

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Afghan attack kills Georgian, hurts 2 US troops

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A suicide attack in Afghanistan on Thursday killed one Georgian soldier and wounded two American servicemembers, NATO officials said.

The blast also killed two Afghan civilians and wounded 11 others, including an Afghan interpreter and three more soldiers from the former Soviet republic.

It has been a bloody week for the international coalition, with two Americans killed and four wounded in a separate attack on a convoy Wednesday.

The wounded servicemembers from Thursday's attack were all in stable condition at a U.S. military hospital at Bagram Air Field, NATO's Resolute Support mission said in a statement Friday morning.

The troops were patrolling with Afghan National Army counterparts in the Qarabagh district of Kabul province, near Bagram Air Field, the largest U.S. base in the country, when the suicide bomb detonated. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

The district governor in Qarabagh, Abdul Sami Sharifi, told The Associated Press the attacker concealed his explosives beneath an all-enveloping women's garment known as a burqa. He rammed his motorcycle into the NATO patrol and set off his explosives, Sharifi said.

Georgian and U.S. troops frequently patrol outside the sprawling U.S. air base's

perimeter and along its flight paths.

A Georgian soldier was killed in an attack on one such patrol in September 2015, which was the country's last combat fatality in Afghanistan before Thursday's attack.

Of the roughly 13,500 troops taking part in the Resolute Support mission, about 870 are Georgian — the largest non-NATO contribution in the 39-country coalition and the fourth-largest overall, behind the U.S., Italy and Germany.

Since the country first contributed troops to the Afghan War in 2004, 28 other Georgians have been killed, according to the website iCasualties.org.

"Our prayers today are with the almost 900 Georgian soldiers in Afghanistan who are mourning their fallen comrade," said Gen. John Nicholson, the Resolute Support commander. "The commitment of Georgia as our largest non-NATO contributor is vital to our mission and we are honored to stand beside them under these difficult circumstances."

Nicholson said NATO forces are committed to helping the Afghan government troops stabilize the country.

"The Afghan people want peace. Time and again, the Taliban prove that they have no regard for civilians and noncombatants," Nicholson said. "The Taliban are the enemy of the Afghan people."

In its claim of responsibility, the Taliban said a roadside bomb killed seven foreigners and an unknown number of Afghan troops who were dismounted and walking

along the Kabul-Bagram highway.

They also claimed an earlier suicide bomber used a motorbike to attack a U.S. convoy in the same area, killing 11 U.S. troops.

Resolute Support did not immediately respond to questions about the second purported attack. The Taliban often embellishes or fabricates their casualty claims.

Thursday's attack came one day after a Taliban car bombing killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded four others outside the country's second-largest military base in southern Kandahar province. The four soldiers were being treated Thursday at a coalition medical facility for wounds that were not life-threatening, Resolute Support said.

The Taliban claimed that attack had killed two high-ranking officials and 13 others. On Twitter, an account apparently belonging to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid posted photos of two slain Americans from the 82nd Airborne Division — Spc. Christopher Harris, 25, of Jackson Springs, N.C., and Sgt. Jonathon Hunter, 23, of Columbus, Ind. — calling them "senior American officers."

The American deaths bring to nine the number of U.S. combat fatalities in Afghanistan this year. More than 20,000 Americans have been wounded in the 16-year war.

The Georgian soldier is the first non-American foreign soldier killed in the country this year.

Trump's transgender tweets present legal issues for DOD

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's tweets declaring transgender people unwelcome in the armed forces have plunged the Pentagon into a legal and moral quagmire, sparking a flurry of meetings to devise a new policy that could lead to hundreds of service members being discharged.

Months after officially allowing transgender troops to serve openly in the military, the department could be forced

to throw out those who willingly came forward after being promised they'd be protected.

A team of military lawyers has been pulled together to deal with the matter, Adm. Paul Zukunft, the Coast Guard commandant, revealed at the Center For Strategic and International Studies this week. These lawyers are working with the White House to flesh out some of the issues, and they're bolstered by a Pentagon working group that initially had been set up to advance the

implementation of the Obama administration's year-old repeal of a transgender ban.

Now, they must deal with whatever new post-tweet policy emerges, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and requested anonymity.

Pentagon chief spokeswoman Dana White confirmed that talks have begun between the White House and the Pentagon to work out the details of a new transgender policy. Although it's unclear what the

result will be, the discussions illustrate that Trump's aides aren't writing off his three-tweet salvo last week as an isolated outburst but as guidance for an upheaval in one of the military's most sensitive equal rights questions.

Whatever the final policy, court challenges are likely. And the personnel, health care and fairness issues sure to ensue may compel some soldiers, sailors and others to hide their identities and to live a lie to remain in the military.

Marine officer relieved of command

The Daily News Jacksonville, N.C.

A Marine Corps officer was relieved of command of a Camp Lejeune logistic unit Thursday “due to loss of trust and confidence in his ability to lead,” Marine officials said.

Lt. Col. Shawn Grzybowski was commander of Combat Logistics Battalion 8 and is pending reassignment, a press release said. “It’s an internal investigation,” said 1st Lt. Marco Valenzuela of the public affairs office.

