

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump: Al-Baghdadi killed during US raid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of Islamic State who presided over its global jihad and became arguably the world's most wanted man, was killed in a U.S. military raid in Syria, President Donald Trump said Sunday. He provided graphic details of al-Baghdadi's final moments as American forces pursued and cornered him and his children in a tunnel.

"Last night, the United States brought the world's number one terrorist leader to justice," Trump announced at the White House. "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is dead."

In a national address, Trump described a daring nighttime airborne raid by American special operations forces in Syria's northwestern Idlib province and said they flew over heavily militarized territory controlled by multiple nations and forces. No U.S. troops were killed in the operation, Trump said.

The death of al-Baghdadi marked a major milestone in the fight against Islamic State, which brutalized swaths of Syria and Iraq and sought to direct a global terrorism campaign from a self-declared "caliphate." A yearslong campaign by American and allied forces led to the recapture of the group's territorial holding, but its violent ideology has continued to inspire attacks.

As U.S. troops bore down on al-Baghdadi, he fled into a "dead-end" tunnel with three of his children, Trump said, and detonated a suicide vest. "He was a sick and depraved man, and now he's gone," Trump

said. "He died like a dog, he died like a coward." Al-Baghdadi's identity was positively confirmed by a DNA test conducted onsite, Trump said.

Trump had teased a major announcement late Saturday, tweeting that "Something very big has just happened!" By the morning, he was thanking Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iraq, as well as Kurdish fighters in Syria for their support.

The operation marks a significant foreign policy success for Trump, coming at one of the lowest points in his presidency as he is mired in impeachment proceedings and facing widespread Republican condemnation for his Syria policy.

The recent pullback of U.S. troops he ordered from northeastern Syria raised a storm of bipartisan criticism in Washington that the militant group could regain strength after it had lost vast stretches of territory it had once controlled. Trump said the troop pullout "had nothing to do with this."

Planning for the operation began two weeks ago, Trump said, after the U.S. gained unspecified intelligence on al-Baghdadi's whereabouts. Eight military helicopters flew for more than an hour over territory controlled by Russian and Syrian forces, Trump said, before landing under gunfire at the compound.

Trump vividly described the raid and took extensive questions from reporters for more than 45 minutes Sunday. He said U.S. forces breached the walls of the building

because the doors were booby-trapped and chased al-Baghdadi into the tunnel, which partially collapsed after al-Baghdadi detonated the suicide vest. Trump also revealed that U.S. forces spent roughly two hours on the ground collecting intelligence.

Trump said he watched the operation from the White House Situation room as it played out live "as though you were watching a movie." He suggested he may order the release of the video so that the world knows al-Baghdadi did not die a hero and spent his final moments "crying, "whimpering" and "screaming."

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the mission was to capture or kill the ISIS leader. While Trump had initially said no Americans were injured, Esper said two service members suffered minor injuries but have already returned to duty. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said a military dog chasing al-Baghdadi was seriously wounded by an explosive blast.

Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, said al-Baghdadi's remains would be dealt with in accordance with Islamic law and buried at sea in the same way that bin Laden's were.

Praise for the military operation was swift, coming from American allies and even the president's political opponents. In congratulating the U.S. forces and intelligence officials, but not Trump, former Vice President Joe Biden warned that ISIS "remains a threat to the American people and our allies."

## Esper praises Solomon Islands' China resolution

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Friday lauded a legal decision in the Solomon Islands that prevents a Chinese company from leasing an entire island in that South Pacific nation.

"I want to applaud the decision of the Solomon Islands attorney general to invalidate the Chinese effort to lease the island of Tulagi for 75 years,"

Esper said in a statement. "This is an important decision to reinforce sovereignty, transparency, and the rule of law."

Details of the long-term lease between the Solomon Islands' Central Province and the China Sam Enterprise Group were only recently made public.

News of the deal followed soon after Solomon Island officials announced in September that the nation was switching

its diplomatic ties from Taiwan to China.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province and has pressed the small handful of nations still maintaining diplomatic ties with it to switch allegiance.

The Solomon Islands province and Chinese company were not legally qualified to enter such a lease, Solomon Islands attorney general John Muria told the Re-

uters news agency.

Muria said his office had not vetted the agreement, saying it was "unlawful, unenforceable and must be terminated with immediate effect."

The lease agreement would have given the Sam Group wide latitude in developing Tulagi, which was the site of one of the earliest battles between U.S. and Japanese forces during World War II.

# North Korea low on patience amid stalled nuke talks

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned on Sunday that it is running out of patience as nuclear talks with the U.S. remain stalled ahead of a year-end deadline set by leader Kim Jong Un.

The communist state has stepped up its rhetoric accusing Washington of maintaining a hostile policy despite President Donald Trump's insistence that he maintains a good relationship with Kim.

A senior official hinted Sunday that even the "close personal relations" between the two leaders were being tested and said "there can be the exchange of fire any moment" due to the lack of progress.

"The U.S. is now more desperately resorting to the hostile policy towards the DPRK, misjudging the patience and toler-

ance of the DPRK," Kim Yong Chol said, using the initials for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim Yong Chol said only the friendship between Trump and Kim has kept ties between the countries from falling apart.

