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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy will serve turkey with a side of sorties on holiday

Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS EISENHOWER — While millions of Americans celebrate Thanksgiving with family and home-cooked meals, the 5,200 sailors aboard the USS Eisenhower are busy launching fighter jets to strike Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria.

The crew is spending their second Thanksgiving on duty, and will be carving their own roasted turkeys when their duties aboard the 1,000-foot long American aircraft carrier allow. Some will spend part of the day flying over the Middle East, dropping precision munitions on Islamic State militants.

“It’s not going to stop us from having a great Thanksgiving meal,” Capt. Paul C. Spedero Jr. said. “We’re going to watch football when we can. It’ll probably be a little bit time-delayed but we’re going to do all the things that we can do and what we can expect to do with our families back home,” he said.

He estimates the carrier’s fighters have dropped nearly 1,100 bombs in the fight against the Islamic State since June, when the Eisenhower began operating in the Persian Gulf. Last Thanksgiving it was deployed off the coast of Virginia.

Rear Admiral James Malloy, commander of the Eisenhower strike group, said his forces are increasingly using precision munitions as Islamic State militants hide and fight among civilians, including in the northern Iraqi city of

Mosul.

“They’re actually using civilians in military capacity to shield them, knowing that would stay the hand of the coalition,” he said. “The power of the precision, responsive airstrikes that we provide is even more critical than before.”

Lt. Jennifer Sandifer, 27, a fighter pilot from Austin, Texas, plans to eat her turkey midmorning before donning a flight suit.

She’ll then climb up a metal ladder and make her way across the bustling flight deck, where engines roar and the air is thick with exhaust fumes. Mechanics and a ground crew there maintain jets for 17 pilots, including her single-seat F/A-18E Super Hornet.

She’ll taxi to the launch point where a catapult will connect to the fighter jet. A sailor known as a shooter will signal Sandifer when the catapult is ready and then she’ll give a final salute before roaring off the carrier going 0 to 145 mph in 2.5 seconds.

On Thanksgiving, as on any other day, she’ll fly six to nine hours and strike targets identified by ground forces, perhaps in Mosul or the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the Islamic State group’s self-styled caliphate.

Back on the Eisenhower, culinary specialist and Petty Officer 1st Class Antonio Brown is organizing a feast consisting of 4,950 pounds of turkey, 1,050 pounds of ham, 1,200 pounds of beef, 648 pounds of shrimp, 7,000 portions of mashed potatoes, 400 pies and

200 cheese cakes.

Brown is setting up carving stations for sailors and serving his take on standard Navy recipes, like adding marshmallows to the sweet potatoes.

Brown said Thanksgiving is the most important day of the year for the carrier’s cooks and kitchen staff.

“It’s like the Super Bowl. We care about Christmas, yes indeed, but Thanksgiving we try to show out,” Brown said. “When everybody is able to sit down and eat a nice, healthy, nutritious meal and everything, it’s like it takes them back.”

The carrier’s chaplain, Cmdr. Ted Williams, said sailors would celebrate in small groups across the carrier’s hold on Thanksgiving.

“That bond, that shared experience of being away and being deployed, also brings us together, and that is what we’ll use to draw strength during the day while we’re apart from our families back at home,” he said outside the carrier’s interfaith chapel.

After the Thanksgiving airstrikes and a full day flying, Sandifer will land in the pitch black at night. It’s a feat she calls a “controlled crash” and “one of the most terrifying things I’ve ever done.”

“There’s no horizon, there’s no moon. You can’t really see the stars because there’s just this haze and all you see is this rectangle of lights with a center line in the middle that’s lit up,” she said.

Zumwalt breaks down in Panama

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy’s newest and most technologically advanced guided missile destroyer had to be towed from the Panama Canal after experiencing “engineering issues,” a spokesman for the service said Tuesday in a statement.

The USS Zumwalt, which cost \$4.4 billion, will remain at Naval Station Rodman, a former U.S. base in Panama, to repair problems that surfaced this week while the ship cruised to its new homeport in San Diego, said Cmdr. Ryan Perry, a spokesman for the Navy’s 3rd Fleet. He said it was unclear how long the ship would remain in Panama.

USNI News, a publication of the U.S. Naval Institute, reported the ship was in the canal when it lost propulsion. Crewmembers also saw water intrusion in bearings that connect electrical motors to drive shafts, it reported.

The 610-foot-long Zumwalt suffered a similar seawater leak in September and another unspecified engineering problem in October, according to USNI News.

The Zumwalt, which features an angular design aimed at tricking enemy radar systems, is the first of three identical destroyers scheduled to be commissioned in its class.

When it arrives in San Diego, the Zumwalt will have its combat systems installed before it is tested and evaluated. The process is expected to last through most of 2017, and the ship will not likely join the Navy’s operational fleet until 2018.

Will US generals salute Trump's views?

The Washington Post

On the campaign trail he complained that they had been “reduced to rubble.” At other moments he suggested that he might have to fire them all.

Now that Donald Trump is president-elect, a parade of retired four-star generals has been making its way through Trump Tower and the mogul's New Jersey golf course.

Trump's sudden infatuation with the military's top brass is part theater, part necessity and possibly a view into how he will govern. But it also raises a bigger question: What does Trump, whose military experience consists of military boarding school and multiple draft deferments, understand about the country's general officer corps?

