

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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New sub chief inherits a more lethal fleet

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Rear Adm. Daryl Caudle commanded U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force for the past 18 months with one “simple” top priority.

“First, I worked to improve the lethality of our undersea enterprise across the range of combat operations,” Caudle said during a change of command ceremony Thursday.

“If called to fight, we will have one chance to get it right, and the submarine force will be relied on to lead the way,” Caudle said, speaking from atop the pier-side attack sub USS Mississippi. “We are the seize-the-initiative force, designed to tenderize the maritime battlefield and ensure a decisive victory.”

Caudle, who is headed to a post with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, turned command over to Rear Adm. Blake Converse, who most recently led Submarine

Group 9 in Silverdale, Wash.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. John Aquilino heaped praise on Caudle for upping the Pacific submarine fleet’s readiness for combat.

“For a year and a half, flawless execution, driving a force of 13,000 sailors and civilian warriors, three task forces and over 105 shore- and sea-based activities,” Aquilino said.

As chief of all Pacific submarines, Caudle oversaw 60 percent of the Navy’s submarine force in an area that covers roughly two-thirds of the globe.

Caudle’s stint included “over 19 deployments of attack- and guided-missile submarines, 26 strategic nuclear deterrent patrols — all executed to perfection,” Aquilino said.

“To sum that up, [Caudle] has instilled a warfighting culture at SUBPAC and ensured all of his forces were ready to deploy when the nation called 24-7, 365,” he said.

Caudle’s successor, Converse, was last stationed in Hawaii 20 years ago as a lieu-

tenant commander in the same force he now commands. His sea tours have included the USS Lapon, USS Olympia and USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul. He commanded the USS Louisiana from 2006 to 2009.

As the pace of technological innovation continues to grow, SUBPAC’s success will depend on the ability to adopt new capabilities and train crews to effectively employ them, Converse said.

“That’s going to require a high level of individual competency, much higher than we demand of our sailors today,” he said.

A SUBPAC commander serves as the principal adviser on submarine matters to Aquilino and also oversees the nation’s ballistic missile submarine fleet operating in the Pacific on behalf of Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command.

The SUBPAC chief also reports to Vice Adm. Chas Richard, commander of the entire U.S. Navy undersea fleet.

New reconnaissance Marines train at shoot house

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A team of four Marines moved methodically through the Camp Hansen shoot house, saying nothing, communicating instead by squeezing and tapping one another’s shoulders.

They entered a room swiftly and with precision, fanning out to cover every nook and cranny. Gunshots rang out, ejected brass flipped into the air and the smell of gunpowder hung over the chamber.

The Feb. 7 training was designed to get the newest batch of reconnaissance Marines ready for a close-quarters-tactics course in October and an upcoming deployment at sea with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

and the Navy’s Task Force 76. As part of the MEU, the Marines will serve as the United States’ preeminent quick reaction force in the Indo-Pacific region.

When the smoke cleared, the Marines from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division learned a valuable lesson, one their leaders hope they will take with them to sea.

“Who shot the one on the right?” asked a senior recon Marine from a catwalk above the action. “You see a gun on him?”

“No,” said a Marine below.

The senior Marine shook his head in disapproval. He instructed the Marines to shout out a demand to see the potential target’s hands.

Then they were sent outside to do it all over again.

Combat is fluid and decisions must be made in a split second, the Marines of Force Company, 2nd Platoon, said afterward. The constant repetitions in the shoot house were designed to commit the motions of close-quarters room clearing to muscle memory, build unit cohesion, get new unit members up to scratch and to focus on advances in house-clearing techniques gleaned from decades of wars waged in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Shoot house exercises are part of a broader firearms training called a “shoot package” that includes live-fire barricade drills in which Marines must shoot targets between small opening in walls.

Second Platoon is undergoing that training to prepare for an upcoming deployment

at sea in which its mission will be VBSS — visit, board, search and seizure — of possibly hostile vessels.

“Houses are very similar to ships with the entry procedures, room-clearing procedures, so going through the houses like this helps prepare us for later down in our deployment cycle when we’ll actually get on the ships and go do our VBSS training,” said Staff Sgt. Samuel Mills, who was running the day’s drills.

“It builds unit cohesion and it just gives them that baseline to start from, so they’re not going into that (close-quarters tactics) package with absolutely no knowledge. They’ve at least got a starting point and a basic understanding of how things are going to work.”

Airstrikes lead to rise in civilian deaths

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — More civilians were killed in the war in Afghanistan last year than any other year since records began, with child deaths also reaching an all-time high, partly due to a spike in U.S. airstrikes, the United Nations said in a report on Sunday.

The findings added to a litany of discouraging data on the U.S.' longest war and were released a day before American and Taliban officials were to resume direct talks in

Qatar, which could lead to the U.S. pulling out of the 17-year conflict.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan documented more than 3,800 civilian deaths in the country last year, including about 930 children, both annual records. Nearly 11,000 civilian casualties in total were recorded throughout the year.

UNAMA attributed most of the casualties to anti-government forces, predominantly the Taliban and local Islamic State affiliate, with pro-government forces being blamed for about a quarter of the deaths and injuries.

However, pro-government forces — which include the U.S. military — were shown to have killed more Afghan children last year than their adversaries, which UNAMA said was largely due to U.S. airstrikes.

