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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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USS Blue Ridge visits port after long refit

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS BLUE RIDGE in Otaru, Japan — Quarter-sized snowflakes pummeled the USS Blue Ridge on Friday as the Navy's oldest operational ship pulled into this city for the first time in nearly five years.

Snow piled on the shoulders of the ship's leadership during a morning ceremony. The hulking, gray flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet behind them stuck out against the blizzard-white sky and snow-packed pier.

Hokkaido businessman Yoshiro Ito, of the Japan Defense Cooperative Association, welcomed 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer and his staff to Otaru during an outdoor welcoming ceremony on the snowy pier Friday morning. A crowd of about 75 shivering onlookers gathered to hear his short speech.

"It is very unusual to have the 7th Fleet admiral visit Hokkaido," Ito said. "I'm so happy to show you winter."

The Navy regularly sends sailors to Hokkaido, the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan, to participate in winter festivals.

The Blue Ridge, a nearly 19,000-ton warship, was commissioned in 1970 as a central planning vessel for fleet leaders, according to the Navy. The 6th Fleet uses the Blue Ridge's sister ship, the USS Mount Whitney, in a similar fashion.

The command ship in October returned to sea for short trips after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs costing more than \$60 million. Its commanding officer, Capt. Eric Anduze, said major changes included upgrades to communications equipment, command and control networks and satellite systems.

"Our biggest upgrade is

what's called CANES — the Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise," Anduze said. "It's a computer system that provides the commander with a much more modern electronic communications suite and computer suite."

Anduze said some mechanical upgrades were also made, noting that "it's a 1970 ship ... a lot of things needed to be updated and reworked."

The Blue Ridge still runs on steam power, and Anduze said the crew takes great pride in mixing old technology with new.

The port visit gives the crew of about 1,000 a chance to relax, interact with the local community and attend several events taking place this week in the region, including the Sapporo Snow Festival and Otaru Snow Light Path Festival.

"We've been looking forward to coming up here for several months now, and it didn't dis-

appoint," Anduze said. "Snowboarding, the festivals, the food — everybody's very excited about this area in the northern part of Japan."

At the welcoming ceremony, Sawyer told an audience of Japanese leaders, Japan Self-Defense Forces servicemembers and media that the stop in Otaru was special for the Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet staffs.

"While we call Yokosuka home and work with the [Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force] throughout the year, opportunities to visit this part of Japan are rare, and we truly appreciate Otaru's hospitality," Sawyer said.

During their remaining time in Otaru, Blue Ridge sailors will participate in several community engagement events, playing basketball with Otaru high school students and volunteering at the snow light path festival, according to a Navy statement.

Retired Navy captain sentenced in corruption case

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A Navy captain described by his Pacific Fleet commander as the "standard-bearer in the public affairs community" was sentenced Friday to six months in prison for his role in the yearslong "Fat Leonard" scandal that torpedoed dozens of naval officers' careers.

Retired Capt. Jeffrey Breslau, 52, pleaded guilty in November to a felony charge that his business relationship with Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis constituted a conflict of interest.

Breslau fought back tears Friday in a San Diego courtroom as he said he was sorry for what he had done and how

it affected his wife, family and country.

The so-called "Fat Leonard" scandal rocked the Navy and tarnished the reputation of a generation of officers.

Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 to orchestrating a massive bribery and corruption scheme involving scores of naval officers. His company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, served as the Navy's primary ship husbanding agent in the western Pacific and, over the course of decades, over-charged the Navy \$35 million in bogus or inflated fees.

A network of Navy officers and officials, including an NCIS agent, worked for years to thwart multiple investigations

into Francis and his company and to steer Navy ships to ports controlled by his company. In exchange, Francis provided his network of corrupt officials with cash, travel, fine dining, lavish parties and prostitutes.

Francis has yet to be sentenced. He is on house arrest in San Diego and is a witness for the prosecution.

Breslau was one of the top public affairs officers for the Navy's Pacific Fleet, headquartered in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from October 2009 through July 2012. According to a 2012 evaluation dated by Adm. Patrick Walsh, the commander of the Pacific Fleet, Breslau was the "best PAO in the Navy," and

a "must-select" for the admiral ranks.

In March of that year Breslau had begun secretly working for Francis, who was by then the subject of an expansive criminal investigation.

Francis paid him \$65,000. Breslau never disclosed the arrangement to his superiors.

Francis was arrested in 2013 in a San Diego hotel room. Since then, 33 others have been charged in the scheme, with 22 pleading guilty. Hundreds more were investigated by the Navy.

Breslau was fined \$20,000 and ordered to pay back the Navy \$65,000. He reports to prison in April.

S. Korea, US sign defense cost-sharing deal

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea agreed to pay \$920 million this year in a new defense cost-sharing deal with the U.S. that was signed Sunday, lifting a strain on the alliance just in time for the next U.S.-North Korean summit.

The U.S., meanwhile, reaffirmed the need for a “stable U.S. military deployment” and offered assurances that it has no plans to change the number of forces on the divided peninsula, the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

The provisional contract, known as the Special Measures Agreement, was inked nearly six weeks after the previous five-year accord expired.

Negotiators held 10 rounds of talks last year but remained deadlocked over President Donald Trump’s demand that

South Korea pay significantly more.

