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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Vets to join, aid Standing Rock protesters

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of veterans will arrive at Standing Rock Indian Reservation this weekend to join the monthslong protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline, bringing with them an influx of resources and attention.

The movement, called “Veterans Stand for Standing Rock,” will last Dec. 4-7. The veterans are going with the goal of “protecting the protesters,” said Anthony Diggs, a Marine Corps veteran who is acting as a spokesman for the group.

As of Monday afternoon, the group had raised more than \$495,000 that Diggs said will go toward establishing services at the protest camps, such as medical and supply tents, secure lines of communication and heating systems to help protesters through the winter.

Diggs confirmed hundreds of veterans from across the United States were registered to participate, and the number could reach up to 2,000 — a cap set by organizers.

Veterans are a good fit for the job, Diggs said, because they’re organized and know how to handle emergency situations and extreme weather.

There’s also a “symbolic value” in veterans taking a stand, he added.

“There is a lot of power in veterans from all over, from all branches of the military, coming together to create a protecting front against the police, who are milita-

rized, themselves,” Diggs said.

Organizers warned veterans participating that they could be confronted with multiple state police agencies, some of them in riot gear and equipped with rubber bullets, pepper spray, water cannons and tear gas. Veterans have been instructed not to bring weapons and not to fight nor to destroy private property.

Opponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline started protesting this summer, claiming the \$3.8 billion oil pipeline could harm drinking water if ruptured and would encroach on sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux.

Protesters and law enforcement have clashed during the past several months. Last week, police used a water cannon in freezing temperatures as crowd control, according to news reports.

One woman protesting the pipeline could lose her arm after being wounded during a confrontation with law enforcement. There are conflicting news reports of whether her injuries were caused by officers or fellow protesters, with each side arguing it was the other.

Hundreds of protesters have been arrested at the site.

Diggs said the group of veterans is coming prepared. Besides medical supplies, body armor, masks and hearing protection, they’re bringing along lawyers and health care professionals.

“Basically, we’re prepared for whatever it is we’re going to have to deal with when we arrive,” Diggs said.

The veterans’ trip falls on the Dec. 5 deadline that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Friday in a letter ordering people to leave federal land being used in the protest. The announcement stated protesters must relocate for safety reasons to a free speech zone south of the Cannonball River.

In a news conference Saturday, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said it would stand its ground.

Dave Archambault II, chairman of the tribe, wrote in a statement that the Corps of Engineers’ announcement was “saddening” but “not at all surprising.”

“It is both unfortunate and ironic that this announcement comes the day after this country celebrates Thanksgiving — a historic exchange of goodwill between Native Americans and the first immigrants from Europe,” his statement reads.

The Corps of Engineers clarified Sunday it wouldn’t forcibly remove the protesters.

Diggs said the announcement didn’t change the veterans’ plans.

“There’s a lot of rumors going around the camps. As those things are announced, it’s caused a little bit of panic and paranoia among the people because they don’t know what to expect,” he said. “As far as our end goes, nothing has changed our plans. We’re still going out there with the numbers, the donations and supplies.”

In a video of the Saturday news conference, protesters are shown cheering when one of the lead organizers said the veterans were still planning to show up.

Guard curbed GI Bill for thousands of deployed troops

BY ALEX HORTON

Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The Army National Guard has deployed thousands of soldiers on orders that restrict accrual of GI Bill benefits during the past two years, more than doubling a recent count across all of the military’s reserve components.

The Pentagon has used the authorization 4,705 times since 2014, according to data from each reserve component released to Stars and Stripes, including the new count

of 2,925 from the Army Guard released Monday by the National Guard Bureau.

The number of troops deployed is likely close to the 4,705 authorizations. Some might have deployed more than once under the authorization, which was first used in 2014. A National Guard Bureau spokeswoman said she was unsure if it was possible to know how many, if any, soldiers deployed more than once under the authorization.

Every reserve and guard component of the U.S. military has used Title 10, authorization 12304b — an authority to mobilize

reservists for operations without education benefits that normally accumulate during active duty.

The overall count is more than double the total reported Nov. 25, which did not include data from the Army National Guard.

The National Guard Bureau produced its data following the report, which included criticism from reservists, lawmakers and advocacy groups about the growing use of an authorization that strips reservists of benefits like pre- and post-deployment health care and the GI Bill.

Man plows into crowd, wounds 9 at Ohio St.

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A man plowed his car into a group of pedestrians at Ohio State University and then got out and began stabbing people with a butcher knife before he was shot and killed by an officer Monday morning, campus police said.

Nine people were hurt, one critically, and Columbus police Chief Kim Jacobs said police were looking into whether it was a terrorist attack.

The details emerged after a morning of confusion and conflicting reports that began with the university issuing a series of tweets warning students that there was an “active shooter” on campus near the engineering building and that they should

“run, hide, fight.”

Numerous police vehicles and ambulances converged on the 60,000-student campus, and authorities blocked off roads.

Ohio State police Chief Craig Stone said the attacker drove over a curb outside a classroom building and that an officer who was nearby shot the driver.

“The threat ended when the officer shot the suspect,” said Monica Moll, the school’s public safety director.

