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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US, S. Korea cancel war games for North

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea canceled key war games in favor of low-profile drills, the allies said Sunday, in a major concession to North Korea days after its nuclear summit with President Donald Trump collapsed without agreement.

The springtime exercises known as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, along with their autumn counterpart Ulchi Freedom Guardian, have long been the lynchpin of the alliance between Seoul and Washington.

The drills, which include computer simulations and live-fire bombing runs, also have been a touchstone for tensions, as the North considers them a rehearsal, for an invasion.

The decision to cancel Key Resolve and Foal Eagle had been expected widely after Trump reiterated his own antipathy for the drills, which he has called “very expensive” and “provocative.”

A rebranded “combined command post exercise” will be held from Monday to March 12, according to a separate statement issued Sunday by the top U.S. and South Korean commanders on the divided peninsula. Commanders and other military officials insisted they can maintain a strong defensive posture with scaled-back training.

Gen. Robert Abrams, who assumed command of U.S. Forces Korea in November, has downplayed the impact of the exercises moratorium, saying troops have conducted dozens of small-scale drills since October. “We continue to aggressively pursue innovative approaches to joint and combined training and are

committed to demonstrating that creating space for diplomacy need not impede military readiness,” he told the Senate Armed Services committee on Feb. 12.

But critics expressed concern that the Trump administration was sacrificing military readiness to promote diplomacy with little to show for it since the North maintains its nuclear weapons stocks.

“Following close coordination, both sides decided to conclude the KEY RESOLVE and FOAL EAGLE series of exercises,” the Pentagon said Saturday in a readout of a call between acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyong-doo. The defense chiefs “agreed to maintain firm military readiness through newly designed Command Post exercises and revised field training programs.”

The Associated Press quoted U.S. officials as saying the new training will comprise tabletop exercises and simulations involving smaller units and focusing on mission-essential tasks, such as the ability to integrate airstrikes and the use of drones and surveillance assets.

The Pentagon statement linked the decision to nuclear negotiations that began early last year, reversing months of tensions that saw Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un trade threats of war.

“The Minister and Secretary made clear that the Alliance decision to adapt our training program reflected our desire to reduce tension and support our diplomatic efforts to achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a final, fully verified manner,” the readout said.

US-backed Syrian forces advance on ISIS militants

Associated Press

BAGHOUZ, Syria — Columns of black smoke billowed from the last small piece of territory held by Islamic State militants on Sunday as U.S.-backed fighters pounded the area with artillery fire and occasional airstrikes.

Commanders of the Kurdish-led fighters known as the Syrian Democratic Forces said fierce clashes were taking place as they advance toward the last speck of land controlled by ISIS. The militants fought back with snipers, suicide bombs and booby traps.

Fires still smoldered from the area and ammunition exploded time and again a day after an airstrike hit a building, setting off a huge blast.

“It must be a main weapons depot,” said Sefqan, an SDF commander using only his nom de guerre.

The U.S.-backed forces resumed an offensive to recapture the tiny area in the village of Baghouz in eastern Syria on Friday night after a two-week pause to allow for the evacuation of civilians from the area. Retaking the sliver of land would be a milestone in the devastating four-year campaign to end ISIS’ self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate that once straddled vast territory across Syria and Iraq.

However, the group continues to be a threat, with sleeper cells in scattered desert pockets along the porous border between the two countries.

A few hundred ISIS militants, many of them believed to be foreign fighters, remain holed up inside Baghouz with an unknown number of civilians.

Machine guns could be heard echoing across the territory. Associated Press journalists in Baghouz saw black smoke from an apparent strike on a barrel of fuel. Gunfire followed an-

other strike on the edge of the camp.

Burned vehicles could be seen abandoned in farmland beyond the village. Through binoculars, ISIS fighters could be seen walking around.

Mustafa Bali, the SDF spokesman, said coalition airstrikes destroyed several car bombs during the past two days of battle in Baghouz. In a tweet, he said three car bombs that were trying to hit SDF positions were destroyed.

Overnight, machine-gun tracers could be seen in the skies over Baghouz and aircraft circled overhead.

“The night for us and the morning for them,” said Abu Ghadab, another commander of the SDF. The militants usually attack during the day as they don’t have night vision goggles while the SDF advances at night, he explained.

The U.S.-backed fighters say ISIS militants are mostly hiding underground, in tunnels.

The global fight against ISIS is one conflict in a country that has been at civil war for nearly eight years.

Near the northwestern province of Idlib, a Syrian jihadist group linked to al-Qaida killed 21 Syrian soldiers and allied militiamen in one of the most serious violations of a months-old truce in the area, according to activists and a Syria war monitor.

Sunday’s attack by Ansar al-Tawhid fighters was carried out in the village of Massasneh in the north of Hama province, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

A statement by the Syrian Foreign Ministry confirmed the attack, saying “terrorist groups” launched a pre-planned attack on armed forces stationed along the axis of Massasneh, killing and wounding a number of soldiers.

Report: Army weak in bureaucratic fights

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

“Army Strong” might be its motto, but on the bureaucratic battlefield for resources the military’s largest branch is weaker than the other services, which have the edge in self-promotion, a new Rand Corp. report says.

“The sense one gets is of the Army as a bit too selfless, too concerned with service over self-interest and competition,” the Rand argued in a study into how the services compete. “This further implies that the Army, overall, believes that it is bad at competing in the bureaucratic arenas.”