The compromise calls for South Korea to pay 1.0389 trillion won, or \$920 million, this year to offset the cost of maintaining some 28,500 American troops, officials said. Seoul paid 960 billion won last year.

That’s short of the \$1.5 billion per year that Trump reportedly had demanded at one point. But the two sides also agreed to a one-year agreement instead of the usual five-year time frame, so negotiators will have to return to the table soon.

The deal — which still must be ratified by South Korea’s National Assembly — resolves a dispute between the longtime allies at a crucial time, with a second U.S.-North Korea summit due to take place at the end of the month in Hanoi, Vietnam.

“We have a number of domestic steps that we need to

go through,” Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said as she met with the top U.S. negotiator Timothy Betts.

South Korea has hosted American troops since the two countries fought together against the communist-backed North in the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

“The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and for peace and stability in this region,” Betts said. “The SMA is only a small part of that. But it’s an important part, and we are pleased that our consultations resulted in an agreement that I think will strengthen transparency and strengthen and deepen our cooperation in the alliance.”

The burden-sharing talks were a test for Trump’s insistence that U.S. allies should pay more for their own defense.

Trump has complained that maintaining troops in South Korea is too expensive and said in the past that he would like to bring them home. But he insists that troop numbers are not part of the equation in nuclear talks with the North.

Brinkmanship is common in the cost-sharing talks, which have taken place since 1991, but the U.S.-led effort to persuade North Korea to give up its weapons raised the stakes.

South Korea insists it pays a fair share of the some \$2 billion per year needed to keep the troops in the country, with funds mainly used for salaries of nearly 9,000 local employees, who provide food and administrative services and other logistical needs.

U.S. Forces Korea, the main command, said in its Strategic Digest that Seoul paid about 41 percent of the cost.

Japan, S. Korea ties fray as US leaves alliance untended

The Washington Post

TOKYO — Leaders have turned their backs on each other. They have traded barbs. Military and business ties are fraying, and the media are up in arms.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, the most important U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region, are unraveling fast.

While the leaders of both countries share the blame, the Trump administration has taken its eye off the ball, experts say. That has allowed spats to grow that could undermine U.S. efforts to sustain a coalition of Asian democracies and contain China.

Japan ruled over South Korea from the beginning of the 20th century until the end of World War II, and Seoul and Tokyo’s complicated history has always loomed large in the background.

But the rancor that has soured relations lately is among the worst in generations.

“The relationship between South Korea and Japan is suffering a compound fracture unprecedented in the five decades since the two countries established diplomatic relations,” said Shin Kak-soo, a former South Korean ambassador to Japan.

He added, “The Trump administration did not pay attention to the alliance.”

The rift came after a South Korean Supreme Court decision in October ordering a Japanese steel producer to compensate Korean workers forced into manual labor during Japanese colonial rule, but the root of the crisis runs much deeper and its effects have reverberated in all directions since.

Japan’s conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea’s liberal President Moon

Jae-in come from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.

In South Korea, Abe is an unpopular figure, seen as reluctant to express genuine remorse for Japan’s behavior during its colonial rule over the peninsula.

In Japan, Moon is seen as the latest in a long line of South Korean leaders who have exploited popular resentment of Japan to shore up their own flagging popularity and reneged on agreements reached by previous governments.

Tokyo says the Supreme Court decision violates a 1965 deal establishing diplomatic relations, under which Japan gave South Korea much-needed economic aid as compensation for forced labor.

But if Japan takes a legalistic position, then many South Koreans are more concerned with what they see as justice, said Shin. Moon himself was a

human rights lawyer who once represented claimants in a case against Mitsubishi over forced labor.

Liberals in South Korea tend to see the 1965 agreement as an unequal treaty imposed by Japan on a weak country still recovering from the ravages of war, led by military strongman Park Chung-hee, who trained in the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria during the final stages of World War II.

To outsiders, the antipathy between the two countries — both free market democracies with close relationships to the West — can come as a surprise.

But the relationship is also complicated by the immense changes that have swept through South Korea over the past five decades as the country has emerged from Japan’s shadow to become a thriving democracy and economic powerhouse in its own right.

Navy linguist posthumously promoted

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Shannon M. Kent, the Navy linguist killed in Syria last month in a suicide bomb blast, was posthumously promoted Friday, the service announced.

Kent, 35, a mother of two, has been advanced to senior chief petty officer. She was a chief petty officer when she was killed Jan. 16 at a restaurant in the Syrian city of Manbij. It was her fifth combat tour.

“The Navy approved a request for Kent’s posthumous advancement effective the date of her death,” the service said Friday in a statement.

Kent is slated to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in the coming weeks. The announcement of her promotion was made during

a memorial service Friday at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Md., said Army Staff Sgt. Ali Hassoon, a long-time Kent family friend who attended the memorial.

Earlier last week, the Navy said it made several changes to a flawed commissioning and waiver process that led to Kent’s deployment.

Last fall, Kent was slated to attend a clinical psychology doctoral program in lieu of the deployment. But the Navy reversed the move because she previously had cancer and rejected her waiver applications, and she received orders to deploy to Syria instead.

She was killed less than two months later.

“I have reviewed and discussed every aspect of the policies and processes in place during Shannon’s application to

become a clinical psychologist,” Adm. William Moran, vice chief of naval operations, wrote in a Feb. 5 letter to the Kent family. “There were many shortcomings in Shannon’s case, mainly in our communications throughout and in fundamental flaws in our waiver and appeal process — I offer no excuses.”