The shelter-in-place warning was lifted about an hour and half later, and the campus was declared secure after police concluded there was no second attacker, as rumored.

At least two people were being treated for stab wounds, four

were injured by the car and two others were being treated for cuts, university officials said.

Rachel LeMaster, who works in the engineering college, said a fire alarm sounded before the attack.

“There were several moments of chaos,” she said. “We barricaded ourselves like we’re supposed to since it was right outside our door and just hunkered down.”

LeMaster said she and others were eventually led outside the building, and she saw a body on the ground.

Cassidy Baker, an Ohio State senior, said she saw police or paramedics helping one person on the ground outside Watts Hall, a materials science and

engineering building.

“No one really knows what is happening, other than there’s an active shooter,” she said.

Classes were canceled for the rest of the day.

The initial tweet from the university’s emergency management department went out about 10 a.m. It said: “Buckeye Alert: Active Shooter on campus. Run Hide Fight. Watts Hall. 19th and College.”

“Run, hide, fight” is standard protocol for active-shooter situations. It means: Run, evacuate if possible; hide, get silently out of view; or fight, as a last resort, and take action to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter if your life is in imminent danger.

Angry at recount, Trump says millions voted illegally

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President-elect Donald Trump is claiming, without evidence, that millions of people voted illegally in the election he won, issuing the baseless claim as part of his angry response to a recount effort led by the Green Party and joined by Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

“I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally,” Trump tweeted Sunday. He later alleged “serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California.”

Trump’s transition team did not provide any evidence to back up the president-elect’s assertions of fraud in the November election. They pointed only to past charges of irregularities in voter registration.

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said Monday he had “not seen any voter irregularity in the millions.”

“I don’t know what he was talking about on that one,” Lankford said of Trump on CNN’s “New Day.”

Indeed, there has been no evidence of widespread tampering

Generals recommend each other to Trump

When President-elect Donald Trump met last weekend with two retired Marine Corps generals, they each recommended that Trump consider naming the other as secretary of defense, according to a source familiar with the generals’ talks.

James Mattis and John Kelly are both seen as contenders for a Cabinet position in the new administration. Trump has tweeted that he is considering Mattis as a potential secretary of defense, while the president-elect’s senior advisers have indicated that Kelly could serve as secretary of state

or homeland security.

Mattis met with Trump on Nov. 19, and Kelly met with him the following day. The retired officers have long been colleagues and friends, with Mattis serving as a two-star general in charge of the 1st Marine Division during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and Kelly serving as his one-star assistant commander. They also have long personal and professional relationships with Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, who was Mattis’ chief of staff during the invasion and is now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

From The Washington Post

or hacking that would change the results of the presidential contest between Trump and Clinton. The Democrat’s team said it had been looking for abnormalities and found nothing that would alter the results.

Still, Clinton’s campaign was joining a recount led by Green Party candidate Jill Stein in up to three states. The Wisconsin Elections Commission voted unanimously Monday to approve a recount that could

begin Thursday, after payment is received from Stein and an independent candidate also requesting a recount.

Trump narrowly won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and as of last Wednesday, he held a lead of almost 11,000 votes in Michigan, with the results awaiting state certification Monday. All three would need to flip to Clinton to upend the Republican’s victory, and Clinton’s team says Trump has a larger edge in all three states than has ever been overcome in a presidential recount.

After spending the Thanksgiving holiday in Florida, Trump was back in New York for meetings with potential Cabinet nominees. His team was divided over his choices for secretary of state, particularly the prospect that Trump could tap 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney for the prominent post.

Romney is scheduled to hold his second in-person meeting with Trump on Tuesday. But the president-elect is also looking at other options, meeting Monday with retired Gen. David Petraeus and on Tuesday with Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker.

Limits of Iraqi military show in Mosul battle

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — When Iraq's top generals finalized the plan to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group, they gave themselves six months to finish the job.

"It was the maximum time cap," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said last week. "We had to plan for the worst so we don't get surprised."

Six weeks into the battle, the force made up of 50,000 troops, Shiite and Sunni tribal militias and Kurdish fighters is a long way from winning back the country's second-largest city. The fight is showing the limitations of Iraq's military and security forces, suggesting it has still not fully recovered from the collapse it suffered two years ago in the face of the militants' blitz across much of northern and western Iraq.

As expected, Islamic State

militants are tenaciously defending their last major foothold in Iraq, and the 1 million civilians who remain inside prevent the use of overwhelming firepower.

But what is alarming, according to Iraqi field commanders, is that the progress so far has been lopsided. The battle-seasoned special forces are doing most of the fighting and slowly advancing inside the city. Other military outfits are halted outside the city limits, unable to move forward because of resistance, battle fatigue, inexperience or lack of weaponry suited for urban warfare.

Another major challenge for the Iraqis is the command of large and disparate forces maneuvering for a coordinated assault on a large city, according to retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, the top American soldier in northern Iraq during the troop "surge"

of 2007-08.

"This will continue to be a tough fight," he said. Many of the Iraqi army commanders are seasoned, he said, but "most of the soldiers are young, new and have not experienced combat."

The special forces are under considerable pressure to push on, slugging it out through narrow streets and alleys while enduring daily suicide bombings and mortar and rocket shell attacks.