Grzybowski was relieved by Brig. Gen. David Maxwell, who is the commander of 2nd Marine Logistics Group. Grzybowski had been in command of the logistics unit since September 2015.

Valenzuela said Lt. Col. Ken Gawronski will replace Grzybowski temporarily.

Grzybowski is the third Marine Corps officer stationed in North Carolina to be relieved of command in the past two months.

Col. Daniel O’Hora lost com-

mand of the Marine Corps Engineering School at Camp Lejeune on June 6 for “loss of trust and confidence in his ability to serve in command,” according to previous reports by *The Daily News*.

Lt. Col. Jennifer Grieves was the former commander of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, based at New River, N.C. She was relieved June 7 for “due to a loss of trust and confidence in her ability to continue to lead.”

Grieves was reassigned for

“not properly reporting an incident” that was being investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

“Being relieved of command does not equate to a drop in rank or pay. Once relieved (of command), an officer is typically moved to a noncommand billet determined by higher headquarters. Duties would vary depending on what billet they fill,” Lt. Col. Mike Armistead, II Marine Expeditionary Force public affairs director, wrote in an email in June.

Search for missing US sailor suspended

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

The Navy said Friday it has suspended its search for a USS Stethem sailor who was reported overboard from the guided-missile destroyer days earlier in the South China Sea.

The sailor was reported missing about 9 a.m. Tuesday as the ship transited 140 miles west of Subic Bay, Philippines, a Navy statement said. The name of the sailor — a male lieutenant, according to *The Associated Press* — is being withheld pending next-of-kin notification. An investigation into the disappearance is underway.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with our lost shipmate,

their family, and the officers and crew of USS Stethem,” Rear Adm. Charles Williams, commander of Task Force 70, said in the statement. “I appreciate greatly the dedication and professionalism shown by all who participated in the search efforts.”

The Stethem was assisted in the search-and-rescue operation by the USNS Amelia Earhart, USNS Vice Admiral K. R. Wheeler, a Navy P-3 aircraft, and ships and helicopters from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Navy officials said. Two Chinese navy frigates that had been shadowing the Stethem joined the effort on Wednesday.

Approximately 10,000 square

nautical miles of ocean was searched in 79 hours, the statement said. However, when the sailor was not found after more than three days, the effort was called off at 4 p.m.

“After an extensive search, with help from [Japan and China], we were unable to locate our Sailor,” Capt. Jeffrey Bennett, commander of Destroyer Squadron 15, said in the statement. “I offer my deepest condolences to the Sailor’s family, friends, and the Stethem Steelworkers.”

The Stethem was conducting routine operations in the South China Sea at the time of the incident, Navy officials said. Weeks earlier, the destroyer sailed within 12 nautical miles

of Triton Island on the basis of innocent passage, a U.S. official said at the time. Triton is part of the Paracel chain claimed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The move drew a sharp rebuke from the Chinese, who called the operation “provocative” and said such actions “violate China’s sovereignty and threaten China’s security.” Earlier this year, American and Japanese ships spent more than 50 hours searching for a presumed-overboard sailor missing from the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, only to later discover Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mims had been hiding aboard the ship.

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Navy secretary sworn in

Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — Richard Spencer was sworn in as Navy secretary Thursday in a ceremony at the Pentagon. The Senate confirmed Spencer this week along with several other Defense Department nominees and a new FBI director, Christopher Wray.

President Donald Trump

nominated Spencer for Navy secretary in June.

Spencer served on the Pentagon’s Defense Business Board from 2009 to 2015. He previously was an adviser to the chief of naval operations.

He was a pilot in the Marine Corps from 1976 to 1981.

Airman dies in Kuwait

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An airman with the West Virginia Air National Guard died in Kuwait.

The state Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety said Tech. Sgt. David Board, 49, died Wednesday in a noncombat incident. The agency said Board was deployed in support

of combat operations targeting Islamic State and was assigned aircraft maintenance duties.

Board was assigned to the 130th Airlift Wing at McLaughlin Air National Guard Base.

Wing commander Col. Johnny Ryan said Board was an important part of the Guard and will be remembered as a patriot.

US confirms strike killed al-Shabab commander

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The U.S. military on Friday confirmed it killed a high-level commander of the al-Shabab extremist group with an airstrike in Somalia during the weekend, targeting a man blamed for planning deadly attacks in the capital of the Horn of Africa nation.

President Donald Trump earlier this year approved expanded military operations against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab, including more aggressive airstrikes and considering parts of southern Somalia areas of active hostilities.

A U.S. Africa Command statement said the strike on July 30 killed Ali Mohamed Hussein, also known as Ali Jabal. He is the highest-level

al-Shabab commander killed this year.

Ali also had served as the extremist group's shadow governor for Mogadishu and had been one of al-Shabab's most outspoken officials. In his last public speech earlier this year, he boasted that the extremist group had the upper hand in guerrilla warfare against Somalia's government in the capital.

The U.S. statement said the airstrike occurred near Tortoroo, an al-Shabab stronghold in Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia, "as a direct response to al-Shabab actions, including recent attacks on Somali forces." It said no civilians were killed in the strike.

The U.S. Africa Command has told The Associated Press it was a drone strike.