"But there is a limit to everything," Kim, the chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, was quoted as saying on the state-run Korean Central News Agency. "The close personal relations can never be kept aloof from the public mindset and they are never a guarantee for preventing the DPRK-U.S. relations from getting aggravated."

North Korea has given the U.S. until the end of the year to come up with a more flexible approach, warning it may resume long-range missile and nuclear tests if there's no progress.

## 41 US troops ID'd from North Korea remains

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — At least 41 American troops have been identified among the remains returned from North Korea last year, officials said Friday, paving the way for them to be returned to their families nearly seven decades after the Korean War.

Army Cpl. Lloyd B. Odom, 19, of Odessa, Mo., was the third missing soldier whose identity was announced last week. The Pentagon said Friday that Odom was accounted for on Sept. 12.

North Korea turned over 55 cases of bones and artifacts to the United States in July 2018, weeks after its leader, Kim Jong Un, agreed to do so as a goodwill gesture during his first nuclear summit with President Donald Trump.

One soldier — Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, who was killed in 1950 — was quickly identified after his dog tag was found among the remains.

Several more identifications followed, but scientists cautioned that they may need years to confirm the rest using a painstaking process that involves DNA and other forensic

tools.

"We are up to 41," Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman, a spokesman for the Defense Department agency overseeing the effort, told Stars and Stripes in an email. "We can't speculate at this point about how many more soldiers may be identified."

Odom, a member of the 7th Infantry Division, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir when his unit was attacked by enemy forces in one of the fiercest battles of the three-year war.

Odom will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, although the date has yet to be determined, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA.

A rosette also will be placed next to Odom's name on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

Earlier last week, the DPAA announced the identification of two other soldiers — Cpl. Charles H. Grubb, 21, of War Eagle, W.Va., and Sgt. James Ernest Smith, 21, of Sedgwick, Kan.

## Airmen try out F-35 in simulator at Osan Air Base

BY MATTHEW KEELER  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Airmen in South Korea recently got a chance to learn about the tactical capabilities of the F-35 Lightning II and operate the stealth fighter in a full-size cockpit simulator provided by engineers from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

A simulator demonstration team from Lockheed Martin attended the International Aerospace & Defense Exhibition last week in Seoul. Before leaving the peninsula, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Bob Du-

Laney — now an F-35 customer engagement representative for the company — arranged for the simulator to spend Wednesday and Thursday at Osan, where more than 200 airmen experienced the advanced jet.

"We bring the simulator to Air Force bases so the airmen can see, touch and ask questions about the airplane," DuLaney said Thursday. "There are airmen here that are seeing this airplane because the South Korea air force have three on the peninsula and airmen don't know much about it."

The Air Force does not keep

F-35s permanently based on the peninsula.

More than 430 F-35s have been delivered to eight countries since production started in 2011, according to Lockheed Martin's website. The fifth-generation fighter is available in three variations — including a short-takeoff and vertical landing version — tailored to the different military branches.

They range from roughly \$90 million to \$115 million depending on the model. South Korea has agreed to purchase 40 of the jets.

The F-35 simulator is a full-

size cockpit featuring all the controls that a pilot would see. Capable of running various scenarios, the simulator allows airmen to perform take-offs, landings, air-to-air engagements, lock onto multiple targets and destroy simulated enemy aircraft over Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"It was a unique opportunity to get a firsthand view of the works of the F-35," said Master Sgt. David Snowman, the superintendent for advanced programs for the 51st Fighter Wing, after successfully landing the simulated fighter.

# 2 dead in Texas party shooting

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, Texas — A gunman opened fire at an off-campus party for a nearby Texas college, leaving two people dead and 14 injured before he escaped in the ensuing chaos, a sheriff said Sunday.

Authorities believe the shooter may have been targeting just one person at the party of about 750 people outside Greenville, 15 miles southwest of a satellite campus for Texas A&M University, and that others may have been shot at random, Hunt County Sheriff Randy Meeks said.

The shooting took place around midnight Saturday at what Meeks described as a Halloween and homecoming party for Texas A&M University-Commerce, though officials have said it was not a school-sanctioned event. Meeks described “complete chaos” after the shots rang out, with hundreds of people fleeing, including the gunman. The injured

included four people who did not have gunshot wounds but who were hurt in the melee, he said.

Authorities believe there was one male shooter who entered the venue through the back door and began firing with a handgun, Meeks said. Authorities were still looking for the suspect and did not yet know who he was or have a description of him.

The two people killed were both males, Meeks said, but he did not know if they were A&M-Commerce students. He said he believed four or five students may have been among those injured and estimated that most of the people at the party were in their late teens and early 20s. Some of the partygoers were wearing costumes, he said.

Word of the shooting spread online overnight, with many sharing on social media graphic video purported to show seriously wounded victims lying on the ground as crying and screaming could be heard in

the background.