In their study, called “Maneuver and Movement,” Rand scholars examined the cultures among the services and how they inform the way they fight for resources and relevancy.

The study concludes that more than 30 years since the implementation of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act — a law that sought to curtail the influence of the service branches

and shift more power to combatant commanders — the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines remain the Pentagon’s dominant players. But in the competition for resources in Washington, the Army is the least politically savvy of the branches, it concludes.

“The Army does not have the strongest rapport with Congress, compared to other services, but this appears to be changing,” Rand said. “In part, its history is because the Army, as the devoted servant, is uncomfortable with anything that smacks of the political.”

The Army’s shortcomings could be due in part to its own high self-regard as the oldest and largest of the services. “For the Army, its value is so obvious, so core to the fiber of the nation, that it seems inarticulate,” the report said.

While the Army is regarded as the “most honest and credible of the services” in responding to requests from Congress, it still “struggles to tell its story” to lawmakers in a coherent manner.

The Air Force and Navy, meanwhile, were described as more “Machiavellian” and effective in how they approached Congress for support.

The Navy competes better by articulating clear service strategies that are few in number and concise and “used by the Navy equally to articulate its value to outsiders and operating concept to insiders,” the report said.

“Each Navy strategy is treated as a landmark document and a bold choice about the utility of naval power,” it said. “By contrast, the Army’s strategic planning process is robust and detailed.”

Since the Army sees itself as the military’s most indispensable and flexible force, it “has difficulty making only a single argument for its relevance to outsiders. Because of that, the Army has trouble winning in any single ‘head-to-head’ argument with a service.”

In front of Congress, the Air Force is one of the best at providing “analysis-driven arguments to advocate for its positions,” the report said. “This contributes to

an overall opinion among those outside the service that the Air Force tends to win resource battles more than other services.”

Meanwhile, the Marine Corps also is adept at advocating for its relevancy, largely because of its “institutional anxiety.”

The anxiety is rooted in a Marine history that includes one “institutional death” between 1783 and 1798, at least 15 efforts to abolish it, and skepticism about its value from several past presidents, the report said.

But that insecurity also is a driver in Marine innovation as it looks for gaps to fill like the amphibious assault doctrine before World War II. A more recent example was the establishment of a Marine crisis response force for Africa that was quickly assembled after the 2011 attack on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans.

“The net result of Marine organizational paranoia is an acute concern with the consistent demonstration of value to policymakers, Congress and the public,” the report said.

Trump delivers slashing speech, rousing the right

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — In a slashing speech packed with braggadocio and grievance, President Donald Trump denounced Democrats as the party of “the socialist nightmare,” relitigated his crowd sizes back to his inauguration and took on “sick,” “lunatic” and “dirty” foes at every turn, earning him the unvarnished adoration of cheering conservatives.

After a trying week of tumult and setbacks, Trump delivered a stemwinder Saturday that extended beyond two hours.

Trump let loose against House Democrats, who are broadening their investigations of him, predicted he would win re-election by a greater margin than his 2016 victory, taunted his potential White House chal-

lengers and sounded themes that are staples of his rallies. He complained often of getting “no credit” for his achievements as he proudly drifted “off script” at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

His remarks capped a week that saw his nuclear summit with North Korea’s leader collapse without an agreement, his former lawyer deliver damaging congressional testimony about his character and business practices and Congress take action to nullify his emergency declaration to secure money for the border wall that lawmakers have denied him.

He complained that past political appointments had allowed a situation where political foes were trying to take him out with “bullshit.”

It took him more than an hour to get to the message that Republicans and members of his administration have been emphasizing in recent weeks as they try to brand Democratic policy ideas as socialism.

“America will never be a socialist country,” he said. “Socialism is not about the environment, it’s not about justice, it’s not about virtue.” He said it’s about “power for the ruling class.”

He took particular delight in going after the Democrats’ Green New Deal, brought forward by some liberal Democrats in Congress and backed to varying degrees by several of the party’s 2020 presidential candidates.

Trump revisited his meeting with North Korea leader Kim

Jong Un, calling their summit “very productive.” He also took another crack at explaining his remarks that he didn’t believe Kim knew about or would have allowed the death of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who was held prisoner in North Korea, then sent home in a vegetative state.

“I’m in such a horrible position because in one way I have to negotiate. In the other way, I love Mr. and Mrs. Warmbier and I love Otto. And it’s a very, very delicate balance,” he said.

With special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation seemingly approaching its end, Trump spoke of the “collusion delusion” and lashed out at newly empowered House Democrats who are opening new inquiries involving him.

Dems 2020: Governors set to broaden field of candidates

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The opening months of the Democratic presidential primary have been dominated by senators who have staked their campaigns on personal narratives and sweeping liberal policies.

Now come the governors.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was the first state executive to enter the presidential field, launching his campaign Friday by declaring climate change the nation's most pressing task and his campaign's defining issue. Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is expected to join soon. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are considering bids, as well.

Most of them will use some variations of an argument that governors from Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan to Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have used to reach the Oval Of-

ice: We get things done, unlike those Capitol Hill peacocks. "If America wants to see a Washington that actually works, look west to Washington state," Inslee, a former congressman, said Friday in his Seattle announcement.

Yet governors face notable headwinds in the era of President Donald Trump.