"We must continue to advance because we suffer fewer casualties than if we hold still and wait for other units to advance in their sectors," said Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil, of the special forces. "We are trying to advance cautiously to minimize casualties, and we are convinced that we will eventually be asked to liberate the western sector of the city when we are done here."

That may be a while yet. The special forces have driven Islamic State militants from about 15 of eastern Mosul's estimated 39 neighborhoods, some of which are no more than a handful of blocks. In contrast, the regular forces, which have been battling for weeks through towns and villages on the way to the city, are now stalled on the edges, facing the prospect of diving into an urban battle, according to commanders in the field.

The battle "will require a combination of siege warfare and continuous attacks against targets identified by sophisticated intelligence, all taking place while civilians are still in the city and its surroundings," Hertling wrote in response to questions emailed by The Associated Press. "It will take longer than any of them have predicted, and they will sustain significant casualties."

Pro-Assad troops capture more of Aleppo

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces and their allies captured Sakhour, another major eastern Aleppo neighborhood, and several smaller areas Monday, putting much of the northern part of the city's besieged rebel-held areas under government control for the first time in four years, state media reported.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the areas captured by Syrian government troops include 12 neighborhoods and more than 3,000 buildings in the past few days. It added that Syrian government troops are now controlling 40 percent of the rebel-held parts of the Syrian city of Aleppo.

The ministry added in a statement that more than 100 rebels have laid down their arms and exited the Syrian city's eastern suburbs.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial cen-

ter, has been contested since the summer of 2012, and a rebel defeat in the city would be a turning point in the five-year conflict. If Syrian forces capture all of east Aleppo, President Bashar Assad's government will be in control of the country's four largest cities as well as the coastal region.

The government's push, backed by thousands of Shiite militia fighters from Lebanon, Iraq and Iran, and under the cover of the Russian air force, has laid waste to Aleppo's eastern neighborhoods. Medical and food supplies have been running short in recent weeks as Syrian warplanes pounded the besieged enclave, rendering all remaining functioning hospitals out of service.

Simultaneous advances by Syrian government and Kurdish-led forces on Sunday set off a tide of displacement inside the city, with thousands of residents evacuating their premis-

es to safety in government- and Kurdish-controlled areas of the city since Saturday.

Rebel defenses swiftly collapsed as government forces pushed into the Hanano district on Saturday, the first time they had pushed this far into eastern Aleppo since 2012.

Ahmad Araj, senior official with the Syrian National Democratic Coalition, an opposition organization of Arab and Kurdish groups, said 8,000 people have fled to the Kurdish-controlled Sheikh Maqsoud district so far. He called on international aid organizations to help.

Araj, whose group is part of the Kurdish-led and U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces, acknowledged there was "something of" an agreement to surrender areas of northeast Aleppo to the SDF's Kurdish-led forces in exchange for guarantees to protect the civilians that come under their

care. He added that it is likely that the SDF would absorb Arab fighters and moderate factions into its ranks, saying, "We will coordinate with [the moderates] so we have a shared front."

With Monday's capture of Sakhour, the rebels are now left boxed mostly in central and southeastern Aleppo, encircled by government troops on all sides. The Syrian army's media arm said troops now control nearly 8 square miles of the total 17 square miles of east Aleppo.

A correspondent for Al-Manar TV of Lebanon's Hezbollah group reported from inside east Aleppo's Haidariyeh area, which was captured Monday, showing bulldozers removing barriers to open roads as Syrian troops drove through the streets in armored personnel carriers. Hezbollah fighters are taking part in battles along with Syrian troops.

Cubans pay respects to Castro

Associated Press

HAVANA — Thousands of Cubans were filing through a memorial in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution on Monday as the nation plunged into a week of services bidding farewell to the man who ruled the country for nearly half a century.

One of the first in line was Tania Jimenez, 53, a mathematician who arrived at 4 a.m. carrying a rose.

"Fidel is everything to us, the soul of this country who gave everything, all his life," Jimenez said in tears.

A nine-story image of a young Castro joined the towering images of fallen guerrillas overlooking the massive square. The government also said Cubans would "sign a solemn oath to carry out the concept of the revolutionary" as expressed by the late leader, but that activity did not appear to be taking place at the site of the tribute of Fidel.

After 10 years of leadership by Castro's younger brother Raul, a relatively camera-shy and low-key successor, Cuba finds itself riveted once again by the words and images of the leader who dominated Cubans' lives for generations. Since his death Friday night, state-run newspapers, television and radio have been running wall-to-wall tributes to Castro, broadcasting nonstop footage of his speeches, interviews and foreign trips, interspersed with adulatory remembrances by prominent Cubans.

"There's a genuine feeling of mourning, that's not a formality, that's not showy, that's not outward-focused, but rather completely intimate," former National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon said on state television Sunday.

Ordinary people have largely been staying at home, off streets hushed by a prohibition on music and celebration during the nine days of official mourning for Castro. For some, particularly younger Cubans, Castro's death barely registered.

Yankemell Barrera, 20, a student, said Castro wasn't a strong presence in his life, and he wasn't much affected by his death or planning to go to any

of the memorial events.