Meeks said the party was held at a facility called The Party Venue and that the owner was cooperating with authorities. The venue sits along a highway in a rural area some 2.5 miles from the Greenville city limits. Meeks said he was not aware of any surveillance video in the area.

Outside the venue Sunday, a few Halloween masks and other debris were strewn about. Pools of blood could be seen on the ground.

A patrol sergeant and deputy were at the venue when the shooting happened, having been called there for complaints about illegal parking, Meeks said.

Meeks praised the patrol sergeant and deputy, saying the sergeant quickly determined that one of the gunshot victims had life-threatening injuries and transported that person to a hospital, while the deputy triaged others until paramedics arrived.

## World marks year since synagogue shooting

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The first anniversary of the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history was being marked around the world Sunday with community service projects, music and an online remembrance.

The shooting on Oct. 27, 2018, killed 11 worshippers and wounded seven at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

The Tree of Life building has remained closed since the massacre. The three congregations now worship at two nearby synagogues.

Last week, Tree of Life leaders unveiled their vision for the damaged building: a rebuilt space for places of worship; memorial, education and social events; and classrooms and exhibitions.

The commemoration's theme is “Remember. Repair. Together.” It includes a private Jewish service, studying the portion of the Torah that was to be read when the shooting happened, opportunities to do community service, and a public memorial service.

Several hundred people have registered to volunteer at various community organizations on Sunday. In Germany, the Clarion Quartet, comprising Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians, was to perform at a special event in Berlin.

Thousands were expected to participate in Sunday's remembrance through Pause With Pittsburgh, a virtual memorial event created by the Jewish Federations of North America.

Authorities charged Robert Bowers, 47, a truck driver from Baldwin, Pa., in the massacre. Investigators say he used an AR-15 rifle and other weapons, and posted criticism of an immigrant aid society on social media before the attack, claiming the Jewish charity “likes to bring invaders that kill our people.”

## Calif. wildfire forces massive evacuation

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities in Northern California ordered 180,000 residents to flee their homes Sunday as historic winds fueled a wildfire in the wine country, while electricity was shut off for millions of people in an effort to prevent more fires.

The fear that the winds could blow embers and spread fire across a major highway prompted authorities to expand evacuation orders that covered parts of Santa Rosa, a city of 175,000 that was devastated by a wildfire two years ago.

The latest evacuation orders came after Pacific Gas & Electric shut off power to 2.3 million people across 38 counties starting Saturday evening.

“This is the largest evacuation that any of us ... can remember,” the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office tweeted Sunday morning. “Take care of

each other.”

About 90,000 residents were already under a mandatory evacuation order Saturday night that encompassed a huge swath of wine country stretching from the inland community of Healdsburg west through the Russian River Valley and to Bodega Bay on the coast, Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick said.

The sheriff pleaded with residents in the evacuation zone to get out immediately, citing the 24 lives lost when a wildfire swept through the region two years ago.

“I'm seeing people reporting that they're going to stay and fight this fire,” Essick said. “You cannot fight this. Please evacuate.”

The current wildfire, dubbed the Kincade Fire, began Wednesday night and is only 10% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday.

It grew by almost 4,000 acres overnight to 30,000 acres, or 47 square miles, and has destroyed 79 structures.

The fire was expected to be especially unwieldy Sunday due to powerful winds. On Sunday morning, the National Weather Service reported wind gusts topped 90 mph in Healdsburg Hills North, a popular tourist attraction in Northern California's wine country.

Winds could lead to “erratic fire behavior” and send embers for miles, Cal Fire warned.

Concern that gusts could knock down power lines and spark devastating wildfires prompted two blackouts in recent weeks.

The wind event expected to peak early Sunday would likely be the strongest in several years, said PG&E meteorologist Scott Strenfel.

# Pope urges openness after a call for married priests

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — On the heels of a bold call by Amazon region bishops for married men to become priests, Pope Francis is urging openness to new ways, and in a possible slap at conservative critics who fear he is weakening the Catholic church's foundations, he cautions faithful against entering the "swampy waters of ideologies."

At Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica to conclude a weeks-long Vatican meeting on the special needs of Catholics in that South American region, Francis thanked the bishops for their candor.

In follow-up remarks to faithful in St. Peter's Square, he didn't cite the vote a day earlier by a majority of the synod's bishops to ordain married men in special circumstances in the region, where some faithful

who want to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist don't see priests for months, even years.

But Francis said he and other participants at the gathering, known as a synod, felt encouraged to "leave comfortable shores" in seeking new ways to carry out the church's mission to spread the Catholic faith.

On Saturday, Francis told bishops he would draw his conclusions about their requests in a document he hoped to write by year's end. His conclusions will be eagerly awaited by faithful who wonder if it will include an opening to lifting a ban on married priests, at least in some circumstances, in a part of the world where evangelical Protestant churches are increasingly winning converts.

Allowing married men to be ordained in remote Amazon areas that are facing severe shortages of priests would chip away at the Catholic Church's

nearly millennium-old teaching upholding priestly celibacy.

Since Francis on numerous occasions has praised celibacy for priests, it was unclear if the Argentine-born pontiff would embrace the bishops' appeal for married men's ordinations or, more significantly, if such approval would erode the celibacy rule.