In his letter, Moran said several changes installed by Navy officials will give highest waiver consideration to deployed sailors, establish a standardized appeal process with an option of seeking a second medical opinion, require peer review of waivers to boost quality assurance and consistency, and require all medical authorities operate on the same software system to ensure continuity.

The changes came less than two weeks after the Kent family requested the move in a Jan. 24

letter to Moran.

Now, a fight remains for the family to change a larger, overarching Defense Department rule that thwarted Kent’s plans to become an officer.

The Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03, the “Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction into the Military Services,” requires servicemembers meet medical standards reserved for joining the service that are higher than the requirements for remaining an active servicemember.

In Kent’s case, that DOD provision ruled her out from the program because of previous thyroid cancer in 2016. Her thyroid was removed and the cancer was cured that year, followed by several scans showing she was clear of the illness, her family said.

Sailor’s conviction over not revealing HIV status upheld

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A sailor’s conviction for sexual assault because he failed to tell women he was HIV-positive before having sex with them has been affirmed by the military’s highest court.

On Thursday, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces unanimously affirmed a lower court’s opinion that Petty Officer 2nd Class Lamar Forbes’ convictions for sexual assault by bodily harm were correct. Because he didn’t disclose he had the virus that causes AIDS, the women could not give consent and were therefore assaulted, the court ruled.

Forbes pleaded guilty at a Norfolk, Va., court-martial but subsequently appealed both his conviction and eight-year prison sentence. The guilty plea and sentence were affirmed last year by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Appeals.

Forbes tested positive for HIV in 2012, according to court documents, and was counseled

to refrain from sexual activity without first advising prospective sexual partners that he carried the virus.

But from July 2013 to June 2015, he had unprotected sexual intercourse with four different women without telling them he was HIV-positive, the court documents say.

“One of these women, LK, informed Forbes that she was taking medication that weakened her immune system as a result of a recent kidney transplant. The appellant assured her that he “wouldn’t do anything to ... jeopardize it,” yet had sex with her anyway without disclosing his status.

Another woman told Forbes she had an HIV-positive family member and suggested that they get tested before having sex. But the appellant informed her that he was clean, the documents said.

“These two situations betray the callousness and deceit of the appellant, and are particularly aggravating,” the Navy-Marine court said.

Okinawa Marines expand 3D-printing capabilities

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The III Marine Expeditionary Force has new heroes in the battle against government bureaucracy and wasteful spending — two Marines armed with a LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printer, which retails for less than \$3,000.

In the military, 3D printing is nothing new; the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center has been using 3D printing since the mid-1990s.

However, in the hands of Marine Sgt. Adrian Willis and Lance Cpl. Tracey Taylor, both with 7th Communications Battalion, the LulzBot TAZ 6 has saved the Marine Corps in Okinawa thousands of dollars and streamlined logistics and supply lines.

“I am so big on this because I legitimately see it as the future — not necessarily a future I will see, but the future of this is going to be amazing,” said the 7th Communications Battalion’s

communications maintenance chief, Master Sgt. Michael Johnson.

“I believe that the future is being able to take a system like this and metal filaments, plastic filaments, rubber filaments. [Marines] walk in the door and say, ‘Hey, this part broke,’” he said. “I look at them and say ‘OK, come back in 2½ hours,’ and in 2½ hours, they have that part.”

Willis and Taylor have been doing just that from a small, barren room in their communications shop at Camp Hansen. As word has spread to different units around the island, they are getting more and more requests to put their skills to use.

Where it can and will go from here is anyone’s guess. Willis dreams big and is pushing the Marines to do the same.

“The importance of 3D printing, I don’t think, has been fully realized yet,” Johnson said.

“This is going to be what the future of the Marine Corps is,” Willis added.

Border talks at impasse; shutdown looms

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As negotiations over a border security hit a snag, the White House on Sunday would not rule out another federal government shutdown even as it signaled a willingness to obtain funding for President Donald Trump's proposed wall by other means.

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, in appearances on NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Fox News Sunday," said "you absolutely cannot" eliminate the possibility of another shutdown on Friday if a deal is not reached over the wall.

The White House had asked for \$5.7 billion, a figure rejected by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, and the mood among bargainers has soured, according to people familiar with the negotiations not authorized to speak publicly about private talks.

"You cannot take a shutdown off the table, and you cannot take \$5.7 billion off the table," Mulvaney told NBC, "but if you end up someplace in the middle, yeah, then what you probably see is the president say, 'Yeah, OK, and I'll go find the money someplace else.'"

A congressional deal seemed to stall even after Mulvaney convened a bipartisan group of lawmakers at Camp David on Friday. While the two sides seemed close to clinching a deal late last week, significant gaps remained and momentum appears to have slowed.

The White House and many Republicans want to push the amount that would be spent for building physical barriers to \$2 billion or higher. Democrats have said they will keep that figure below \$2 billion, with some saying they support perhaps half that. In addition, Democrats are pushing to reduce the number of

apprehended migrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency. Republicans are resisting.

"I think talks are stalled right now," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said Sunday on Fox. "I'm not confident we're going to get there."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who appeared on the same program, agreed that "we are not to the point where we can announce a deal."

