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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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4 Americans slain at Bagram Air Field

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
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Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four Americans were killed Saturday in an attack on the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said.

An apparent suicide bomber was responsible for the attack, which killed two U.S. servicemembers and two contractors, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement. In addition, 16 other American servicemembers and one Polish soldier were wounded.

The Taliban claimed that one of their militants who worked at the base had blown himself up.

“Force protection is always a top priority for us in Afghanistan, and we will investigate this tragedy to determine any steps we can take to improve it,” Carter said. He assured that those injured “are getting the best possible care.”

The incident, coming two days after a suicide bombing that targeted the German Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif, highlights the growing insecurity in Afghanistan

nearly two years after international combat operations formally ended. It brings to eight the number of American troops killed in Afghanistan this year.

Neither Carter nor NATO, which leads the Resolute Support mission that trains and advises Afghan forces, identified those killed or injured.

The Taliban said in a statement that one of their members, Hafiz Mohammad Parwani, had been working undercover on the base and had planned the attack during the past four months.

Parwani blew himself up when many soldiers were doing their morning exercises, the insurgent group said.

Abdul Shukour Qudoosi, the governor of Parwan province’s Bagram district, said the blast was “huge” and could be heard by Afghans living outside the heavily fortified airfield, situated some 35 miles north of Kabul, the capital. “It shook the whole district,” he said.

Qudoosi said that as of Saturday evening, officials were trying to determine how the bomber was able to sneak the large amount of explosives involved in the attack past the security checks at the base.

Gen. John W. Nicholson, U.S. Army commander of Resolute Support, expressed his condolences to the family and friends of the four Americans killed.

“To those who target coalition forces, (Afghan forces) and Afghan civilians, Resolute Support and U.S. Forces Afghanistan will continue to pursue our train, advise and assist mission to help our partners create a better Afghanistan,” Nicholson said in a statement.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing on Thursday that targeted the German Consulate in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. Afghan officials said at least four civilians were killed and more than 120 others were injured in that attack.

Taliban insurgents, who are attempting to overthrow Afghanistan’s U.S.-backed government and to expel foreign forces, have stepped up attacks in recent months and are threatening six of the country’s provincial capitals. The group is said to control more territory now than at any time since 2001, when a U.S.-led invasion removed them from power.

Soldiers killed in Jordan were working for CIA

The Washington Post

The three Army Special Forces soldiers killed at a Jordanian military base this month were working for a CIA program to train moderate Syrian fighters when they were shot at a checkpoint, U.S. officials said.

The Nov. 4 slayings of the three soldiers is believed to be the deadliest single incident involving a CIA team since December 2009, when seven officers and contractors were killed in a suicide bombing in Khost, Afghanistan.

The Fort Campbell, Ky.-based soldiers — all members of the 5th Special Forces Group — were killed by a Jordanian soldier at an entry control point to Prince Faisal Air Base near Al Jafr, according to the officials. The shooter also was wounded in what was described by U.S. and Middle Eastern sources as an exchange of gunfire.

The soldiers, identified as Staff Sgt. Matthew Lewellen, Staff Sgt. Kevin McEnroe and Staff Sgt. James Moriarty, were among roughly 2,000 U.S. troops working in Jordan while participating in the U.S.-led campaign to fight the Islamic State group. Some of the troops have been assigned to mobile artillery units along the Jordanian border while others assist CIA-led training programs for Syrian opposition fighters.

The CIA declined to comment on the incident or on the soldiers’ possible role in agency programs.

What prompted the shooting remained unclear, as U.S. and Jordanian officials have painted different narratives of the incident.

The FBI is investigating the possibility of a terrorist attack, but it has not discounted the possibility of a mistake at the gate, said a U.S. defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But Jordanian investigators say the evidence so far points to a “chain of unfortunate events,” according to a senior Middle Eastern security official.

According to Jordanian accounts, the incident began with the accidental discharge of a weapon inside one of the Americans’ Humvees as a small convoy was preparing to enter the base, the Middle Eastern official said. In the confusion, shots were fired at U.S. personnel.

Investigators have found no evidence suggesting a deliberate targeting of the Americans, the official said.

Jordan has reacted defensively in the past to allegations that its citizens deliberately targeted Americans. The moderate Sunni Arab country relies heavily on U.S. military and economic aid, and works closely with U.S. intelligence agencies, making it a prime target for Islamist extremist groups.

US has plan to hunt down militants in Libya

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has tracked scores of Islamic State militants escaping fighting in Libya's coastal city of Sirte and has begun laying the groundwork for expanded air attacks to follow and kill them, part of a final push by the Obama administration to blunt multiplying militant threats across the broader Middle East.

Intelligence from surveillance aircraft flying over Sirte and areas south of the city allowed the U.S. military's Africa Command to track up to several hundred militants who U.S. officials now fear could be preparing to mount a counter-attack on Libyan forces.

The president's counterterrorism advisers are eager for Africa Command to pursue mil-

itants who have fled the coastal city but say military planners have more "homework" to do collecting and analyzing U.S. intelligence on their new encampments to ensure that U.S. strikes won't inadvertently kill civilians.

