

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Deadly siege in Somalia ends

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Somalia's security forces ended a deadly siege of a beachfront restaurant in the capital, with more than 20 people killed in the attack, a police official said Friday.

The security forces took control of the restaurant just before dawn, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein, speaking from the scene of the attack in Mogadishu.

It was not clear whether Hussein's report of more than 20 killed included the assailants. Islamic extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack, in a broadcast on its online radio late Thursday.

Volunteers carried bodies

from the scene of the attack early Friday.

"I was intending to go out but suddenly we heard a heavy explosion followed by gunfire. ... I saw a militant fighter shooting indiscriminately on everybody. Then I locked myself inside a room until we were evacuated peacefully by the security forces," said Abdulkadir Mohamed Somow, who had been trapped inside the restaurant.

Blasts and bursts of gunfire could be heard as Somali special forces went from room to room in pursuit of the al-Shabab gunmen who were holed up inside the restaurant.

Hussein said the security forces rescued many people who had been trapped inside the restaurant's hall, where a

party was taking place when the attack started on Thursday.

Witnesses said that gunmen entered the restaurant from the direction of the beach. They shouted "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great," as they attacked.

"They randomly fired at people sitting near the beach before entering the restaurant," said witness Ahmed Nur, who was strolling along the shoreline when the attack happened.

Al-Shabab attacked Kenyan peacekeepers in southwestern Somalia last week. The al-Qaida-linked group said it had killed about 100 Kenyans and seized weapons and military vehicles. The Kenyan government has given no death toll, but said there were some fatalities.

## US student arrested in N. Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea announced Friday the arrest of a U.S. university student for what it called a "hostile act" orchestrated by the American government to undermine the authoritarian nation.

Pyongyang's state media said the University of Virginia student entered the country under the guise of a tourist and plotted to destroy North Korean unity with "the tacit connivance of the U.S. government and under its manipulation."

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that the student, whom it identified as Warmbier Otto Frederick, was "arrested while perpetrating a hostile act," but didn't say when he was detained or explain the nature of the act. North Korea has sometimes listed English-language surnames first, in the Korean style. The University of Virginia's online student directory lists someone named Otto Frederick Warmbier as an undergraduate student.

A China-based tour company specializing in travel to North Korea, Young Pioneer Tours, confirmed that one of its customers, identified only as "Otto," had been detained in Pyongyang, the North's capital, but provided no other details. Social media accounts for Warmbier show interests in finance, travel and rap music; he was on the University of Virginia's dean's list and attended high school in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement that it was "aware of media reports that a U.S. citizen was detained in North Korea," but had "no further information to share due to privacy considerations."

## Iraq's PM doubts 3 Americans kidnapped

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister has expressed doubts that the three Americans who went missing from a Baghdad neighborhood last week have been kidnapped.

Haider al-Abadi said no demands have been made for the three and that they were most likely taken by "criminal gangs." Al-Abadi spoke on Friday from Davos, Switzerland, where he is attending the World Economic Forum.

Separately, Iraqi and Western security officials claimed two powerful Shiite militias — Asaib Ahl al-Haq and Saraya al-Salam — are the top suspects in the abduction. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The Iraqi government doesn't "know that they (Americans) have been kidnapped. They

are missing" and Iraqi security forces are searching for them, Abadi said.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has confirmed that an unspecified number of Americans are missing and said it's working with Iraqi authorities to locate them. Baghdad authorities said the Americans were kidnapped from a "suspicious apartment" but provided no other details. There has been no claim of responsibility.

Following the dramatic collapse of the Iraqi security forces in the summer of 2014, Shiite militias filled the vacuum, growing more powerful militarily than the country's own security forces. They are some of the most effective forces on the ground combating the Islamic State group in Iraq, and also run security in many Baghdad neighborhoods.

The Iraqi government-allied militias are now officially sanc-

tioned and known as Popular Mobilization Committees.

But many trace their roots to the armed groups that battled U.S. troops after the 2003 invasion and kidnapped and killed Sunnis at the height of Iraq's sectarian bloodletting in 2006 and 2007. In the fight against the Islamic State group, human rights groups have accused the committees of abuses targeting Sunni civilians — charges denied by militia leaders.

Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Iranian-backed and one of the most powerful Shiite militias operating in Iraq, has repeatedly spoken out against the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq in the fight against the Islamic State group. Saraya al-Salam is run by Iraq's influential Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, whose Mahdi militia often battled with U.S. forces between 2003 and 2011.

# Vets accuse Palin of dangerous stereotyping

*The Washington Post*

During a tour in Iraq, U.S. Army officer Ryan Kranc was traveling on a convoy with his commander when they drove over a roadside bomb. His commander died, and Kranc survived.

That was in 2003. For many years after, Kranc bore the guilt of the incident — until 2009, when he was deployed in Saudi Arabia and decided to get help.

“I came to the realization that I could no longer mask this,” Kranc said in a phone interview Friday. “I would pour my heart and soul into my professional life, but I would be a zombie at home.”

Kranc was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder — he prefers to simply call it “post-traumatic stress” — and started seeing a doctor, traveled through Germany and witnessed a leg of the Tour de France.

“It was a personal retreat,” Kranc said. “It took me a long time to realize that I wasn’t responsible.”

Now, the officer, who is currently still serving, shares his story with others in the

hopes of destigmatizing PTSD and challenging the idea that war leaves psychological wounds from which it is impossible to recover. Though the process has been far from perfect, Kranc said, he continues to lead a productive life, and is frustrated by the common perception that veterans can’t move forward from their psychological traumas.

This was the message Kranc was trying to get across this week when he responded to Nate Bethea, another veteran, with a string of tweets about how he was affected by PTSD. Unknowingly, he was joining a discussion within the online American veteran community that has been sparked by comments from former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

The one-time Republican vice presidential candidate bolted back into the spotlight with her endorsement of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Tuesday, but a side story that didn’t go unnoticed was her son’s arrest at her home the day before she threw her support behind the billionaire real estate developer.

According to a police affidavit, Palin’s son and Iraq combat veteran Track Palin, 26, was arrested on domestic violence charges after his girlfriend, Jordan Loewe, called 911 and said that he was armed and had punched her in the face.

Sarah Palin addressed the incident while stumping for Trump in Tulsa, Okla., on Tuesday.

“When my own son is going through what he goes through coming back, I can certainly relate to the families who ... feel these ramifications of PTSD,” she said before an 8,000-strong crowd, *The Washington Post’s* Jose DelReal reported.

In the same speech, Palin accused President Barack Obama of neglecting veterans, adding, “It is now or never for the sake of America’s finest that we have a commander-in-chief who will respect them.”

The statements angered many veterans, who took to social media to condemn Palin for simplifying their experiences and perpetuating the stereotype of the destructive veteran. Others criticized Palin for placing the blame on Obama.

## Marines in Hawaii crash presumed dead

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Coast Guard has established a temporary safety zone after two Marine Corps helicopters crashed last week, presumably killing 12 Marines.

The safety zone, about three miles off Oahu’s North Shore, was established Thursday to clear the way for salvaging underwater debris after the Jan. 14 crash, which remains under investigation.

The Marine Corps said the 12 Marines who were in two helicopters that crashed off Hawaii are considered dead.

An intense, five-day search ended Tuesday without finding a trace of the Marines. The helicopters’ four life rafts were found with no sign that they had been used.

The safety zone — which will remain in effect through Feb. 10 or until salvage operations are complete — encompasses waters extending a mile in all directions around the location of

the salvage operations, about 3 miles northwest of a small boat harbor in Haleiwa.

No vessel or person is permitted to enter the safety zone without Coast Guard authorization. Violators face penalties of up to \$40,000 for each infraction, or a criminal sentence of up to 25 years and a \$250,000 fine, the Coast Guard said. Vessels may also be seized and held liable for any monetary assessments.

The Marines are heading the salvage work and will continue to search for debris and the remains of the missing.

Capt. James D. Jenkins, Hawaii Coast Guard commander, told reporters Tuesday that a widespread debris field had been found using remotely controlled underwater vehicles. The debris was consistent with what would be found from the helicopters, CH-53E Super Stallions.

The helicopters did not have voice recorders or other devices to provide highly detailed information about the crash, which means investigators will have to painstakingly piece together

much of the debris.

An aviation mishap board will investigate the cause of the crash and possibly provide recommendations to prevent incidents.