At least six former generals are being considered for as many as four top positions in a Trump administration — a concentration of military brass that foreign policy experts said

is unprecedented in the recent history of the U.S. In their charcoal-gray suits and short haircuts, they look like any other business executives. But these former officers, most of whom have spent their adult lives in the military and much of the past 15 years at war, are unlike the people Trump has encountered in corporate boardrooms. They are also unlike the politicians and operatives who have dominated his life since he declared his intention to run for the White House more than a year ago.

“He's going to find them a strange and alien life form,” said retired Lt. Gen. David Barno, who commanded U.S. troops in Afghanistan. “They have their own ethos that is different from business executives or entertainment people, and right now I think he's entranced by that.”

The generals enjoy enormous public respect, and their plain-talking style and deep overseas experience could help add luster to Trump's Cabinet. But the generals, if chosen for top jobs, could

quickly feel put out by Trump's sometimes chaotic style, his tendency to repeat untruths and his controversial views on Islam, torture, America's treaty obligations and the laws of war.

When Trump talked about generals on the campaign trail, it was often to disparage them as political pawns of President Barack Obama. “I know more about ISIS than the generals do, believe me,” Trump said in September, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. In other moments he has lavished them with over-the-top praise.

There are many reasons — both practical and political — that Trump finds generals so attractive. His focus on senior officers to fill out top foreign policy positions reflects Trump's finely tuned understanding of the country and his base.

Because the generals are not creatures of Washington, Trump sees them as fellow outsiders and kindred spirits. Most have spent their lives leading servicemembers and can speak

with a simplicity and directness that Trump appreciates and often seems to emulate.

Despite the military's appeal, Trump may be surprised by the generals on matters of style and policy. Some of the fiercest resistance to enhanced interrogation techniques came from the military during the Bush administration. Trump has said he backs such measures and admitted in a Tuesday interview with the New York Times that he was taken aback when retired Marine Gen. James Mattis disagreed with him.

The biggest difference between Trump and his generals could come in the realm of managing risk. Most generals spent decades methodically working their way through a massive bureaucracy with its own unique set of politics, customs and Byzantine policies. They survived and in many cases thrived in a culture that rewards conformity over the brash, go-it-alone approach that has characterized Trump's career.

PTSD treatment shows promise in active-duty

BY DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The good news: A prevalent six-week PTSD treatment that is proven to help reduce symptoms or eliminate the diagnosis in civilians also works for active-duty servicemembers, according to a study published Wednesday in *JAMA Psychology*, the monthly journal from the American Medical Association.

The bad news: The rates of success in the six-week treatment were lower among the servicemembers.

The study compared results of one-on-one versus group cognitive processing therapy, or CPT, for participants at Fort Hood, Texas. It found that the improvement rate was higher for those who received individual therapy. Nearly 50 percent of those individually treated and

nearly 40 percent of those in group sessions were no longer diagnosed with PTSD.

“I think the fact that we can treat them and we can treat them fairly quickly is news,” said Patricia Resick, a psychology professor at Duke University School of Medicine and creator of the therapy, who was lead author on the study.

Resick created cognitive processing therapy in the 1980s to treat rape and interpersonal trauma victims. Unlike prolonged exposure therapy, during which the patient relives the trauma again and again to recondition his or her response, cognitive processing therapy conditions a person to relearn the way they think about or respond to the trauma — guilt, anger, helplessness — so they can look at it differently.

A 2012 study found 80 percent of civilians were no longer diag-

nosed with PTSD after receiving the six-week treatment.

Though the treatment is being used by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, this was the first large-scale trial involving active-duty members and offers a first clinical look at the effectiveness of the treatment on this population.

The study is part of a series of research trials related to combat PTSD being conducted by a consortium of South Texas institutions known as the South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience, or STRONG STAR.

In the trial, 67 percent of the participants also suffered traumatic brain injury, Resick said, and the trial was adaptive to address their needs.

The trial studied the treatment of 268 active-duty military members at Fort Hood for

two years. Half were sent to group therapy for 90 minutes twice a week for six weeks, and half received individual therapy for 60 minutes twice a week for the same period. While 155 participants completed the therapy — 72 in group and 83 individual — all 268 were included in the study's findings, which skews the results lower, Resick said.

Patients were evaluated before, during and six months after the treatment on what PTSD symptoms they had and how severe they were. About half improved so much that they no longer met the criteria for a PTSD diagnosis, Resick said, but many still had symptoms. They were also measured for depression and suicidal thoughts — conditions associated with PTSD — and the study found that both groups improved in those areas.

DOD: Stopgap spending bills pose risk

CQ Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon comptroller has warned Congress that continuing to rely on stopgap spending bills will undermine U.S. forces in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a memo exclusively obtained by CQ Roll Call.

After lawmakers return from their Thanksgiving break, they are expected to send President Barack Obama a continuing resolution that would fund government operations at current levels through the end of March. The current continuing resolution expires Dec. 9.

But if the new stopgap spending bill does not include additional funds for U.S. military campaigns overseas — as well as more flexibility in how to spend defense dollars — then American counterterrorism operations could suffer, according to the memo written by Defense Department Comptroller Mike McCord.

