for 244 yards for Virginia (4-2, 2-1). The Cavaliers entered ranked, yet were still 2½ point underdogs at kickoff.

And apparently, those oddsmakers saw this coming.

Brian Delaney made three

field goals for the Cavaliers, who were looking for their first 3-0 ACC start since 2007. They’re now tied with North Carolina for first place in the Coastal Division, and could be joined there by Duke if the Blue Devils beat Georgia Tech on Saturday.

Virginia has managed only 12 points — all off field goals — in its last six quarters.

“Red zone,” Perkins said. “We’ve got to score in the red zone. That’s plain and simple. We had multiple drives to the red zone and not a single touchdown. So that’s on us. That’s on the offense. Defense did its job holding the pillar, and we didn’t do ours.”

Miami went 78 yards in 11 plays on the game’s first possession, with Dallas taking a short pass from Perry and rumbling the rest of the way for a 17-yard score. The Hurricanes’ next

six drives went nearly nowhere — 33 yards on 23 plays, all six possessions ending in punts.

But the defense more than did its part. Virginia got inside the Miami 30 on six separate possessions, and came away with only the three field goals. Particularly costly: a blocked field goal in the second quarter and a fumble in the third quarter.

“Those two opportunities that we didn’t capitalize on hurt our team,” Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

And Miami finally got moving in the fourth, getting 147 of its 265 total yards on its final two drives — turning them into a field goal and Perry’s straight-ahead, 3-yard keeper for a score.

“What changed today is that the team that made the plays in the fourth quarter was the Miami Hurricanes,” Diaz said.

## College football roundup

### No. 13 Oregon has no trouble disposing of Colorado

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Quarterback Justin Herbert said the No. 13 Oregon Ducks focused all week on a more balanced attack.

They saw results on Friday night.

Herbert threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns, while Cyrus Habibi-Likio rushed for three more, and Oregon beat Colorado 45-3 on Friday night for its fifth straight victory.

“We talked about starting fast and moving the ball, and that’s something we did today,” Herbert said. “We got the ball spread around and guys made plays. It was fun to watch.”

Jaylon Redd rushed for a touchdown and caught a pass for another score for the Ducks (5-1, 3-0) who are 3-0 to open Pac-12 play for the first time since 2013. CJ Verdell rushed for 171 yards and the Ducks finished with 527 yards of of-

fense, including a season-best 288 on the ground.

Oregon has not dropped a game since the season opener against Auburn.

Steven Montez threw for 131 yards for Colorado (3-3, 1-2) but he was intercepted four times on four consecutive drives. It is the second straight loss for the Buffaloes, whose three points were the fewest they’ve scored in a game since they were shut out by Washington State in 2017.

“Guys are frustrated. Guys want to win,” said Colorado coach Mel Tucker. “The answer is in the simple truths. That’s what I told them. We’ve got to take time on the way back to look within ourselves to get there.”

Colorado receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. was day-to-day going into the game but he started and finished with four catches for 70 yards after missing last weekend’s loss to

Arizona.

Herbert was 18-for-32 with two touchdowns, bringing his total to 17 TDs this season. His string of games with a touchdown pass is the longest nationally among active players.

He credited the defense for the victory: “When they play like that it makes our job so much easier.”

The Ducks scored on their opening drive on Herbert’s 7-yard scoring pass to Jacob Breeland. It was the tight end’s sixth touchdown reception of the season.

“They’re a high-powered offense, they score a lot of points on a lot of people. We didn’t know exactly what to expect,” Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. “We’re obviously just doing some really great things on defense, and that tonight was going to be the biggest test of all. Our offense knew we had been close to making some really big plays, but tonight it had

to happen. There was going to be very little wiggle room if they (Colorado) got their offense going.”

**Colorado State 35, New Mexico 21:** Patrick O’Brien and Warren Jackson had career nights as the visiting Rams beat the Lobos.

O’Brien threw for a career-high 420 yards and three touchdowns and Jackson had nine catches for a career-high 214 yards and two touchdowns.

Dane Wright added 105 yards receiving for the Rams (2-5, 1-2 Mountain West), who ended a four-game losing streak.

Bryson Carroll had 193 yards rushing for the Lobos (2-3, 0-2), who lost a third straight game.

The Rams jumped out to the early lead on a 42-yard touchdown catch by Trey McBride, but New Mexico scored the next two touchdowns, one coming after Carroll went 56 yards before dropping the ball untouched on the 1-yard line.

# Darnold cleared to start again for Jets

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Sam Darnold stepped to the podium as the New York Jets' starting quarterback again, his once-swollen spleen no longer keeping him from playing in a game.

Nearly a month of medical tests, tough questions, major concerns and big-time frustration is over.

And so is Darnold's time on the sideline.

"The spleen is good, finally," a smiling Darnold said Thursday. "I finally get to wear a white jersey out there and be part of the team. It's been good to be back officially and get some practices under my belt."

Darnold will start Sunday at home against Dallas, his first game since the season opener.

A bout with mononucleosis sidelined him for three games after being diagnosed on Sept. 11. He was cleared by doctors Monday to play in a game, and Darnold has no concerns about getting back out on the field — with Cowboys defenders looking to make for a rough return.