Meanwhile, Marine Corps Base Hawaii will host a memorial service for the 12 Marines at 10 a.m. Friday in hangar 102, according to the 1st Battalion 12th Marines’ Facebook page.

While there is “no way to comprehend the grief their families feel today, this we do know: These proud Marines died as they lived, in service to a country they loved and in dedication to a cause greater than themselves,” Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement Wednesday.

Efforts by the Coast Guard, Navy, Marines and others to search day and night in rough seas and heavy swells was testimony that “leave no man behind” is “not a simple slogan: It was a solemn oath,” he said.

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## EPA official quits post over Flint water crisis

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — A regional director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency resigned in connection with the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich., the same day the agency’s chief issued an emergency order directing state and city officials to take actions to protect public health.

The EPA said in a statement Thursday that Susan Hedman, head of the agency’s regional office in Chicago, whose jurisdiction includes Michigan, was stepping down Feb. 1 so it could focus “solely on the restoration of Flint’s drinking water.”

High levels of lead have been detected in the impoverished city’s water since officials switched from the Detroit municipal system and began drawing from the Flint River as a cost-saving measure in April 2014. Some children’s blood has tested positive for lead, a potent neurotoxin linked to learning disabilities, lower IQ and behavioral problems.

From The Associated Press



# Panthers changing reputation

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— The Carolina Panthers have a reputation of being a defensive team.

Cam Newton is changing that perception in his fifth season.

The Panthers (16-1) finished the regular season as the highest-scoring team in the NFL, and have scored at least 27 points in 14 of their last 15 games behind their All-Pro quarterback. On Sunday, the Panthers bolted to a 31-point halftime lead against the Seattle Seahawks and held on to win 31-24 to reach the NFC championship game for the first time since 2005.

The top-seeded Panthers host the Arizona Cardinals (14-3) on Sunday.

It's not exactly what you'd expect from a team whose head coach has a defensive background.

"Not really," coach Ron Rivera said with a laugh when asked if he ever thought he'd be coaching a team that led the league in scoring.

"To see how explosive we have been and the play of our quarterback has been special. I didn't know if we would ever be like."

The growth of Carolina's offense has been a slow, steady journey.

Rivera attributes that to maintaining continuity on the coaching staff over Newton's first five seasons. Although offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski left after two seasons, the Panthers promoted quarterbacks coach Mike Shula to that role and the rest of the staff has pretty much remained intact since 2011.

The Panthers have won three straight NFC South titles and started this season 14-0.

"That has a lot to do with" our success, Rivera said. "These guys have been together a while and it allowed them to have continuity to develop this offense and have it morph into fitting around the quarterback's skillset as opposed to forcing him into what you want to do."

Rivera and his staff extensively studied the things Newton did well at Auburn, where he led the Tigers to a national championship in his only season and won the Heisman Trophy. The coaches worked to incorporate philosophies of the read option, which plays to the skills of the 6-foot-5, 250-pound quarterback.

Late last season, Shula went a step further, moving to primarily a no-huddle offense because that is where Newton is most comfortable.

After five years in the system, Newton looks more comfortable and confident in the offense than he ever has before. When the Panthers surrendered a 28-point lead against the New York Giants late in the season, cameras showed Newton calmly shaking his head up and down on the sideline, confident he was going to lead the Panthers to the winning field goal.

He did just that, and the Panthers escaped with a 38-35 win.

"With those great quarterbacks you always get that sense that they're in control," wide receiver Jericho Cotchery said. "It's no different with him. We always feel like we're in control because he is our quarterback."

Newton said the Panthers don't get nervous.

"We prepared too much to get nervous," Newton said. "In some way, shape or form we played this game numerous times in our head, watched countless film, made this adjustment and that adjustment so when you're put in the fire you already have what you need to do what you do. Nothing else needs to be done or said. No matter if we're up or we're down, just believe in the plan and keep going."

Newton earned All-Pro this season, becoming the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 35 touchdown passes and run for 10 TDs.

The Panthers offense appeared to be on the verge of breaking out in 2013 when the team finished 12-4 and won the NFC South championship. But Newton struggled with injuries in 2014, missing most of the offseason after surgery on his foot. He later broke his ribs in the preseason and then fractured two ribs in a car wreck late in the year.

This year, Newton is healthy — and producing.

Cotchery said he has no doubt Newton is ready for the pressure that is ahead in the NFC title game -- and potentially the Super Bowl.