Many Democratic voters are transfixed by the daily saga in the nation's capital, and that allows presidential candidates including Sens. Kamala Harris, of California; Cory Booker, of New Jersey; and Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, to remain front and center in the battle for attention.

"I don't want to diminish being a governor, but it's just not as important as it used to be," said Bill Richardson, a former New Mexico governor.

Adding to the governors' challenges, they are middle-

aged to older white men at a time when the Democratic Party base is dominated by women, nonwhites and young voters — an electorate that may not be clamoring for the offerings of conventional politicians. Inslee and Hickenlooper are in their late 60s. McAuliffe is 62. Bullock is the youngest, at 52.

For those Democrats looking for a white man, they've already got Sanders, who is anything but conventional, as a 77-year-old democratic socialist.

"Things are so audience-driven. Who's on fire? Who gets the crowd?" said Boyd Brown, a South Carolina Democrat who is part of the "Draft Beto" operation. "A no-name governor from a small state isn't drawing that enthusiasm. They've got to do something to catch fire."

Added Richardson, "Voters want an inspirational candidate."

No charges for officers in fatal shooting

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two Sacramento police officers won't face criminal charges for the fatal shooting of a black man following a chase that ended in his grandparents' yard and started a series of angry protests that roiled California's capital city, the county's top prosecutor announced Saturday following a nearly yearlong investigation.

Officers Terrance Mercadal and Jared Robinet acted within the law when they shot Stephon Clark, 22, seven times, Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert concluded, noting that the evidence supported their account that Clark was moving toward them when they opened fire.

Schubert said the evidence, including their reactions captured on body cameras, supported the officers' statements that they thought Clark was pointing a gun.

It turned out Clark was holding only a cellphone.

Schubert said the decision not to file charges against the officers "does not diminish in any way the tragedy," adding that "we cannot ignore that there is rage within our community."

Before Schubert had finished speaking, Black Lives Matter began a demonstration at which about 100 people eventually protested peacefully in chilly rain outside Sacramento's police headquarters.

Clark's mother, SeQuette Clark, held out the hope that her son's death would result in systemic change, which was echoed by statements from Gov. Gavin Newsom, legislative leaders, Sacramento's mayor and black religious leaders who urged protesters to channel their anger into positive steps.

"This is just the beginning. The fight for justice has just begun," SeQuette Clark said outside the home where her son was killed.

New Orleans crash kills 2, injures 7

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A driver who's believed to have been impaired at the time killed two people and injured seven others — most of them riding bikes — on a busy New Orleans thoroughfare Saturday evening, authorities said.

Police spokesman Andy Cunningham said in statement Sunday morning that officials are waiting for the results of a blood alcohol test but they believe the suspect was impaired at the time.

He identified the suspect, who was arrested at the scene, as Tashonty Toney, 32, and said he was the son of a New Orleans police officer.

Cunningham said that discovery will not change the department's investigation, which he said will be "open and transparent."

Saturday was Toney's birthday, the news release said.

Toney faces two counts of vehicular homicide, seven counts of vehicular negligent injury, hit and run, and reckless operation, the news release said.

The incident happened along a multiple-block stretch of Esplanade Avenue, a leafy street that connects the city's biggest park with the French Quarter. Police earlier said most of the victims were bicyclists, and photographs of the scene showed mangled bikes along the side of the street.

Police Superintendent Shaun Ferguson told local media that bystanders in the area were the ones who stopped the driver.

"We were able to apprehend the subject so quickly because citizens stopped this individual because they thought they were helping someone who had just been involved in a one-car ac-

cident," Ferguson said.

One witness, cyclist Frank Rourk, told The New Orleans Advocate that he saw a driver of a dark sports car spin out on the median. The driver ran to a nearby corner and laid down on the sidewalk, where he lost consciousness.

Rourk and two other people were able to wake Toney, and Rourk, who initially didn't realize anyone was hit, told him, "I'm pretty sure you're the guy who wrecked the car. You better go back there." The driver then asked whether he had killed anyone.

EMS spokesman Jonathan Fourcade said a man and a woman — both about 30 years old — were killed.

EMS Director Emily Nichols told WVUE-TV that three of the five people brought to the hospital were in critical condition.

Dem candidates mark Selma anniversary

Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Several Democratic White House hopefuls were gathering at one of America's seminal civil rights sites on Sunday to pay homage to that legacy and highlight their own connections to the movement.

Sens. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, and Bernie Sanders, of

Vermont, who already are in the 2020 race, and Sen. Sherrod Brown, of Ohio, who could soon join them, were scheduled to participate in events surrounding the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Ala.

On March 7, 1965, peaceful demonstrators were beaten back by Alabama state troopers as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. It was

a moment that galvanized support for the passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

This year's commemoration comes in the early days of a Democratic primary that has focused heavily on issues of race. Several candidates have called out President Donald Trump as a racist, while others have voiced support for the idea of reparations for the descendants

of enslaved black Americans.

The candidates visiting Selma intend to highlight how civil rights have shaped their narratives.

Booker, who announced his candidacy at the start of Black History Month, was the scheduled keynote speaker at Brown Chapel AME Church for a service before the symbolic bridge crossing later in the day.

Idaho mulls devices to tell pot, hemp apart

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Idaho State Police may get the funding to purchase equipment that would allow investigators to distinguish hemp from marijuana after a high-profile case in the state grabbed headlines and prompted a federal lawsuit.