“A CR locks DOD, which is tasked with acting in real time to defend our interests in a rapidly changing global security environment, into last year’s budget with last year’s priorities,” McCord says in the memo. “The most problematic short-

falls are in the operation and maintenance, train and equip, and munitions procurement accounts that fund counterterrorism operations and assistance in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.”

A new continuing resolution would require that U.S. government agencies operate for nearly half of fiscal 2017 at the same spending level as in fiscal 2016, except for programs that Congress might explicitly exempt from that rule.

Domestic departments would also be hamstrung in executing their budgets. But defense officials and hawks in Congress say the Pentagon’s needs are more

pressing because the military has troops in battle.

For Pentagon leaders, a continuing resolution would mean making do with \$2.2 billion less than they had planned to receive in fiscal 2017.

That sounds manageable, but McCord said that interpretation is “misleading and outdated.” The actual result could be as much as \$22 billion in “account level shortfalls because of misallocations,” he says in the memo.

Under a continuing resolution, unless exceptions called “anomalies” are written into the law, no new programs can be launched.

Navy closer to new training base

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Japan has taken a step closer toward providing the Navy with a long-sought replacement base for qualifying pilots to land on aircraft carriers, though the plan faces opposition from nearby island residents concerned about noise and damage to the tourist economy.

Moving to uninhabited Mageshima would be safer than the Navy’s current arrangement at historic Iwo To, the island known during World War II as Iwo Jima, service officials have said.

The national government and the majority private owner of Mageshima, in Japan’s southwestern Kagoshima prefecture, have agreed to appraise the land’s value, Defense Ministry officials told Stars and Stripes.

The appraisal survey, covering about 1,800 acres, is expected to finish up in March, the Defense Ministry said.

If the Japanese government purchases Mageshima, it would build a Japan Self-Defense Forces base there capable of hosting the occasional U.S. landing practices.

Iwo To, the island where Marines planting the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi became

an iconic image of WWII, was always meant to be a temporary home for the Japan-based 7th Fleet’s field carrier landing practices.

Iwo To’s tropical weather and isolation make it a riskier place to train than normally allowed by the Navy, Capt. Dennis Mikeska told Stars and Stripes during practice there in 2014.

No matter how poor the weather, pilots must land at Iwo To because there is no nearby alternate airport, Mikeska said.

Mageshima is close to several airports and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, where Carrier Air Wing 5 is scheduled to move from Naval Air Facility Atsugi as early as next year.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan sends its jets to Iwo To as part of mandatory training for pilots to remain qualified for carrier-deck landings.

However, Navy officials concede that carrier-landing practice, done properly, is very loud.

That has led officials on Tanegashima, 7 miles from Mageshima, to oppose base construction on the grounds that it would interrupt the quiet lives of an island devoted mostly to farming and fishing.

The mayor of Tanegashima’s largest town declined to com-

ment on the proposed move, but an assistant confirmed the town remained opposed.

About 25 miles south of the proposed base site is Yakushima, a tourist destination that features a primeval forest listed as a United Nations World Heritage Site.

“There will be a noise problem, and we are concerned with the effects it may have on tourism, which is the main industry on the island,” a spokeswoman for A Group to Protect Mageshima told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

It’s unclear just how much noise Yakushima would get from jets headed to Mageshima, or from Japanese operations, if plans proceed. Carrier-landing practices vary, but typically take place once or twice per year.

The citizens group says the island’s spiritual, peaceful image could suffer in the minds of tourists if they are reminded of a military base nearby.

The spokeswoman, who declined to be named, said she was aware of news reports that a Mageshima base could be used to relocate some functions from Marine Corps Air Base Futenma on Okinawa.

Stars and Stripes reporters Chiyomi Sumida and Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

Philippines, US to scrap 5 exercises

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine armed forces chief said Wednesday that five military exercises with the United States, including at least two major naval drills, will be scrapped next year at the direction of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Gen. Ricardo Visaya told reporters that U.S. officials respected the Philippines’ proposal to reduce the number of drills to 258, or five less than this year’s exercises.

On Tuesday, the two allies held a meeting of their Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board co-chaired by Visaya and Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., head of the U.S. Pacific Command.

Visaya said the scrapped drills include an Amphibious Landing Exercise and Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, both major naval exercises that include territorial defense training. He said next year’s exercises will focus on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and counterterrorism.

Duterte has said he wants to chart a foreign policy less oriented toward Washington.

SC Gov. Haley tapped for UN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump has chosen South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the first woman tapped for a top-level administration post during his White House transition so far.

It will be a Cabinet-level position, and Haley has accepted, Trump said in a statement Wednesday.

“Governor Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background or party affiliation to move critical policies forward for the betterment of her state and our country,” Trump said in the statement. “She is also a proven dealmaker, and we look to be making plenty of deals. She will be a great leader representing us on the world stage.”

Haley, an outspoken Trump critic throughout much of the presidential race, would become his first female — and first minority — Cabinet-level

official if confirmed by the Senate. She’s the daughter of Indian immigrants and is the second Asian-American to serve as a U.S. governor.

While Haley has limited foreign policy experience, Trump said he was impressed with her knowledge of global affairs.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham praised Haley as a good choice and said in a statement that he looks forward to working with her on “overdue reforms of the United Nations.” Graham is chairman of the Senate’s Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Appropriations, which is responsible for funding the U.N. and all American foreign assistance.