"Most certainly," Cotchery said. "A lot of people don't like to factor into what a person has done in college and all of those things but he led a team to a national championship and he has been in big moments and has the experience of playing in three straight playoffs."

"He is ready for these moments."

# Sullivan takes lead with a 67

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy and other big names slid off the leaderboard at the weather-affected Abu Dhabi Championship on Friday, leaving American amateur Bryson DeChambeau to chase clubhouse leader Andy Sullivan in the second round.

After fog delayed the start of play by nearly three hours, Sullivan shot a second straight 5-under 67 to move clear on 10-under and make another strong impression in front of his playing partner, European Ryder Cup captain Darren Clarke.

Spieth and McIlroy were in the marquee afternoon group, but both played erratically and were 1 over after 13 holes when play was suspended for the day because of darkness. Spieth was at 3 under and McIlroy at 5 under, with both struggling off the tee.

DeChambeau, the surprise first-round leader following a 64, was a shot behind Sullivan after playing nine holes in 1 under. Starting on No. 10, he made birdies on two of his first three holes but bogeyed No. 18 in the fading light.

Joost Luiten (68) and Rafael Cabrera-Bello (67) were in the clubhouse on 7-under 137, with the leaderboard shorn of the tournament's leading players. Henrik Stenson dropped three shots in 12 holes before play was suspended to fall to 4-under overall, and Branden Grace was on the same score after shooting 74.

The European Tour said the third round will be a two-tee start, in three balls, to make up for the lost time Friday.

Sullivan, one of the stars of the European Tour in 2015 with three victories, won three points from three matches for Europe in its big win over Asia in the EurAsia Cup in Malaysia last week. Clarke captained the Europeans for that event, a test run for the Ryder Cup, and has been further impressed by Sullivan's play and attitude in Abu Dhabi — this time even closer up.

The 28-year-old Englishman started and finished his second round with three straight birdies.

"Darren knows what I can do, so I don't think it was imperative (to play well here)," Sullivan said, "but it bodes well when you do."

Clarke and Sullivan have been close friends since Sullivan turned professional in 2011 and the jokes have been flying between them this week.

"He has completely taken the mick out of me for two days and I have told him that if he keeps this up, a pick (for the Ryder Cup) is out of the question," Clarke said.

Sullivan, known for his big smile and easygoing attitude, says Clarke has been playfully abusing him for being a "short, fat guy" but has been giving it back.

"He's got 60 on his ball and, on the first tee, I said I didn't realize you put your age on the ball," Sullivan said, laughing. "I just try and have a bit of to-ing and fro-ing. It was good fun and kept it relaxed."

# Federer earns 300th Grand Slam victory

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer was already a long way clear at the top of the list of men with the most wins in Grand Slam singles matches, so becoming the first to 300 wasn't a major distraction.

He reached the milestone at Rod Laver Arena on Friday, when he moved into the fourth round of the Australian Open with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Grigor Dimitrov.

"It's very exciting, I must tell you," Federer said of his latest record, adding that reaching 1,000 wins in tour matches last year was also a cause for celebration. "It was a big deal for me."

"Not something I ever aimed for or looked for, but when it happens, it's very special. Yeah, you look deeper into it, I guess, where it's all happened and how. So it's very nice."

Defending champions and top-ranked Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic had night matches starting at the same time on nearby courts.

Six-time champion Williams raced to a 6-1, 6-1 win in 45 minutes over 18-year-old Russian Daria Kasatkina on Rod Laver Arena. She will next play Margarita Gasparyan, who beat Yulia Putintseva 6-3, 6-4.

Djokovic needed only 25 minutes to

win the first set against No. 28-seeded Andreas Seppi but had a tougher time in the next two, saving two set points in the tiebreaker before winning 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (6) on Margaret Court Arena. After making way for Williams on the main court, he noted it was his first match on Melbourne Park's No. 2 court since it was renovated to include a roof.

Djokovic, a five-time Australian Open champion, continued a streak of reaching at least the fourth round at every major since the 2009 French Open. He was also particularly wary of a third-rounder against Seppi, who beat four-time champion Federer at the same stage here last year.