Three months after the first U.S. commercial flight to Cuba in five decades landed in the central city of Santa Clara, the first flight to Havana touched down. Passengers aboard the American Airlines flight cheered as the plane landed at Jose Marti International Airport at 8:25 a.m.

Thirty-five minutes later, simultaneous 21-gun salutes sounded in the capital and in the eastern city of Santiago, where Castro launched his revolution in 1953. At the same moment, tens of thousands of

Cubans were filing through three rooms inside the Plaza of the Revolution's memorial to national hero Jose Marti, where posters of Castro as a young guerrilla were mounted alongside flowers and soldiers standing at attention.

On Wednesday, Castro's ashes will begin a three-day procession east across Cuba, retracing the march of his bearded rebel army from the Sierra Maestra mountains to the capital. Castro's ashes will be interred Sunday in Santa Ifigenia cemetery in Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city.

North Korea mourns for former Cuban leader

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea began a three-day mourning period Monday for the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro as the isolated country clings to ties with one of its most consistent allies.

The two communist countries have been close since the Cold War, and pronouncements from both sides suggest that has not changed despite the recent U.S.-Cuba rapprochement.

Still, the outpouring of condolences over Castro's death on Friday at age 90 suggest the North is eager to keep one of its few friends as it faces international condemnation and punishing economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons program and human rights abuses.

Pyongyang declared the country will "raise flags at half-mast at buildings of important institutions and fixed places" starting on Monday in honor of the ex-Cuban revolutionary, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported.

A high-level delegation

led by politburo and central committee member Choe Ryong Hae also left Monday for Havana. Castro's funeral will take place on Sunday.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed his "deep condolences" in a letter to Castro's younger brother, Raul, who assumed the Cuban presidency in 2008.

Kim called Fidel Castro "a close friend and comrade of the Korean people" who "extended firm support and encouragement to our efforts for national reconciliation," KCNA reported.

Unlike Pyongyang's other ally, China, Havana still has no diplomatic relations with South Korea although those two countries have stepped up economic cooperation. South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se became the first top diplomat from the country to visit the island in June.

Seoul also extended condolences "to the people of Cuba" on Monday, although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not yet decided whether to send a delegation for the funeral, the Yonhap news agency reported.

Taiwanese teens win Robot Olympiad

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Whizzing around a green, felt table while chasing a soccer ball beaming infrared light, the boxy robot shoots — and scores — and wins its Taiwanese teenage creators first prize at this year's student robot games.

The two bread box-sized scooters, playing goalie and kicker, from the team called "Wings of Storm" were up against another Taiwanese team's robots in the "Football" category of the World Robot Olympiad held over the weekend in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

"We have been practicing since primary school," said Liaw Jia-wun, 15, thrilled to have won with his teammate. "We never in our lives could think that we would win the world championship."

Other categories at the robotics championships — attended by more than 450 teams from 50 countries — asked participants to create robotics solutions to reduce or recycle waste, leading teams to build robots that emptied trash bins or scooped up building debris for future use.

Some participants were as young as 6, while others were nearing university graduation.

In the more advanced robotics category, robots had to be preprogrammed for the automated challenge of picking up miniature bowling balls and knocking down pins. That meant the robots had to sense where the target was and to hit it without any intervention from their creators.

The idea is to teach students computer programming as robotics moves beyond factory applications to everyday functions, said engineer Dominic Bruneau, the head coach for the Canadian teams.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man rents out rooms to fans of wizardry

UT SPRINGVILLE — A Springville man is renting rooms to wizardry fans in his Harry Potter-inspired home.

The Daily Herald reported Benjamin Lee-Roche wants his 1880s house to be a mock magic academy where people can take classes like calligraphy and potions.

Lee-Roche is paying his mortgage mainly by renting rooms until the Blackburn Academy of the Magical Arts starts offering classes. He said he wants people to be able to learn practical skills like candle dipping and bookbinding.

Rooms are strategically named to abide by copyright laws.

Dog back with family years after vanishing

FL DELRAY BEACH — Bella the Maltese-Pomeranian mix has returned home nearly three years after she disappeared from her owner's Fort Lauderdale workplace.

Bill Gerstein, of Delray Beach, said he got an email Nov. 22 from a New Jersey animal shelter after they found his information on a microchip. Gerstein told WPTV that he booked a flight and headed to New Jersey.

He said a family in New Jersey cared for Bella for about nine months before she ran away and ended up in the shelter. He has no idea how Bella got to New Jersey.

Police officer faces drunk-driving charges

IN LOWELL — A northwest Indiana police officer faces drunken-driving charges after an Indiana state

trooper spotted him driving erratically and pulled him over.

Indiana State Police the trooper was conducting a traffic stop about 2 a.m. Saturday in Lake County when he saw a vehicle veer to an exit ramp of State Route 2 and travel onto the right shoulder. The trooper left the traffic stop and drove off to pull over the other vehicle, driven by Hammond Police Officer Mathew L. Anderson, 30.

The agency said the trooper detected a strong odor of alcohol, and when Anderson refused to take field sobriety tests, including a breath test, he was taken into custody and was charged.

Blue stripe painted on roads to honor police

PA BAINBRIDGE — A community in central Pennsylvania has painted a blue stripe between the double-yellow lines on some streets to express support for police, firefighters and ambulance workers.