Haley said she accepted the assignment partly out of “a sense of duty.”

“When the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation’s standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed,” she said in a statement.

Not all presidents have treated the ambassadorship to the U.N. as a Cabinet-level position, and Republicans have tended not to grant that status.

After secretary of state, the U.N. ambassador is the highest-profile diplomatic position, often serving as the voice for U.S. positions on the international stage. As part of the Cabinet, Haley would have more opportunity to shape U.S. policies, rather than simply defend the administration’s positions.

Yet it could be an awkward role at times. Trump campaigned on the theme of “America first” and said he is skeptical about “international unions that tie us up and bring America down.” Trump has also described the United Nations as weak and incompetent.

Haley’s new job clears the way for Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to step into the role of South Carolina governor. McMaster was an early Trump endorser, backing him before the state’s GOP primary in February.

Trump disavows alt-right

Associated Press

ATLANTA — President-elect Donald Trump is again distancing himself from the alt-right movement as its white supremacist members claim his election as a boon for their agenda.

“I disavow and condemn them,” Trump said Tuesday during a wide-ranging interview with staff members of *The New York Times*.

It’s the latest attempt from Trump to separate himself from groups and individuals widely condemned for their advocacy of white supremacy in American culture.

The Republican president-elect added that he does not want to “energize” the groups, one of which garnered viral headlines this weekend with a gathering in Washington, where organizers and attendees evoked Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich with cries of “Heil Trump” and reprisals of the Nazi salute.

The *Times* has not yet released a full transcript or video of the meeting, but participants used Twitter to share his remarks throughout the exchange.

Richard Spencer, an alt-right leader who convened the weekend gathering sponsored by his National Policy Institute, told *The Associated Press* he was “disappointed” in Trump’s comments. But Spencer said he understands “where he’s coming from politically and practically,” adding that he will “wait and see” how the real estate mogul’s administration takes shape.

Trump’s denunciation also comes amid continued criticism over Trump tapping Steve Bannon, who managed the final months of the billionaire businessman’s presidential campaign, as chief White House strategist. Bannon was previously the leader of *Breitbart News*, an unapologetically conservative outlet that Bannon has described as a “platform for the alt-right.”

Mattis pick would break with history

The Washington Post

President-elect Donald Trump choosing retired Marine Gen. James Mattis as his secretary of defense would break with decades of U.S. military history, putting a retired senior military officer in the job 65 years after Congress passed legislation that said it was “the sense” of lawmakers that “no additional appointments of military men to that office shall be approved.”

The legislation allowed Army Gen. George Marshall to serve as secretary of defense under President Harry S. Truman. Marshall, then a five-star general, served as secretary of defense for a year from 1950 to 1951 after previously serving as Truman’s secretary of state from 1947 to 1949, overseeing the Marshall Plan that helped rebuild Europe after World War II.

Mattis, 66, met with Trump on Saturday at his golf club in Bedminster Township, N.J., and Trump tweeted the following day that the general was “very impressive” and under consideration to be Pentagon chief. Mattis retired from active duty in May 2013 as the top officer in U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations across the Middle East.

Mattis’ candidacy has thus far received positive responses from current and former U.S. officials ranging from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., to Michele Flournoy, a former Pentagon undersecretary who was considered a front-runner to run the Defense Department in a Democratic administration. It also has been greeted widely and positively by rank-and-file troops and veterans. But Congress must pass a waiver in

order for Mattis to serve in the role.

Federal law holds that all retired servicemembers must wait seven years after serving on active duty before they can hold the office of secretary of defense or other senior civilian defense positions. The time limit was set by Congress in 2008, knocking it down from a 10-year limit first set by Congress in the 1947 national security act.

Truman selected Marshall to be his secretary of defense at the outset of the Korean War. His biography on the Defense Department website notes that although the Senate approved his nomination quickly, there were questions about him holding a position “clearly intended for a civilian” and how he felt about the relationship between the State Department and the military during World War II.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man sues neighbor for making seagull mess

MA WEBSTER — A Massachusetts man sick of the mess seagulls leave at his dock and boat wants the neighbor he says is responsible for attracting the birds to pay up.

The Telegram & Gazette reported that Frank Yacino has sued Lisa Pezzella in small claims court. Yacino lives on Webster Lake in Webster. He says Pezzella feeds the seagulls that hang around his neighborhood, leaving droppings all over his property and making it impossible to enjoy the water. He's asking for \$1,500 to replace his boat's seat covers and \$500 for the time he's spent pressure-washing his dock.

The town has issued a cease-and-desist order to Pezzella based on video officials say shows her feeding gulls. Her lawyer denies his client feeds the birds.

Costume theft can't stop 'The Nutcracker'

RI PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island ballet company says its annual production of "The Nutcracker" will go on as scheduled despite the theft of the title character's mask and costume, the Sugar Plum Fairy's tutu and other costumes.

The Festival Ballet Providence's costumes were discovered missing from a Pawtucket warehouse last week.

Artistic Director Mihailo Djuric said while the theft is "a significant blow," it has made the dancers determined to make this year's performance extra special.

He has contacted ballet companies across the nation to see what is available to borrow, and several have stepped up.