"When I'm out there playing, I'm not worried about guys hitting me or anything," Darnold said. "I'm trusting the guys up front to do their thing and I'm trusting the receivers to get open when it's time to pass the ball. For me, it's all about trust."

Darnold will wear customized protective padding around his ribs/spleen area, likely for the rest of the season, just as a precaution. He said it's not restrictive, and will surely give

him peace of mind.

The 0-4 Jets have struggled mightily without their starting quarterback, failing to generate much in his absence. Trevor Siemian started the second game of the season, but was lost for the year with an ankle injury, so third-stringer Luke Falk was under center the last two games — as New York rolled up a total of just 233 yards combined.

"You are what your record says you are and right now we aren't a very good offense," offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains said. "Sam is not a magic wand. He is a really good player that is going to lift the execution of this team and he is a really gifted player with the ball in his hands, and we are really excited to have him."

The offensive line has al-

lowed an NFL-worst 23 sacks, including 10 last week at New England. Falk, in a tough spot after being merely a practice squad quarterback until Week 2, held on to the ball too long at times. He had no chance to do anything at others.

"Yeah, he should be good, we should not have him dying on the field," coach Adam Gase joked of Darnold. "We need to do a better job protecting the quarterback and we need to get the ball out on time, we need to run the right routes, it's got to be the right play call."

That combination of errors so far has affected the entire operation of the offense, from Le'Veon Bell and the running backs to the wide receivers and tight ends. The Jets rank last in the NFL in total offense.

# Canes rip Isles, off to best start in franchise history

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Carolina's win over the New York Islanders showed the Hurricanes they have a team worthy of the best start in franchise history.

Dougie Hamilton and Andrei Svechnikov each had a goal and an assist as the Hurricanes improved to 5-0-0 for the first time with a 5-2 win over the Islanders on Friday night.

Carolina outshot the Islanders 40-19.

Teuvo Teravainen, Brett Pesce and Eric Haula also scored, and Nino Niederreiter added a pair of assists for the Hurricanes, whose previous best start was 4-0-0 in 1995-96. Peter Mrazek stopped 17 of 19 shots in goal.

After winning in overtime in their first three games, the Hurricanes outscored Florida and the Islanders 11-5 in the last two games.

"It's a good feeling," Pesce said. "Every game has that playoff feel a little bit. It's just fun."

Brock Nelson had a goal and an assist, Johnny Boychuk scored and Jordan Eberle

added two assists for the Islanders, who fell to 1-3-0. New York managed just two shots on goal in the third period against Carolina's relentless pressure.

"Their speed gives everybody trouble," Islanders coach Barry Trotz said of the Hurricanes. "They're all about pressure, and their (defense) get up on it, and pressure, pressure, pressure."

No defenseman gets into the play on offense for the Hurricanes more than Hamilton, who assisted on Teravainen's game-opening goal just under four minutes in. He has three goals and four assists on the season.

Later, Hamilton gave Carolina its first two-goal lead at 4-2, scoring on a shot from the point past Thomas Greiss in the final minute of the second period.

Haula had broken a 2-2 tie earlier in the period when he forced his way to the front of the net and lifted his own rebound past Greiss. Haula, who has four goals, is off to a fast start after being acquired in June from Las Vegas for forward Nicolas Roy and a condi-

tional fifth-round selection in the 2021 draft.

"We're having fun with each other," Haula said. "We're going out there every night and throwing what we've got at the other team, and that's good. It's good stuff. We have a good team and we're hard to play against."

The Islanders last faced Carolina in the second round of the playoffs in May. The Hurricanes swept New York in the series. The Islanders started Vezina Trophy finalist Robin Lehner in each game of that series, despite the 6-1 record Greiss had in his most recent seven starts against the Hurricanes.

Greiss got the start Friday and finished with 35 saves on 39 shots as the crowd taunted the Islanders with chants of "Sweep, Sweep." Despite the identical score, Trotz said the effort was better than the Islanders gave in a 5-2 loss to Edmonton earlier in the week.

**Ducks 2, Blue Jackets 1:** Ryan Miller had 26 saves in his first start of the season and visiting Anaheim beat Columbus.

Jakob Silverberg and Cam

Fowler scored for the Ducks, who have won four of their first five to start the season. The 39-year-old Miller was terrific after being slotted in for starter John Gibson on the second night of a back-to-back.

Pierre-Luc Dubois scored for Columbus, and Joonas Korpisalo had 22 saves.

**Sabres 3, Panthers 2 (SO):** Casey Mittelstadt and Jack Eichel scored shootout goals and host Buffalo matched its best start to a season in 10 years with a win over Florida.

Kyle Okposo set up goals by Johan Larsson and defenseman Marco Scandella. Zemgus Girgensons also had two assists.

Buffalo improved to 4-0-1 under new coach Ralph Krueger, and opened with three straight home wins for the first time since 2008-09.

Linus Ullmark finished with 41 saves.

Evgenii Dadonov scored on a partial breakaway 6:15 into the third period for Florida. Mike Hoffman forced overtime by scoring with 11 seconds left.

Sergei Bobrovsky finished with 41 saves through overtime.