But the state Department of Transportation is concerned that Conoy Township might have crossed a line. According to a report Wednesday by (Lancaster) LNP, the stripe doesn't comply with state highway rules.

PennDOT spokesman Greg Penny said drivers could get confused and the township could be liable if the coloring causes a crash. Penny wasn't sure if the agency would take action.

Township supervisor chairman Stephen Mohr disputes the idea that a blue line could be such a distraction. There are no plans to remove the stripes.

City's WWII cannon will be refurbished

OH PORT CLINTON — A World War II-era cannon that has stood on the

shore of Lake Erie since the late 1940s will be undergoing a renovation.

Veterans in the city of Port Clinton said the 4,500-pound cannon has been in the same spot for nearly 80 years until it was recently hauled away.

The M5 anti-tank gun that was built in 1943 is starting to show its age and has some rust damage from sitting outside.

The (Port Clinton) News-Herald reported Bob Gillmor, who repairs historical cannons and builds replicas at his foundry in Old Fort in northern Ohio, plans to repair the cannon.

Baby girl born in car on suburban highway

NY YONKERS — Firefighters were called to help a woman in labor in a car on a suburban New York highway Thursday afternoon. But the baby was born before they got there six minutes later.

It happened on the Sprain Brook Parkway in Yonkers, just north of New York City. Fire Lt. Peter Connelly told The (White Plains) Journal News the woman gave birth in the reclined front seat of an SUV. The father was with her.

Connelly said firefighters checked the baby girl's vital signs, cut her umbilical cord, made sure she was warm and helped her mother stay calm. Connelly said the baby appeared healthy.

Woman shoot beau over pizza in face

PA MILLMONT — Authorities said a Pennsylvania woman shot her boyfriend because he grabbed her by the hair and rubbed a slice of pizza in her face during an argument.

The (Sunbury) Daily Item reported that Brandon Doan, 34, maintains he "gently

smooshed" the pizza into Jennifer Boop's face on Oct. 12.

Based on Doan's testimony, a district judge on Nov. 22 ordered Boop, 31, to stand trial on attempted homicide, aggravated assault and other charges. The couple shared a home in Millmont, in central Pennsylvania.

Police said Boop told them she didn't mean to fire the gun but was trying to scare Doan into letting go of her hair.

Shopping brawl video a hit on social media

CA MODESTO — Video of a brawl among deal-hunting shoppers at a crowded Northern California mall has been getting nationwide attention.

The Modesto Bee reported the video shows a fight among about six men at the Vintage Faire Mall in Modesto on the night of Thanksgiving. The men repeatedly kick and punch each other, with two eventually wrestling on the ground.

The video is being shared widely on social media and had attracted millions of views by Sunday.

Sweethearts engaged at holiday road race

CT MANCHESTER — High school and college sweethearts Scott Bernier and Torie Taylor got engaged in the middle of a Thanksgiving road race before a large crowd of friends, family, fellow competitors and total strangers.

The Hartford Courant reported it happened at Thursday morning's Manchester Road Race. In the middle of the race, Bernier, 25, abruptly dropped to a knee and proposed Taylor, 23.

She said yes — and onlookers burst into cheers.

From wire reports

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Chiefs top Broncos on last play of OT

Associated Press

DENVER — Even when the 4,500th second ticked off the clock on this spectacular Sunday night showdown, the Kansas City Chiefs weren't sure they had won and the Denver Broncos wondered if they'd really lost.

Cairo Santos' 34-yard field goal hit the left upright and bounced through as the overtime period expired to give the Chiefs a 30-27 victory fueled by rookie Tyreek Hill's trio of touchdowns — on a reception, a rush and a return, something no one had done since Gale Sayers in 1965.

"The only way this game could end," NBC color analyst Cris Collinsworth declared. "Holy smokes. I didn't know what had happened."

With only one of the two officials raising his arms to signal the ball had gone through the uprights, the Chiefs hesitated as they ran onto the field to celebrate. The stadium was rocking as if it hadn't.

"I waited for everybody to rejoice," Chiefs linebacker Tamba Hali said, "because I didn't know if it went in."

Neither did thousands of fans who wanted so much to believe the Chiefs had squandered their second chance. But Kansas City's lucky bounce avoided the third tie in the NFL this season, something that hasn't happened since 1973 before the league introduced overtime.

The winner followed a risky move by Broncos coach Gary Kubiak that backfired and left the Broncos (7-4) two games behind Oakland (9-2) in the AFC West and one behind the Chiefs (8-3).

Kubiak sent his kicker out for a 62-yard try with 1:01 left. But Brandon McManus — who has hit from 70 yards in training camp and was perfect in the playoffs during Denver's Super Bowl 50 surge — came up way short and wide left on what would have been the longest game-winning field goal in NFL history.

"It's on me," Kubiak said, explaining he made the move because he had confidence in his kicker even with a new long snapper who joined the team on Friday. "We didn't have any doubt that he could get the ball there. The thought process was on the other end: if we do punt, do we get the ball back?"

McManus was confident as he trotted out for the 62-yarder even after one of Thomas Gafford's snaps had skidded on the ground in regulation.

"That's still well within my range. I just kind of hit the ground," McManus said. "From that distance, everything kind of needs to be perfect just because of how far you are away. It didn't happen for me."