The Libya expansion comes amid a series of military escalations the White House has directed in recent months, from targeting leaders of al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria to launching major campaigns against Islamic State strongholds in Syria and Iraq. The Pentagon has also expanded operations in Somalia, Yemen and Afghanistan in a bid to beat back resurgent militant threats.

The flight of experienced militants could pull the United States deeper into the conflict, potentially worsening the in-

stability that has plagued Libya since its 2011 revolution and undermining a U.S.-backed project to build a broadly recognized unity government.

The campaign in Libya has laid bare the challenge the United States faces in defeating even small bands of extremist fighters across the greater Middle East, who can seek shelter in remote areas or melt back into the population. Obama has been reluctant to commit significant U.S. ground forces to the fight, a stance President-elect Donald Trump, given his campaign statements, seems likely to continue.

Since August, the U.S. military has carried out more than 360 airstrikes in support of pro-government forces from the nearby Misurata. Small teams of elite U.S. commandos have helped local fighters push

deeper into the coastal enclave, where officials say less than 100 extremists remain.

Administration officials estimate the Islamic State controlled the whole city at the start of the campaign. Now, they say, it holds one square block. But the militants have continued to hold out.

Military planners at Africa Command in recent days have been pouring over surveillance footage and other intelligence to try to ensure any expanded strikes won't put noncombatants at risk, officials said.

The Pentagon is concerned that any reports of civilian casualties could prompt U.S. partners in the region to pull back their support for the air campaign.

Africa Command says its Sirte operation has killed no civilians to date.

United Nations tells of atrocities seen in Mosul

Associated Press

BASHIQA, Iraq — New reports emerged Friday of public killings and other atrocities committed against Mosul residents by Islamic State militants, including dozens of civilians whose bullet-riddled bodies were hung from telephone poles after they were accused of using cellphones to leak information to Iraqi security forces.

The United Nations human rights office said Islamic State fighters killed some 70 civilians in Mosul this week, part of a litany of abuses to come to light in recent days, including torture, sexual exploitation of women and girls, and use of child soldiers

who were filmed executing civilians.

The revelations are the latest reports of Islamic State brutality as the group retreats into dense, urban quarters of Iraq's second-largest city, forcing the population to go with them as human shields.

In its report, the U.N. human rights office in Geneva said Islamic State militants shot and killed 40 people on Tuesday after accusing them of "treason and collaboration," saying they communicated with Iraqi security forces by cellphone. The bodies, dressed in orange jumpsuits, were hung from electrical poles in Mosul.

A day later, the extremists reportedly shot to death 20 civilians at a military base.

Their bodies were hung at traffic intersections in Mosul, with signs saying they "used cellphones to leak information."

A Mosul resident, reached by telephone, said crowds have been watching the killings in horror. One victim was a former police colonel, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety.

The violence is part of a disturbing pattern. As the army advances, Islamic State militants have been rounding up thousands of people and killing those with suspected links to the security forces. Soldiers last week discovered a mass grave in the town of Hamam al-Alil, 12 miles south of Mosul, containing some 100 bodies.

US soldier dies in a noncombat incident in Kuwait

Stars and Stripes

A soldier deployed to Kuwait in support of the anti-Islamic State mission died Thursday in a noncombat incident, the Defense Department said.

Spc. Ronald L. Murray Jr., 23, of Bowie, Md., was assigned to 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artil-

lery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

The Fort Bliss, Texas-based soldier, who joined the Army in January 2015 and worked in fire support, was killed in a vehicle accident, base spokesman Gil Telles told The Baltimore Sun.

He did not have further details.

"He was an outstanding soldier with an infectious smile and sense of humor that would brighten any room," Col. Robert E. Lee Magee, commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, said in a statement. "He will be missed by his family, his fellow

soldiers and his command."

Nearly two dozen servicemembers have died in noncombat incidents while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. mission against the Islamic State group that began in August 2014, according to a Pentagon tally.

Trump begins building his administration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump is shaking up his transition team as he plunges into setting up his administration, an enormous undertaking that likely requires him to alter his hands-on management style and to consider going outside his small, insular group of loyalists.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence is now heading the operations, a demotion for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who had been running the Republican's transition planning for months. The scramble is on to identify people for top White House jobs and Cabinet posts, a herculean task that must be well in hand by the time Trump is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

For Trump, who ran on a pledge to "drain the swamp" of Washington insiders, the team is strikingly heavy on those with long political resumes.

Another apparent contradiction emerged Friday as Trump, who repeatedly vowed to repeal the President Barack Obama's health care law "on Day One,"

said he would be open to maintaining portions of Obama's signature legislative achievement.

In a statement Friday, Trump said Pence would "build on the initial work" done by Christie.

"Together, we will begin the urgent task of rebuilding this nation — specifically jobs, security and opportunity," Trump said.

Christie was a loyal adviser to Trump for much of the campaign, offered a key early endorsement and came close to being the businessman's pick for running mate. But Trump ultimately went with Pence, Indiana's governor and a former congressman with Washington experience and deep ties to conservatives.

In a statement, Christie said he was "proud to have run the pre-election phase" of the transition team and thanked Trump for the "opportunity to continue to help lead."

Christie will still be involved in the transition, joining a cluster of other steadfast Trump supporters serving as vice chairs: former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, retired neurosurgeon

Ben Carson, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions.