Responding to Sunday's report, the U.S.-led NATO mission in Afghanistan said "all feasible precautions" are taken to limit civilian casualties and that it investigates all allegations. According to NATO investigations, airstrikes by foreign forces caused 117 civilian casualties last year, including 62 deaths. That's about a fifth of the U.N.'s tally.

In a statement of its own, the Taliban called UNAMA's report "one-sided."

Despite the growing number of civilian casualties, the report did acknowledge efforts by U.S. and Afghans forces and the Taliban to protect civilians.

A ramped-up bombing campaign has been part of the Trump administration's strategy for pushing the Taliban to the negotiating table.

The U.S. dropped more munitions over the country last year in than the previous three years combined, according to Air Force data.

Leaders take close look at Far East base housing

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Officials at U.S. military installations across the Far East are going door-to-door, holding meetings and seeking feedback from residents following recent testimony to Congress and media reports about health and safety issues in military housing.

The moves echo an effort on bases in Europe following testimony Feb. 13 about military housing before the House

Armed Services Committee and a series of reports by the Reuters news agency that found housing at many U.S. bases was dilapidated and dangerous.

On Feb. 15, top military officials ordered commanders to inspect all housing for which they were responsible within 30 days and to hold town hall meetings.

For example, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein directed commanders at every base worldwide to conduct a "100 percent review"

of the condition and safety of all military housing by March 1, the Air Force said in a statement.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Jones wrote to residents Wednesday to inform them that military leaders would come personally to base housing and speak directly to residents about health and safety issues.

Residents of Camp Humphreys, South Korea, gave commanders an earful Friday during a town hall meeting

about housing woes on the U.S. military's new headquarters base in the rural area of Pyeongtaek, about 55 miles south of Seoul.

The Humphreys meeting, attended by Eighth Army commander Lt. Gen. Mike Bills, took place Friday evening in the Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, according to officials.

Military and housing officials, who seemed surprised by the severity of some of the complaints, responded swiftly by sending people to check on the situation the next day.

Cobra Gold offers training in civic action, cyberwarfare

BY CARLOS M. VASQUEZ II

Stars and Stripes

Cobra Gold, one of Asia's oldest and largest multinational military exercises, wrapped up for another year Friday in Thailand after 11 days.

The annual exercise, sponsored by U.S. and Thai armed forces, brought 27 other nations together for a variety of activities, from underwater demolition training to sampling the still-warm blood of its namesake reptile.

The wide-ranging schedule of events included military training, but also disaster relief planning and relationship building.

In a season of threats over maritime rights in the South China Sea, even China, a potential adversary to the U.S. and its allies, took part in a civic exercise. Chinese troops joined those from the U.S., Thailand and South Korea — more than 50 in all — to construct a multipurpose building at Ban Man Kroi School in Rayong Province, Thailand.

And for the first time in the 37-year history of Cobra Gold, the participating nations held a cyberspace field exercise. Training consisted of identifying a cyberspace attack and defending information and warfighting systems, according to a statement by the exercise organizers.

"Right now, cyberwarfare is different from the other types of warfare, because with the others you have to declare war," said Royal Thai Air Force Group Capt. Amorn Chomcho-

ey, director of Cyber Warfare Division, Office of Command and Control, Directorate of Information and Communication Technology. "But for cyberwarfare, it's happening every day. For instance, right now the assets we are protecting, there are going to be bad actors or hackers that are trying to access any of that."

U.S. Marines, the Washington Air National Guard and the Royal Thai Armed Forces took part in the exercises at Thai air force headquarters in Bangkok.

Maker of AK-47 set to release suicide drone

The Washington Post

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — The Russian company that gave the world the iconic AK-47 assault rifle has unveiled a suicide drone that may similarly revolutionize war by making sophisticated drone warfare technology widely and cheaply available.

The Kalashnikov Group put a model of its miniature exploding drone on display last week at a major defense exhibition in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, where the world's arms companies gather every two years to show off and market their latest wares.

The tiny item was dwarfed by the tanks, armored vehicles and fighter jets that were also on display. But it has as much potential to change the face of war as its older cousin, the AK-47, widely referred to simply as the Kalashnikov.

With its low price, high efficiency and ease of use, the Kalashnikov rifle became the weapon of choice for revolutionaries and insurgents around the world, empowering disgruntled citizens against their governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It remains a potent tool to this day. The Pentagon purchases secondhand Kalashnikov rifles for its allies in Syria and Afghanistan rather than give them more expensive American-made guns.

The Kalashnikov drone — officially named the KUB-UAV — will likewise be simple to operate, effective and cheap, its

manufacturers claim — and just as revolutionary. It will mark “a step toward a completely new form of combat,” said Sergey Chemezov, chairman of Russia's state-owned Rostec arms manufacturer, which owns a controlling stake in Kalashnikov, according to Kalashnikov's news statement on the launch.

The KUB is 4 feet wide, can fly for 30 minutes at a speed of 80 mph and carries six pounds of explosives, the news release says. That makes it roughly the size of a coffee table that can be guided to explode on a target 40 miles away — the equivalent of a “small, slow and presumably inexpensive cruise missile,” according to a report by the National Interest website.

Whoever buys one will have the ability to steer a bomb with a high degree of accuracy unparalleled except by some of the U.S. military's smartest bombs, said Nicholas Grossman, a professor of international relations at the University of Illinois and author of the book “Drones and Terrorism.”