Ninja sword taken from card shop returned

AK ANCHORAGE — A katana sword that was missing from an Anchorage card shop has been returned.

KTVA-TV reported surveillance video shows a person dressed as a ninja leaving BOSCO'S Comic, Cards & Games with what looked to be the Japanese-style sword.

Employee Eric Helmick said in an email that a man bought the sword from the thief and took it back to the shop Thursday after hearing on the news that it was stolen. The sword was slightly damaged.

4-year-old likely set fire in home for attention

PA LEBANON — Fire officials say they believe a 4-year-old boy started a fire in his central Pennsylvania home in an attempt to get attention, and now two adults and four children have been displaced.

The Lebanon Daily News reported the blaze broke out in a second-floor bedroom of a Lebanon home on Sunday morning. A cat died.

Fire Commissioner Duane Trautman said the fire began in a child's bed. He said he doesn't know how the fire started, but said the boy may have had access to some matches or a lighter.

The child was taken to a hospital with injuries. His condition wasn't immediately known.

Death row inmate can't go get marriage license

OK MCALESTER — Gov. Mary Fallin said an Oklahoma death row inmate will not be allowed out of prison to get a marriage license.

The Oklahoman reported Gilbert Ray Postelle, 30, was confined to the Oklahoma State

Penitentiary at McAlester after he was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death in connection with the shooting deaths of four people at a mobile home in Del City in 2005.

Prison officials had planned to take Postelle to the Pittsburg County Courthouse to get the license unless the court clerk agreed to come to the prison instead. But Fallin said Postelle will not be transported from the prison and that officials are discussing other alternatives.

Steel nut stuck on child's finger removed

CT STAMFORD — Firefighters in Stamford had to be called in after a 5-year-old boy used a power tool to thread a steel nut onto his index finger.

The Stamford Fire Department said the boy used a screw-gun-type power tool Sunday to thread the 3/8-inch nut onto his finger past the first knuckle.

Staff at the hospital couldn't remove the nut, so they called in the fire department. A four-man rescue crew managed to get it off without hurting the boy. The boy was sedated, and firefighters cut the nut using a rotary tool and slid it off the child's finger.

Police: Man burglarized pizza store in the buff

MD TOWSON — Authorities arrested a man who they say burglarized a Towson pizza shop in the nude earlier this month.

Baltimore County police said in a statement that Jonathan K. Newman, 23, has been charged with second-degree burglary following the Nov. 10 break-in into Slice Pizza. Police said Newman's pants ripped off as he entered the store from a roof vent. Video footage shows the suspect then took off his shirt

to cover his face.

Store owner Yianni Rizas told WBAL-TV there was no money in the cash register but the suspect caused thousands of dollars in damage to the store.

4 women in fake Uber accused in kidnapping

LA NEW ORLEANS — Police say four women in a fake Uber are accused of kidnapping a woman in the French Quarter.

New Orleans police said Monday the woman said a white four-door vehicle approached her around 5:15 a.m. Nov. 17. They said the driver of the vehicle allegedly posed as an Uber driver to lure her into the vehicle. Police said the other women in the vehicle took her cellphone and forced her to purchase items and withdraw money from ATMs.

The victim told police that she asked to be released several times, but the suspects told her that if she complied with their demands, she would be taken to her hotel. She was eventually allowed to leave the vehicle unharmed.

Bomb squad determines found grenade is a fake

NJ OAKLAND — Bergen County's bomb squad responded to a home after an apparent grenade was found on the lawn.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Anthony Cureton told The Record that Oakland police requested assistance from the sheriff's bomb squad at 7:30 p.m. Sunday. The grenade was later determined to not be real.

Cureton said the fake grenade appeared to be a "training device" but the object is not an official apparatus of any law enforcement academies.

From wire reports

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IPFW stuns No. 3 Indiana in overtime

Associated Press

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — When IPFW's John Konchar stole the final inbound pass Tuesday night, he did the first thing that came to mind — tossed the ball into the air to run out the clock.

The ensuing celebration was something nobody outside the Mastodons' locker room anticipated.

Konchar made a tiebreaking free throw with 1:19 left in overtime, DeAngelo Stewart scored his only points on the last two foul shots of the game, and Konchar's steal secured the biggest victory in school history: IPFW 71, No. 3 Indiana 68.

Stunning.

"It was special watching these guys during our timeouts and you could see their hearts pouring out of their eyes to go and attack the game," said Jon Coffman, the coach at Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne.

His team toppled Indiana with grit — and pulled off the biggest shocker in college basketball so far this young season.

IPFW (3-2) trailed for just 90 seconds against an in-state power and won despite

making only two baskets over the final 14½ minutes.

The Mastodons, who moved from Division II to Division I in 2001-02, had lost all nine previous games against ranked foes and hadn't even played a Top 25 opponent in almost four years.

None of those things mattered Tuesday when they walked into Memorial Coliseum and saw their home court surrounded by a sea of Indiana cream-and-crimson attire.

Coffman thanked Indiana coach Tom Crean for even playing a mid-major program on the road.

And Crean said he knew before the game his team was going to learn a lesson — one way or another.

Did it ever.

Indiana held IPFW top scorer Mo Evans to nine points, but Konchar finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds, five assists and that one steal. Bryson Scott, the former Purdue player, had 18 points, 12 rebounds, three assists and three steals for his hometown team.