In prepared remarks, which he didn't read, he appeared to hint at the appeal for married priests. In them, he said that setting off from shore meant being open to "new things." The pope sometimes skips part or all of prepared remarks.

Currently, the Vatican allows married men to become priests in Eastern rite churches. Eager to include converts, it has also allowed married Anglican priests to remain priests when they join the Roman Catholic church.

## Kelly claims he warned Trump about impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former chief of staff, John Kelly, says he advised the president not to fill the job with someone who wouldn't be honest with him and provide a check on his impulses because he would end up being impeached.

"That was almost 11 months ago, and I have an awful lot of, to say the least, second thoughts about leaving," Kelly told the Washington Examiner. "It pains me to see what's going on because I believe if I was still there or someone like me was there, he would not be kind of, all over the place."

"I said, whatever you do — and we were still in the process of trying to find someone to take my place — I said whatever you do, don't hire a 'yes man,' someone who won't tell you the truth — don't do that. Because if you do, I believe you will be impeached," Kelly recalled in an interview at the Sea Island Summit, a political conference hosted by the Examiner.

Kelly said he does not believe the president would be in his current predicament if he had stayed as chief of staff.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement of her own Saturday, "I worked with John Kelly, and he was totally unequipped to handle the genius of our great President."

Trump pushed back on Kelly's comments in a statement: "John Kelly never said that he never said anything like that. If he would have said that, I would have thrown him out of the office."

"He just wants to come back into the action like everybody else does."

The House is expected to vote on articles of impeachment by Christmas, with a trial to follow in the Senate to determine whether Trump should be removed from office.

## Firm with ties to Trump's brother awarded a government contract

The Washington Post

A company in which President Donald Trump's brother has a financial stake received a \$33 million contract from the U.S. Marshals Service earlier this year, an award that has drawn protests from two other bidders, one of which has filed a complaint alleging possible favoritism in the bidding process.

The lucrative government contract, to provide security for federal courthouses and cell blocks, went to CertiPath, a Reston, Va.-based company that has since 2013 been owned in part by a firm linked to Robert S. Trump, the president's younger brother.

After the contract was awarded, an anonymous rival bidder

filed a complaint with the Justice Department's office of the inspector general, alleging that CertiPath failed to disclose that "one of the President's closest living relatives stood to benefit financially from the transaction," according to a copy of the July 22 complaint letter obtained by The Washington Post.

Dismas N. Locaria, a Venable lawyer who signed the complaint letter, declined to disclose the name of his client.

CertiPath's president and founder, Jeff Nigriny, said in a statement that Robert Trump "is one investor in an entity which holds a minority interest in Certipath" and that "he is exclusively a passive investor, has

no management role whatsoever, is not an officer or director, and his name has never been used or mentioned by Certipath in any solicitation for a government contract, whether state or federal."

Nigriny said the company is unaware of the complaint filed with the Justice Department's inspector general.

The company specializes in digital security and verifying online identities.

While the contract has been awarded, so far no money has been paid out. That's because a second company, NMR Consulting of Chantilly, Va., also filed a protest against the bid with the Government Accountability Office on July 1.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man suspected of grave marker thefts

**AZ** LITCHFIELD PARK — Arizona authorities arrested a man suspected of stealing more than 1,700 brass grave markers from a Litchfield Park cemetery and selling them for profit.

Catlin James Hessler, 31, faces 10 felony counts of trafficking in stolen property, but Maricopa County Sheriff's Office deputies suspect him in more thefts, according to a court docket.

Deputies suspect Hessler stole 1,770 brass grave markers, but 1,670 remain missing, authorities said. The markers are about the size of a hockey puck and are worth more than \$43,000 combined, deputies said.

## Woman drives into casino after eviction

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Police said a woman who was angered when she was kicked out of a Las Vegas-area casino drove her motorhome into the building, injuring a custodian.

North Las Vegas Police spokesman Eric Leavitt said the 50-year-old woman was ejected from the Cannery casino and drove her motorhome into the building.

Leavitt said the woman hit a 66-year-old custodial worker who was outside the building.

## Police say woman set person on fire

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — Authorities in Florida said a woman poured gasoline on another woman and set her on fire inside a Taco Bell restaurant.

News outlets reported Mia Williams, 32, was arrested Thursday and charged with

premeditated homicide, aggravated assault on an officer and resisting arrest with violence.

Police records say the attack occurred Wednesday night in Tallahassee.

The victim was seriously injured and was still in the hospital as of Friday. It's unclear if the victim was a customer or employee.

Police are trying to determine if Williams is connected to several other fires that occurred hours later near the Taco Bell.

## Thousands of birds cause flight delays

**NC** ASHEVILLE — A huge block of birds caused travel headaches at a North Carolina airport.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported that authorities at the Asheville Regional Airport temporarily stopped flight operations last week after thousands of starlings landed at the airfield.

Airport spokeswoman Tina Kinsey said the airport dispatched firetrucks with water jets, air cannons and big-bang noise makers to shoo away the fowl. The flock dispersed after about two hours.