Also advancing were two-time semifinalist Tomas Berdych, who beat No. 29 Nick Kyrgios in four sets, and 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori, who had had a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over No. 26-seeded Guillermo Garcia-Lopez and will next play 2008 Australian Open finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, lost to No. 24 Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

No. 15 David Goffin beat No. 19 Dominic Thiem 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5 — his first win against a top-20 player at a Grand Slam. He faces a tougher proposition next: Federer.

The 17-time major winner now is 67 clear

of No. 2 Jimmy Connors in Grand Slam singles wins, though Federer's main aim is to win his first major since Wimbledon 2012.

He improved to 5-0 against Dimitrov, a young Bulgarian with a similar style.

Dimitrov needed treatment for an undisclosed ailment at times, but Federer didn't cut him any slack — he lost in the third round here last year, his worst run at Melbourne Park since 2001.

Earlier in a rain-interrupted day at Melbourne Park, 2008 champion Maria Sharapova collected her 600th win at the tour level. She advanced with a 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0 win over Lauren Davis before she was reminded of the milestone, becoming the 17th woman to reach the mark.

"Wow. I've won 600 matches?" Sharapova said. "I think it's a proud number."

The fifth-seeded Sharapova will next play No. 12 Belinda Bencic, who had a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Kateryna Bondarenko.

Roberta Vinci, who ended Williams' bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2015 with a shocking semifinal win at the U.S. Open, lost 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Anna-Lena Friedsam, who will next face No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska.

Also progressing were No. 10 Carla Suarez Navarro and Russian-born Australian Daria Gavrilova, who held off No. 28 Kristina Mladenovic 6-4, 4-6, 11-9.



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# Lightning snap Chicago's streak

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Anton Stralman insisted the surging Tampa Bay Lightning didn't derive any extra satisfaction out of beating the Chicago Blackhawks to end a franchise-record 12-game winning streak for the defending Stanley Cup champions.

"No, not really," the veteran defenseman said after the Lightning extended a roll of their own to a season-best seven games with a 2-1 victory Thursday night. "It's all about our winning streak now."

Stralman's sixth goal of the season erased an early deficit and Nikita Kucherov snapped a second-period tie with his 20th goal for the Lightning, who will try to match the longest winning streak in club history Saturday at Florida.

"This might have been our best game all season. We played for 60 minutes," Stralman said. "This is the way we want to play, obviously. This is how we can play."

Ben Bishop had 17 saves as the Blackhawks were held to a season-low 18 shots. Corey Crawford stopped 31 shots to keep the Blackhawks in the game, but it wasn't enough to extend a career-best nine-game winning streak for the Chicago goaltender.

"They were definitely the better team. We didn't generate much. We didn't get much traffic and pucks to the net and didn't get the offensive zone time we like," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "We had a few shifts, but they were few and far between."

The victory gave Tampa Bay a split of the season series with the Blackhawks, who won last year's Stanley Cup final against the Lightning in six games.

"That was a fun game. Obviously it brought back memories of last year," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "They are a really good team. We played ex-

tremely well to beat them. ... One streak was ending tonight and I'm glad it's theirs."

**Wild 3, Kings 0:** Zach Parise scored Minnesota's first power-play goal in January, Darcy Kuemper made 32 saves in his seventh career shutout and the Wild snapped their five-game losing streak.

Erik Haula added a short-handed goal for the Wild, who pulled out of their tailspin with a gritty effort against the Pacific Division leaders. Charlie Coyle scored on a breakaway during a solid offensive performance by a team that had scored just one goal in its previous nine periods.

**Canucks 4, Bruins 2:** Daniel Sedin became the Canucks' career leader in goals with 348, scoring twice in the third period against host Boston.

Sedin tucked the rebound of Christopher Tanev's shot past Tuukka Rask for the eventual winner with 12:57 remaining. He also scored into an empty net in the final minute. Sedin scored two goals in Vancouver's 3-2 overtime win against Florida on Jan. 11 to tie Markus Naslund for the franchise lead, but went scoreless in four straight games before Thursday.

**Devils 6, Senators 3:** Travis Zajac had a goal and three assists, Kyle Palmieri scored twice, and the New Jersey Devils scored five times in the first period in a victory over the Ottawa Senators.

Joseph Blandisi scored his first NHL goal and had two assists. Lee Stempniak and Adam Henrique also scored to help the Devils win their third straight and improve to 6-1-1 in their last eight games against the Senators.