But Mulvaney did signal that the White House would prefer not to have a repeat of the last shutdown, which stretched more than a month, left more than 800,000 government workers without paychecks, forced a postponement of the State of the Union address and sent Trump's poll numbers tumbling.

As support in his own party began to splinter, Trump surrendered after the shutdown hit 35 days without getting money

for the wall.

"The president is going to build the wall. That's our attitude at this point," Mulvaney told Fox. "We'll take as much money as you can give us, and we'll go find the money somewhere else, legally, and build that wall on the southern border, with or without Congress."

The president's supporters have suggested there are executive powers that Trump could use to divert money from the federal budget for wall construction, though it was unclear if they would face challenges in Congress or the courts. One provision of the law lets the Defense Department provide support for counterdrug activities.

But declaring a national emergency remained an option, Mulvaney said, even though many in the administration have cooled on the prospect.

Fighters close in on last ISIS pocket in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed Syrian forces captured 41 positions held by Islamic State militants and destroyed their fortifications in the last tiny pocket they hold in eastern Syria amid fierce fighting, a spokesman said Sunday.

Mustafa Bali said the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces made the advances overnight and on Sunday, hours after they launched a final push to clear

the area from ISIS militants Saturday night.

The final battle to clear the village of Baghouz is now playing out after 20,000 civilians were evacuated from the area in the eastern province of Deir-el-Zour over the past few weeks.

Bali said heavy fighting was going on inside Baghouz on Sunday, adding that an ISIS counterattack was foiled early in the day. He did not say how long the battle was expected to last.

U.S.-led coalition warplanes are giving cover to advancing SDF fighters.

President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that ISIS will lose by this week all the territory it once controlled in Iraq and Syria.

That would mark the end of a four-year global war to end the extremist group's territorial hold over large parts of Syria and Iraq where the group established its self-proclaimed "caliphate" in 2014.

U.S. officials have said in recent weeks that ISIS has lost 99.5 percent of its territory and is holding on to fewer than 5 square kilometers in Syria, or less than 2 square miles, where the bulk of the fighters are concentrated.

But activists and residents say ISIS still has sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq and is laying the groundwork for an insurgency.

Fire chief wants changes in wake of Vegas mass shooting

Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A Las Vegas-area fire chief who warned lawmakers months before a 2017 mass shooting at a music festival that Nevada should bolster its emergency management planning says he wants to bypass state lawmakers to get changes made.

Six months before the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting on the Las Vegas Strip that killed 58 and left hundreds injured, Clark County Fire Department Chief Greg Cassell testified before state legislators in favor of a bill that would have required more coordination of emergency medical resources ahead of such a large event.

Investigators say gunman Stephen Paddock acted alone when he fired from a high-rise suite in the Mandalay Bay casino-resort into the crowd of 22,000 at the Route 91 Harvest festival.

Cassell said Friday that had the legislation passed, the fire department would likely have had a fire incident com-

mander on the scene before the shooting.

Having a fire incident commander at the event could have improved communication and made for a cleaner response plan, Cassell said.

Months before the event, he told lawmakers the effort would avoid delays in ordering and directing emergency help.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman gets 2 years in theft at gun shop

CO DENVER — A woman was sentenced to more than two years in prison for helping her son steal at least 57 guns from a southern Colorado store in 2017.

U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn's office said Jennifer Scoggin, 35, was sentenced Thursday to two years and two months in prison after pleading guilty in October to firearms theft.

According to court records, Scoggin lured the owner of Dragon Arms gun store in El Paso County away from the store during the planned burglary. Prosecutors said Scoggin's son and three other people then broke in and stole handguns, shotguns and rifles.

Three of the burglary codefendants have received time served sentences.

Students don wigs to honor Bob Ross

TX ABILENE — There were lots of happy little trees at a Texas middle school last week.

Art students at Madison Middle School in Abilene donned their curliest wigs and painted little trees onto canvases to pay homage to the late painter Bob Ross. Teacher Brady Sloane told the Abilene Reporter News the idea came about because she wanted to reward Advanced Placement students who had been stressed out over recent projects and grades.

The result was a flash mob Thursday of about four dozen students who wore wigs and blue, button-down shirts and held palettes of paint. An episode of Ross' television show, "The Joy of Painting," was projected onto a large screen.

Strippers accused of stealing officer's gun

RI PAWTUCKET — Police and court records say two Rhode Island strip club dancers charged with stealing a Boston police officer's gun are alleging the officer paid them \$2,500 for sex.

The Providence Journal reported the records say the two women told authorities Boston officer Emanuel Brandao arranged a "date" with them on Feb. 2 that ended at a Pawtucket hotel.

The records say Brandao told police he and the women were "hanging out" and he discovered his gun was missing after they left. The gun was found at a fire station.

The Providence women — Neish Rivera, 25, and Melissa Dacier, 22 — were detained on larceny and conspiracy charges.

The Journal reported Brandao is on paid leave pending an investigation.

Employee accused of taking diabetes strips

NY ROCHESTER — A western New York man was arrested on charges of using his job as a buyer for CVS to steal \$2.5 million worth of diabetes test strips.

U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy Jr. alleged Antonio Rivera, 35, ordered excess boxes of the test strips for the Rochester CVS store where he worked and sold them to third-party purchasers.

Kennedy said an internal CVS audit could not account for 20,203 boxes of diabetes test strips purchased by Rivera worth approximately \$2.5 million.