## Woman suspected in false report of killing

**UT** BLUFFDALE — Utah authorities charged a woman suspected of falsely reporting that her husband of 10 months killed her after catching him talking with another woman.

The Deseret News reported that Rebbecca Nielson, 44, was charged with emergency reporting abuse and criminal mischief.

Authorities said Nielson took her husband's phone during an argument about his text mes-

sages to another woman. The husband then went to an RV parked on their property to go to bed.

Authorities said the wife used his phone to text the same woman that he killed her while posing as her husband.

Authorities said the woman called 911, prompting a multiple-agency response.

## School discontinues slow-pitch softball

**MS** CLINTON — Mississippi's high school activities association will no longer sanction slow-pitch softball as participation dwindles across the state.

New outlets reported the discontinuation was effective following the 2019 season's recent completion.

The association said in a statement that its executive committee of school administrators made the decision as participation in the sport decreased to half of what it was six years ago.

## Students using GPS to track turtles

**KY** MURRAY — Some students at a Kentucky university are using GPS devices to track box turtles and learn about the technology's value.

Murray State University assistant wildlife biology professor Andrea Darracq said students work in the classroom to build the tracking devices and go into the field at an off-campus university property to mark the turtles.

The university said the turtles are tracked with the GPS devices and a transmitter, allowing students to determine a turtle's location with a receiver and compare it with more precise GPS readings.

## National Guard plans mission to Antarctica

**NY** SCOTIA — The New York Air National Guard is launching a support mission to Antarctica for a 32nd year.

Members of the 109th Airlift Wing leave Monday for a week-long trip to the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station.

The wing expects to conduct 160 missions, included logistical support for research. Scientists are studying ice loss in glaciers on the continent.

## Man charged after Brady jersey stolen

**MA** FOXBOROUGH — Authorities said a Rhode Island man visiting the New England Patriots Hall of Fame took a Tom Brady jersey off a display and walked off with it.

Zanini Cineus, of Providence, was freed on personal recognizance after a not guilty plea to a larceny charge was entered on his behalf at his arraignment.

Police said Cineus, 33, was wearing the jersey under his jacket when he was apprehended in the vicinity of Gillette Stadium. Police said the signed jersey is worth \$10,000.

## Memorial for fallen firefighters dedicated

**RI** EXETER — A memorial was dedicated in Rhode Island for 97 firefighters who have died in the line of duty since the 1800s.

North Kingstown Fire Chief Scott Kettelle said firefighters raised more than \$300,000 for the memorial that was dedicated over the weekend at the state Fire Training Academy.

From wire reports

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# Astros' Bregman breaks out, slams Nats

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By the time Alex Bregman took nearly 30 seconds to circle the bases, then engaged in a series of animated high-fives, pats, hugs and personalized handshakes between the plate and the dugout, it was pretty clear.

See ya, slump.

Bregman broke loose Saturday night, putting the Houston Astros ahead with an RBI single in the first inning and later launching a grand slam off Fernando Rodney that highlighted an 8-1 win over the Washington Nationals in Game 4 of the World Series.

"This game was a game of failure, and you're going to fail a heck of a lot more than you succeed in it," Bregman said. "So I think the feeling that I had when I hit that was I was pretty fired up."

Holding his bat high, Bregman took a half-dozen steps or more down the first base line, watching his game-breaking slam sail in the seventh. He added another single for good measure as the Astros pulled

even in the series.

"Tweaked a few things mechanically in between at-bats today," he said. "But I wouldn't say I really changed too much approach-wise. I think just mechanically I was better."

A day earlier, the regular season MVP candidate was hitless in five-bats, including a groundout against Rodney after the Nationals issued an intentional walk to face Bregman with the bases loaded.

Overall, that left him at 1-for-13 in the Series.

Bregman wasn't daunted — that's not his personality; he's definitely among the most self-assured players in baseball.

The cleanup man was confident he would clean up. So were the Astros.

"I wasn't worried about Alex. He might go 0-for-10, but then he might go 10-for-10 with 20 RBIs. I know he's going to go and play good and he's going to help us win the World Series," star second baseman Jose Altuve said.

Said manager AJ Hinch: "He's one of the best players in baseball. But it is nice to see

him crack a smile."

Bregman delivered in a ballpark where he's had success, and in a city where his family has a legacy.

Last year, Bregman's leadoff home run in the 10th inning at Nationals Park sent the American League to an 8-6 win and earned him the All-Star Game MVP award.

A half-century ago, his grandfather was general counsel for the Washington Senators, the team that moved to become the Texas Rangers for the 1971 season, leaving the nation's capital without the national pastime until the Montreal Expos came in 2005.

The 25-year-old third baseman hit 41 homers with 112 RBIs this season. But with the Astros aiming to add to the championship they won in 2017, he'd been stuck in neutral this week, aside from a home run in a 12-3 loss in Game 2. Even his usually sure-handed defense at third base had been subpar.

"It's Alex Bregman, he'll figure out a way all the time. He always figures it out," Astros pitcher Brad Peacock said.