W.Va. governor switches to Republican Party

Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced Thursday he's switching parties to the Republican Party as President Donald Trump visited the increasingly conservative state.

Justice told about 9,000 Trump supporters at a rally in Huntington that he would be changing his registration Friday. He recently visited the White House twice with proposals on manufacturing and coal, neither he nor Trump is a politician and they both ran to get something done, he said.

"This man is a good man. He's got a backbone. He's got real ideas," Justice said. "He cares about America. He cares about us in West Virginia."

Trump said they spoke a few weeks ago about working together to open coal mines and to create jobs in furniture manufacturing and other forms of manufacturing.

Justice was elected in November with just 49 percent

of the vote, 20 percentage points behind Trump's total in the presidential contest in the state.

The president promised throughout the campaign to resurrect the lagging coal industry that has declined amid changing energy markets, leaving many West Virginia communities devastated. The industry and many of its workers have blamed the decline mostly on former President Barack Obama and his environmental policies.

Justice's defection leaves Democrats with just 15 governors among 50 states.

In West Virginia, his jump is another blow for Democrats in a state they once ran without opposition. U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin and state Treasurer John Perdue will be the remaining statewide elected Democrats. Manchin is up for re-election in 2018, one of 10 Democratic senators running in states Trump won, a dynamic that gives Democrats an uphill path to reclaiming a Senate majority.

Senate OKs Global War on Terrorism memorial

By DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday cleared the way for a Global War on Terrorism memorial in Washington — unanimously passing the first bill in recent history approving a national war memorial before the fighting is over.

For those who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, the memorial will be a place to honor their dead and wounded — even as those numbers continue to climb.

The unanimous Senate vote threw into stark relief the deaths this week of two American soldiers in a suicide attack in Afghanistan and the wounding of half a dozen more in that bombing and another that followed Thursday.

"We're looking forward to building a sacred place of healing and remembrance for our GWOT veterans, a place for families to gather to honor their loved ones and for future generations of Americans to learn about a war they will likely grow up alongside of," said Andrew J. Brennan, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation founder and executive director.

The bill, which was unchanged from the House bill passed July 28, gives the proposed memorial an exception from the 1986 Commemorative Works Act requiring Congress to wait 10 years after the official end of a military conflict before considering a memorial in the nation's capital. A similar bill proposed last year did not go through.

Brennan began the project in 2014 when the former Army captain, who flew Black Hawks during the height of the war in Afghanistan in 2010, was on a hike for veterans. He saw Vietnam vets on motorcycles making their way cross-country for the annual Rolling Thunder ride to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington.

He was struck by the idea of

a memorial for veterans of the longest wars in U.S. history.

"I saw what this memorial did for the Vietnam generation," he said. "It offered a lot of healing for that group, and I wanted something similar for my generation."

Brennan worked with fellow veterans and family members to meet with congressional staff and lawmakers, pressing them to find a way around the Commemorative Works Act, which he said no longer makes sense. His sister is serving in Afghanistan, he said, and he expects that conflict to continue.

"We are looking at a shifting paradigm of war where we don't have set start and end dates," he said. "We are talking about a multigenerational conflict now."

Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Memorial project, said the passage of the bill is incredibly important. He said the Vietnam wall gave veterans of that era a permanent societal acknowledgment that they served honorably.

"This is really going to have a profound impact on our country and the veterans who serve and the veterans who are going to continue to serve because this is never going to end," said Scruggs, who has been a mentor and donor for the GWOT memorial. "This memorial will do for these veterans what the Vietnam Memorial did for the veterans of that war."

The bill will go to the White House, where Brennan said staff have assured him it has President Donald Trump's support. After that, the project will go through a detailed, 24-step bureaucratic process that will include choosing a site, selecting a design through competition and constructing the memorial. The foundation is eyeing a site north of the Lincoln Memorial where there is some open land.

The memorial will include six themes: endurance, sacrifice, all-volunteer, global, multicultural and unfinished.

Sessions vows crackdown on leaks of classified info

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions pledged on Friday to rein in government leaks that he said undermine American security.

The nation's top law enforcement official cited no current investigations in which disclosures of information had jeopardized the country. His announcement, made with other security officials at the Justice Department, followed news reports involving the Trump campaign and White House that have relied on classified information.

In prepared remarks, Sessions said: "No one is entitled to surreptitiously fight their battles in the media by revealing sensitive government information. No government can be effective when its leaders cannot discuss sensitive matters in confidence or to talk freely in confidence with foreign leaders."

Meanwhile, a White House adviser raised the possibility of lie detector tests for the small

number of people in the West Wing and elsewhere with access to transcripts of President Donald Trump's phone calls. The Washington Post has published transcripts of his conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia.

President Donald Trump's outbursts against media organizations he derides as "fake news" have led to predictions that his administration will more aggressively try to root out leaks.

Sessions said in his remarks that his department has more than tripled the number of active leaks investigations compared with the number pending when President Barack Obama left office. He said the department is reviewing guidelines related to subpoenas of journalists.

"This nation must end the culture of leaks. We will investigate and seek to bring criminals to justice. We will not allow rogue anonymous sources with security clearances to sell out our country any longer," Sessions said in his remarks.