In addition, three of Trump's adult children — Don Jr., Eric and Ivanka — are on the transition executive committee, along with Jared Kushner, Ivanka's husband. Kushner played a significant role in Trump's campaign and was spotted at the White House on Thursday meeting with President Barack Obama's chief of staff.

The children's inclusion raises questions about the role the Trump family will play in the White House — as well as Trump's ability to sever ties between the administration and the sprawling family business — after the celebrity businessman repeatedly said during the campaign that his grown children would not follow him to Washington and instead would run the Trump Organization.

Trump's remarks about the Affordable Care Act also raised some eyebrows Friday. He told *The Wall Street Journal* in an interview that after speaking with Obama at the White House

the day before, he was considering keeping the clause that allows children to stay on their parents' insurance policies. In a separate interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," he said "it happens to be one of the strongest assets." He previously has said he may keep the prohibition against insurers denying coverage because of patients' existing conditions.

He also said that he wants "a country that loves each other" but said he did not regret his incendiary rhetoric during the campaign.

"No. I won," Trump told the newspaper.

By appointing Pence, Trump became the first incoming president since at least Jimmy Carter to use his vice president-elect to run his transition team.

Trump and Christie grew apart through the last stretch of the campaign. The governor became increasingly frustrated that Trump wouldn't listen to his advice, particularly over the response to the release of a video in which the businessman is heard making predatory comments about women.

President-elect's security plans for Latin America unclear

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — Latin America experts are at odds to predict President-elect Donald Trump's security strategy for the region, an issue largely absent from the campaign trail and three presidential debates.

However, Trump made immigration and border security a cornerstone of his campaign, including the construction of a wall along the U.S. southern border of Mexico and the potential deportation of millions of immigrants here illegally.

His focus on physical barriers will likely include heightened security measures, including more troop deployments and aerial drone surveillance, said Jeffrey Addicott, director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's

University in San Antonio.

"We can expect President Trump to increase federal funding to have more National Guard boots on the ground" along the 2,000-mile southern border, Addicott said, adding the Coast Guard will also likely see a boost in funding and personnel operating in the Gulf of Mexico to combat human and drug trafficking.

A Texas National Guard spokeswoman declined to offer any details about ongoing deployments there, but acknowledged operational presence both on the border and deep into Texas to combat drug trafficking.

The future of security aid packages to Mexico is unclear, Addicott said. One vital to the partnership is the Merida Initiative, an effort to bolster security cooperation against drug

trafficking organizations, at a cost of \$2.3 billion since 2008.

The ongoing initiative has focused on strengthening intelligence and information sharing between the two nations, as well as equipment procurement, including more than two dozen Blackhawks sent to Mexico since 2010.

A Trump-led cabinet may not be inclined to fund efforts such as the Merida Initiative, Addicott said.

"We all know the government in Mexico is corrupt at some levels," he said. "The solution is not to just throw money at problems. We need to find ways to incentivize Mexico to prioritize their security assets."

Gains from the initiative have led to a stronger partnership between the U.S. and Mexico, said Iñigo Guevara Moyano, an IHS Jane's Aerospace, De-

fense and Security consultant and author of "A Bond Worth Strengthening," a report on the military relationship between the U.S. and Mexico published by The Wilson Center, a Washington think tank.

The Mexican Navy in 2007 established a foreign liaison officer at U.S. Northern Command, which bolstered coordination and communication in joint training and operational efforts, Moyano said in the report.

A liaison also works with U.S. Southern Command and its Florida-based Joint Interagency Task Force-South. Its satellite covers hemispheric surveillance and has aided Mexico with intelligence to interdict drug smuggling, Moyano said in the report.

1 hurt at Ore. Trump protest

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — As protests of President-elect Donald Trump entered another day, police in Portland, Oregon, say one person was shot by a man who had gotten into a confrontation with a protester.

Portland police said the person who was shot was taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries that were not life-threatening. Police said they were looking for the shooter, who apparently fled in his vehicle after the attack early Saturday morning on a Willamette River bridge.

The shooting followed rowdy Friday night protests, when police used tear gas in response to “burning projectiles” thrown at officers, police said on Twitter. Hundreds of people marched through the city, disrupting traffic and spray-painting graffiti.

Authorities reported instances of vandalism and assault during a rally that organizers had billed as peaceful earlier in the day.

In other parts of the country, spirited demonstrations on college campuses and peaceful marches along downtown

streets have taken place since Wednesday.

A mainly peaceful protest by about 3,000 people ended in Los Angeles early Saturday with about 200 arrests for failure to disperse after police broke up the lingering demonstration.

Hundreds joined a Friday afternoon “love rally” in Washington Square Park in Manhattan. Evening marches also disrupted traffic in Miami and Atlanta.

More than a thousand protesters took to the streets across California after night fell. In Bakersfield, where Trump is far more popular than in most of the state, some held signs reading “Anti-Trump, Pro-USA.”

Small protests also were held in Detroit; Minneapolis; Kansas City, Missouri; Olympia, Washington and Iowa City.

More than 200 people, carrying signs gathered on the steps of the Washington state Capitol. The group chanted “not my president” and “no Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA.”

In Tennessee, Vanderbilt University students sang civil rights songs and marched through

campus across a Nashville street, temporarily blocking traffic.