Suicide drones are not new. Islamic State pioneered the art of attaching explosives to commercially available drones and detonating them on advancing troops and enemy bases during the battles for the cities of Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria.

The U.S. and Israeli militaries have suicide drones into their arsenals — but controls on the export of technology mean the devices aren't shared outside of a small circle of close allies.

Judge rules men-only draft unconstitutional

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A federal judge has ruled that a men-only draft is unconstitutional, but he stopped short of ordering the Selective Service System to register women for military service.

The Houston judge sided with a San Diego men's advocacy group that challenged the government's practice of having only men sign up for the draft, citing sex discrimination in violation of the Fifth Amendment's equal protection clause.

“This case balances on the tension between the constitutionally enshrined power of Congress to raise armies and the constitutional mandate that no person be denied the equal protection of the law,” wrote U.S. District Judge Gray Miller, of the Southern District of Texas.

The lawsuit was filed in 2013 against the Selective Service System by Texas resident James Lesmeister, who later added San Diego resident Anthony Davis and the San Diego-based National Coalition for Men as additional plaintiffs.

The two men had standing to sue the government because they were within the age range of 18 to 26 in which men in the United States are required to register with Selective Service.

Coalition attorney Marc Angelucci said in a statement Saturday that he is pleased with the court decision.

“Forcing only males to regis-

ter is an aspect of socially institutionalized male disposability and helps reinforce the stereotypes that support discrimination against men in other areas” such as divorce, child custody and domestic violence services, Angelucci said.

“Women are now allowed in combat, so this decision is long overdue,” he added. “After decades of sex discrimination against men in the Selective Service, the courts have finally found it unconstitutional to force only men to register.”

The government asked the judge to dismiss the suit or stay a decision until a national commission studying the issue of women's draft registration reaches a recommendation.

The judge noted that could take years, and even then Congress isn't required to follow the commission's findings.

“Congress has been debating the male-only registration requirement since at least 1980,” Miller wrote.

The government pointed to a 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision that the Military Selective Service Act was constitutional as written, to exclude women because women restricted from combat were not offered similar opportunities that men had.

Miller found that reasoning no longer applicable since the Department of Defense lifted all gender-based restrictions on military service — including combat roles — in 2015.

Venezuela in deadly standoff; troops block foreign aid

Associated Press

CUCUTA, Colombia — A U.S.-backed drive to deliver foreign aid to Venezuela met strong resistance as troops loyal to President Nicolas Maduro blocked the convoys at the border and fired tear gas on protesters in clashes that left two people dead and some 300 injured.

As night fell Saturday, opposition leader Juan Guaido re-

frained from asking supporters to continue risking their lives trying to break through the government's barricades at the Colombian and Brazilian borders. Instead, he said he would meet U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Monday in Bogota at an emergency meeting of mostly conservative Latin American governments to discuss Venezuela's crisis.

But he did make one last ap-

peal to troops to let the aid in and urged the international community to keep “all options open” in the fight to oust Maduro given Saturday's violence.

“How many of you national guardsmen have a sick mother? How many have kids in school without food?” he said, standing alongside a warehouse in the Colombian city of Cucuta where 600 tons of mostly U.S.-supplied boxes of food and medicine have

been stockpiled. “You don't owe any obedience to a sadist ... who celebrates the denial of humanitarian aid the country needs.”

Earlier, Maduro, who considers the aid part of a coup plot and has refused to let it in, struck a defiant tone, breaking diplomatic relations with Colombia and accusing its “fascist” government of serving as a staging ground for a U.S.-led effort to oust him.

2 dead as violent storms torment South

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Weekend storms raked parts of the Southeast, leaving two deaths and injuries in their wake as a tornado smashed into a commercial district in a small Mississippi city and drenching rains fed a rising flood threat.

A woman was killed when a tornado hit Columbus, Miss., and a man died when he drove into floodwaters in Tennessee, officials said.

The tornado Saturday afternoon in Columbus was confirmed on radar, said meteorologist Anna Wolverton, with the National Weather Service in Jackson. She told The Associated Press that experts were going Sunday to the east Mississippi city of about 23,000

people to gauge the tornado's intensity.

A woman died after a building collapsed on her and three other people, the Columbus mayor's office said Sunday in a statement on Facebook, citing information from Lowndes County Coroner Greg Merchant. The statement said Ashley Glynell Pounds, 41, of Tupelo, was with three other people when the building collapsed Saturday evening. The statement gave no information on the condition of the other three people.

In Knox County, Tenn., officials said a man died after his vehicle became submerged in high water. The sheriff's office said emergency crews got the man out of his vehicle and took him to a hospital, but he was

later pronounced dead.

At First Pentecostal Church in Columbus, the Rev. Steve Blaylock said the building was "a total loss," with a wall pushed in, holes in the roof and substantial water damage. He and his congregants were trying to salvage what they could on the morning after the storm.

But he said they still would hold a Sunday prayer service and even planned to go ahead with a scheduled baptism, using a borrowed portable baptismal pool.

"We will rebuild. We've got a good church here," Blaylock said.

Columbus Mayor Robert Smith Sr. said 12 people were injured, but the injuries did not appear to be major. City spokesman Joe Dillon said the

tornado also seriously damaged a school and two community center buildings.

Residents of one street on the east side of Columbus were out early Sunday morning with chain saws, clearing away branches of the many trees that had snapped or were uprooted in the storm. Metal siding and roofing material was scattered throughout the neighborhood of older homes. While the houses generally remained standing, sheds and outbuildings were mostly demolished.