Instead of having to go 80 yards or more, the Chiefs got the ball at the Denver 48 with one timeout and just over a minute remaining. The Chiefs reached the Denver 16 before Santos ended the showdown with one last bit of drama.

"Cairo, he kept us all in suspense with that bank shot, or the chip shot, or whatever it is," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said.

The defending Super Bowl champs could find themselves fighting for a wild card now.

"Tonight was a terrible night," Von Miller said. "But we'll be back."

Added cornerback Chris Harris Jr.: "We just got to get into the playoffs. I feel like if we get in the playoffs, we can be scary for anybody."

Carr, Mack rally Raiders past Panthers

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Derek Carr came back from an injured finger to lead another fourth-quarter comeback as the Raiders won their fifth straight game, 35-32 over the Panthers.

Carr threw for 315 yards and two touchdowns despite missing a series after the injury, leading the Raiders (9-2) back from an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter to clinch their first winning season since 2002.

After leading a tying drive earlier in the fourth quarter, Carr hit Michael Crabtree on a 49-yard pass on third-and-9 to help set up Sebastian Janikowski's 23-yard field goal with 1:45 left.

Cam Newton led the Panthers (4-7) into Oakland territory on the final drive. But Greg Olsen dropped a pass on third down that would have put Carolina in field goal range, and Khalil Mack stripped Newton on a fourth-down sack to seal the win.

Giants 27, Browns 13: Eli

Manning threw two touchdown passes to Odell Beckham Jr. and Jason Pierre-Paul returned a fumble for a TD as visiting New York extended its winning streak to six and kept the Browns winless.

Manning had three TD passes. They don't overwhelm anyone, but the Giants (8-3) do just enough to win and are in position to make the playoffs for the first time since winning the Super Bowl in 2011.

Buccaneers 14, Seahawks 5: Jameis Winston threw a pair of touchdown passes to Mike Evans as host Tampa Bay's rejuvenated defense shut down Russell Wilson and Seattle.

Patriots 22, Jets 17: Tom Brady tied Peyton Manning for the most wins by a quarterback in NFL history, getting his 200th by throwing a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown pass to Malcolm Mitchell with 1:56 left against the host Jets.

Falcons 38, Cardinals 19: Taylor Gabriel took two short passes for touchdowns as host Atlanta returned from a

bye week to add to Arizona's misery.

Chargers 21, Texans 13: Philip Rivers threw for 242 yards and three touchdowns against the mistake-prone host Texans.

The Texans (6-5) lost in Houston for the first time this season after winning their first five here. Playing a large part were four turnovers, including three interceptions by Brock Osweiler.

Titans 27, Bears 21: C— Marcus Mariota threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns to help visiting Tennessee hang on and beat the depleted Chicago.

The Titans (6-6) gave their playoff hopes a boost, though they watched as Chicago (2-9) cut a 20-point lead to six in the fourth quarter. The Titans moved a half-game out of first place in the AFC South.

Saints 49, Rams 21: Drew Brees passed for 310 yards and four touchdowns and Mark Ingram scored twice for host New Orleans.

Dolphins 31, 49ers 24:

Ndamukong Suh tackled Colin Kaepernick 2 yards short of the goal line as time ran out as the host Dolphins handed San Francisco a franchise-record 10th consecutive loss.

Ryan Tannehill threw for 285 yards and three scores to compensate for a sputtering Miami ground game.

Ravens 19, Bengals 14: Justin Tucker kicked four field goals as host Baltimore shut down the Bengals' depleted offense.

Cincinnati got a safety on the final play when Baltimore punter Sam Koch ran out of the end zone while his blockers intentionally held Cincinnati rushers. A game can end on an offensive penalty.

Bills 28, Jaguars 21: LeSean McCoy scored twice, including a career-best 75-yard run for host Buffalo.

Tyrod Taylor's 16-yard touchdown pass to Justin Hunter with 10:46 remaining put the Bills ahead for good during a second half in which the lead changed five times.

New Texas coach Herman ready to work

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Tom Herman smiled, raised his right hand for the “Hook’em Horns” sign and said all the right things Sunday to fire up the fan base as the new Texas coach.

All of that was to be expected. Now comes the hard parts: winning, competing for a Big 12 title and navigating the treacherous landscape both on and off the field of Longhorns football.

Herman landed on the Texas campus Sunday to turn around a program worn down by three consecutive losing seasons under Charlie Strong. In Herman, Texas President Greg Fenves and athletic director Mike Perrin hired arguably the hottest young coach in college football away from Houston.

“We will win championships,” at Texas, Herman said, sounding the key note his new fans want to hear.

Herman lifted Houston with winning and a public persona that pledged an “H-town takeover.” He now inherits a Texas program laboring to return to the national elite. And he’ll have to sooth some hurt feelings among the talented but young players who had pleaded a week earlier for Strong to stay. Among them was junior running back D’Onta Foreman, who rushed for 2,028 yards and is considering turning pro.

Some of that started when Herman met with his new players Sunday afternoon. Herman said he knows many of the Texas players are close to Strong, but added the

“definition of insanity is doing the same thing over again.”

“There will be change,” Herman said.