In Chicago, multiple groups planned protests through Saturday.

Nadia Gavino, 25, learned about the rallies on Twitter and protested Thursday evening. Gavino, whose father is from Peru and whose mother is of Mexican and Lithuanian heritage, said she took Trump’s harshest statements about immigrants and Latinos personally.

“I obviously agree that he’s racist, he’s sexist, he’s phobic, he’s misogynistic. He’s all these things you don’t want in a leader,” she said.

Demonstrations also took place internationally. About 300 people protested Trump’s election as the next American president outside the U.S. Embassy near the landmark Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

President Barack Obama meets in Berlin next week with Chancellor Angela Merkel and several other European leaders, and is expected to confront global concerns about Trump’s election.

Ohio police shooting case ends in mistrial

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A judge declared a mistrial after a jury said it was deadlocked Saturday in the case of a white former police officer charged with murder in the fatal traffic stop shooting of an unarmed black motorist.

The Hamilton County jury had deliberated some 25 hours after getting the case Wednesday following Judge Megan Shanahan’s instructions. University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing shot Sam DuBose, 43, in the head after pulling him over for a missing front license plate on July 19, 2015.

Tensing, 26, testified he feared he was going to be killed. Prosecutors said repeatedly the evidence contradicted his story.

The jury of 10 whites and two blacks was seated Oct. 31.

Shanahan said Saturday that the jury spent two hours deliberating Saturday morning after getting a night’s sleep and still could not reach a decision.

“It’s obvious to me you have made a sincere and contentious effort,” the judge said before setting a new hearing date for Nov. 28 to determine whether the case will re-tried.

In tearful testimony Tuesday, Tensing said his arm was stuck in DuBose’s car after he tried to stop him from driving away by grabbing the car keys.

“I remember thinking, ‘Oh my God, he’s going to run me over and he’s going to kill me,’” Tensing said.

An expert hired by prosecutors said his analysis of the former officer’s body camera video shows the officer was not being dragged by the car. A defense expert countered that the video shows Tensing was justified in fearing for his life because his body was “violently twisted” during the confrontation.

Droves of protesters flood Seoul’s streets

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Hundreds of thousands of people flooded Seoul’s streets on Saturday, demanding the resignation of President Park Geun-hye amid an explosive political scandal, in what may be South Korea’s largest protest since it shook off dictatorship three decades ago.

Police said about 220,000 people turned out for the latest mass rally against Park, whose presidency has been shaken by suspicion that she let a shadowy, longtime confidante manipulate power from behind the scenes. Protest organizers estimated the crowd at 850,000.

Waving banners and signs, a sea of demonstrators jammed streets stretching about a half-mile from City Hall to a large square in front of an old palace gate for several hours, roaring and applauding to speeches

calling for Park’s ouster, and chanting “Park Geun-hye, step down!”

Protesters also marched on a road in front of the palace gate and near the Blue House, the mountainside presidential office and residence, carrying candles, blowing horns and banging drums, while shouting “Park Geun-hye, resign!”

The protest on Saturday was the largest in the capital since June 10, 2008, when police said 80,000 people took part in a candlelight vigil denouncing the government’s decision to resume U.S. beef imports amid mad cow fears. Organizers estimated that crowd at 700,000. In the summer of 1987, millions rallied in Seoul and other cities for weeks before the then-military government caved in to demands for free presidential elections.

In addition to allegedly ma-

nipulating power, the president’s confidante, Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader who emerged as Park’s mentor in the 1970s, is also suspected of exploiting her presidential ties to bully companies into donating tens of millions of dollars to foundations she controlled.

Prosecutors have arrested Choi, one of her key associates and two former presidential aides who allegedly helped Choi interfere with government decisions and amass an illicit fortune at the expense of businesses.

On Saturday, prosecutors summoned a senior executive of Samsung Electronics, South Korea’s largest company, which is under suspicion of spending millions of dollars illicitly financing the equestrian training of Choi’s daughter.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Halloween DUI arrests top 300 in one state

CO DENVER — Transportation officials said more than 300 people suspected of driving under the influence were stopped in Colorado during Halloween weekend.

The Denver Post reported officers across the state arrested 308 DUI suspects, compared with 269 arrests the previous Halloween.

Throughout the state, 94 law agencies participated in the enforcement program. The Colorado State Patrol made 50 arrests, the Denver Police Department made 30, the Aurora Police Department made 27 and the Colorado Springs Police Department made 26.

The Heat Is On enforcement program runs again Nov. 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Last year, 283 drivers were arrested during the heightened Thanksgiving patrol.

Man in jail dies after using smuggled heroin

WA KENNEWICK—Authorities said a man jailed in southeastern Washington has died after using heroin smuggled into the jail.

The Tri-City Herald reported Edward Engle, 42, died at about noon Friday in Kennewick.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office said Engle appeared to be sick Thursday evening and was taken to a local hospital after jail medical staff found his blood pressure to be abnormally low.

The sheriff's office said Engle told staff he had used heroin several days earlier and that he got it from another inmate who smuggled it into the facility.

Authorities said Engle had medical complications, pre-

sumably caused by the heroin, and doctors weren't able to stabilize him.