Lee Lawrence, who said he has been selling used cars for decades in Columbus, told the AP that four buildings on his car lot were destroyed. He said trees toppled across vehicles and car windows were blown out.

Charges dismissed in a child's waterslide death

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — A judge dismissed criminal charges Friday against a Kansas water park owner and the designer of a 17-story slide on which a young boy was decapitated in 2016.

Wyandotte County Judge Robert Burns cited improper evidence in dropping second-degree murder charges against Schlitterbahn owner Jeff Henry, designer John Schooley and general contractor Henry and Sons Construction Co. The judge also dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against operations manager Tyler Miles, The Kansas City Star reported.

They were charged after Caleb Schwab, 10, died while riding the waterslide, which was marketed as the world's tallest slide.

"The court has grave doubts as to whether the irregularities and improprieties improperly influenced the grand jury and, ultimately, bolstered its decision to indict these defen-

dants," Judge Robert Burns said. "Quite simply, these defendants were not afforded the due process protections and fundamental fairness Kansas law requires."

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said in a statement that his office, which prosecuted the case, was disappointed and "respectfully disagrees" with Burns' ruling.

"We will review the ruling carefully, including the court's observation that the ruling 'does not preclude the possibility that the state could continue to pursue this matter in a criminal court,' and take a fresh look at the evidence and applicable law in this tragic and troubling case to determine the best course forward," Schmidt said.

Burns noted the tragedy of Caleb's death.

"I obviously recognize that the circumstances and events giving rise to these indictments are indisputably tragic," Burns said. "A young child's life was lost and his troubling death was mourned by family, friends and the entire Kansas City community and beyond."

Pope ends summit on sexual abuse, but plans not specified

The Washington Post

VATICAN CITY — At a Mass marking the end of an unprecedented Vatican summit, Pope Francis on Sunday called for an "all-out battle" against clerical sexual abuse, saying the church needed to take "every necessary measure" to end the scourge.

But his remarks were short on specifics and roundly criticized by victims of abuse, who said the four-day summit amounted to a training seminar that concluded with no concrete steps and advocated for behavioral changes that should have been obvious years ago.

Speaking at a gilded and frescoed hall at the Vatican, Francis said that abuse should never be "covered up" or tolerated. But the pontiff's words, which included general calls for improved national-level guidelines, underscored the looming challenges for an institution that has long acknowledged the seriousness of clerical abuse but nonetheless struggled to curtail it.

Francis mentioned unspecified "legislation" that the Catholic Church will draw up, and said it will "spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice" anyone who has committed the "crimes" of abuse.

At the start of the summit Thursday, Francis had called for "concrete and effective measures" to contend with the problem. Though some of the Vatican's handpicked speakers described their ideas for such measures, it is clear that any follow-through will have to come in the months and years ahead — if at all.

"I don't think we can rely on the institution to clean up its act," said Peter Saunders, a sex abuse survivor and former member of the pope's commission on the protection of minors. He said the pontiff's speech was "lukewarm" and made points "he has been talking about for years."

"There hasn't been any firm commitment to eject from the church the perpetrators of this crime," Saunders said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Family searches for missing pet tortoise

NM ROSWELL — A woman is on a desperate hunt for her disappearing pet that can't run fast and can't be missed — a 100-pound tortoise.

KOB-TV reported Dusty the Turtle went missing earlier this month in Roswell after strong winds knocked open a gate that housed him.

Shana Emmert, who was pet sitting Dusty for her niece, said she believes the turtle strolled away from the backyard and into the desert during the wind storm. According to Emmert's neighbors, Dusty was last spotted near Berrendo Creek in Roswell.

The family is offering a \$500 reward for his safe return.

No more cow-tipping shirts sold at airport

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The mayor of Oklahoma City is celebrating the completion of a personal mission: ridding the city's airport of cow-tipping T-shirts.

Mayor David Holt said on his Twitter account Thursday that after months of trying to end sales of shirts reading "Nothing Tips Like A Cow" at Will Rogers World Airport, the clothing has sold out and won't be restocked.

Airport spokesman Josh Ryan said Friday that the shirts with the shape of the state and a cow lying on its back were "pretty popular" for over 10 years, but "the joke has run its course."

Cow-tipping is a largely debunked legend in which rural youths sneak into a pasture at night and push over a cow that is standing but asleep.

Letter returned to woman after 45 years

MI GRAND RAPIDS — A Michigan woman who wrote a letter to her family in 1974 has been reunited with the tattered note after it was finally delivered to the home where her family lived years ago.

Mary Vaughan Brady, of Grand Rapids, received the letter Thursday, WOOD-TV reported.

When the worn and stained letter turned up in his mailbox, the man who now lives at the home, Evan Koons, turned to Facebook and found Brady and personally delivered the letter.

A note from the U.S. Postal Service was attached to the letter, apologizing for the damage. There was no explanation for the delayed delivery.

Brady said she was 19 when she penned the letter while backpacking in Europe.

Police: Woman lying in bed shot in both feet

CT HAMDEN — Police said a woman visiting a Connecticut home was struck in both feet by gunfire that came from outside.

Hamden police Capt. Ronald Smith said the 21-year-old woman was lying in bed in a basement apartment about 2 a.m. Friday when several shots were fired outside the building.

Hamden Fire Rescue provided medical assistance to the woman at the scene and she was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital.