Prosecutors said forensic accounting found that payments for the fraudulently obtained test strips had been deposited

into Rivera's bank accounts.

Rivera made an initial appearance before Judge Marian W. Payson on Friday and was released.

Nonprofit rescues calf from a bathroom

NC CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina nonprofit known for its unusual rescues said it extricated a newborn calf from a family's bathroom after a relative of the man keeping it pleaded for help.

The Charlotte Observer reported Carolina Waterfowl Rescue said it learned of the calf's plight from a social media message, adding that a photo showed the calf standing on a hay-covered bathroom floor in an Asheville area home.

Jennifer Gordon, of Carolina Waterfowl Rescue, said it responded to the message on Jan. 29 by sending someone to get the calf, which was suffering from dehydration and diarrhea. It wasn't clear why the calf was in the bathroom.

Prosecutors: Man lived with corpse

OK THE VILLAGE — An Oklahoma man is facing charges after authorities said he lived for more than a month in a home with his father's decomposing body and cashed the dead man's retirement checks.

Oklahoma County prosecutors charged Lynn Little, 50, on Thursday with forgery, embezzlement, neglect and desecration of a corpse.

Police were dispatched Jan. 12 to Little's home in the Oklahoma City suburb of The Village, where they found the body of William Little, 89.

Lynn Little told police his father died before Thanksgiving. He is not charged in connection with the elder Little's death.

Police: Man stole cruiser after overdose

OH COLUMBUS — Police in Ohio's capital city said a man stole a police cruiser just minutes after officers revived him from an overdose.

Columbus police on Friday were searching for the 25-year-old man who crashed the cruiser and then ran away.

The Columbus Dispatch reported officers responded to a home Friday morning after being called about an overdose.

Officers revived the man and then put him in an ambulance while officers checked whether he had any outstanding arrest warrants.

Police said the man got out of the ambulance, stole the cruiser and crashed just a few miles away.

Towing vessel sinks on Ohio River; crew safe

WV HUNTINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard said a towing vessel sunk on the Ohio River between Ohio and West Virginia.

The Coast Guard said in a news release Friday night that all three crew members aboard the towing vessel Ed McLaughlin were reported in stable condition at a local hospital. The news release said an estimated 4,900 gallons of diesel fuel was on board, and light sheening was reported around the vessel.

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington was heading to the scene to determine whether there was a fuel leak. The tow is owned by McGinnis Marine.

From wire reports

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Barrett, threes lead No. 2 Duke past UVA

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — RJ Barrett got it started, Zion Williamson filled in some gaps and Cam Reddish added a late flurry.

In No. 2 Duke's latest installment of Freshmen Gone Wild, all three — and point guard Tre Jones — had starring roles Saturday night as the Blue Devils used an early barrage of three-pointers to stun No. 3 Virginia, and then held off the Cavaliers, 81-71, to sweep the season series.

"That really sets the tone for us and we played defense today as well," Barrett said of the fast

start that saw him make five three-pointers before the game was 12 minutes old, helping Duke quiet a sold-out John Paul Jones Arena with the host Cavaliers already trailing 29-15.

"We were just in our zone and it's great to see when our team is like that," Barrett said.

He finished with 26 points, Williamson had 18 and Reddish had 17, including three 3-pointers early in the second half.

"It's any given night for all of us," Reddish said after finishing 5-for-8 from beyond the arc, with three coming in a span of less than three minutes. "We all can do a mixture of ev-

erything and it just depends on who gets found, who's open and it's a simple as that."

Duke finished 13 for 21 from three-point range after making just 2 of 14 in a 72-70 victory against Virginia on Jan. 19.

"It's a little bit deflating when they're banging threes and you're trying to keep them out of the lane," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said.

Bennett thought his team might have over-adjusted by focusing too much on trying to close off the inside, but his counterpart, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, thought it was at least as much a case of his own

players recognizing the strategy change.

"My players felt it," Krzyzewski said. "That little bit of room — they took advantage of it without any kind of coaching."

The Blue Devils (21-2, 9-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) ended Virginia's 13-game home winning streak and won their third straight in Charlottesville. They now share first place with North Carolina and have two games left with the Tar Heels.

Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome each scored 16 to lead Virginia (20-2, 8-2), which plays the No. 8 Tar Heels on Monday night.

College basketball roundup

No. 7 Michigan outlasts No. 19 Wisconsin

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan avenged its loss to Wisconsin last month — and coach John Beilein wants no part of a rubber match against the Badgers.

"Ethan Happ said to me after the game: 'I hope to see you again this season,'" Beilein said. "No Ethan. I don't want to see you again the rest of my life."

Happ had 18 points and 11 rebounds for No. 19 Wisconsin, but Michigan's Jon Teske more than held his own inside, and Charles Matthews scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half to lift the No. 7 Wolverines to a 61-52 victory Saturday. Teske had 17 points and 12 rebounds.

The Big Ten-leading Wolverines (22-2, 11-2) won despite going 0-for-10 from three-point range in the second half. Michigan led 51-50 in a tight defensive struggle before pulling away with eight straight points.

The Badgers (17-7, 9-4) had their six-game winning streak snapped. That run began with a 64-54 win over then-undefeated Michigan last month.

"A little bit of a flip of the script, in terms of them making plays in the last two minutes," Wisconsin coach Greg Gard said.