The state legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on Friday approved about \$240,000 for three testing devices for crime labs in the cities of Meridian, Pocatello and Coeur d'Alene, the Idaho Statesman reported. The funding must be approved by the House and Senate.

"This is in response to what

we can see coming," said state Sen. Abby Lee, a Republican. "They need these tools, and they need them this year. If they have an arrest, they can't wait to send those results out to Kentucky."

In late January, state police seized a semitrailer filled with 6,700 pounds of a green, leafy substance that a trooper believed was marijuana. The driver of the truck, and the owner of the cargo, insisted that it was industrial hemp. Hemp, a cousin of marijuana, has a very low concentration of the psychoactive substance called THC that gives marijuana its high-inducing properties.

Police sent samples out of state for testing to determine

what it was, but have declined to release the results to the Statesman newspaper due to the ongoing investigation.

Big Sky Scientific, the owner of the cargo, sought a preliminary injunction for the release of the truck but a federal judge denied it.

The company has said the plants are legal under the new federal farm bill and they are currently deteriorating and losing value.

Lee said it was lawmakers, after conferring with prosecutors, who sought the funding for the equipment, and not the Idaho State Police. The 2018 federal farm bill, approved in December, legalized commer-

cial hemp production — and that's already raising interstate commerce questions.

Col. Kedrick Wills, director of the Idaho State Police, said at the hearing that transporting any substance that contains THC is illegal in Idaho, even hemp.

Idaho law considers hemp to be equivalent to marijuana, with both being controlled substances.

Big Sky Scientific argued in its lawsuit against Idaho State Police and Ada County that the farm bill has legalized hemp and the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to transport it across state lines.

China considers changes in tech to placate US

Associated Press

BEIJING — In an unusual step, China's ceremonial legislature is due to endorse a law meant to help end a bruising tariff war with Washington by discouraging officials from pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

The battle with China's biggest trading partner is overshadowing the National People's Congress, the country's highest-profile event of the year. It brings 3,000-plus delegates to the ornate Great Hall of the People in Beijing for two weeks of speeches, meetings with senior leaders and political ritual

to endorse the ruling Communist Party's economic and social welfare plans.

A gathering of noncommunist groups held at the same time brightens Beijing's drab winter, drawing tech billionaires, movie stars and ethnic minorities in distinctive traditional dress.

That gives President Xi Jinping's government a platform for advertising changes aimed at ending the fight with President Donald Trump that has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment.

The technology measure is part of a proposed law on foreign investment that aims to address complaints by Washington, Eu-

rope and other trading partners that China's system is rigged against foreign companies.

Trump cited complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology when he slapped punitive tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports in July. Europe, Japan and other trading partners disapprove of the tariff increases but echo U.S. complaints.

China has balked at changing its strategy for nurturing technologies that American officials worry might challenge U.S. industrial dominance. But communist leaders face pressure to reach a settlement after economic growth sagged to a

three-decade low of 6.6 percent last year.

On the domestic front, companies and investors are hoping officials announce details of how Beijing will carry out promises to curb the dominance of state industry and support entrepreneurs who generate much of China's new jobs and wealth. They are looking for details of a promised cut of up to \$200 billion in value-added and other taxes.

The congress opens Tuesday with an annual "work report" on government plans by Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 ruling party leader behind Xi and China's top economic official.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Airline's black history display honored killer

NY NEW YORK — JetBlue honored a convicted murderer as part of a Black History Month tribute at New York's Kennedy Airport.

The New York Post reported that the airline removed a poster paying tribute to Assata Shakur last month after being alerted via Twitter that Shakur is "a convicted cop killer."

Shakur, also known as Joanne Chesimard, was convicted of murder for her role in a 1973 shootout that resulted in the death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster. She escaped from prison in 1979 and is living in Cuba.

A JetBlue spokesman said the poster was part of a "ready-made batch of posters" celebrating black history that the airline bought from a third party.

Bill would ban felons from being sheriffs

SC COLUMBIA — In a state where eight county sheriffs have been convicted of crimes in office over the past decade, South Carolina lawmakers want to tighten the qualifications to be a top law enforcement official.

The proposal would bar someone from running for sheriff in any of the state's 46 counties if the person has been convicted, pleaded guilty to or been pardoned of a felony or "a crime of moral turpitude."

There was already a law in place to keep most felons from getting the sheriff's badge. Sheriffs must be certified law officers, and a felony conviction usually means the end of an officer's certification.

Girl is hospital's 500th to get heart transplant

MO ST. LOUIS — A 12-year-old Oklahoma girl is the 500th young heart transplant recipient at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University Heart Center.

Anary Suazo, of Tulsa, underwent the transplant Jan. 23, and the hospital announced the transplant last week. Anary turned 13 on Sunday.

Anary was born with just half of her heart fully developed.

The hospital said she had three open-heart surgeries in her first two years of life and did well until a setback last year required a transplant.

Hospital workers sue over attacks by patient

WA TACOMA — Three workers at Western State Hospital, including a nurse whose ear was partially bitten off by a patient, are suing the state.

The News Tribune reported Bernia Garner, Karen Jolley-Arnold and Kaitlyn Tritt say they were injured by the same patient last year.

Their lawsuit says Christopher Jones had a history of sexually assaulting and targeting female staff and that the hospital knew and didn't address it appropriately.

The suit says Christopher Jones injured Tritt's hip, choked her and inflicted other injuries in March 2018 and that same month Jones injured Jolley-Arnold by kicking her.