Man loses parts of 2 fingers after snake bite

MS McCOMB — Talk about snakebit.

A Mississippi man who keeps venomous vipers in his home is recovering after being bitten by one of his pets. On Tuesday, doctors at the University of Mississippi Medical Center had to amputate parts of two of David Brewer's fingers.

Brewer told the Enterprise-Journal a visitor tried to remove a cottonmouth from his aquarium. The snake got tangled in a net, and Brewer said he was trying to free the creature when it sank fangs into two of his fingers.

Brewer, who lives in Pike County, posts YouTube videos of himself handling snakes.

Priest investigated for aborted fetus video

TX AMARILLO — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo said it's investigating a priest who placed an aborted fetus on his altar and posted a video of it on two social media sites.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported that Amarillo Diocese Bishop Patrick J. Zurek said the Nov. 6 "action and presentation of Father (Frank) Pavone in this video is not consistent with the beliefs of the Catholic Church."

In the video posted to Facebook, Pavone said Hillary Clinton and the Democratic platform would allow abortion to continue and that Donald Trump and the Republican platform want to protect unborn children. A shorter version was posted on Instagram.

In his Tuesday statement,

Zurek said the diocese "deeply regrets the offense and outrage caused by the video for the faithful and the community at large."

Fragment from 9/11 plane crash on display

IL DECATUR — A piece of wreckage from one of the planes hijacked on 9/11 is on display in Decatur at the Macon County courts building.

The (Decatur) Herald and Review reported that the piece is in a memorial on the wall behind the building's security area. It's in its own case with a U.S. flag backdrop. The small fragment of the plane came to Decatur via Danny Jones, who was a firefighter who responded to the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, Pa.

Jones took home several small fragments with permission from authorities. In October 2015 John Axe, of Decatur, stopped at Jones' fire station to pick up a beam from the World Trade Center for a Decatur memorial. Jones offered one of the fragments to go with the beam.

Party unveils website to help released inmates

MD BALTIMORE — Baltimore entertainers Tate Kobang and TT the Artist performed at an event to celebrate the launch of a website designed to help people returning from prison navigate social services in Baltimore.

The website, created by a group of citizens returning from jail called Here 4 Reentry, is an online space designed to link those in need to social services such as housing, employment and transportation.

The Saturday event featured music, food and spoken-word performances, and took place at the War Memorial Plaza.

Post-election voters vent on subway stickies

NY NEW YORK — New Yorkers struggling with post-election stress have found an outlet for the blues — by pouring their political souls onto sticky notes that fill the walls of a Manhattan subway station.

In the days after Republican Donald Trump won the White House, Democrat Hillary Clinton's loss brought many of her New York supporters to tears.

Brooklyn artist Matthew Chavez, 28, set up a table in a long tunnel of the Union Square station, where he hands out the blank pastel notes on which strap-hangers scribble. He calls it "Subway Therapy." It's free.

More than 1,500 people have shared their grief and anxiety since Wednesday, according to Subway Therapy's Instagram.

Suburban man camps out for Black Friday

AZ PHOENIX — A suburban Phoenix man is getting ready for the biggest shopping day of the year two weeks early.

KPHO-TV reported Jarvis Johnson has set up camp in front of a Best Buy electronics store in Avondale in preparation for Black Friday.

Johnson, who calls himself "Mr. Black Friday," has camped outside the store every November since 2006.

He has traditionally started waiting about a week before. But this time, Johnson planted himself there Thursday night.

Having caught the attention of Best Buy last year, he is featured in a company ad this month.

In addition, he has sponsors who are providing him with canopies for his tent, couches, food and a microwave.



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No. 20 Florida State rips Boston College

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State has had its share of struggles in Atlantic Coast Conference play. On Friday night, the Seminoles took advantage of Boston College's timely visit for their most complete game of the season.

The 20th-ranked Seminoles grabbed the early lead and cruised to a 45-7 victory.

Florida State has had to play from behind a lot in conference play. In its previous six conference games it had scored first only once and had trailed by double digits in five.

That is why coach Jimbo Fisher said it felt weird for his team to be in control early against the Eagles.

"We need to play from ahead and finish and we did all of those things (on Friday)," Fisher said.

The Seminoles (7-3, 4-3 ACC, No. 18 CFP) took control by scoring on their first two drives and led 14-0 at the end of the first quarter. They had been outscored 31-3 in the first 15 minutes in the previous five games.

A 6-yard TD reception by Auden Tate marked the first

time FSU had scored on its opening drive since Sept. 24 at South Florida.

Dalvin Cook and Deondre Francois paced the offense. Cook rushed for 108 yards on 18 carries with a touchdown and Francois tied a season high with three touchdown passes.

Cook became only the second Seminoles back to go over 100 yards in 15 meetings against the Eagles and the first since Ricky Williams had 109 yards in 1980. He also joined Clemson's Wayne Gallman as the only ACC backs to go over the century mark against the Eagles this season.

"They were getting wore down from our passing game that we could see the long runs starting to come, especially the touchdown," Cook said.

Francois completed nine of his first 11 passes and finished 16-for-24 for 183 yards. The freshman suffered a bruised shoulder late in the third quarter and did not return.