**Penguins 4, Flyers 3:** Phil Kessel scored twice and Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist as host Pittsburgh ended an eight-game winless streak against its cross-state rival.

Crosby continued his five-game point

streak for the Penguins, who defeated the Flyers for the first time since Oct. 17, 2013. Phil Kessel scored his 13th and 14th goals of the season and Trevor Daley scored his fourth for the Penguins.

**Flames 4, Blue Jackets 2:** Rookie Sam Bennett scored twice and Johnny Gaudreau had the tiebreaking goal to lead visiting Calgary past league-worst Columbus.

**Hurricanes 1, Maple Leafs 0 (OT):** Jordan Staal scored on a rebound in overtime, Eddie Lack stopped 31 shots and Carolina downed host Toronto.

Staal started the play with a rush up the ice and beat his man to the net to chip in the ricochet off a shot from Justin Faulk at 2:54 of the extra period.

**Predators 4, Jets 1:** Ryan Johansen kept up his hot play since being traded with a goal and an assist to lead visiting Nashville.

**Stars 3, Oilers 1:** Jamie Benn scored his 27th goal, and host Dallas ended a season-high four-game losing streak.

Dallas' Jason Spezza scored in the first period and assisted on Jyrki Jokipakka's goal in the second. Antti Niemi, who made 23 saves, allowed goals by Teddy Purcell on the power play in the second period and Nail Yakupov with 3:03 remaining in the game.

**Sharks 3, Coyotes 2:** Tommy Wingels and Chris Tierney scored first-period goals, Martin Jones stopped 23 shots and the San Jose Sharks beat slumping host Arizona.

Patrick Marleau added an empty-net goal as the Sharks extended their points streak to a season-best seven games and moved ahead of the Coyotes into second place in the Pacific Division.

# Leonard, Spurs roll past Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs past the Phoenix Suns 117-89 on Thursday night for their 12th straight victory.

Leonard, selected as an All-Star starter for the first time in his career earlier in the day, scored eight of his points in the third quarter for San Antonio. Boban Marjanovic added 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Jonathon Simmons had 13 points.

Having already tied the best start in team history, the Spurs moved to 37-6 and kept pace with the 2010-11 team, which also had a 37-6 mark. They got 66 points from their bench.

The Spurs cruised despite missing starters Tony Parker and Tim Duncan. Parker had right hip soreness and Duncan was given the night off to rest.

Devin Booker's 24 points led the Suns, who lost their sixth straight and 15th in 16 games.

**Cavaliers 115, Clippers 102:** LeBron James had 22 points and 12 assists, J.R. Smith made six three-pointers and host Cleveland beat Los Angeles.

Kevin Love added 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Cavs, playing their first home game since being embarrassed in a 34-point loss to Golden State on Monday in a rematch of last year's NBA Finals. They bounced back with a win at Brooklyn on Wednesday before beating the Clippers, who came in 11-1 in their past 12.

Chris Paul scored 30 for Los Angeles, which made only six three-pointers after knocking down 22 on Monday against Houston. The Clippers were again without star forward Blake Griffin (torn quadriceps).

**Pelicans 115, Pistons 99:** Anthony Davis scored 32 points and host New Orleans beat Detroit for its fourth victory in five games.

Tyreke Evans had 22 points and 10 assists for the Pelicans. The game was the first for New Orleans since starting shooting guard Eric Gordon was ruled out for 4-to-6 weeks with a broken ring finger on his shooting hand. Norris Cole was moved into the starting lineup and responded with 12 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Andre Drummond had 19 points and 22 rebounds for Detroit.

**Kings 91, Hawks 88:** DeMarcus Cousins had 24 points and 15 rebounds to help Sacramento win its fourth straight and beat Atlanta for the first time in nearly eight years.

Rajon Rondo made a clutch basket in the fourth quarter and had his fifth triple-double of the season with 11 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for the Kings. Sacramento had dropped 15 straight games to Atlanta since a 119-107 victory Feb. 20, 2008.

Paul Millsap had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Atlanta, which had its three-game win streak broken.

**Grizzlies 102, Nuggets 101:** Marc Gasol had 27 points, including a go-ahead three-point play with 12.2 seconds left, and visiting Memphis beat Denver.