In September, Jones allegedly threw Garner to the ground and bit off part of her ear. Jones was charged with assault but was found incompetent to stand trial.

Woman charged after dragging trooper

DE WILMINGTON — A Delaware woman was charged with vehicular assault and other crimes after a state trooper was dragged by a vehicle while directing traffic.

Delaware State Police said Yira Graciano-Toala, 52, of Wilmington was taken into custody Friday. She was charged with disregarding a police officer's signal, reckless driving, reckless endangering, possession of a deadly weapon while committing a felony, vehicular assault and tampering with physical evidence.

Authorities said the trooper was directing traffic at an intersection on Feb. 24 because of malfunctioning lights when he had an encounter with the driver of a stopped vehicle. The driver then took off, dragging the trooper about a tenth of a mile. He was treated for minor injuries.

Driver, aide charged after boy left on bus

IN CROWN POINT — A northwestern Indiana bus driver and a bus aide were charged with felony neglect after leaving a 3-year-old boy alone and strapped in his seat for nearly 1½ hours with the vehicle parked inside a storage barn.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported bus driver Sylvia Pavich, 71, of Munster and Lindsey Gillette, 28, of Gary each posted a \$1,000 cash bond after being charged last week.

Pavich told police she picked the boy up about 8:45 a.m. Nov. 13 at his home, dropped other students off at a Munster school and parked the bus at 9:10 a.m. in the barn. Court records say he was found shortly after 10:30 a.m.

Rare sea creature washes ashore

CA SANTA BARBARA — A big sea creature that washed ashore in Southern California has been identified as a hoodwinker sunfish, a recently identified rare species thought to live in the Southern Hemisphere.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, said the fish was spotted last month at Sands Beach in the university's Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve.

An intern alerted a reserve staffer who initially thought it was a type of local sunfish.

She posted photos to the reserve's Facebook page, which drew the attention of a university professor who examined the fish and posted photos to the iNaturalist online community.

That caught the eye of Marianne Nyegaard, of Murdoch University in Australia, who identified the species in 2017.

Man accused of killing service dog

AZ SCOTTSDALE — Police in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale said a man is accused of killing his 4-year-old golden retriever service dog at his home and dumping the dog's body in a garbage can where it was found by family members.

Police say in a statement that Jacob Bushkin, 29, was arrested Thursday night on suspicion of killing a service animal and animal cruelty.

The statement says Bushkin declined to speak with investigators and that detectives arrested him at the office of his lawyer, Ryan Tait.

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Jones defeats Smith, defends light heavyweight championship

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jon Jones defended his UFC light heavyweight title with a unanimous decision victory over Anthony Smith on Saturday night, overcoming a two-point deduction for an illegal knee to Smith's head in the fourth round.

Kamaru Usman claimed the UFC welterweight title in the penultimate bout at T-Mobile Arena, dominating Tyron Woodley in a one-sided unanimous decision victory.

Ben Askren, Woodley's close friend and training partner, survived an opening-minute beating and rallied to choke out Robbie Lawler midway through the first round of his own UFC debut.

Jones (24-1) had little trouble in an expert display of his all-around brilliance against the overmatched Smith (31-14), who had no answers for the likely pound-for-pound champion of mixed martial arts.

Jones dominated on his feet, against the cage and on the ground until he got in trouble in the fourth round when his knee struck Smith's head while the challenger was in a downed position. Referee Herb Dean deducted two points from Jones, who apologized to Smith after the bell.

"This MMA thing is really hard," Jones said. "Some days you're going to look amazing, and some days at work you're not going to perform at the level you hold yourself to."

Jones finished uneventfully and remained unbeaten since 2009, winning a decision for the fifth time in his last seven fights.

Jones won 48-44 on all three scorecards.

Jones has been the UFC's 205-pound champ for long stretches of the past eight years, but also has been stripped of his belt twice. After doping suspensions and other woes limited Jones to just two fights in a nearly four-year stretch of his prime, he returned to the cage at UFC 235 just nine weeks after beating Alexander Gustafsson at UFC 232 last December to reclaim his belt.

Smith, a tough veteran fighter from Texas, got a title shot when Jones decided to make a quick return to the cage. Although Smith had won three consecutive fights, he was a heavy underdog at the Vegas sports books, but Jones emerged with respect for Smith's fighting spirit.

"I have never had anyone talk to me while I'm hitting them," Jones said. "(Smith was) saying like, 'That was nice,' or, 'Was that all you've got?'"

Woodley (19-4-1) had been the UFC's 170-pound champ since July 2016 and defended the belt four times, but Usman (15-1) got off to a quick start and never let up in his first career title shot. Usman celebrated in the cage with his daughter before his hand was raised in victory.

Usman, 31, a Nigerian-born Texan and former NCAA Division II wrestler, broke into the UFC

in 2015 on its long-running competition reality show. He won his first eight UFC bouts and battered ex-champ Rafael Dos Anjos last November to earn his shot at Woodley's belt.

"Can't nobody handle me," Usman said. "I've been wanting this fight and, I'll be honest, I might not be the best striker in the world. I might not be the best wrestler in the world. But when it comes to mixing this [stuff] up, I'm the best in the world right now."

After a close opening round, Usman dominated the second with top control on Woodley, who couldn't escape or avoid Usman's elbows. Usman peppered Woodley with body shots in the first three rounds, and he appeared to be close to finishing Woodley in the fourth with punches.