Police: Man in gorilla suit breaks into home

LA SULPHUR — Police said a man wearing a gorilla suit broke into a home and hid under a mattress be-

fore officers arrested him.

News outlets quoted Sulphur police spokesman Mel Estes as saying that officers saw Jeremie Moran walking through yards in the costume. They had received calls about a suspicious person looking into homes.

Estes said Moran ran into a home as officers approached and was discovered hiding. He was jailed on charges including resisting an officer, unauthorized entry, meth possession and wearing a mask.

Former teller says she stole from customers

MA WORCESTER — A former teller at a Massachusetts bank pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$100,000 from several customers.

The Telegram & Gazette reported that Jessica Vargas, 35, pleaded guilty Wednesday to bank fraud and bank embezzlement.

Federal prosecutors said Vargas stole the money over a 17-month period by making unauthorized cash withdrawals from customer accounts at Athol Savings Bank.

She was caught in December 2017 when a customer noticed an unauthorized \$2,000 withdrawal.

Museum obtains original Archie stories

OH COLUMBUS — The world's largest cartoon museum has announced the acquisition of dozens of complete original Archie Comics stories.

The work by the late artist Dan DeCarlo includes stories from "Betty and Me," "Betty & Veronica," "Veronica," "Sabrina the Teenage Witch," "Josie and the Pussycats," "Cheryl Blossom" and Jughead.

Jenny Robb, head curator at Ohio State University's Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, said the characters are an important part of popular culture history.

Mayflower II work is right on schedule

CT MYSTIC — The restoration process for the Mayflower II is going according to schedule.

The Day reported that Whit Perry, the director of maritime preservation and operations at Plimoth Plantation, said he expects the replica of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to the New World in 1620 to be in the water by September.

The ship is getting a \$7.5 million makeover in time for the 2020 festivities marking the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing.

28 students sickened by pot-tainted food

GA ATLANTA — Five Georgia middle school students face disciplinary action for sharing drug-tainted food with other students on Valentine's Day.

WSB-TV reported Fulton County School officials said Friday the students could be suspended or expelled while school officials determine if criminal charges will be filed.

Investigators said THC was found in a food sample taken from Sandtown Middle School where students were sent to the hospital. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said tests showed THC, the main psychoactive component in marijuana, was found in one of the samples that "has the appearance of cereal."

School officials said 28 students were sickened.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

College basketball roundup

Barrett leads No. 1 Duke past Syracuse

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Freshman forward RJ Barrett scored 30 points to lead top-ranked Duke to a 76-65 defeat of Syracuse on Saturday.

Despite the outcome, Jim Boeheim needed this.

Three days after the Hall of Fame coach of the Syracuse Orange struck and killed a pedestrian on a darkened highway that leads out of town, he returned to the bench. It was Boeheim's first public appearance since the Wednesday night accident that killed 51-year-old Jorge Jimenez.

Once the game started, it seemed like just another tilt featuring the two winningest coaches in NCAA Division I history, except for the massive record crowd that made the dome's walls shake every time the Orange scored. The Blue Devils (24-3, 12-2) improved to 7-0 on the road in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Alex O'Connell had 20 for Duke. Blue Devils star Zion Williamson sat out with a sprained knee.

No. 2 Gonzaga 102, BYU 68: Zach Norvell Jr. scored 25 points, Rui Hachimura added 23 points and 10 rebounds and the host Bulldogs won, clearing the way for them to possibly be ranked No. 1 on Monday.

Josh Perkins had 21 points and seven assists for Gonzaga (27-2, 14-0). The Bulldogs have won 18 in a row, the longest streak in the nation, and have clinched the West Coast Conference regular-season title.

No. 3 Virginia 64, No. 18 Louisville 52: De'Andre Hunter scored 19 of his career-high 26 points after halftime, and the Cavaliers overcame a 12-point deficit to win at Louisville.

The Cavaliers (24-2, 12-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) trailed early in the second half before regrouping to hold the Cardinals (18-10, 9-6) to 6-for-30 from the field (20 percent) and 31 percent shooting overall. Virginia also found its of-

fense, shooting 59 percent and using a 12-1 run over 4:36 for a 55-48 lead it stretched to 12 for its fourth consecutive victory.

No. 4 Kentucky 80, Auburn 53: Kentucky coach John Calipari surpassed Joe B. Hall on the school's career wins list and is second behind Adolph Rupp.

Calipari is 298-68 in 10 seasons with the Wildcats. Hall compiled a 297-100 record in 13 seasons and led the Wildcats to a national championship in 1978.

PJ Washington scored 24 points to lead the host Wildcats.

No. 13 LSU 82, No. 5 Tennessee 80 (OT): Javonte Smart capped a career-best 29-point performance with a crucial rebound and go-ahead free throws in the final seconds for the host Tigers.

Skyler Mays added 23 points, including a game-tying three with 1:16 left in regulation for LSU (22-5, 12-2 Southeastern Conference), which pulled into a tie with Tennessee and Kentucky atop the conference despite playing without its leading scorer, point guard Tremont Waters.

No. 6 Nevada 74, Fresno State 68: Caleb Martin scored 24 points and the host Wolf Pack avoided losing consecutive games for the first time this season.

Jordan Caroline added 17 points, Tre'Shawn Thurman had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Jazz Johnson scored 10 points in his first start of the season for Nevada (25-2, 12-2 Mountain West).