And despite getting 18 points and 12 rebounds from center Thomas Bryant and

16 points from Robert Johnson, that still wasn't enough for the Hoosiers (3-1).

"They just absolutely came out and put us on our heels from the beginning," Crean said. "We were not as locked into the personnel and the blockouts as we needed to be. If we make our free throws, it's a different result. But we didn't and they earned it."

The Hoosiers forced overtime by closing regulation on a 13-3 spurt to make it 65-all.

But after each team opened overtime with a three-pointer, the Hoosiers didn't score again, and the Mastodons made three free throws to win it.

"Right now, I can't even describe how I'm feeling. I'm overwhelmed," Scott said, seemingly speaking for the whole IPFW contingent. "I knew we had the talent to do it. I knew we had the ability to do it."

Big picture: Indiana: The Hoosiers flopped in their first "true" road game. The offense looked stagnant and they spent nearly the whole night playing catch-up. Now they'll have to wait and see how much this loss hurts them in the rankings.

Colorado bounces back to top No. 22 Texas

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colorado had to rebound from its first loss of the season and the Buffaloes did by rebounding.

George King had 12 points and 13 rebounds to lead Colorado to a 68-54 victory over No. 22 Texas on Tuesday in the third-place game of the Legends Classic at Barclays Center.

King, who matched his career high for rebounds which he set on Monday, led the big rebounding game for the Buffaloes (4-1), who finished with a 41-32 advantage on the boards including 17-12 on the offensive glass. Colorado scored 18 second-chance points.

"Huge," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said of his team's rebounding. "That's really where you find out where the toughness comes from. That's the stat that just shows up. Every game that we have you're either plus or you're minus. Last night Notre Dame outrebounded us. Today we outrebounded Texas by nine and that's a big number. We want plus eight, that's our

goal and we hit it."

And it was King who led the charge to the boards.

"George, the second half last night and tonight, he played (like) the light bulb was maybe coming on for him," Boyle said. "He was terrific on the boards but I thought our whole team was."

Derrick White had 16 points for Colorado, which lost 89-83 to Notre Dame in the semifinals, while Josh Fortune had 11.

"We needed that one," Boyle said. "It's crazy to think in November you feel it's a must win but that's how I felt approaching this game today for our team in terms of what it meant for down the road. You come to a place like this, you don't want to go home 0-2."

Kerwin Roach Jr. led Texas (3-2) with 16 points and Jarrett Allen had 15.

Colorado, despite giving up size on the inside, used offensive rebounding to take a 33-24 halftime lead. Led by King, a 6-foot-6 junior, the Buffaloes

were up 16-2 at one point on the offensive glass and Texas had no answer.

No. 4 North Carolina 107, Oklahoma St. 75: At Lahaina, Hawaii, Joel Berry III scored 24 points, Justin Jackson added 22 and the Tar Heels steamrolled their way into the Maui Invitational championship game.

No. 5 Kansas 65, Georgia 54: At Kansas City, Mo., Frank Mason III had 19 points, Josh Jackson added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and the Jayhawks turned to their zone defense to beat the Bulldogs in the CBE Classic championship game.

Devonte Graham added 14 points for the Jayhawks (4-1), who won their third consecutive in-season tournament title and second CBE Classic. They also won the event in 2012.

No. 7 Virginia 90, Grambling State 34: Freshman guard Kyle Guy scored 20 points in 13 minutes, and the Cavaliers ran off 26 consecutive points to end the first half against the visiting Tigers.

No. 13 Oregon 69, Tennes-

see 65 (OT): At Lahaina, Hawaii, Dillon Brooks hit a long three-pointer with 22 seconds left in overtime and scored 17 points, lifting the Ducks at the Maui Invitational.

No. 15 Saint Mary's 81, San Jose State 64: At Moraga, Calif., Jock Landale scored 24 points and didn't miss a shot until 6:49 remained, and the Gaels beat their Bay Area neighbor.

No. 16 Wisconsin 73, Georgetown 57: At Lahaina, Hawaii, Ethan Happ had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Bronson Koenig scored 20 points and the Badgers advanced to the Maui Invitational championship game.

No. 17 Purdue 85, Utah State 64: Isaac Haas scored 26 points and Dakota Mathias added 25, both career highs, as the Boilermakers won in the Cancun Challenge.

No. 18 Syracuse 101, South Carolina State 59: Andrew White scored 15 points and the host Orange held the Bulldogs to 27 percent shooting.

Vikings' Rhodes developing into top CB

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Just last season, Minnesota Vikings coaches gave Xavier Rhodes boxing gloves to wear during drills in practice.

The idea was having Rhodes better learn how to effectively play cornerback without risking penalties for grabbing at the receiver.

Opponents aren't winning many rounds with Rhodes these days.

Rhodes picked off Carson Palmer twice, including a 100-yard touchdown return that was the longest in team history, and helped lead the Vikings to a 30-24 victory over Arizona on Sunday that stopped their four-game losing streak. The fourth-year player, drafted by the Vikings in the first round out of Florida State with the selection they received from Seattle in the trade for wide receiver Percy Harvin, is tied for fourth in the NFL with four interceptions.