No. 1 Tennessee 73, Florida 61: Grant Williams scored 16 points as the host Volunteers completed a season sweep of the Gators and extended their school-record winning streak to 18 games.

Tennessee (22-1, 10-0 SEC) owns the longest active winning streak of any Divi-

sion I team. This also marks the biggest winning streak of Rick Barnes' 32-year head coaching career.

TCU 92, No. 17 Iowa State 83: Kendrick Davis scored a season-high 22 points, and TCU stunned Iowa State for its first road win over a Top 25 team in 21 years.

Kouat Noi, Desmond Bane and Alex Robinson each had 17 for the Horned Frogs (17-6, 5-5 Big 12). They used a staggering 27-4 first-half run to blow past the beleaguered Cyclones and greatly boost their NCAA Tournament chances.

No. 4 Gonzaga 94, Saint Mary's 46: Brandon Clarke scored 24 points and blocked three shots as the host Zags earned their 14th consecutive victory.

No. 5 Kentucky 71, Mississippi State 67: PJ Washington scored 23 points, Keldon Johnson added 13 and the Wildcats held on for a road win.

No. 6 Nevada 91, New Mexico 62: Trey Porter had 20 points and nine rebounds as the host Wolfpack avenged their only loss of the season by dominating the Lobos.

No. 8 North Carolina 88, Miami 85 (OT): Kenny Williams hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 2:08 left in overtime to help the host Tar Heels hold off the Hurricanes.

No. 9 Michigan State 79, Minnesota 55: Nick Ward had 22 points and Matt McQuaid scored a season-high 18, leading the Spartans past the visiting Gophers.

Clemson 59, No. 11 Virginia Tech 51: Shelton Mitchell scored 22 points with a

career-best five three-pointers and the host Tigers outlasted the Hokies for their fourth straight victory.

No. 13 Kansas 84, Oklahoma State 72: Dedric Lawson scored 25 points, Ochai Agbaji hit five threes and had 23 points, and the host Jayhawks shrugged off a slow start to beat the Cowboys.

No. 15 Purdue 81, Nebraska 62: Carsen Edwards scored 27 points and Grady Eifert added a season-high 16 as the host Boilermakers rebounded from a lackluster first half to pull away.

No. 22 Florida State 80, No. 16 Louisville 75 (OT): Mfiondu Kabengele scored 22 points and the host Seminoles erased a 10-point second-half deficit to force overtime, then knocked off the Cardinals.

No. 18 Texas Tech 66, Oklahoma 54: Davide Moretti scored 14 points to help the Red Raiders roll to a road win.

No. 21 LSU 83, Auburn 78: Tremont Waters had 19 points and 10 assists and the host team overcame a sluggish start.

No. 23 Buffalo 90, Central Michigan 76: Jeremy Harris had 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and the host Bulls rallied to beat the Chippewas.

American 71, Army 68: Jacob Boonyasith had a season-high 20 points as the host Eagles edged the Black Knights.

Lehigh 83, Navy 57: Pat Andree had 22 points as the host Mountain Hawks rolled past the Midshipmen.

Howard, No. 10 Marquette slip past No. 16 Villanova

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Markus Howard provided the offense, and this time around Marquette's defense put on just enough pressure at the end.

Howard scored 38 points and the 10th-ranked Golden Eagles hung on at the buzzer, edging No. 14 Villanova 66-65 Saturday and handing the Wildcats their first Big East Conference loss.

Marquette (20-4, 9-2) was coming off a one-point loss to St. John's in which it failed to get a final stop.

The Golden Eagles, who led by 15 early in the second half, took a 66-63 edge on two free throws by Howard with 53 seconds left. Phil Booth answered with a floater in the lane that made it a one-point game.

Jermaine Samuels then stripped Howard on the ensuing possession with 14 seconds left. After a timeout, Booth drove on Sacar Anim but was cut off underneath by reserve forward Ed Morrow.

Booth passed the ball back to Samuels, who missed an off-balance jumper from the left side as time ran out.

"We just wanted to make it tough for him, obviously bring him to a crowd," Anim said. "We really wanted to force him to drive where I knew I was going to have some help. We were able to get him down there and Ed made a big time play."

Villanova coach Jay Wright said the last play didn't develop the way he hoped.

"We were just running a ball screen and trying to put it in Phil's hands, just let him make a decision," Wright said. "We trust him to make a decision."

"I don't think we gave him great options. I don't think his teammates spaced out really well. We got congested under the rim. It's one of those things. I think they thought he was going to shoot it so they started to go for the offensive rebound instead of giving him an option," he said. "I don't have a problem with that. When you get to that point, you've got to let the play-

ers make the decisions."

Booth had 19 points and Eric Paschall 17 for Villanova (19-5, 10-1), which had won 11 straight since a 74-71 loss to Kansas on Dec. 15. The Wildcats had won nine of the 10 previous games against Marquette.

Howard, the Big East's leading scorer, hit 13 of 24 shots, including 5-for-11 on threes. He made all seven of his free throws.

Anim added 18 on 8-for-10 shooting for the Golden Eagles.

Marquette bounced back from its first home loss of the season, 70-69 to St. John's on Tuesday when Shamorie Ponds scored the game-winning basket on a drive with 16 seconds left.