Herman will enjoy a whirlwind of early support that Strong never really got. Herman was hired so quickly after Strong was fired — within hours — that it demonstrated how unified school administrators and influential donors were in a desperate rush to snatch him up before anyone else did.

Fenves and Perrin acknowledged they met Herman on Friday night after Texas lost to TCU and had an agreement in place before Strong was told he’d been fired. Three years ago, it took Texas about three weeks and flirtations with several other coaches, before Strong was hired.

And Strong had barely arrived on campus when billionaire businessman Red McCombs, one of Texas’ most prominent donors, called hiring Strong a “kick in the face,” a comment that set the tone for three tumultuous years for a divided fan base.

All of that came under different campus leadership than Herman has now. Fenves and Perrin have been in their jobs less than two years.

“What is important is that in the end, we got our man,” Fenves said.

Things look and sound good now, but Herman will want to remember that Texas has a board of regents that hasn’t been afraid to meddle in athletics. It was impatient board members and influential donors who worked tried to lure Alabama’s Nick Saban while Mack Brown was still the Longhorns coach in 2013.

Herman will have to put a staff together, and he deflected questions on whether that will include Houston offensive coordinator Major Applewhite. Applewhite is a former Texas quarterback and assistant coach who was immensely popular with Texas fans. But he also was disciplined by the university in 2009 when as an assistant coach school officials learned he’d engaged in “inappropriate” conduct with a student trainer on a bowl trip.

Applewhite, and how the school disciplined him, remains a key element in a long-running gender and race discrimination lawsuit against Texas filed by former women’s track coach Bev Kearney, who was forced out in 2013 after having a relationship with one of her athletes in 2002. That case is pending before the state Supreme Court.

Herman will enjoy hitting the recruiting trail for the state’s flagship university and the wealth and prestige that comes with it. And the buzz across Texas’ fertile recruiting grounds will be focused on him, instead of Big 12 and in-state rivals like Baylor, Texas Tech, TCU and Texas A&M, all of whom had disappointing seasons.

Texas is known a place where the pressure to win, be a politician and to be the public face of one of the nation’s most prominent programs can be crushing. Herman says he ready to handle it all.

“Pressure comes from being unprepared,” Herman said. “We are prepared for this job. We are prepared to be successful.”

Anunoby leads No. 3 Indiana in blowout win

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — OG Anunoby wasn’t a factor when No.3 Indiana lost in overtime at IPFW.

The sophomore played only 13 minutes, leaving because of an illness — and leaving the Hoosiers (4-1) without one of their best, most relied on playmakers.

“I don’t think any of us understood how sick he was, because he didn’t even practice again until part of the time on Friday,” Indiana coach Tom Crean said. “But the bottom line is, we didn’t have the right edge (against IPFW).”

On Sunday night, the Hoo-

siers had that edge, and they were led by a healthy Anunoby. He scored a career-high 21 points and had eight rebounds, leading the Hoosiers to an 85-52 victory over Mississippi Valley State.

Anunoby scored 15 of his 21 points in the first half against the overmatched Delta Devils (0-8).

Robert Johnson added 14 points for Indiana, which was without Justin Blackmon Jr. because of a left knee injury.

Indiana’s largest lead of the basketball game was 35.

“The game doesn’t change really that much (with Blackmon out). Everybody knows their job out there on the court,” John-

son said. “It’s hard not to have James (Blackmon) out there, but we have key (players) that we go to. Everybody else just steps up.”

No. 11 Gonzaga 73, No. 21 Iowa State 71: At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Nigel Williams-Goss scored 18 points and the Bulldogs nearly blew an 18-point second-half lead against Iowa State in the AdvoCare Invitational championship game.

Josh Perkins added 12 points, and Przemek Karnowki had 11 for Gonzaga (6-0).

Deonte Burton scored 21 of his 29 in the second half for Iowa State (5-1).

NO. 14 UCLA 74, Texas A&M 67: At Anaheim, Calif.,

Lonzo Ball had 16 points and 10 assists and the Bruins beat the Aggies in the Wooden Legacy championship game.

Issac Hamilton scored all 17 of his points in the first half, to lead UCLA (7-0).

No. 15 St. Mary’s 76, UAB 63: At Las Vegas, Jock Landale scored 20 points to lead the Gaels past the Blazers.

Landale was 9 of 11 from the field for St. Mary’s (5-0).

No. 16 Wisconsin 95, Prairie View A&M 50: Nigel Hayes scored a season-high 17 points to lead the host Badgers.

Hayes was 5 of 5 from the field and 7 of 8 from the free-throw line.

Cavs' Irving catches fire late in win

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyrie Irving scored 19 of his season-high 39 points in the fourth quarter and LeBron James had a triple-double in the Cleveland Cavaliers' 112-108 NBA victory over Philadelphia on Sunday.

James finished with 26 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists. The defending champion Cavaliers (13-2) have won four straight.

Joel Embiid had 22 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who have lost three straight.

Rockets 130, Trail Blazers 114: James Harden had 38 points and 10 assists to help Houston beat host Portland.

Eric Gordon added 26 points, including six three-pointers for the Rockets. They have made at least 10 three-pointers in 16 straight games to match the NBA record set by Golden State and Cleveland last season.