Usman won 50-44 on two cards and 50-45 on the third.

"I have no excuses," Woodley said. "I was prepared for this fight. I would love to run it back again and put on a better performance."

The 34-year-old Askren's UFC debut and unbeaten record almost ended abruptly when Lawler picked him up, slammed him down on his head and battered him with punches that left Askren badly bloodied.

"It took me a little while to get my bearings after the slam," Askren said. "I was mostly surprised at how quickly he got me up and down."

Askren survived and eventually gained position on Lawler with a bulldog choke. Lawler was furious when Dean stopped the bout, insisting he was fine in the choke. Some cage side observers thought Lawler was unconscious, but he sprung out of the stoppage.

"I was bleeding all over the place, so I just squeezed as hard as I could," Askren said. "Everyone is upset with Herb, but he came in and checked on Robbie (in the clinch), and Robbie gave him (no response). As a veteran, that's on Robbie. That's not on Herb or me."

The outspoken Askren (19-0), a former U.S. Olympic wrestler, joined the UFC late last year after a decade fighting in other promotions and sparring with UFC President Dana White on social media. The UFC surprisingly added him to its roster last year, trading former flyweight champion Demetrious "Mighty Mouse" Johnson to the One Championship promotion.

"Dana, is that the best you've got? Bring it, baby," Askren said after beating Lawler, the former welterweight champ.

Former UFC bantamweight champion Cody Garbrandt took his third straight loss in the PPV opener, getting stopped by Pedro Munhoz in the final seconds of the first round after their fight turned into an all-out brawl.

MLS roundup

Rapids, Timbers tie in record cold

Associated Press

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — Andre Shinyashiki scored on a putback in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time in his MLS debut and the Colorado Rapids tied the Portland Timbers 3-3 on Saturday in the coldest match in MLS history.

With a temperature of 18 degrees at kickoff and a field covered by snow as the game progressed, Saturday's season opener surpassed the previous mark of 19 degrees set by Minnesota United's franchise opener March 12, 2017.

Toronto FC 3, Union 1: Michael Bradley scored his first goal since 2016 and added another in the second half for his first career multi-goal MLS game, helping visiting Toronto FC beat Philadelphia.

Sounders 4, FC Cincinnati 1: Playing his first MLS match since September 2017, Jordan Morris scored a pair of first-half goals as host Seattle beat expansion FC Cincinnati.

Galaxy 2, Fire 1: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored on a header in the 80th minute and host Los Angeles beat Chicago after unveiling a statue of former star David Beckham.

Minnesota United 3, Whitecaps 2: Darwin Quintero, Francisco Calvo and Romario Ibarra scored to help visiting Minnesota United beat Vancouver.

Impact 2, Earthquakes 1: Saphir Taider punched home a well-placed cross from Zakaria Diallo in the 44th minute and visiting Montreal beat San Jose.

Red Bulls 1, Crew 1: Gaston Sauro tied it in the 41st for host Columbus against New York.

New York City FC 2, Orlando City 2: Chris Mueller and Tesho Akindele scored second-half goals to help host Orlando City tie New York City FC.

Revolution 1, FC Dallas 1: Carles Gil tied it in the 57th minute in his MLS debut and visiting New England held on against FC Dallas.

Real Salt Lake 1, Dynamo 1: Mauro Manotas tied it in the 62nd minute for host Houston in the draw with Real Salt Lake.

Vols' Bone brings his best against Kentucky

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee didn't like the way it got pushed around at Kentucky two weeks ago. The Volunteers pushed back in the rematch and delivered a knockout blow.

Jordan Bone scored a career-high 27 points and No. 7 Tennessee beat No. 4 Kentucky 71-52 on Saturday to maintain its home-court dominance. The decisive win came two weeks after the Vols fell 86-69 at Kentucky, a loss that snapped a school-re-

cord 19-game winning streak and dropped Tennessee out of the No. 1 ranking.

"The last game, they just manhandled us and they were the more physical team," Bone said. "You could just tell the way the game went, they just wanted it more.

"We don't ever want to go into a game or leave a game saying that about another team, they wanted it more than us. That's something we challenged ourselves with."

Tennessee (26-3, 14-2 SEC) earned its 25th straight home victory to remain tied

for first place in the Southeastern Conference with No. 13 LSU — the Tigers beat Alabama 74-69 earlier in the day. The Vols haven't lost a home game since falling 94-84 to Auburn on Jan. 2, 2018.

The Vols also beat Kentucky (24-5, 13-3) at home for a fourth straight year to delight a sellout crowd in the first regular-season matchup of top-10 teams at Thompson-Boling Arena since the facility's 1987 opening. Tennessee is 4-0 at home against Kentucky under coach Rick Barnes.

Roundup

Guy carries No. 2 Virginia past Pittsburgh

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — With sore knees and another game Monday night, Kyle Guy was fine playing just 25 minutes.

He did more than enough with that action, hitting five three-pointers and scoring 17 points as No. 2 Virginia beat Pittsburgh 73-49 on Saturday for the Panthers' 12th straight loss.

"We're playing it smart. We've got a game in less than 48 hours," Guy said, referring to Virginia's trip to Syracuse on Monday night.

Ty Jerome added 13 points and De'Andre Hunter scored 12 for the Cavaliers (26-2, 14-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who maintained at least a share of the lead in the ACC pending North Carolina's game at Clemson later Saturday. The Cavaliers can claim the regular season title by winning their last two games because they beat the Tar Heels in their only head-to-head matchup.