"Overall, I thought we played an outstanding defensive game against a very dangerous and potent offense," Marquette coach Steve Wojciechowski said. "It's ironic that, although it wasn't exactly the same game situation, essentially it was the same. If we get a stop, we're going to win."

The Golden Eagles opened the second half with a 10-3 run, taking a 40-29 lead on a jumper by Sam Hauser with 16:38 left. Marquette pushed the lead to 47-32 on Anim's jumper as Villanova made just 2 of its first 12 shots after the break.

Villanova answered with 10 consecutive points, pulling within 47-42 on Saddiq Bey's three-pointer from the right corner. The Wildcats later went on a 13-2 burst and took a 55-53 lead on Samuel's three-pointer with 6:16 remaining.

"We just came out with a competitive edge, something to prove," Howard said. "I think we have a lot to prove still, but today especially, we just wanted to bounce back from the game we had Tuesday. That was not the team we were, that's not the team we've been. Tonight, we really just bounce back and do the best way we could to pick it up on the defensive end."

NBA roundup

Thunder roar back to defeat Rockets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Paul George scored 45 points, Russell Westbrook matched the NBA record with his ninth straight triple-double and the Oklahoma City Thunder overcame a 26-point deficit to beat the Houston Rockets 117-112 on Saturday night.

Westbrook had 21 points, 11 assists and 12 rebounds to match the record streak set by Wilt Chamberlain in 1968. Westbrook has 22 triple-doubles this season and 126 overall. He also had 10 turnovers and was 8-for-21 from the field.

James Harden led the Rockets with 42 points, reaching 30 points for the 29th straight game — two shy of Chamberlain for the second-longest streak in NBA history, but far behind Chamberlain's record run of 65 games. Harden was 11 for 28 from the field, going 6-for-16 from three-point range, and made 14 of 15 free throws.

The 26-point deficit was Oklahoma City's largest of the season.

Clippers 123, Celtics 112: Montrezl Harrell forced two turnovers in the final two minutes and Patrick Beverley hit a pair of three-pointers in front of the Boston bench night and retooled Los Angeles overcome a 28-point deficit on the road.

Raptors 104, Knicks 99: Marc Gasol had seven points and six rebounds in his Toronto debut and the visiting Raptors sent New York to its 16th straight loss.

Acquired from Memphis before Thursday's trade deadline, Gasol played 19 minutes. The three-time All-Star entered late in the first quarter and made a hook shot on his first try.

Wizards 134, Bulls 125: Bradley Beal scored 31 points to help Washington win at Chicago in the first meeting between the teams since they swapped three forwards in a multiplayer trade.

The Wizards got Jabari Parker, Bobby Portis and a protected 2023 second-round pick from the Bulls on Wednesday for Otto Porter Jr. Parker scored 20 points and Portis had 10 points and 12 rebounds against their former team, helping Washington to a 64-38 advantage in bench points.

Magic 103, Bucks 83: Jonathan Isaac scored 17 points, Nikola Vucevic and Terrence Ross each added 15 and Orlando won at Milwaukee to snap the Bucks' six-game winning streak.

NBA-leading Milwaukee played without All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo. He sat out with right knee soreness. They lost for just the second time in 14 games.

Eric Bledsoe had 19 points for the Bucks.

Hornets 129, Hawks 120: Kemba Walker hit nine three-pointers and scored 37 points, Marvin Williams added 27 points and Charlotte won at Atlanta to snap a two-game skid.

Jeremy Lamb had 24 points to help the Hornets win for the eighth time in their last 13 games.

Jazz 125, Spurs 105: Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 13 rebounds and host Utah beat San Antonio.

Royce O'Neale tied his season high with 17 points and made all four of his three-point attempts.

Pacers 105, Cavaliers 90: Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points and host Indiana beat Cleveland for its fifth straight victory.

Grizzlies 99, Pelicans 90: Joakim Noah had season highs of 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead new-look Memphis past visiting New Orleans.

Justin Holiday had 15 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 14 points, 10 of them in the fourth. C.J. Miles, playing his first game for the Grizzlies, added 13 points.

NHL roundup

Flyers rout slumping Ducks

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carter Hart's approach to making big saves is simple and effective.

Hart stopped 30 shots for his eighth straight victory, Sean Couturier had a goal and two assists and the Philadelphia Flyers scored four times in the first period to rout the slumping Anaheim Ducks 6-2 on Saturday.

Michael Raffl, Oskar Lindblom, Phil Varone, Nolan Patrick and Travis Konecny also scored for the Flyers, who have won nine of 10.

The 20-year-old Hart helped the Flyers to a fast start, denying Jakob Silfverberg on a breakaway with a glove save 1:15 into the contest.

"You see the play develop and you get ready," a nonchalant Hart said. "You hopefully make the save or you don't."

Lightning 5, Penguins 4: Tyler Johnson and J.T. Miller had third-period goals and host Tampa Bay ended a two-game skid.

Yanni Gourde, Erik Cernak and Anthony Cirelli also scored for the NHL-leading Lightning. They reached 40 wins for the sixth consecutive season.

Tanner Pearson, Garrett Wilson, Jared McCann and Bryan Rust scored for the Penguins. Sidney Crosby played in his 916th game, moving past Mario Lemieux for the most in Penguins history.

Sharks 5, Oilers 2: Kevin Labanc had his first career hat trick and San Jose won at Edmonton for its fifth straight victory.