After Altuve and Michael Brantley singled with one out in the first off Patrick Corbin, Bregman lined a single to left-center for a 1-0 lead.

Yuli Gurriel followed with an RBI single, and a pocket of orange-wearing Houston fans in the third deck past the right field foul pole began their chant of "Let's go, Astros!"

Bregman ended any doubt about Houston winning with his slam, a deep drive off Rodney that easily cleared the left field wall.

"Huge swing. Essentially a knockout punch for the game at the biggest moment with nowhere to put him," Hinch said.

Bregman enjoyed the trip around the bases, and Astros teammates spilled from the dugout to greet him. Back on the bench, he held up four fingers.

At that point, many Nationals fans already were filing toward the exits. And way up above the right field foul pole, the cheer got louder and louder.

"MVP! MVP!"

## NBA roundup

# Dragic, Heat rally past Bucks in overtime

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Goran Dragic scored 25 points off the bench, Bam Adebayo added 19 points and the Miami Heat rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to beat Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks in overtime 131-126 on Saturday night.

Antetokounmpo finished with 29 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists, but last season's MVP also had eight turnovers and fouled out with 2:31 to play in overtime. Antetokounmpo also fouled out Thursday night in Houston.

Adebayo sank four free throws in the extra period and Dragic scored six points in overtime to lift Miami to its second win.

Kendrick Nunn scored 18 points before fouling out for the Heat. Miami rookie Tyler Herro, a Milwaukee native, had 14.

Heat guard Jimmy Butler missed his

second game after he and his girlfriend welcomed a baby on Wednesday.

**76ers 117, Pistons 111:** Tobias Harris scored 29 points against his former team in Philadelphia's win over host Detroit.

**Hawks 103, Magic 99:** Trae Young scored 39 points, including Atlanta's last eight, in a win over visiting Orlando.

**Celtics 118, Knicks 95:** Kemba Walker scored a season-high 32 points, snapping out of an early season shooting slump with seven three-pointers, and Boston kept host New York winless.

**Cavaliers 110, Pacers 99:** Tristan Thompson scored 25 points and made his first career three-pointer, Kevin Love scored 21 and Cleveland played well in a home-opening win, giving first-year coach John Beilein his first NBA victory.

**Raptors 108, Bulls 84:** Pascal Siakam scored 19 points, OG Anunoby added 17 and

Toronto spoiled Chicago's home opener.

**Rockets 126, Pelicans 123:** James Harden scored 29 points, Russell Westbrook added his second straight triple-double with 28 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds and Houston sent visiting New Orleans to its first 0-3 start since the 2016-27 season.

**Spurs 124, Wizards 122:** DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points, including the game-winning basket in heavy traffic in the final seconds, and host San Antonio beat Washington.

**Jazz 113, Kings 81:** Bojan Bogdanovic hit five three-pointers and scored 26 points, powering host Utah past Sacramento.

**Suns 130, Clippers 122:** Devin Booker scored 30 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 20 and Phoenix beat visiting Los Angeles for its first win in the series in more than three years.

## NHL roundup

## Flyers' late flurry finishes Blue Jackets

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kevin Hayes scored the go-ahead short-handed goal late in Philadelphia's five-goal third period, and the Flyers rallied to beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 7-4 Saturday night.

James van Riemsdyk had two goals and an assist, Jake Voracek added a goal and two assists, Shayne Gostisbehere had a goal and an assist, and Michael Raffl and Travis Konecny also scored for Philadelphia. Hayes and Ivan Provorov also each had two assists, and Brian Elliott finished with 22 saves to help the Flyers end a five-game losing streak to their Metropolitan Division rivals.

Boone Jenner scored twice, and Pierre-Luc Dubois and Josh Anderson also had goals for Columbus. Joonas Korpi also stopped 39 shots.

Anderson's goal 2:15 into the third period gave the Blue Jackets a 4-2 lead. The Flyers then scored five times in an 8:54 stretch in the latter half of the period to get the win.

**Predators 3, Lightning 2 (OT):** Ryan Ellis scored 3:15 into overtime to lift Nashville to a win at Tampa Bay.

Ellis scored from the left circle shortly after the Predators failed to score on power play that resulted from the Lightning having too many men on the ice.

Calle Jarnkrok and Roman Josi also

scored, and Juuse Saros stopped 28 shots for Nashville, which improved to 13-1-2 against Tampa Bay in the last 16 meetings. The Lightning's lone regulation win against the Predators this decade came Dec. 19, 2013. Tampa Bay got goals from Steven Stamkos and Tyler Johnson. Curtis McElhinney made 37 saves.

**Jets 2, Flames 1 (OT):** Bryan Little scored at 3:04 of overtime to lift Winnipeg past Calgary in the Heritage Classic outdoor game in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Josh Morrissey also scored and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 29 shots to help the Jets win Canada's first outdoor game in a non-NHL city.

Elias Lindholm scored for the Flames and David Rittich had 43 saves in his first outdoor start.

**Wild 5, Kings 1:** Eric Staal scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period, and Alex Stalock stopped 30 shots to lead host Minnesota.