The Eagles (4-6, 1-5) had three first downs on their first two drives before having nine straight three-and-outs and not getting another first down until midway through the

fourth quarter. They averted a shutout with 3:21 remaining in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard touchdown run by Richard Wilson. The only other bright spot was a pair of sacks by Harold Landry, which gives him 11 for the season.

"We weren't able to move the ball which caused our defense to stay on the field too long," Boston College coach Steve Addazio said. "We play a lot of good teams which will make us better in the long run. We just need to find a way to get momentum."

Closing in on record

Cook appeared like he was going to pass Warrick Dunn as Florida State's career rushing leader, but Fisher decided to rest Cook in the fourth quarter with the Seminoles up 35-0.

The junior needs 19 yards to break Dunn's mark of 3,959 yards

"It is going to be nice when I do it, regardless. The feeling is going to be there to hold that record," Cook said.

Cook said he talked to Dunn before the Oct. 29 game against Clemson, but none of the discussions were about the record.

Fisher said that he knew Cook was close to the record, but did not want to risk injury.

Poll implications

Florida State dropped a spot after last Saturday's come-from-behind victory at North Carolina State, but it should go up a couple spots after its most convincing victory of the season.

The takeaway

Boston College: This is the first time since 2003 the Eagles have faced three ranked teams in a season. Based on the results, they might be hoping it doesn't happen anytime soon. No. 3 Clemson, No. 5 Louisville and 20th-ranked FSU outscored the Eagles 153-24.

Florida State: Quarterback Sean Maguire was able to get in on Senior Night and threw a pair of touchdowns. Maguire went into preseason practices as the starter but suffered a broken foot the first week. "I was extremely happy," said Fisher of Maguire. "He goes in and performs every time he goes in with a lot of heart and a lot of toughness."

Mexico edges US by a goal in World Cup qualifier

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A pro-American crowd of 24,650 chanted "Dos a cero!" at the start.

Mexican supporters yelled "Dos a uno!" as they left.

Rafa Marquez scored a tie-breaking goal on a header in the 89th minute, giving Mexico a 2-1 victory Friday night and its first victory at the United States in World Cup qualifying since 1972.

After winning four straight home qualifiers against Mexico by 2-0 scores — all in Columbus — the U.S. hoped to open the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region with another victory. Instead, the Americans

began the hexagonal with a loss for the second straight cycle, and they play Tuesday night at Costa Rica, where they have never won in qualifying.

"It gets a sense of anger in us. It gets a sense of absolute urgency," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "It's not a problem, but it's obviously disappointing."

Miguel Layun put Mexico ahead in the 20th minute, but Bobby Wood tied it in the 49th.

The U.S. dominated the second half before the 37-year-old Marquez, unmarked and drifting across the penalty area at the near post, got a glancing nod on Layun's corner kick. The Mexican captain lifted the ball over goalkeeper Brad Guzan

for his 17th international goal.

Mexico's previous win at the U.S. in qualifying was also by a 2-1 score, at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

"I think we deserved this match," Layun said. "We were focused."

Klinsmann said John Brooks was supposed to mark Marquez on the corner kick. Jozy Altidore blocked the defender from getting there.

"We lost him there. Individual mistake," Klinsmann said.

The Americans had been 30-0-2 at home in qualifying since a 3-2 loss to Honduras at Washington's RFK Stadium in September 2001.

"They're very good in terms of when they have a little time

circulating the ball, and they start to find space," American captain Michael Bradley said.

Guzan had lost the U.S. goalkeeper job to Tim Howard, who started at the last two World Cups. But Howard pulled a muscle in his right leg on a goal kick and was replaced in the 40th minute.

Howard was to have a scan Saturday, a day before the U.S. travels, and Klinsmann said Howard likely will miss the match at Costa Rica.

"He knows it's not looking that good," Klinsmann said.

The top three teams in the six-nation round qualify for the World Cup, and the fourth-place country advances to a playoff.

No. 11 Indiana upsets No. 3 Kansas

Associated Press

HONOLULU — This one certainly didn't feel like a season-opener to Tom Crean.

James Blackmon, Jr. scored 22 of his 26 points after half-time to lift No. 11 Indiana to a season-opening 103-99 overtime victory over No. 3 Kansas on Friday night in the Armed Forces Classic.

"I told someone before the game that this feels like March in here and that's how it played out," Crean said.

It was a thrilling finish to a back-and-forth contest. Kansas tied at 87 on Frank Mason III's layup with 39 seconds left. Blackmon reclaimed a brief lead for Indiana with two

free throws with 13 seconds remaining. However, Mason answered with two more free throws with 2 seconds to play in regulation.

Indiana had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but Tyler Self's desperation shot from three-quarters court length was no good and sent the teams into overtime.

The Hoosiers never trailed in overtime. Blackmon scored seven points in the period, including a step-back three-pointer from the right wing that gave Indiana a 97-93 lead. He scored his team's final four points, including a thunderous dunk in the closing seconds.

Crean, Indiana's ninth-year coach, had high praise for

Blackmon, a junior guard who had knee surgery in January to cut short his sophomore season.

"I'm just proud of him beyond belief; I couldn't be any prouder of him," Crean said. "To come back and play the way he did on both ends of the court after overcoming everything that he has is great for him."