Woman whose texts urged suicide gets 15-month term

Associated Press

TAUNTON, Mass. — A young woman who as a teenager encouraged her suicidal boyfriend to kill himself in dozens of text messages and told him to "get back in" a truck filled with toxic gas was sentenced Thursday to 15 months in jail for involuntary manslaughter.

Michelle Carter was convicted in June by a judge who said her final instruction to Conrad Roy III caused his death. Carter was 17 when Roy, who was 18, was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in July 2014.

Juvenile Court Judge Lawrence Moniz gave Carter, now 20, a 2½-year jail sentence but said she had to serve only 15 months of that. He also sentenced her to five years of pro-

bation. He granted a defense motion that will keep Carter out of jail until her appeals in state courts are exhausted.

The judge called the case, which has garnered international attention, "a tragedy for two families."

Carter's lawyer, Joseph Cataldo, asked the judge to spare her any jail time and instead to give her five years of probation and require her to receive mental health counseling. He said she was struggling with mental health issues — bulimia, anorexia and depression — during the time she urged Roy to kill himself.

"Miss Carter will have to live with the consequences of this for the rest of her life," Cataldo said. "This was a horrible circumstance that she completely regrets."

Mueller impanels grand jury in Russia probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller is using a grand jury in Washington as part of an investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia, a person familiar with the probe says.

The use of a grand jury, a standard prosecution tool in criminal investigations, suggests Mueller and his team of investigators are likely to hear from witnesses and to demand documents in the coming weeks and months.

The person who confirmed to The Associated Press that Mueller had turned to a grand jury spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the use of a grand jury.

Grand juries are common vehicles to subpoena witnesses and records and to present evidence, though they do not suggest any criminal charges are near or will necessarily be sought. It was not immediately clear how or if the Washington grand jury was connected to the work of a separate one in Alexandria, Va. That panel has been used to gather information on Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser.

"We won. Move on!" President Donald Trump demanded in a tweet early Friday, a day after he leveled a host of broadsides against Democrats and investigators at a rally in Huntington, W.Va.

Mueller's reliance on a grand jury is the "logical next step in this investigation" given that it's the traditional method for prosecutors to gather evidence, said Washington lawyer Jacob Frenkel.

"The use of the grand jury neither escalates, nor establishes a timeline for, the investigation," he added.

Lawyers for Trump said earlier they were unaware of the existence of a grand jury and had no information to sug-

gest the president himself was under federal investigation.

"With respect to the news of the federal grand jury, I have no reason to believe that the president is under investigation," defense attorney John Dowd told the AP.

Ty Cobb, special counsel to the president, said he wasn't aware Mueller had started using a new grand jury.

It was not clear what witnesses might appear before the grand jury nor what evidence it might be accumulating or presented with.

Though there is "considerable deference to the prosecutors and their recommendations" when it comes to a grand jury, "the mere fact of presenting evidence to the grand jury does not obligate prosecutors in any way to ask them to return an indictment," Frenkel said.

Mueller, who worked as a prosecutor in Washington before becoming FBI director, was appointed special counsel in May by the Justice Department following Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey. Mueller has since assembled a team of more than a dozen investigators, including current and former Justice Department prosecutors with experience in international bribery, organized crime and financial fraud.

News of the grand jury came as senators introduced two bipartisan bills aimed at protecting Mueller from being fired by Trump, with both parties signaling resistance to any White House effort to derail the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election.

Trump's defense team has been looking into potential conflicts of interest among members of Mueller's team, such as past political contributions to Democrats including Hillary Clinton, and Trump has warned that any effort by Mueller to look into his finances would fall outside the scope of Mueller's appointment.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Human remains dating back 900 years found

OH COSHOCTON — Authorities said human remains found by a man in Ohio are estimated to be centuries old.

According to the Coshoc-ton County Sheriff's Office, a coroner concluded the remains found June 21 in a field above Mohawk Dam are about 900 years old.

A man hunting for arrow-heads found the remains and called authorities. The county coroner determined the bones were human and had been at the site for an extended period of time.

Unwanted record: Biggest dead zone

LA NEW ORLEANS — There's an unwanted record in the Gulf of Mexico: This year's "dead zone," where there's too little oxygen to support marine life, is the biggest ever measured.

Scientists said the oxygen-depleted region is about the size of New Jersey, covering 8,776 square miles.

Scientist Nancy Rabalais, who has been measuring the area since 1985, said the area was actually larger, but the mapping cruise had to stop before reaching the western edge. Nutrients from nitrogen and phosphorus used a fertilizer, which get carried down from the Mississippi River, feed plankton blooms that die and sink. Their resulting decay uses oxygen.

Driver blamed after bus hops curb, hits cannon

PA PITTSBURGH — Investigators said driver error caused a public transit bus to hop a curb and to dislodge a

memorial cannon at a park in Pittsburgh.

Officials said the bus went through a low fence around the memorial and struck the cannon, which became lodged in a side window. No passengers or bystanders were seriously hurt in the July 8 crash.

A spokesman for the Port Authority of Allegheny County said Wednesday that bus driver Nicole Lawrence, who was cited for driving at unsafe speeds and failure to wear a seat belt, is no longer employed. He declined to say if she was fired.