Mike Conley had 20 points as the Grizzlies won their fourth in a row in front of NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

With Memphis trailing by one, Gasol hit a driving layup and was fouled. His free throw put Memphis ahead 100-98. Danilo Gallinari, who led Denver with 17 points, missed a three-pointer with 3.9 seconds left and Conley followed with two free throws.

# Jok leads No. 9 Iowa past Rutgers

Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Peter Jok scored a career-high 29 points and No. 9 Iowa shook off pesky Rutgers in the second half in posting a harder-than-expected 90-76 victory on Thursday night.

Jarrold Uthoff and Anthony Clemmons added 20 points apiece as the Hawkeyes (15-3, 6-0) won their eighth straight game and their 12th in a row in the Big Ten Conference, dating to last season.

Iowa used a zone defense late in the first half in a 16-7 run that gave it a 45-37 lead, and it opened the game up in the second half with its long-range shooting.

Mike Williams had 17 points to lead Rutgers (6-14, 0-7), which was coming off a 50-point loss to No. 22 Purdue on Monday, its worst home loss.

**No. 12 Arizona 71, Stanford 57:** Gabe York made a long three-pointer with 8:24 left on the way to 19 points, and the Wildcats survived a Cardinal rally midway through the second half.

Ryan Anderson added 18 points on 7-for-7 shooting and eight rebounds for the Wildcats (16-3, 4-2 Pac-12) in their 12th straight win against the Cardinal dating to a loss on Jan. 4, 2009.

Arizona's Kadeem Allen went down in the corner by his team's bench with 10:55 left then briefly left for the locker room before returning.

Grant Verhoeven provided a big lift in the second half for Stanford (10-7, 3-3), but the Cardinal went cold when it count-

ed as Arizona pulled away for good.

Verhoeven's three-point play with 15:35 remaining pulled Stanford within 39-37, then he converted another three-point play at 14:19 before a pair of missed free throws by Kaleb Tarczewski. Verhoeven took a charge at 13:20.

**No. 23 Kentucky 80, Arkansas 66:** Tyler Ulis scored 24 points to lead three of his teammates in double figures as the Wildcats bounced back from a loss at Auburn with a victory over the host Razorbacks.

The win is the first for John Calipari as coach of the Wildcats in Bud Walton Arena, where he improved to 2-4 all-time — including a win with Memphis in 2003.

Jamal Murray added 19 points, Derek Willis 12 and Skai Labissiere 11 for Kentucky (14-4, 4-2 Southeastern Conference), which avoided losing two straight games for the first time since 2014.

Dusty Hannahs led the Razorbacks (9-9, 3-3) with 20 points, while Anthon Bell had 16 and Moses Kingsley 13.

**Oregon 89, No. 21 Southern California 81:** Elgin Cook matched his career high with 26 points and Chris Boucher had 16 points and nine rebounds to lead the host Ducks to a victory over the Trojans.

Dwayne Benjamin also had 16 points off the bench for the Ducks (15-4, 4-2), who moved into a tie for second place in the Pac-12 with their 18th consecutive home win. Oregon held the Trojans (15-4, 4-2), the conference's best three-point shoot-

ing team, to 8-for-28 (28.6 percent) from long range.

Freshman Bennie Boatright had 23 points and 12 rebounds, both season highs, to lead USC (15-4, 4-2) before fouling out late in the game. Julian Jacobs also had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Trojans.

USC lost contact with the Ducks when they rode a 13-1 run to a 71-56 lead midway through the second half.

**No. 22 Purdue 75, Ohio State 64:** P.J. Thompson scored 10 of his 12 points in the final seven minutes Thursday night, helping the Boilermakers pull away from the visiting Buckeyes.

A.J. Hammons added 16 points as Purdue (17-3, 5-2 Big Ten) won its third straight.

Ohio State (12-8, 4-3) was led by Jae'Sean Tate, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Purdue trailed 36-33 at halftime and stayed within one possession most of the second half until Ryan Cline's three with 9:02 to go made it 53-52.

Thompson made sure the Boilermakers never trailed again.

He scored five in a row to make it 60-54.

After Ohio State's Trevor Thompson made only 1 of 2 free throws with 2:51 left, when he could have tied the score, Thompson scored five more to extend the lead to 66-61.

Purdue sealed it by making six free throws in the final minute.