Gerald Mayhew, Joel Eriksson Ek, Mikko Koivu and Jared Spurgeon also scored, and Matt Dumba added two assists as the Wild won for the third time in four games after losing six of the first seven.

**Bruins 3, Blues 0:** David Pastrnak scored his team-leading 11th goal, Tuukka Rask stopped 26 shots for his second shutout this season and host Boston won a rematch of the Stanley Cup Final.

It was the first meeting between the

teams since St. Louis won its first Cup last season, skating with the trophy around the TD Garden ice in Boston on June 12 after a 4-1 victory in Game 7.

**Canadiens 5, Maple Leafs 2:** Jonathan Drouin scored twice on breakaways, and host Montreal beat Toronto.

Brendan Gallagher, Joel Armia and Nick Suzuki also scored for the Canadiens, who snapped a two-game losing skid. Carey Price made 29 saves.

**Ducks 5, Avalanche 2:** Ryan Getzlaf scored a power-play goal in the second period and Ryan Miller stopped 35 shots to help Anaheim win at Colorado and snap a three-game skid.

Adam Henrique and Carter Rowney scored in the first period, and Max Comtois and Jakob Silfverberg had goals in the third as the Ducks handed the Avalanche their first home loss of the season. Hampus Lindholm had three assists for Anaheim.

**Hurricanes 4, Blackhawks 0:** Petr Mrazek stopped 32 shots for his second shutout in 12 days and Andrei Svechnikov scored twice in host Carolina's victory over Chicago.

Nino Niederreiter and Jordan Staal also scored.

**Penguins 3, Stars 0:** Matt Murray made 25 saves for his first shutout of the season, and Dominik Kahun and Bryan Rust scored in the third period to lead Pittsburgh to a win at Dallas.

## Service Academies roundup

## Navy edges Tulane on Nichols' late kick

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Navy senior quarterback Malcolm Perry has watched Bijan Nichols kick long field goals in practice since the freshman arrived at the academy over the summer.

Still, he wasn't taking any chances when Nichols lined up for a game-winner Saturday against Tulane.

"At the end of practice, everybody's screaming and everybody's trying to get in his head and try to emulate this situation on the field," Perry said. "I've seen him do it before, and I was really confident in him. But my eyes were closed. I was praying."

Perry's prayers — as well as the Mid-

shipmen's — were answered when Nichols connected on a 48-yarder as time expired to help Navy edge the Green Wave 41-38 on Saturday.

Nichols' kick — a yard shy of a career long — capped a seven-play drive to secure bowl eligibility for the Midshipmen (6-1, 4-1 American Athletic Conference) for the 15th time in 17 years.

Navy, which squandered a 24-0 lead against the Green Wave (5-3, 2-2), has doubled its win total from 2018, when it went 3-10 and endured its worst season since 2002.

**Air Force 31, Utah State 7:** Timothy Jackson ran for 148 yards and a touchdown, Kadin Remsberg added a pair of scoring

runs and the host Falcons shut down the Aggies.

Jackson reached 100 yards for the third straight game to become the first Air Force running back to do that since Cody Getz had three 100-yard rushing games in a row during the 2012 season.

Taven Birdow also had a touchdown run for Air Force (6-2, 4-1 Mountain West), which became bowl eligible after its third straight victory.

**San Jose State 34, Army 29:** Josh Love passed for 314 yards and three touchdowns, Matt Mercurio kicked four field goals, and the Spartans (4-4) handed the Black Knights (3-5) their second straight loss at Michie Stadium.

## Top 25 college football roundup

# Kansas State shocks No. 5 Oklahoma

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Skylar Thompson and Kansas State dealt a big blow to No. 5 Oklahoma's national title hopes.

Thompson threw for 213 yards and ran for four touchdowns, the defense did just enough against Heisman Trophy contender Jalen Hurts and the Sooners' prolific offense, and Kansas State held on through a harrowing fourth quarter for a 48-41 victory Saturday.

It wasn't certain until Oklahoma (7-1, 4-1 Big 12) tried on onside kick with 1:45 left. The ball caromed downfield and the Sooners recovered, but a review showed one of their players touched it a yard early.

The overturned call allowed new coach Chris Klieman to run out the clock on the Wildcats' first home win over the Sooners since 1996, and just their third win in Manhattan over a Top 10 team. It was the third consecutive week a Top 10 team lost to an unranked foe.

**No. 2 LSU 23, No. 9 Auburn 20:** Joe Burrow passed for 321 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score in host LSU's victory over Auburn.

LSU (8-0, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) are off next week before going to No. 1 Alabama on Nov. 9.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for 136 yards and touchdown for LSU, which wasn't able to put away Auburn (6-2, 3-2) until Derrick Dillon recovered an onside kick with 2:31 left.

While LSU's prolific, up-tempo spread offense was able to roll up 508 yards, scoring proved relatively difficult.

**No. 3 Ohio State 38, No. 13 Wisconsin 7:** J.K. Dobbins rushed for 163 yards and two touchdowns, Chase Young was nearly unblockable with four sacks and the host Buckeyes routed the Badgers in a driving rain.