Pacers 91, Clippers 70: Glenn Robinson III and Myles Turner each scored 17 points as Indiana handed visiting Los Angeles consecutive losses for the first time this season.

Kings 122, Nets 105: DeMarcus Cousins had 37 points and 11 rebounds while Rudy Gay added 22 points, eight rebounds and eight assists as Sacramento routed host Brooklyn.

Lakers 109, Hawks 94: Lou Williams scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Jordan Clarkson added 18 points as Los Angeles overcame the absence of two injured starters to beat visiting Atlanta.

Nuggets 120, Suns 114: Wilson Chandler scored 25 points and Jameer Nelson added 21 as Denver held off host Phoenix.

Mavericks 91, Pelicans 81: Wesley Matthews scored 21 points, including eight during a fourth-quarter rally that gave Dallas the lead for good, as the Mavericks beat visiting New Orleans.

Bucks 104, Magic 96: John Henson scored 20 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 18 points and nine rebounds to help Milwaukee beat host Orlando.

Panthers head coach fired

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Gerard Gallant was a coach of the year finalist last season after guiding the Florida Panthers to a division title and the best regular season in franchise history.

He made it through 22 games this season, before the Panthers decided change was needed.

The Panthers fired Gallant and assistant coach Mike Kelly on Sunday night, and announced the moves publicly on Monday morning. The firing came after the Panthers' 3-2 loss at Carolina — one that dropped Florida to 11-10-1, good for only 10th in the Eastern Conference.

General manager Tom Rowe will take over as coach, and will remain there for the rest of the season.

"My focus is solely on turning our season around, fixing our special teams and securing a playoff berth," Rowe said.

Gallant was under contract through the 2018-19 season, having signed an extension back in January. Less than a year after getting that new deal, he was getting into a taxi in a surreal scene outside the arena in Raleigh, North Carolina where he coached the Panthers for the last time.

"In seeking to earn a second consecutive playoff berth and bring a Stanley Cup to South Florida, we believe that new leadership is required immediately," Panthers owner Vincent Viola said.

Gallant spoke after the game as always, talk-

ing about how five poor second-period minutes out of 60 was the team's undoing against the Hurricanes in a game where Florida wasted an early 2-0 lead. Shortly after that is when he apparently was told of the dismissal, and Gallant then waited for a taxi after his luggage was unloaded from the buses that were to carry the Panthers to the airport.

They went one way. He went another, and became the first NHL coach to be fired since this season started.

"Today is a hard day. Gerard and Mike are good men and talented hockey coaches," Panthers President of Hockey Operations Dale Tallon said. "We thank them for their contributions in the community, for their work developing our young players and in helping to turn around the culture."

Gallant was 96-65-25 in parts of three seasons with the Panthers. Rowe has never been an NHL head coach, though has led teams in the AHL as recently as last season when he was coaching the Panthers' affiliate which was then in Portland, Maine.

The Panthers' ownership and other team officials want the club to rely heavily on advanced statistics, and Gallant and Kelly were not the biggest fans of the analytics craze.

There's no analytics needed to figure out this part: Florida has clearly struggled at times this season, though it has also been injury-ravaged.

Senators shut out Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Despite playing less than 24 hours before, Craig Anderson wanted to be in net when the Ottawa Senators took on the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden.

The goalie got his wish and made 33 saves in a 2-0 shutout victory Sunday night. Anderson is 7-1-1 in nine regular-season starts at Madison Square Garden.

"It's New York man," Anderson said. "It's one of those buildings there's a lot of history. Great team over there and it's one of those things you just get up for. The historic buildings who knows how long they'll be around for. You're fortunate enough to be a part of it and that's kind of the way I address that mentally."

Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Mark Stone scored in the sec-

ond period.

Ottawa improved to 6-3 on the road. It also improved to 3-0 in the second night of back-to-back sets.

Bruins 4, Rays 1: Jimmy Hayes capped Boston's three-goal second period with his first of the season and Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots as visiting Boston snapped a three-game skid.

Rask allowed only Victor Hedman's goal with 2:39 to play.

David Pastrnak had his team-leading 13th goal.

Coyotes 2, Oilers 1: Jamie McGinn broke a tie with 3:44 left and Mike Smith made 41 saves in Arizona's victory over host Edmonton.

McGinn was left all alone in front and beat goalie Cam Talbot to the stick side.

Radim Vrbata also scored to help the Coyotes complete a

home-and-home sweep.

Hurricanes 3, Panthers 2: Jeff Skinner had a goal and an assist for host Carolina.

Carolina goalie Michael Leighton stopped 31 shots in his first NHL game this season. Cam Ward started the previous nine games for Carolina.

Flyers 5, Flames 3: Anthony Stolarz made 29 saves for his first NHL victory in host Philadelphia's win over Calgary.

Stolarz also became the first New Jersey native to appear in goal in an NHL game.

Michael Raffl, Jakub Vorecek, Chris VandeVelde, Wayne Simmonds and Roman Lyubimov scored to help the Flyers snap a two-game losing streak.

Jets 3, Predators 0: Connor Hellebuyck made 42 saves, Drew Stafford scored his first goal of the season and host Winnipeg beat Nashville to end a five-game losing streak.