Deshon Taylor led the Bulldogs (19-8, 10-5) with 30 points.

No. 8 North Carolina 77, No. 16 Florida State 59: Cameron Johnson had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the host Tar Heels, Luke Maye added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and freshman Nassir Little scored 18 points.

North Carolina (22-5, 12-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) has won 10 of 11 to remain in a

first-place tie.

David Nichols scored 16 points and Terance Mann added 10 for the Seminoles (21-6, 9-5), who had won eight straight but were held to 31 percent shooting in their first loss in more than a month.

No. 9 Houston 71, South Florida 59: DeJon Jarreau scored 17 points, Corey Davis Jr. added 15 and the host Cougars won their 11th straight.

Houston (26-1, 13-1 American Athletic Conference) shot 48 percent and never trailed in its 33rd straight home victory.

David Collins had 12 points on 2-for-14 shooting from the field and grabbed eight rebounds for USF (18-9, 7-7). The Bulls shot 31 percent from the field.

No. 11 Marquette 76, Providence 58: Sam Hauser had 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Sacar Anim scored 18 points for the visiting Golden Eagles.

Marquette (23-4, 12-2 in the Big East) led by 11 points at halftime and showed no signs of letting up, shooting 53.6 percent in the second half to finish at 54.9 percent for the game. Anim went 8-for-12 and Hauser 7-for-10 for the Golden Eagles, who got only 14 points on 2-for-12 shooting from leading scorer Markus Howard.

No. 14 Texas Tech 91, No. 12 Kansas 62: Jarrett Culver scored 26 points and was one of six Red Raiders to make multiple three-pointers in a win at home.

Texas Tech (22-5, 10-4 Big 12) never trailed, scoring the game's first five points. The Red Raiders made a season-high 16 threes while winning their fifth game in a row.

No. 15 Purdue 75, Nebraska 72: Matt Haarms scored 17 points and Grady Eifert beat the shot clock for two huge baskets down the stretch for the Boilermakers.

Purdue (20-7, 13-3 Big Ten) won its second straight close road game, having beaten Indiana 48-46 on a tip-in with three seconds left Tuesday. Ryan

Cline's three-pointer to end the first half gave the Boilermakers a two-point lead, and they never trailed again.

TCU 75, No. 19 Iowa State 72: Kouat Noi had 20 points with 13 rebounds and the host Frogs ended a three-game losing streak.

TCU (18-9, 6-8) hadn't won since a 92-83 victory at Iowa State two weeks ago, which was their first road win over a ranked team in 21 years.

No. 20 Virginia Tech 67, Notre Dame 59: Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 22 points and 14 rebounds to help the Hokies win at Notre Dame.

Virginia Tech (21-6, 10-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) raced to a 14-4 lead.

No. 22 Wisconsin 69, Northwestern 64: Brad Davison scored 16 points, D'Mitrik Trice and Ethan Happ added 14 points apiece and the Badgers won on the road.

Khalil Iverson added 11 points for Wisconsin (19-8, 11-5 Big Ten). Happ scored nine of his points in the second half, and Trice shot 4-for-9 from three-point range.

No. 23 Kansas State 85, Oklahoma State 46: The Wildcats had no problems as Xavier Sneed and Austin Trice led the team with 12 points each and Kamau Stokes had 11. The Wildcats had 10 players score.

Kansas State (21-6, 11-3 in Big 12 play) shot 62 percent and held the Cowboys to 31 percent.

No. 24 Maryland 72, Ohio State 62: Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 19 points, while Bruno Fernando had 14 points and 10 rebounds and the Terrapins remained unbeaten at home in the Big Ten. Maryland (21-7, 12-5) used a 13-0 run to win.

Air Force 82, San Jose State 68: Chris Joyce had 15 points and six rebounds to lead the host Falcons (12-15, 7-8 Mountain West Conference).

Colgate 93, Navy 71: Jordan Burns scored 27 points on 10-for-17 shooting with eight assists to lead the host Raiders.

Ole Miss players kneel in response to rally

Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Eight University of Mississippi basketball players kneeled during the national anthem Saturday before a victory over Georgia in response to a Confederacy rally near the arena.

With the teams lined up across the court at the free throw lines, six players took a knee and bowed at the start of the “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Two other players later joined them.

“The majority of it was just that we saw one of our teammates doing it and didn’t want him to be alone,” Ole Miss scoring leader Breein Tyree said. “We’re just tired of these hate groups coming to our school and portraying our campus like we have these hate groups in our actual school.”

The Confederacy demonstration took place a few hundred feet from the arena. In the aftermath of violence at a similar rally in 2017 in Charlottesville, Va., the Oxford community has been on alert.

Various student groups held counterprotests on campus Thursday and Friday. Saturday’s march also drew counterprotesters. The march began at the Confederate monument on the city square and ended at another Confederate monument in the heart of the Ole Miss campus.

“This was all about the hate groups that came to our community to try spread racism and bigotry,” Ole Miss coach Kermit Davis said. “It’s created a lot of tension for our campus. Our players made an emotional decision to show these people they’re not welcome on our campus, and we respect our players freedom and ability to choose that.”

Ole Miss beat Georgia 72-71.

NHL roundup

Giroux helps Flyers top Pens in OT

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Claude Giroux scored 1:59 into overtime and the Philadelphia Flyers scored three straight goals in the rain to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on a soggy Saturday night at Lincoln Financial Field.