Dobbins slashed Wisconsin's top-ranked defense for long gains in the second half, including scoring runs of 9 and 14 yards. He outperformed Badgers Heisman Trophy contender Jonathan Taylor, who could muster only 52 yards rushing against the Buckeyes (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) after averaging almost 137 per game coming in.

**No. 12 Utah 35, California 0:** Zack Moss ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns, breaking two more school rushing records as the host Utes routed the Bears.

After becoming Utah's career leader in yards rushing last week, Moss increased his total to 33 touchdowns on the ground and surpassed Del Rodgers, who set the previous mark of 31 from 1978-81. Moss also reached 100 yards rushing for the 15th time, breaking the school record he had shared with Devontae Booker and John White IV.

**No. 19 Michigan 45, No. 8 Notre Dame 14:** Zach Charbonnet ran for two touchdowns in the first half and Shea Patterson threw for two scores in the second, helping the host Wolverines win in driving rain, Michigan (6-2) ended an eight-game losing streak against top-10 teams under coach Jim Harbaugh, who needed a signature win in his fifth season that likely won't end with the Big Ten title he and college football's winningest program desperately covet.

**No. 1 Alabama 48, Arkansas 7:** Mac Jones passed for 235 yards and three touchdowns filling in for injured Tide star Tua Tagovailoa.

Even without the Heisman Trophy candidate Tagovailoa, Alabama (8-0, 5-0 Southeastern Conference) raced to a 41-0 halftime lead and Jones only played one drive into the second half. The Razorbacks (2-6, 0-5) couldn't muster much challenge on either side of the ball in what turned into a drama-free tune-

up for Alabama's game in two weeks against No. 2 LSU.

**No. 4 Clemson 59, Boston College 7:** Travis Etienne ran for 109 yards and three touchdowns, reserve receiver Diondre Overton caught three scoring passes and the host Tigers won their 23rd straight victory.

**No. 11 Oregon 37, Washington State 35:** Camden Lewis kicked a 26-yard field goal as time expired and the host Ducks extended their winning streak to seven games.

CJ Verdell ran for a career-high 257 yards and three touchdowns for Oregon (7-1, 5-0 Pac-12), which haven't lost since the season opener against Auburn.

**No. 6 Penn State 28, Michigan State 7:** Sean Clifford threw four touchdown passes — three to Pat Freiermuth — and Penn State had little trouble shutting down the host Spartans' anemic offense.

**TCU 35, No. 15 Texas 27:** Freshman Max Duggan threw two touchdown passes, including a tiebreaking 44-yarder to Jalen Reagor the first play after one of Sam Ehlinger's career-high four interceptions, and the host Horned Frogs beat the Longhorns.

Duggan finished with a career-best 273 yards passing against the Big 12's worse pass defense and ran for a clinching score late as TCU (4-3, 2-2 Big 12) bounced back from consecutive conference road losses. Duggan led the Horned Frogs with 72 yards rushing.

**No. 17 Minnesota 52, Maryland 10:** Rodney Smith ran for 103 yards to become the host Gophers' career leader in all-purpose yards, and Seth Green had two touchdown runs.

Tanner Morgan was 12-of-21 passing for 138 yards and two touchdowns to help Minnesota (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) reach 8-0 for the first time since 1941. The Gophers have the nation's fourth-longest winning streak

at 10, trailing Clemson, Ohio State and Appalachian State.

Minnesota was national champions when it started 8-0 in 1941. The 5-0 start in conference play is their first since 1961, the last year they earned a trip to the Rose Bowl.

The Terrapins (3-5, 1-4) lost for the fifth time in six games.

**No. 20 Iowa 20, Northwestern 0:** Nate Stanley passed for 179 yards and a touchdown and the visiting Hawkeyes allowed just 202 yards of total offense.

Iowa (6-2, 3-2 Big Ten) had its second shutout of the season and fourth in two years. The Wildcats' deepest advance into Hawkeyes territory was the 28 late in the third quarter.

Northwestern (1-6, 0-5) was lost five in a row.

**No. 21 Appalachian State 30, South Alabama 3:** Zac Thomas had a successful return to his home state, passing for 132 yards and a touchdown to help the Mountaineers win at the Jaguars and run their winning streak to 13.

Appalachian State (7-0, 4-0 Sun Belt) put on an overwhelming defensive performance at rain-soaked Ladd-Pebbles Stadium. When the Mountaineers took a 23-0 lead with 3:45 left in the third quarter, South Alabama had not run a play beyond midfield and had gained only 43 yards and one first down on 32 offensive snaps. The Jaguars (1-7, 0-4) were held to a season-low 139 total yards.

**Oklahoma State 34, No. 23 Iowa State 27:** Freshman Spencer Sanders threw for 249 yards and two touchdowns and the Cowboys won on the road to snap the Cyclones' three-game winning streak.

**UCLA 42, No. 24 Arizona State 32:** Joshua Kelley scored a career-high four touchdowns and rushed for 164 yards to lead host Bruins past Arizona State.