The Hoosiers had five players score in double figures with Thomas Bryant notching a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Curtis Jones had 15 points, OG Anunoby had 13 and Robert Johnson added 10.

Indiana trailed by as many as nine points, but shot 50 per-

cent (14-for-28) in the second half.

Blackmon was 4-for-8 from behind the three-point line and the Hoosiers were 15-for-31 from beyond the arc. Juwan Morgan had 10 rebounds for the Hoosiers.

Mason led the Jayhawks with 30 points and nine assists.

Devonte Graham scored 16 points, while Carlton Bragg, Jr. and Svi Mykhailiuk chipped in 12 apiece and Landen Lucas added 11 for Kansas.

"We didn't play well, but give (Indiana) credit," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "They made hard shots at the end of the clock."

Top-ranked Duke opens with blowout

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Grayson Allen scored 16 points and No. 1 Duke opened its season by routing Marist 94-49 on Friday night.

Freshman Frank Jackson had 18 points in his debut with the Blue Devils while Luke Kennard added 16 points.

No. 2 Kentucky 87, Stephen F. Austin 64: Isaiah Briscoe scored 17 points and Derek Willis added 15 in the host Wildcats' season-opener.

No. 4 Villanova 88, Lafayette 48: Jalen Brunson scored 17 points and Kris Jenkins had 16 as the host Wildcats opened defense of their national championship.

No. 5 Oregon 91, Army 77: Tyler Dorsey scored 21 points and freshman Payton Pritchard added 15 for the host Ducks.

No. 6 North Carolina 95, Tulane 75: At New Orleans, Justin Jackson had a career-high 27 points as the Tar Heels never trailed.

No. 7 Xavier 84, Lehigh 81: Trevon Bluiett scored a

career-high 25 points and led a second-half surge for the host Muskateers.

No. 8 Virginia 76, UNC Greensboro 51: Marial Shayok scored 15 points as the visiting Cavaliers used a 22-0 run to take control.

No. 9 Wisconsin 79, Cent. Arkansas 47: Bronson Koenig had 16 points and Nigel Hayes scored 10 of his 14 in the second half for the host Badgers.

No. 10 Arizona 65, No. 12 Michigan St. 63: At Honolulu, Kadeem Allen took the ball the length of the court and scored with 1.3 seconds left for the Wildcats in the Armed Forces Classic.

No. 13 Louisville 78, Evansville 47: Jaylen Johnson had 17 points and 14 rebounds while Donovan Mitchell added 15 points and five rebounds to lead the host Cardinals.

No. 14 Gonzaga 92, Utah Valley 69: At Spokane, Wash., Silas Melson scored 17 points and Jordan Mathews had 16 for the Bulldogs.

No. 15 Purdue 109, McNeese St. 65: At West La-

fayette, Ind., Caleb Swanigan had 23 points and 20 rebounds, and Vince Edwards added 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Boilermakers.

No. 16 UCLA 119, Pacific 80: Bryce Alford scored 30 points and led a three-point barrage with six of the host Bruins' school-record 18.

No. 17 Saint Mary's 81, Nevada 63: At Moraga, Calif., Jock Landale scored a career-high 33 points to go with nine rebounds to lead the Gaels.

Wagner 67, No. 18 UCONN 58: Mike Aaman and Romone Saunders scored 15 points each to lead the visiting Seahawks to the upset.

No. 19 Syracuse 83, Colgate 55: Tyler Roberson scored 18 points, fifth-year transfers Andrew White and John Gillon had 17 and 13, respectively, for the host Orange.

No. 20 West Virginia 87, Mount St. Mary's 59: Nathan Adrian scored 13 points to lead the host Mountaineers, who cruised to their fourth straight season-opening victory.

No. 21 Texas 78, Incarnate Word 73: Kendal Yancy made two late free throws, then followed with a tough layup in the final minute for the host Longhorns.

No. 22 Creighton 89, UMKC 82: Marcus Foster scored 19 points and Maurice Watson Jr. added 17 for Creighton, which withstood the visiting Kangaroos' late run.

No. 23 Rhode Island 84, Dartmouth 60: E.C. Matthews scored 21 points while Hassan Martin and Jared Terrell added 12 points each for the host Rams.

No. 24 Iowa St. 113, Savannah St. 71: Monte Morris had his seventh career double-double with 21 points and 11 assists for the host Cyclones.

No. 25 Maryland 62, American 56: Melo Trimble scored 22 points and freshman Anthony Cowan added 12 for the host Terps.

Ohio State 78, Navy 68: At Annapolis, Md., Kam Williams scored 23 points to lead the Buckeyes past the Midshipmen in the nightcap of the Veterans Classic.

Griffin helps Clippers hold off Thunder

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — After four straight blowout victories, the Los Angeles Clippers learned they can handle business in a close game.

Blake Griffin scored 25 points, and the Clippers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 110-108 on Friday night to improve the league's top record and the best start in franchise history to 8-1.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook missed what would have been a game-winning three-pointer in the closing seconds.

The Clippers had won their previous four games by an average of 24.5 points, so coach Doc Rivers wasn't sure how his team would handle a game with a tight finish. Los Angeles focused on slowing Westbrook,

who burned them for 35 points in Oklahoma City's 85-83 win in Los Angeles earlier in the month that gave the Clippers their only loss so far.