The Port Authority has agreed to pay to restore the cannon.

Pot found in cereal boxes during traffic stop

LA COVINGTON — Authorities said a man speeding down an interstate in Louisiana has been arrested after deputies found 2 pounds of marijuana in cereal boxes.

News outlets reported Donald Roots-Scott Jr., 23, of Sacramento, Calif., was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, an expired driver's license and speeding.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release deputies pulled Roots-Scott over for traveling at nearly 90 mph on Interstate 12 on Tuesday. Scott told deputies that his driver's license was expired and that marijuana was inside the vehicle.

Authorities found high-grade marijuana hidden inside Honey Nut Cheerios and Cap'n Crunch's Crunch Berries cereal boxes.

Guards let convict repair locks at prison

NY AUBURN — A prison inmate convicted of killing his parents said he was allowed to fix locks inside a

maximum-security New York prison before an elaborate escape plan he developed was uncovered.

The Post-Standard reported Gordon "Woody" Mower told the Syracuse newspaper that guards at the Auburn Correctional Facility had him repair locks throughout the prison regularly. Mower said the tasks ended in April 2015 after he was caught plotting to escape under a truckload of sawdust from the prison's woodshop.

His details of fixing locks were included in a deposition from a disciplinary hearing at the prison in 2015. A civilian employee testifying at the hearing said Mower "did quite a lot for the lockshop."

Officer helps girl search for bogeymen

CO LONGMONT — For a year now, Sidney Fahrenbruch, 4, has wanted to be a police officer.

This past month, she enlisted an officer's help to make sure her new home in Longmont, Colo., was monster-free after meeting him at a barbecue.

Sidney invited officer David Bonday over to scour some nooks and crannies in her unfamiliar digs shortly after her family moved in last month.

Megan Fahrenbruch said her daughter doesn't really buy into the idea of monsters, but the aspiring policewoman smelled an opportunity to hang out with an officer. Sidney wore her police uniform for the hunt, which turned up zero bogeymen.

The Longmont Police Department posted on Facebook about the monster hunt, writing "Monsters can be a frightening experience for children. It turns out though, that with a little help, you really can get these unfriendly folks out of your house."

Museum to improve 'creepy' statue

MA BOSTON — A wax museum is asking New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady for help to improve a wax replica of him that has been ridiculed online.

The Dreamland Wax Museum in Boston features a statue of Brady that has drawn criticism from people who say it looks "creepy" and doesn't resemble him.

A Facebook post from the museum on Wednesday acknowledges the figure isn't perfect because it's based on a photo instead of Brady's actual measurements.

The museum has invited Brady to "come by and sit in for a measurement session." The museum said getting it perfect is its top priority.

Men accused of stealing boy's bike at gunpoint

CT STAMFORD — Two Connecticut men have been charged with stealing a 12-year-old boy's bike at gunpoint.

The Stamford Advocate reported that the 24- and 19-year-old suspects have been charged with first-degree robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

Police say the boy was riding in Leone Park in Stamford on July 18 when he was approached by five men.

The boy told police one of the men pulled a gun from his waistband, held it to his head as the others demanded his bike. The gunman took the bike as the others fled from the scene. Security footage helped identify the suspects.

Police said the robbery left the boy "traumatized."

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Cowboys edge Cards

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — Now that the Dallas Cowboys have taken care of business in the Hall of Fame game, they're going to hang around for a couple of days.

Why not? The boss is about to get a gold jacket.

With no stars and few starters on the field Thursday night, the Cowboys edged the Arizona Cardinals 20-18. The idea, Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said, was to get the young players lots of action, win the game, then get ready for owner Jerry Jones' induction on Saturday night.

So the team will be off Friday, practice in Cleveland on Saturday, then tour the Hall before the evening ceremonies.

"This is a great experience not only for Jerry and the Jones family," Garrett said, "but for the entire Dallas Cowboys family. We all take ownership in his induction."

Garrett saw lots of value in playing an extra exhibition game.

"As a player you learn so much more in game situations than in any other environment," he said. "There's nothing like putting on a uniform and going on a real football field and playing versus an opponent."

Rookie Sam Irwin-Hill, unlikely to beat out Dallas veteran Dan Bailey for the placekicking job, made field goals of 23 and 43 yards, the latter providing the winning points in the fourth quarter.

The opening half featured a handful of big plays, with Arizona's third-string quarterback, Blaine Gabbert, consistently finding open receivers down the middle.

"There were a couple specific plays by the defense on those first couple of drives," Garrett said. "Blown assignments on a big third-down conversion, and it wasn't physical enough. It wasn't aggressive enough."

Dallas' Kellen Moore, who missed last season with an ankle injury, had some success passing down the sidelines, but his second-quarter interception by Brandon Williams in the end zone ruined a drive.

With the likes of Carson Palmer, Larry Fitzgerald, David Johnson, Patrick Peterson and Tyrann Mathieu sitting it out, Arizona could be pleased with the work of backup running backs Kerwynn Williams and Andre Ellington, who both scored on short runs.

"It was great to see the offense move the ball and get touchdowns on those first two drives," Fitzgerald said. "O-line, running game, passing the ball, that was impressive and I'm happy for every one of those guys."