The Flyers and Penguins took one of the NHL’s more heated rivalries outdoors and into prime time as part of the Stadium Series showcase. The rink needed a squeegee more than a Zamboni, but nearly 70,000 fans stuck around the home of the Eagles to watch the Flyers play the marquee game on their schedule.

The Flyers gave them a win to remember.

With rain pounding the ice in the third period, the Flyers got going. James van Riemsdyk, playing in his record sixth outdoor game, made it 3-2 on a power-play goal with 3:04 left. Jake Voracek tied it at 3-all with 19.7 seconds left, sending what was left of the sellout crowd into a frenzy.

Giroux, the Flyers’ All-Star captain, made sure the game didn’t last much longer. He slipped the winner past Matt Murray, and the Flyers celebrated in the mist.

Sabres 5, Capitals 2: Sam Reinhart scored three goals and host Buffalo snapped a four-game skid with a victory over Washington.

Jack Eichel had two assists in picking up his 66th point — two more than the fourth-year player’s career high set last season. Rookie Rasmus Dahlin and Jason Pominville also scored for the Sabres.

Rangers 5, Devils 2: Ryan Strome had two goals and Chris Kreider and Jimmy Vesey each had a goal and an assist as host New York beat New Jersey.

Brady Skjei also scored, Mika Zibanejad and Pavel Buchnevich each had two assists, and Alexandar Georgiev made 19 saves for the Rangers.

Andy Greene and Kenny Agostino scored, and Cory

Schneider had 29 saves for the Devils.

Blues 2, Bruins 1 (SO): Sammy Blais scored in the sixth round of the shootout to lift host St. Louis past Boston.

Alexander Steen scored in regulation for the Blues, who had a franchise-record 11-game winning streak snapped on Thursday in Dallas. Jordan Binnington stopped 31 shots through overtime and five more in the shootout to improve to 14-2-1. Chris Wagner scored for the Bruins, who had a seven-game win streak snapped but earned a point for the 13th consecutive game.

Panthers 6, Kings 1: Aleksander Barkov and Keith Yandle scored on the power play and host Florida had three goals in the second period to beat Los Angeles.

Jonathan Huberdeau, Vincent Trocheck, Jamie McGinn and Ian McCoshen also scored, and Barkov, Huberdeau and Yandle added assists for the Panthers, who have won four of five and are 10-5-0 in their last 15.

Blue Jackets 4, Sharks 0: Sergei Bobrovsky had 26 saves and recorded his second shutout in two nights, Matt Duchene scored his first goal for his new team and host Columbus beat San Jose.

Duchene, making his home debut after being dealt for a pair of top prospects and draft picks, tapped in a loose puck after a rebound early in the second period to put the Blue Jackets up 2-0.

Cam Atkinson had a goal and an assist, and Boone Jenner and Pierre-Luc Dubois also scored for the Blue Jackets, who have won seven of their last 10.

Hurricanes 3, Stars 0: Curtis McElhinney made 14 of his 24 saves in the third period for his 10th career shutout, and Carolina won at Dallas.

Lucas Wallmark and Justin Faulk scored early in the first two periods to support McElhinney’s second shutout of the season and the Hurricanes’

fourth in 10 games. Jordan Martinook added an empty-netter as Carolina won for the fifth time in six games.

Avalanche 5, Predators 0: Philipp Grubauer made 38 saves for his first shutout of the season and helped Colorado win at Nashville as the Avalanche won their fourth straight.

Nathan MacKinnon scored two goals and had an assist. Alexander Kerfoot had a goal and two assists, Nikita Zadorov had a goal and an assist and Gabriel Landeskog added a goal for Colorado.

Grubauer made the start and got the seventh shutout of his career with Colorado playing its second game in 24 hours.

Maple Leafs 6, Canadiens 3: Zach Hyman scored two goals in the final 1:50 of the third period and host Toronto erased an early 3-0 deficit to beat Montreal.

William Nylander and Auston Matthews each had a goal and an assist, and Tyler Ennis and Andreas Johnsson also scored for the Maple Leafs, who snapped a season-high three-game losing streak.

Tomas Tatar scored for Montreal, which had its three-game win streak halted. Carey Price made 31 saves.

Oilers 2, Ducks 1: Josh Currie and Sam Gagner scored and host Edmonton beat Anaheim without Oilers captain Connor McDavid, who missed the game while serving a suspension.

Mikko Koskinen made 33 saves for Edmonton, which won its second straight game. Carter Rowney scored for the Ducks, who lost their second straight.

Islanders 4, Canucks 0: Robin Lehner made 36 saves for his fourth shutout of the season as New York won at Vancouver.

Casey Cizikas, Ryan Pullock, Anthony Beauvillier and Cal Clutterbuck scored for the Islanders.

Jacob Markstrom had 20 saves for the Canucks, who lost their third straight game.

Rockets hold off Warriors

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Even without NBA scoring leader James Harden, the Houston Rockets took it to Golden State from the very start.

Eric Gordon scored 25 points with four three-pointers, Chris Paul converted two free throws with 1:08 left on the way to 23, and the Rockets outplayed the Warriors without the ill Harden for a 118-112 victory Saturday night.

Stephen Curry's three with 1:57 to play pulled the Warriors to 114-108 and his two free throws at 1:26 made it a four-point game before Houston came through at the line.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Curry added 25 with five threes, nine rebounds and seven assists, but the Warriors had their five-game home winning streak snapped in a matchup of West powers who met in the 2018 Western Conference finals won in seven games by Golden State.