Even though Andre Roberson and Domantas Sabonis found their shooting strokes as the Thunder made 16 of 28 three-pointers, the Clippers stuck to their defensive game plan.

Jamal Crawford scored 19 points and Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists for the Clippers.

Westbrook had 29 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists, but he made just 9 of 25 shots. Victor Oladipo scored 18 points, Enes Kanter had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Andre Roberson added 13 points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City (6-3).

76ers 109, Pacers 105 (OT): Joel Embiid scored 16

of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to lead Philadelphia over visiting Indiana for its first victory of the season.

Ersan Ilyasova added 14 points for Philadelphia, which was the last winless team left in the NBA. The 76ers snapped a 44-game losing streak in October and November that dated to Nov. 22, 2013.

Cavaliers 105, Wizards 94: Adding a win to their White House visit, LeBron James and Cleveland capped a perfect trip to the nation's capital by beating Washington on the strength of 14 three-pointers.

A day after being feted as NBA champions by President Barack Obama, the Cavs improved to 7-1 this season, recovering quickly from their loss to Atlanta on Tuesday.

Spurs 96, Pistons 86: Pau

Gasol set season highs with 21 points and six assists as San Antonio snapped a three-game home losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

Raptors 113, Hornets 111: DeMar DeRozan continued his torrid pace, scoring 34 points as Toronto snapped host Charlotte's four-game winning streak.

Jazz 87, Magic 74: Gordon Hayward scored 20 points and Derrick Favors added 18 to lift Utah over host Orlando.

Celtics 115, Knicks 87: Isaiah Thomas scored 23 of his 29 points in the first half to help Boston snap a three-game slide by beating visiting New York.

Trail Blazers 122, Kings 120 (OT): Damian Lillard had 36 points and CJ McCollum scored 31 to lead host Portland past Sacramento in overtime.

Johansson's overtime goal lifts Caps over Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jay Beagle usually plays on one of Washington's last two lines. He does whatever is asked of him, and his teammates love him.

So this was one sweet night for the Capitals.

Beagle had two goals, Marcus Johansson scored at 2:20 of overtime, and Washington snapped Chicago's seven-game winning streak with a 3-2 victory over the Blackhawks on Friday.

Beagle is "a total pro," coach Barry Trotz said. "He doesn't look for any accolades. He just comes and works every day. From our standpoint, I know our room is really happy when he gets on the board."

Braden Holtby had 32 saves, leading the Capitals to their sixth win in seven games in the opener of a three-game trip.

Washington defenseman Dmitry Orlov made a nice pass to Johansson for a one-timer that beat Corey Crawford on the glove side. Johansson's seventh goal of the season helped

the Capitals rebound from a 3-0 loss to San Jose on Tuesday with another game looming on Saturday against Carolina.

"That's probably what pleases me the most," Trotz said, "is that you know we're not extending anything on a negative way."

Marian Hossa had a goal and an assist for Chicago, which extended its point streak to 10 games. Defenseman Brian Campbell also scored, and Crawford finished with 24 stops.

The Blackhawks played without center Artem Anisimov, who was scratched after he left Wednesday night's 2-1 overtime win at St. Louis with an upper-body injury. Anisimov, who has eight goals and nine assists in 14 games, could return as soon as Sunday against Montreal.

Chicago was trailing 2-1 when it pulled Crawford for an extra attacker with 2:13 to go. It broke through for the tying score when Artemi Panarin's shot went off the stick of Washington defenseman Brooks Orpik and trickled through to

Hossa on the side of the crease for his seventh goal in eight games with 22.3 seconds left.

"It was a huge point," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "They've got a good hockey team. They check well. They didn't give up much in the middle of the ice. Certainly had a great look at the end with Hossa scoring."

Devils 2, Sabres 1 (OT): Andy Greene scored on a penalty shot 29 seconds into overtime, giving visiting New Jersey a win over Buffalo.

Greene earned the penalty shot when he was held from behind by Buffalo's Evander Kane on a breakaway up the left side.

Avalanche 3, Jets 2 (OT): Rene Bourque had two goals, including the winner in overtime when Nikolaj Ehlers scored into his own net, as host Colorado beat Winnipeg.

Bourque was credited with the goal when Ehlers, fighting for the puck along the side boards, backhanded the puck through the legs of teammate Toby Enstrom and past goal-

tender Michael Hutchinson 1:23 into overtime.

Senators 2, Kings 1: Mark Stone scored with 7 seconds left in regulation to lift host Ottawa past Los Angeles.

Stone tracked down a loose puck in the crease and put the Senators ahead less than four minutes after Zack Smith tied it. Craig Anderson finished with 32 saves for Ottawa.

Stars 3, Oilers 2: Patrick Eaves had a goal and an assist, Kari Lehtonen made 40 saves and visiting Dallas won its second straight after losing six of seven.

Lauri Korpikoski and Antoine Roussel also scored for the Stars.

Maple Leafs 6, Flyers 3: Morgan Rielly had a goal and three assists, while Zach Hyman had the go-ahead score in host Toronto's four-goal third period.

Martin Marincin, Leo Komarov, Nazem Kadri and Mitch Marner also scored for Toronto, and Frederik Anderson stopped 30 shots.