And with Dak Prescott, Ezekiel Elliott, Jason Witten, Sean Lee and their strong offensive line pretty much inactive, the Cowboys could point to veteran RB Alfred Morris and receivers Brice Butler and Rico Gathers.

Morris showed off a spin move worthy of Elliott on a 25-yard run, Butler had 78 yards on two catches in the first half, and Gathers, a hoops starter at Baylor, made a 26-yard touchdown catch.

Gathers also made a diving reception and slipped a pair of tackles on a 17-yard play early in the third period. That led to Uzoma Nwachukwu's 14-yard TD catch from fourth-string rookie Cooper Rush. The former rebounding standout had three catches for 59 yards.

"He's gotten so much better," Garrett said of Gathers, a practice squad player in 2016. "He has a tremendous willingness to work and has come a long way, but has a long way to go."

Generally, though, it was a sloppy exercise befitting the lack of star power.

Pregame intros: Jones drew the loudest cheers — no surprise considering the overwhelmingly pro-Cowboys crowd of 21,126 at the renovated Hall of Fame Stadium — in pregame introductions of the seven men who will be inducted into the shrine Saturday night.

Jones, Terrell Davis, Kurt Warner, Kenny Easley, LaDainian Tomlinson, Jason Taylor and Morten Andersen walked along midfield between the competing teams, often shaking hands with current players.

Titans' RB Murray not slowing down

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — DeMarco Murray is coming off a season where he led the AFC in rushing and earned his third Pro Bowl selection. So much for being done after a painful season in Philadelphia.

Now the running back, who turns 30 in February, is facing the ultimate challenge: Time.

Murray isn't worried.

"Some of the great running backs, they played great well into their 30s," Murray said at the start of training camp. "I pride myself on taking care of my body, not just through the season, but yearly. I know what it takes to withstand a full 16-game stretch ... It's a grind, but I enjoy it. I embrace it and I'm excited about it."

Murray recaptured his production and running style after being traded by the Eagles to the Titans in March 2016. Murray had tried to capitalize on being named the Associated Press' NFL Offensive Player of the Year in 2014, running for a league-best 1,845 yards, by signing a five-year, \$40 million deal with Philadelphia in 2015.

With the Eagles, Murray started only eight of 15 games played and ran 193 times for a team-best 702 yards rushing. Once coach Chip Kelly was fired, Murray's contract was one of those Philadelphia unloaded.

The Titans couldn't wait to add Murray as a running threat to help protect quarterback Marcus Mariota. Behind a revamped offensive line, Murray proved very durable, playing through a torn plantar plate in his right foot. Murray led the AFC and was third in the NFL with 1,287 yards rushing on 293 carries. It was the second-most carries of his career and his second-best rushing season.

Murray dismisses questions that all those carries could add up and makes it clear he's eager to do even more. He said he worked hard this offseason in Las Vegas to make sure he's ready.

"Very confident in my ability and my work ethic to make sure

I'm physically prepared to withstand whatever they want, whatever they ask me to do," Murray said. "Hopefully, it's a lot more, and we'll see from there."

Murray did not practice Thursday with a sore hamstring that has him day to day in training camp. That gave the Titans a chance to see even more of Derrick Henry, the 2015 Heisman Trophy winner they drafted at No. 45 overall last year. Henry averaged 4.5 yards on 110 carries last season backing up Murray and also scored five touchdowns rushing.

Coach Mike Mularkey has made it clear that Murray remains the Titans' top running back. Don't even ask him to predict how the carries will be divided between Murray and Henry this season.

"What the numbers are this year, I'm not going to predict that because I'll back myself into a corner with that one," Mularkey said. "They'll both be involved, they'll both be effective for us."

Murray's success has kept Henry watching more from the sideline, and he said Henry will have a lot of success in the NFL playing for a long time. The veteran feels Henry is so good that Murray feels much more comfortable about heading to the sideline for a break when needed.

"Even in Dallas, I would always try to stay longer because I didn't trust the second-string guy or third-string guy to come in and have a complete drop-off," Murray said. "But for (Henry), ... I know he'll pick up the slack and do well for us. That definitely helps me mentally."

Moving up from third in the NFL in rushing to leading the league as a team also is another goal. Only Dallas and Buffalo ran for more yards than the Titans. Murray looks at an offensive line featuring Pro Bowl left tackle Taylor Lewan, center Ben Jones and All Pro Jack Conklin and says that's absolutely a goal.

"We want to be the most physical team ever," Murray said.

Goldschmidt powers D-backs past Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The shortest of Paul Goldschmidt's three home runs on Thursday — the one that went only about halfway up the left-center bleachers at Wrigley Field — turned out to be his biggest.

Goldschmidt snapped a tie in the ninth inning with his third long drive of the game, and the Arizona Diamondbacks pulled out a rain-delayed 10-8 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Thursday.

The Diamondbacks first baseman hit a 3-2 pitch from Wade Davis (2-1) deep into the right-center bleachers with one out. J.D. Martinez followed with another solo blast off the Cubs closer.

"Crazy. I've never had three home runs and just to win that game back and forth is good for our team," Goldschmidt said.