"Those are huge splash plays that everybody notices, but he's tackling, doing everything right," free safety Harrison

Smith said. "He's playing lights out."

The performance was prolific enough to trigger an NFL Network interview with Deion Sanders, the Pro Football Hall of Fame member and most famous of the many cornerbacks Florida State has produced. Sanders, who became well known for his flamboyance, teased Rhodes for not adding any flair to the end of his return.

Though he plays with plenty of fire, Rhodes isn't much for show. He was too exhausted for a celebration by the time he reached the end zone for the first time since high school, so much so that he requested an oxygen mask on the sideline to help him recover.

"My legs were dead," Rhodes said, "and I was just tired."

The receivers Rhodes has been covering lately have been worn out, too, from Kelvin Benjamin to Odell Beckham Jr. to DeAndre Hopkins. Palmer threw in his direction nine times, with three completions for a total of 19 yards.

"This week coach said to play

our defense, be aggressive and go out there and tackle. Tight coverage, sack the quarterback, and this week we did all of that," Rhodes said. "We accomplished all of our goals."

Including, most importantly, victory. The defense didn't escape blame for the losing streak, with one issue an overzealous attempt to produce the kind of momentum-changing plays that Rhodes had on Sunday. The problem is when players chase them, usually out of desperation to boost a struggling team, other issues often arise.

Rhodes and Smith, for example, each whiffed in overtime two weeks ago when they converged on Detroit wide receiver Golden Tate after a catch that he took into the end zone to win the game.

"We are all trying to make plays," Rhodes said. "You just need to be disciplined."

That's just as important as aggression for a cornerback in this league, as Zimmer has long reminded his pupils. Zimmer, who coached Sanders for five seasons as the defensive backs

coach in Dallas, has developed an affinity for Rhodes since taking the job three years ago.

"If we would just play a solid, fundamental football game and let the big plays come to us, they do," Zimmer said, adding: "They're not always going to come, but you just have to do your job first and then the rest will happen."

Just like that interception late in the second quarter with the Vikings clinging to a 13-10 lead and the Cardinals at third-and-goal at the 9. Palmer argued that cornerback Captain Munnerlyn held the intended target, John Brown, before Rhodes swooped in from behind.

"I'm a competitive guy and he said he felt like his receiver was held on that play. I didn't think so at all. I'm entitled to my space, and my space is on the field. He ran directly into me, so I jammed him up. I didn't grab. I didn't yank. I let him go. Ball's in the air," Munnerlyn said. "Xavier, I don't know where he came from, but he made the play and took it 100 yards."

Top four teams in CFP rankings remain the same

Associated Press

Alabama, Ohio State, Michigan and Clemson held the top four spots in the College Football Playoff rankings for the second straight week and Washington moved up a spot to fifth this week.

Wisconsin is sixth in the selection committee rankings released Tuesday night. Louisville was the team that took a big drop. The Cardinals fell from fifth to 11th after losing at Houston.

Ohio State and Michigan play Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, and the loser is likely — though not definitely — out of the playoff race. The Wolverines would move on to the Big Ten championship game by beating the Buckeyes. The Buckeyes, though, need help to reach the

conference title game.

Unbeaten Alabama meets Auburn on Saturday, but the Crimson Tide have already clinched a spot in the SEC title game.

Clemson finishes its regular season against South Carolina and then will play in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game against either Virginia Tech or North Carolina.

Buckeyes looking good: Ohio State could get shut out of the Big Ten championship game if Penn State, seventh in the committee's rankings, beats Michigan State on Saturday. But listening to committee chairman Kirby Hocutt it certainly sounds like the Buckeyes have separated themselves enough from Penn State that

the committee is willing to overlook their loss to the Nittany Lions and the possible lack of a conference championship.

The committee uses conference championships and head-to-head results to separate teams with similar résumés.

But Hocutt, the athletic director of Texas Tech, said as of now the committee does not see a small gap between Ohio State and Penn State.

Hocutt said the committee took a lot of time ranking teams two through five, spent little time placing Wisconsin at six, and then found very little separation between Penn State and No. 8 Oklahoma, No. 9 Colorado and No. 10 Oklahoma State.

The Big 12: Oklahoma and Oklahoma State have set up a de facto Big 12 title game

for Dec. 3, but the conference still looks shut out of the playoff without upsets in the other conferences.

The Cowboys have two losses but one was against Central Michigan and it came on a last-play touchdown that was set up because of an officiating error. Hocutt said the committee does not adjust the Cowboys' record for the mistake, but it does consider the circumstances of the loss.

The Big 12, at the very least, needs one other Power Five champion to finish with two losses to have a shot to make the playoff. But if it comes down to a bunch of teams with two losses the Big Ten seems to have a better chance to get two teams into the field than the Big 12 has to get one.

Isles top Ducks in 14-round shootout

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Goaltender Thomas Greiss has been trying to keep the same approach while the New York Islanders have struggled this season.

He had to stick with it a little longer Tuesday night.

Nick Leddy scored the winner in a 14-round shootout, lifting the Islanders over the Anaheim Ducks 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Greiss faced 41 shots from the Ducks before entering the lengthy shootout, but he stood tall to help New York get its first victory on the road this season. The 30-year-old goalie is 3-3 with a .918 save percentage this season.