No. 3 Duke 87, Miami 57: RJ Barrett had 19 points and 10 rebounds, fellow freshman Cameron Reddish added 19 points and the host Blue Devils routed the Hurricanes.

With national player of the year candidate Zion Williamson sidelined for a third straight game with a mild right knee sprain, the Blue Devils (25-4, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Con-

ference) never trailed and shot 57 percent from the field.

No. 5 North Carolina 81, Clemson 79: The Tar Heels survived a wild finish after coach Roy Williams fell and was helped off the court shortly before halftime, beating host Clemson on Saturday.

Williams sustained an episode of vertigo with a minute left before halftime, falling in front of his team's bench and getting led into the locker room. He did not return for the final 20 minutes.

Indiana 63, No. 6 Michigan State 62: Justin Smith scored a career-high 24 points, helping the Hoosiers knock off the visiting Spartans for the second time this season.

Devonte Green added 13 points as Indiana (15-14, 6-12 Big Ten) earned its second straight win against a ranked opponent. The Hoosiers beat No. 19 Wisconsin 75-73 in double overtime on Tuesday night.

Central Florida 69, No. 8 Houston 64: Collin Smith scored 21 points, leading the Knights to a road win.

Central Florida (22-6, 12-4 American Athletic) outscored the Cougars 41-31 in the second half to snap a seven-game losing streak against ranked opponents. They also stopped Houston's 33-game home winning streak, which was the longest in the nation.

No. 11 Texas Tech 81, TCU 66: Jarrett Culver and Davide

Moretti each had 15 points, and Texas Tech won the road for its seventh game in row.

Tariq Owens had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Red Raiders (24-5, 12-4 Big 12).

Utah State 81, No. 12 Nevada 76: Sam Merrill scored 29 points and the host Aggies took over the Mountain West Conference lead.

No. 13 LSU 74, Alabama 69: Skylar Mays scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half and Javonte Smart had 19, leading the Tigers to the road win.

No. 14 Purdue 86, Ohio State 51: Carsen Edwards scored 25 points and the host Boilermakers took over sole possession of first place in the Big Ten.

No. 15 Kansas 72, Oklahoma State 67: Dedric Lawson scored 20 points and tied a season high with 15 rebounds, powering the Jayhawks to the road win. Lawson also had three steals in his 18th double-double of the season. Quentin Grimes added 17 points for Kansas (22-7, 11-5 Big 12).

No. 16 Kansas State 66, Baylor 60: Dean Wade had 20 points to lead the host Wildcats. Kamau Stokes had 16 points and Xavier Sneed scored 14 for Kansas State (24-5, 12-4 Big 12).

No. 18 Florida State 78, N.C. State 73: Reserve Mfiondu Kabengele scored 16 points and Trent Forrest had 13, lead-

ing the host Seminoles (23-6, 11-5).

No. 19 Wisconsin 61, Penn State 57: Brevin Pritzl scored 17 points on 5-for-5 shooting, helping the host Badgers (20-9, 12-6 Big Ten).

Rutgers 86, No. 22 Iowa 72: Ron Harper Jr. scored a season-high 27 points, and the Scarlet Knights (14-14, 7-11 Big Ten) rolled to a road win.

No. 23 Cincinnati 71, Memphis 69: Jarron Cumberland overcame a sluggish first half and scored 26 points, helping the host Bearcats (25-4, 14-2) grab a share of first place in the American Athletic Conference.

No. 24 Wofford 85, Samford 64: Fletcher Magee made eight three-pointers on his way to a season-high 36 points to lead the Terriers (26-4, 18-0).

Air Force 80, Wyoming 72: Ryan Swan had a career-high 37 points as the Falcons (13-15, 8-8 Mountain West Conference) won on the road.

Navy 79, Boston University 74: Evan Wieck scored 15 points, John Carter Jr. came off the bench to score 15 more and the Midshipmen (11-18, 8-10) won on the road.

Bucknell 62, Army 61: Kimbal Mackenzie made two free throws with 10.9 seconds left and the host Bison (19-11, 13-5) clinched a share of the Patriot League regular-season championship.

NBA roundup

Heat scorch Nets

Associated Press

MIAMI — Kelly Olynyk scored 25 points, Derrick Jones Jr. added 18 off the bench and the Miami Heat never trailed on the way to easily topping the Brooklyn Nets 117-88 on Saturday night.

Rodney McGruder scored 17, Justise Winslow added 13 points and Josh Richardson added 12 for the Heat. Bam Adebayo grabbed 16 rebounds for Miami — giving him three more than the entire Brooklyn starting lineup had combined.

The 29-point margin was Miami's largest win of the season, and Brooklyn's largest loss. Brooklyn remained No. 6 in the Eastern Conference race, percentage points ahead of No. 7 Detroit. Miami remained No. 10 in the East, a game behind No. 8 Orlando and No. 9 Charlotte.

It's the first time Miami has won back-to-back home games since Jan. 10 and 12. The Heat haven't had a three-game home winning streak this season.

Pelicans 120, Nuggets 112: Jrue Holiday scored 29 points, Julius Randle had 28 and New Orleans rallied from 19 points down in the first half to beat Denver.