Goldschmidt's first homer was a three-run shot to the top of the left-center bleachers in the first. His two-run shot in the fifth rocketed down the left-field line and bounced high on Waveland Avenue to make it 6-1.

In the ninth, Goldschmidt wasn't swinging for the fences.

"When it's a tie game and you're facing Wade Davis who's one of the best closers in the game, it's not a guy you try to hit a

home run off of," Goldschmidt said. "I just told myself to get on for J.D. Just try to hit a single and not do too much."

Brandon Drury also homered for Arizona, which remained percentage points ahead of Colorado for the top NL wild card despite blowing a five-run lead.

"Bottom line is, we won the game and found a way to do that," manager Torey Lovullo said. "Goldschmidt has one of those special days you dream about, and the timing couldn't have been any better."

Willson Contreras hit two home runs and had a career-high six RBIs for Chicago, which lost consecutive games for the first time since the All-Star break. The Cubs' NL Central lead over Milwaukee slipped to 1½ games.

"I feel like I didn't do enough to help the team to win," Contreras said. "I'd rather go 0-for-5 with a win than 3-for-5 with 6 RBIs."

Jake Barrett (1-0), Arizona's fifth reliever, got two outs in the eighth for the win. Fernando Rodney worked around two walks in the ninth to earn his 24th save in 29 chances.

Jake Lamb singled in two runs in the eighth to put Arizona back ahead 8-7 after blowing a five-run lead. Chicago's John Jay

tied game at 8 in the bottom of the inning when he bounced into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded and Jason Heyward scored.

Jose Quintana was hit hard in his fourth start with the Cubs, allowing six runs. The lefty had not permitted more than three runs in three starts since moving across town in a July 13 trade with the White Sox.

Arizona starter Zack Greinke allowed a season-high six runs in six-plus innings.

Contreras had something to do with that, manager Joe Maddon said. The Cubs catcher has 13 of his 18 homers since June 19 and is batting .343 since July 9.

"That's a good test for (Contreras) right there, how he handles a pitcher who knows how to pitch," Maddon said.

Contreras' second homer, a three-run drive in the sixth, got the Cubs within 6-5.

The game started 90 minutes late because of storms and then was interrupted for 35 minutes in the second and 30 in the ninth.

Out of the park, out of the ordinary: Davis, who has converted 22 straight save chances with Chicago, had allowed only one homer this season before Thursday. The All-Star gave up only three homers over the past three years with Kansas City.

Roundup

Kluber outshines Gray as Indians beat Yankees

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber upstaged Sonny Gray's debut for New York by pitching a three-hitter and leading the Cleveland Indians to a 5-1 win over the sloppy Yankees on Thursday night.

Kluber (9-3) struck out 11 and Cleveland's ace threw his third complete game this season as the defending AL champions won the opener of a four-game series with a potential playoff opponent, ending their losing streak at three.

For five innings, Gray (6-6) was nearly as good as Kluber, but New York made three errors in the first behind the right-hander, who was acquired at Monday's trade deadline from Oakland to help the Yankees return to the postseason.

With his latest dominant per-

formance, Kluber joined Hall of Famers Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and Nolan Ryan as the only pitchers to strike out at least eight in 12 straight starts.

The Yankees sat struggling slugger Aaron Judge. The major league home run leader is batting .164 (11-for-67) with 29 strikeouts since the break.

Rockies 5, Mets 4: Nolan Arenado walked with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Colorado a win over New York.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1: Keon Broxton drove in the go-ahead run and saved one with a leaping catch, Matt Garza made a strong start in his return from the disabled list, and Milwaukee edged visiting St. Louis.

Pirates 6, Reds 0: Chad Kuhl permitted four hits in seven efficient innings, Starling Marte went 3-for-4 and scored three

times, and host Pittsburgh had little trouble with Cincinnati.

Dodgers 7, Braves 4: Alex Wood allowed one run in six innings to avenge his lone loss of the season, Chris Taylor had three hits, including a two-run homer, and visiting Los Angeles defeated Atlanta.

Rays 5, Astros 3: Steven Souza Jr. homered and drove in three runs, and Corey Dickerson added three hits and made a dazzling defensive play to preserve visiting Tampa Bay's lead against Houston.

Red Sox 9, White Sox 5: Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer and Rick Porcello ended a four-game losing streak with his first win since June as host Boston beat Chicago.

Rangers 4, Twins 1: Joey Gallo hit another massive homer, a three-run shot in the fourth inning that spurred Texas to a

win over host Minnesota.

Royals 6, Mariners 4: Brandon Moss hit two homers and Lorenzo Cain singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Kansas City topped visiting Seattle.

Tigers 7, Orioles 5: Justin Upton homered and drove in two runs, and Detroit shook off two rain delays and a triple play to beat host Baltimore.

Angels 5, Phillies 4: At Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout hit an early two-run homer and Los Angeles scored twice in the eighth inning to beat Philadelphia for the 12th straight time.

Giants 11, Athletics 2: Ty Blach pitched eight strong innings and hit a three-run homer, and Jarrett Parker had three hits and three RBIs in his return from the disabled list as host San Francisco defeated Oakland.