“A lot of guys play to their personalities,” coach Jack Capuano said. “And he’s calm and poised in the net and he battles hard.”

Greiss made 39 saves and Adam Pelech and Josh Bailey scored in regulation for the Islanders, who had been 0-4-1 on the road this season.

“We needed the point so badly,” Island-

ers defenseman Thomas Hickey said. “It started with tonight. That was a big step. That’s a good hockey team on the road, and hopefully we can string something together.”

Each team had four goals in the shootout through 13 rounds. After Anaheim’s Kevin Bieksa missed on a slap shot to start Round 14, Leddy waited out Jonathan Bernier before snapping in the winner.

Anaheim nearly won in the 12th when officials reviewed a tying goal by Hickey, but officials determined he did not interfere with Bernier on his attempt and awarded him the tally. Hickey’s stick made contact with Bernier’s leg while his pad and the puck both slid over the goal line.

“I was under the understanding that you cannot score a goal in the NHL today by pushing the goaltender’s pad with the puck underneath it over the line, but I guess I was proved wrong again tonight,” Ducks coach Randy Carlyle said.

The longest shootout in NHL history was

20 rounds, when Florida beat Washington on Dec. 17, 2014.

Blues 4, Bruins 2: Robert Bortuzzo and Paul Stastny scored 2:12 apart in the second period and Jake Allen had 39 saves, helping visiting St. Louis beat Boston to extend its winning streak to four.

Jori Lehtera scored twice for St. Louis, including into an empty net with 1:16 left. Colton Parayko and Patrik Berglund each had two assists.

Hurricanes 2, Maple Leafs 1: Viktor Stalberg scored a tiebreaking, short-handed goal in the second period, lifting visiting Carolina over Toronto for its fifth straight victory.

Senators 4, Canadiens 3: Mark Stone and Erik Karlsson scored 2:24 apart in the third period, helping visiting Ottawa rally to beat Montreal.

Flyers 3, Panthers 1: Steven Mason made 38 saves and Wayne Simmonds had a goal and an assist, helping visiting Philadelphia beat Florida.

Young’s late three lifts Lakers over Thunder

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nick Young’s thievery prevented Russell Westbrook from pulling an even bigger heist during the Los Angeles Lakers’ latest win.

Young hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 5 seconds to play, and the Lakers blew a 14-point lead in the final minutes before snatching a 111-109 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

With the dramatic flair and boundless confidence that have characterized his entire unique career, Young improvised one of his biggest moments in a Lakers uniform.

“The play was designed to ... someone else,” Young said with a sheepish grin. “Yeah, I think they should have given me a steal for that.”

Lou Williams had just come free on the perimeter and set up to catch Brandon Ingram’s pass so he could take the Lakers’ final shot, but Young slipped in front of him, swiped the ball

and drained a three-pointer in one fluid move.

“I told him, ‘If you’re going to steal a pass, you better make the shot,’” Lakers coach Luke Walton said. “It was a pretty incredible shot by him. Obviously one of the reasons we like Nick on the court at the end of the game is because he is not afraid of the moment. He loves the moment.”

Young finished with 17 points and Jordan Clarkson had 18 as the Lakers (8-7) somehow withstood a monster performance by Westbrook, who scored 17 of his 34 points in a 5-minute span of the fourth quarter to trim the Lakers’ big lead to one point.

Steven Adams scored on a go-ahead putback of Westbrook’s miss with 13.9 seconds to play to put Oklahoma City up 109-108, setting the stage for Williams to get upstaged.

“If he missed the shot, the narrative would have been different,” said a smiling Williams, who had 13 points. “He’s never serious, but he made a big shot, apologized, and we’re

going to move on.”

Nuggets 110, Bulls 107: Rookie Jamal Murray scored a season-high 24 points and Will Barton hit two free throws with 9.5 seconds left for host Denver.

It was Denver’s 10th straight home win over the Bulls and its 16th in the last 17 meetings at Pepsi Center.

Butler had 35 points and eight rebounds for Chicago, which last won in Denver on Feb. 8, 2006. Dwyane Wade had 22 points after sitting out Sunday’s game against the Lakers.

The Nuggets used a 22-0 run at the start of the second quarter to take a 41-31 lead.

Pelicans 112, Hawks 94: Tim Frazier had 21 points and 14 assists, Terrence Jones added 17 points and New Orleans won its third straight game with a victory over host Atlanta.

Pelicans forward Anthony Davis returned to begin the fourth quarter after bruising his right knee and missing the second and third periods.

Davis, a three-time All-Star and the NBA’s leading scorer, finished with 13 points.

New Orleans led by 20 at the end of the first quarter and never let up.

Dennis Schroder and Kyle Korver each scored 14 for the Hawks, who have lost three in a row. Atlanta was tied for the Eastern Conference lead last week but now begins a five-game road trip playing its worst basketball of the young season.

Knicks 107, Trail Blazers 103: Kristaps Porzingis had 31 points and Derrick Rose scored six of his 18 points down the stretch for host New York.

Rose made the go-ahead basket with a little more than 3 minutes remaining and hit the jumper that clinched it with 6.8 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 17 points despite a scoreless fourth quarter for the Knicks, who won their fifth straight at home. Brandon Jennings had 11 assists off the bench.