"You can come in here and win on a Monday night in February or a Tuesday night in November or December," Paul said. "But in the playoffs is when you have to beat a team four out of seven times. It's great tonight that we won this but in two days, y'all will forget this. We all will."

Paul handed out 11 of his season-high 17 assists in the first half to reach 9,000 for his career, helping Houston avoid a third straight road loss.

Cousins notched his third straight double-double with 13 points and a season-best 14 rebounds, while Klay Thompson had 20 points and six assists.

Curry's three in the final 30 seconds of the first half and a jumper to beat the buzzer by Andre Iguodala got Golden State to 61-54 at halftime after the two-time defending champions trailed by 20.

NBA roundup

Davis-less Pelicans deal blow to James, Lakers' playoff hopes

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jrue Holiday hit five three-pointers and scored 27 points while Anthony Davis watched from the bench, and New Orleans beat Los Angeles 128-115.

Former Laker Julius Randle had 24 points for the Pelicans, who looked in sync and motivated as they slowed LeBron James and the Lakers' push to qualify for the playoffs.

James had 27 points and 12 assists, and Brandon Ingram scored 29 points for Los Angeles.

Trail Blazers 130, 76ers 115: Jusuf Nurkic scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Damian Lillard had 17 points and Portland beat host Philadelphia.

The Sixers struggled in their second game without All-Star center Joel Embiid, who is out with a sore left knee. Ben Simmons had 29 points and 10 assists and Tobias Harris scored 20.

Without Embiid, the Sixers couldn't keep up in a matchup between the fourth-place teams in each conference. The Blazers (36-23) have won three in a row, including a 22-point victory over Golden State before the All-Star break. Philadelphia (38-22) is 4-4 this month.

Kings 119, Thunder 116: Buddy Hield scored 34 points, and Sacramento beat host Oklahoma City.

Hield, who played college ball at the nearby University of Oklahoma, shot 12 for 22 from the field. De'Aaron Fox and Marvin Bagley each added 19 points for the Kings.

Paul George, who hit the game-winner the night before in a 148-147 double-overtime win over Utah, missed a three-pointer at the buzzer against the Kings that could have forced overtime. He shot just 4-for-19 for the night.

Bulls 126, Celtics 116: Zach LaVine scored a career-high 42 points, Lauri Markkanen fin-

ished with a personal-best 35 points and 15 rebounds, and host Chicago got some payback for the most lopsided loss in franchise history.

LaVine surpassed his previous high of 41 points at New York on Nov. 5.

Markkanen, whose high coming in was 33 against the Knicks last season, became the fourth Chicago player in 10 years to score 20 or more in eight straight games. And the Bulls returned the favor for a 133-77 beating at the United Center in December that was also the biggest romp in the Celtics' storied history.

Nets 117, Hornets 115: D'Angelo Russell tied a career high with 40 points and made some huge shots down the stretch, and visiting Brooklyn picked up an important win over Charlotte.

The victory kept the Nets alone in sixth place in the Eastern Conference and gives them 2-1 edge in the series entering Friday night's game at Brooklyn.

Charlotte's Kemba Walker finished with 32 points, including 28 in the second half.

Bucks 140, Timberwolves 128: Khris Middleton scored 28 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and NBA-leading host Milwaukee pulled away for a victory over short-handed Minnesota.

The Bucks (45-14) have won 10 of 11 and 16 of 18 to move a season-high 31 games over .500.

Derrick Rose had 23 points for the Timberwolves, who played without Karl-Anthony Towns for the second consecutive game.

Pistons 119, Heat 96: Ish Smith scored 22 points off the bench, Langston Galloway added 15 points in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter and Detroit moved into seventh place in the Eastern Conference by downing host Miami.

Blake Griffin had 20 points while Galloway and Luke Ken-

nard each scored 17 for the Pistons (28-30), who are 1½ games behind Brooklyn for the No. 6 spot.

Pacers 119, Wizards 112: Thaddeus Young scored 22 points on 9-of-11 shooting, Bojan Bogdanovic added 18 and visiting Indiana held off struggling Washington.

Domantas Sabonis added 13 points and 12 rebounds, while Darren Collison scored 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter to help the Pacers overcome 23 turnovers and sweep a second straight back-to-back set. Indiana has won eight of nine.

Jazz 125, Mavericks 109: Ricky Rubio and Donovan Mitchell each scored 25 points to lead Utah over visiting Dallas.

Jae Crowder chipped in 22 points off the bench and Joe Ingles added 18 for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 21 points for the Mavericks, who were without rookie Luka Doncic for a second straight game because of a sore right ankle.

Cavaliers 112, Grizzlies 107: Kevin Love scored a season-high 32 points, Cedi Osman hit the go-ahead three-pointer late in the fourth quarter and Cleveland beat visiting Memphis.

Love, playing in back-to-back games for the first time since returning from foot surgery, had 10 points in the fourth quarter. He was 9 of 15 from the field overall, hit six threes and made all eight of his free throw attempts.

Hawks 120, Suns 112: Trae Young and Kent Bazemore each scored 23 points, Taurean Prince added 21 and host Atlanta extended Phoenix's franchise-worst losing streak to 17 games.

John Collins finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds for Atlanta, which snapped a two-game skid to avoid a home loss against the NBA's worst team.