Nikola Jokic had 20 points but was limited to 6:23 in the first half because of early foul trouble. Jamal Murray also had 20 points for Denver. It was the biggest blown lead of the season for the Nuggets, who have lost consecutive home games for the first time since early November. They lost 111-104 to Utah on Thursday.

Suns 118, Lakers 109: Deandre Ayton had 26 points, Devin Booker added 25 and host Phoenix withstood a late charge by LeBron James to beat Los Angeles.

James finished with 27 points, 16 assists and nine rebounds. Brandon Ingram had 25 points.

Spurs 116, Thunder 102: LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio led for all but 30 seconds in defeating visiting Oklahoma City.

San Antonio moved into seventh in the West past the Los Angeles Clippers, who have an identical 35-29 record.

Oklahoma City, which has lost four straight and five of six, remains third in the Western Conference at 38-24, the same record as Portland.

Jazz 115, Bucks 111: Donovan Mitchell scored a career-high 46 points and led host Utah from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to a win over Milwaukee.

Khris Middleton scored 29 points and Brook Lopez had 16 points, eight rebounds and seven blocks for the Bucks, whose seven-game winning streak was snapped on the second night of a back-to-back.

Warriors 120, 76ers 117: Stephen Curry shook off foul trouble to score 28 points and spark visiting Golden State down the stretch.

Each team played without a franchise star: 76ers center Joel Embiid missed his fifth straight game with a sore left knee. Golden State's Klay Thompson sat out with a sore right knee suffered in Thursday's loss at Orlando.

Magic 117, Pacers 112: Nikola Vucevic scored 27 points, Terrence Ross added 23 and surging Orlando continued its push for its first playoff berth since 2012.

Bojan Bogadnovic scored 25 points and Darren Collison finished with 23 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who shot 55 percent.

It was Orlando's first win at Bankers Life Fieldhouse since March 31, 2016.

Pistons 129, Cavaliers 93: Luke Kennard scored 26 points, Reggie Jackson added 24 and visiting Detroit took it to a depleted Cleveland team, building a 33-point lead in the first half.

Grizzlies 111, Mavericks 81: Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakim Noah scored 12 points to lead Memphis past host Dallas.

NHL roundup

Lightning blast Senators for 50th win in 66 games

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — NHL scoring leader Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist to help the Tampa Bay Lightning earn their 50th victory of the season in their 66th game by beating the Ottawa Senators 5-1 on Saturday night, tying the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings as the fastest teams in NHL history to reach the mark.

The Lightning got goals from four defensemen — Victor Hedman, Ryan McDonagh, Erik Cernak and Mikhail Sergachev — and set a franchise record with nine points overall from the defense.

Kucherov reached 75 assists on the season to become the first player since Vancouver's Henrik Sedin in 2010-11 to record at least that many in a season.

Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 36 shots for his 30th victory.

Anthony Duclair scored the lone goal for the Senators, who lost their seventh consecutive game a day after firing coach Guy Boucher and replacing him with Marc Crawford on an interim basis.

Hurricanes 4, Panthers 3 (OT): Sebastian Aho scored at 1:46 of overtime and Carolina won at Florida for its fifth straight win.

Aho tipped in the puck from the edge of the crease for his team-leading 27th goal.

Brett Pesce, Greg McEgg and Brock McGinn also scored for the Hurricanes. Petr Mrazek stopped 31 shots, including three breakaways in overtime.

Bruins 1, Devils 0: Brad Marchand scored a power-play goal early in the opening period and Tuukka Rask made it stand up for host Boston with 20 saves for his third shutout of the season.

The victory improved the Bruins' streak of at least one point in every game to 16 straight (12-0-4) and they haven't lost in regulation since a 3-2 setback to the New York Rangers on Jan. 19. It's their

longest since 18 games (14-0-4) last season.

Oilers 4, Blue Jackets 0: Leon Draisaitl had a goal and two assists, Mikko Koskinen made 30 saves and Edmonton used a three-goal second period to win at Columbus.

Koskinen improved to 18-15-4 with his fourth career shutout — all this season.

Kings 6, Blackhawks 3: Adrian Kempe had a goal and an assist, and host Los Angeles stopped a 10-game skid.

Dustin Brown scored twice for the Kings, who avoided tying the longest losing streak in team history, an 11-game slide from March 16-April 4, 2004. Ilya Kovalchuk and Brendan Leipsic each had a goal and an assist, and Sean Walker scored a power-play goal. Jonathan Quick made 29 saves.

Maple Leafs 5, Sabres 2: John Tavares had a goal and two assists, leading host Toronto past Buffalo.

Mitch Marner also had a goal and two assists, and Morgan Rielly, Nic Petan and Nikita Zaitsev each scored as the Maple Leafs won for the fourth time in five games.

Penguins 5, Canadiens 1: Jake Guentzel scored two goals and had two assists and Sidney Crosby had a goal and three assists to lead Pittsburgh to a win at Montreal.

Coyotes 3, Red Wings 1: Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Vinnie Hinostroza each had a goal and assist, and host Arizona won its sixth straight. The Coyotes have won six in a row for the first time since Feb. 16-28, 2012, and are in contention for a Western Conference wild-card spot with 17 games left in the regular season.

Stars 4, Blues 1: Jamie Benn had three goals for his fifth career hat trick, and Dallas won at St. Louis.

Wild 4, Flames 2: Devan Dubnyk made 35 saves, and Minnesota won at Calgary on the night the Flames retired Jarome Iginla's number.