Evander Kane and Tomas Hertl also scored, and Aaron Dell made 21 saves.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Zack Kassian scored for the Oilers. They have lost seven of eight.

Panthers 5, Capitals 4 (OT): Mike Hoffman scored on a power play in overtime and Roberto Luongo made 26 saves to help Florida win at Washington.

With Brett Connolly in the penalty box for slashing late in regulation, Hoffman scored 1:31 into overtime. The Panthers have the NHL's top power play since Nov. 1. Derrick Brassard scored his second goal in four games since Florida acquired him in a deal with Pittsburgh on Feb. 1.

Islanders 4, Avalanche 3 (OT): Ryan Pulock scored his second goal of the game 2:23 into overtime to lift host New York past Colorado.

Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist, Josh Bailey also scored, and Robin Lehner stopped 25 shots. The Islanders are 8-1-2 in their last 11 games.

Blues 3, Predators 2: Vladimir Tarasenko scored his 19th goal, rookie Jordan Binnington made 28 saves and host St. Louis beat Nashville for its fifth straight victory.

Vince Dunn and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored.

Maple Leafs 4, Canadiens 3 (OT): John Tavares scored at 2:17 of overtime to lift Toronto to a win at Montreal.

Andreas Johnsson, Nikita Zaitsev and William Nylander also scored to help the Maple Leafs extend their winning streak to four games. Frederik Andersen stopped 35 shots.

Andrew Shaw, Tomas Tatar and Brendan Gallagher scored for the Canadiens. Carey Price made 28 saves and lost for the first time since Jan. 10.

Canucks 4, Flames 3 (SO): Elias Pettersson scored the shootout winner, lifting host Vancouver over Calgary.

Canucks goalie Jacob Markstrom stopped 44 of 47 shots and had three more saves in the shootout. Bo Horvat, Josh Leivo and Brock Boeser scored for Vancouver in regulation.

The victory snapped a three-game losing skid for Calgary.

Elias Lindholm, Sam Bennett and Andrew Mangiapane scored for the Canucks, who lost their second straight.

Wild 4, Devils 2: Former Devils star Zach Parise scored

the go-ahead goal and Minnesota won at New Jersey to snap a four-game losing streak.

Linemates Marcus Foligno, Joel Eriksson Ek and Luke Kunin also scored for the Wild, and Devan Dubnyk made 16 saves.

Bruins 5, Kings 4 (OT): Patrice Bergeron scored a power-play goal at 2:34 of overtime to lift host Boston past Los Angeles.

Brad Marchand, David Krejci and Danton Heinen scored in a 3:22 span early in the third period to give the Bruins a 4-2 edge. The Kings rallied to tie it on goals by Nate Thomson and Oscar Fantenberg.

Coyotes 3, Stars 2: Alex Galchenyuk scored twice and assisted on Alex Goligoski's goal, and Darcy Kuemper stopped 33 shots to help host Arizona beat Dallas.

The Coyotes ended a five-game losing streak, and a nine-game slid against the Stars. Brett Ritchie and Alexander Radulov scored late goals for the Stars.

Senators 5, Jets 2: Winnipeg native Mark Stone scored twice to help host Ottawa beat the Jets.

Matt Duchene, Ryan Dzingel and Zack Smith also scored, and Anders Nilsson made 44 saves. Bryan Little and Josh Morrissey scored for Winnipeg. The Jets have lost three straight for the first time this season.

Sabres 3, Red Wings 1: Casey Mittelstadt and Kyle Okposo scored power-play goals and host Buffalo topped Detroit.

Conor Sheary also scored for the Sabres, and Linus Ullmark stopped 28 shots. Dylan Larkin scored for the Red Wings.

Blue Jackets 4, Golden Knights 3: Cam Atkinson scored two goals less than three minutes apart to lead Columbus to a win at Las Vegas.

Josh Anderson and Artemi Panarin also scored for the Blue Jackets.

Vonn skis to third place in her final race

Associated Press

ARE, Sweden — One last comeback complete. One last medal.

Five days after crashing in super-G, Lindsey Vonn bounced back to win the bronze medal in the world championship downhill Sunday in the final race of her career.

"I laid it all on the line. That's all I wanted to do today," Vonn said. "I have to admit I was a little bit nervous, probably the most nervous I've ever been in my life. I wanted to finish strong so badly."

It's a medal that brings Vonn full circle. The American's two silvers at the 2007 worlds on the same course in Are were the first two major championship medals of her career.

"She has been business as usual this whole week, saying, 'I'm racing to win,'" said Karin Kildow, Vonn's sister. "I was like, 'Just maybe make it down and maybe stand up.' But she was like, 'No, I'm going full out'. She was definitely in the mindset to push it and she really did."

When Vonn crossed the finish line she waved and bowed to the crowd.

"I had a really hard time controlling my nerves and I never have a hard time with that. I'm just happy I made it to the finish and I came down in the lead, which was nice for my last race," Vonn said. "I'm also safe. I made it down safely. My boyfriend and my family are happy."

Vonn had been planning on retiring in December but she recently moved up her retirement plans due to persistent pain in both of her surgically repaired knees.

As soon as she exited the finish area, Vonn embraced Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, the only skier to win more World Cup races than Vonn — 86 to 82.

"I'm happy that I could finish strong. I'm happy there are so many people here," Vonn said.