US women's soccer team routs Japan

Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Although Australia wrapped up the inaugural Tournament of Nations title before the U.S. women stepped on the field, Megan Rapinoe and her teammates still finished strong.

Rapinoe scored a splendid goal in the 12th minute, and the Americans beat Japan 3-0 on Thursday night in the final match of the four-team, round-robin event.

Mallory Pugh and Alex Morgan scored in the second half as the U.S. entertained a crowd of 23,161 that didn't seem to mind finishing second in this friendly tournament.

Australia rendered the

Americans' final result irrelevant to the standings by routing Brazil 6-1 in the early game at StubHub Center south of downtown Los Angeles. The U.S. needed Australia to lose to have any chance to make up a three-goal aggregate deficit.

"You look at Australia, and they're a seasoned team because they've been together so long," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said. "That's the next step for us, is working on our chemistry and our team play."

The top-ranked Americans' 1-0 loss to the Matildas in Portland last week turned out to be the decisive match in the Tournament of Nations, which was created to give more opportunities to the U.S. team to face

top opposition. Ellis used the tournament to give minutes to underused players and to work on new lineup combinations, such as playing Becky Sauerbrunn and Abby Dahlkemper together on the back line.

After getting shut out in the opener, the Americans also showcased their wealth of strong attacking players with seven goals in the final two tournament games against two of the world's top eight teams. The U.S. followed up its incredible late comeback against Brazil last Sunday with a solid performance against Japan in a rematch of the 2015 World Cup final.

"Now it's about building connections," Ellis said. "I

know what I've put the players through in terms of it being challenging. ... It's not going to be chemistry right now. It's when they come out of this and they start to build relationships."

The U.S. improved to 27-1-7 against Japan.

Rapinoe's goal was a stunner: She took a clever pass from Christen Press in stride and stutter-stepped her way through the penalty area, dropping defender Aya Sameshima to the turf with a fake before firing a low shot past goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita.

The goal was Rapinoe's 33rd for the U.S., capping a tournament in which she was easily the best American.

Knee surgery still an option for Dolphins' Tannehill

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Knee surgery is an option for Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill, and it's also possible an operation can be avoided, coach Adam Gase said Friday.

Tannehill, who missed the final four games of last season with two sprained ligaments in his left knee, reinjured it in practice Thursday. An MRI was inconclusive, and the Dolphins are consulting with a multitude of specialists.

"I wouldn't say second and third opinions — we're probably going deeper than that, talking to a lot of people, making sure we get the right information," Gase said. There's no timetable for a decision, he said.

Last year Tannehill chose not to have surgery after he was hurt. Even if he's able to take that approach this time, he'll likely be sidelined at least six weeks.

He watched Friday's practice from the team cafeteria, his left leg in a brace and propped on a chair.

Granato to coach US

PLYMOUTH, Mich. — Wis-

consin's Tony Granato will coach the U.S. men's hockey team at the 2018 Olympics, the first Winter Games without NHL players since 1994.

Detroit Red Wings executive Chris Chelios, Yale coach Keith Allain, Boston University assistant Scott Young and former Buffalo Sabres coach Ron Rolston will make up Granato's staff. Longtime USA Hockey executive Jim Johannson will serve as general manager.

USA Hockey announced the appointments at a news conference Friday.

Granato was an assistant under Dan Bylsma at the 2014 Olympics. The former NHL forward coached the Colorado Avalanche for parts of three seasons and has been an assistant with Colorado, Pittsburgh and Detroit.

Johnston extended

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama basketball coach Avery Johnson has received a two-year contract extension through 2023.

The board of trustees' compensation committee approved the extension Friday. Johnson will receive \$2.9 million annu-

ally under the six-year deal, up from about \$2.8 million.

The former NBA player and head coach will also get \$150,000 for each completed contract year.

The Tide haven't made the NCAA Tournament in either of Johnson's first two seasons, but the future seems bright.

Johnson brought in the nation's No. 6 signing class, touted as the program's best ever. The group is led by five-star point guard Collin Sexton and four-star shooting guard John Petty.

Spurs re-sign Mills

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs have re-signed reserve guard Patty Mills, who shot 41 percent from three-point range last season.

The Spurs announced the deal Friday, though details of the contract were not disclosed per team policy.

Mills has spent the past six seasons with the Spurs. He averaged 9.5 points and a career-best 3.5 assists last season. Mills also made 147 three-pointers during his career-high 21.9 minutes per game.

San Antonio won 67 games last season before being swept

by Golden State in the Western Conference finals.

Russia in limbo

LONDON — The president of the International Olympic Committee insisted no decision will be made about Russia's participation in the Winter Games until two committees investigating doping allegations against the country are through with their work.

Thomas Bach spoke Friday after the IOC executive board's meeting with leaders of track and field's governing body.

Allegations of state-sponsored doping in Russia first arose within the track team. An investigation led by IOC member Dick Pound revealed that IAAF leaders conspired with Russian officials to cover up doping positives. That led to a revamp of the IAAF, establishment of an independent anti-doping unit and the suspension of Russia's track team, which the IAAF council extended this week.

Nineteen Russians who have been cleared of wrongdoing will compete at the world championships, which got underway Friday, as neutral athletes.