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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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New Dems to challenge border deployment

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Incoming Democrats with significant national security experience plan to challenge President Donald Trump over orders he has issued as commander in chief, starting with his controversial military deployment to the southern border to face down migrants seeking refuge in the United States.

At least nine Democrats newly elected to the House have served in the armed forces, intelligence services or other roles at the State and Defense departments — credentials, several said, that give them greater authority than Democrats have had lately to scrutinize Trump's use of the military for what they call vans of Central American migrants traveling north to the U.S. border. House Democrats, who assume the majority in January, plan to investigate whether the order was a waste of resources. According to several current and future members of Congress, the incoming veterans and former

diplomats are expected to play an important role in advancing that probe and others expected to focus on military affairs.

"You just have so many more Democrats now who have credibility on national security issues," said Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., a Marine Corps veteran who spent the past year urging others with military backgrounds to seek office. "Now we have these amazing veterans who can take on these issues."

For some, the issue is one of respecting the troops. In their estimation, Trump has failed on that score, despite his professed reverence for the military.

"He likes to pound his chest and talk tough, but he has not served our nation in uniform," Colorado congressman-elect Jason Crow said in an interview, noting that many troops sent to the border have already logged multiple combat deployments. "They're going to be spending yet another holiday away from their families in tents without running water."

Others questioned the logic of using an already overextended military to meet civilian migrants, most of whom are fleeing countries plagued by violence and poverty. A congressionally mandated study determined that the military power of rival nations, including China and Russia, could soon eclipse that of the United States unless more strategic investments are made.

"We're burdening them over and over again, and I want to know why this is the right thing to do," said New Jersey congressman-elect Andy Kim, a veteran of former President Barack Obama's Defense Department and the National Security Agency. Kim said Congress should determine whether Trump had announced the deployment as a political ploy.

Incoming lawmakers also listed the war in Syria, the mission in Afghanistan and the perennial debate over a new authorization for military force as other areas where they would investigate Trump's policies and military commitments.

North Korean weapon test likely a bid for leverage

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's test of what it called a new "ultramodern tactical weapon" — the first public display of fire-

ANALYSIS power in nearly a year—was likely an effort by the communist state to increase its leverage amid an impasse in nuclear talks with the United States, experts said.

In a sign the two sides are eager to keep dialogue alive, the U.S. response to the announcement about last week's weapon test was relatively muted. The State Department also said it appreciated North Korea's cooperation in releasing an American who the communist state said had been detained for illegal entry.

Little is known about the

weapon that was tested, but it did not appear to be the type of long-range missiles frequently fired last year because South Korea and the United States didn't report detecting any such activity.

Experts said it was likely meant as a less provocative message to Washington that the North is continuing to develop weapons it insists are for self-defense.

"It may be that the North is releasing a little bit of information with the purpose of enhancing its leverage in negotiations that are likely to take place in the future," said Han Yong-sup, a professor at the Korea National Defense University.

The test came days after a planned meeting in New York between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean envoy was canceled. President Donald Trump also has said he may hold a sec-

ond summit with Kim next year as progress has been slow since the two men first met in June in Singapore.

A senior CIA official, meanwhile, held talks with North Korean officials in the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the border that divides the peninsula, the Yonhap News Agency reported, citing unnamed sources.

"Kim Jong Un ... visited the test ground of the Academy of Defense Science and supervised a newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon test," KCNA reported on Friday.

North Korea watchers speculated it may have been a type of long-range artillery or a missile that could be used for self-defense but wouldn't pose a threat to other countries beyond the divided peninsula.

It was Kim's first publicized visit to a weapons test site since the North test-fired an intercon-

tinental ballistic missile toward Japan on Nov. 28 of last year. That was the last such missile test before diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons program began to gain momentum.

But experts have pointed out the communist state could resume the tests at any time.

Pyongyang is seeking reciprocal measures for steps it has already taken, including the testing moratorium, the release of three American detainees and the return of some remains belonging to U.S. servicemen killed in the 1950-53 Korean War.

In another apparent concession, the North on Friday deported an American citizen it said had been detained for illegally entering the country from China on Oct. 16. KCNA identified the man as Bruce Byron Lowrance.

2 US carriers training in Philippine Sea

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A pair of American aircraft carriers have been in the Philippine Sea honing their ability to fight as one massive sea force.

Strike groups from the Yokosuka-based USS Ronald Reagan and the Washington-based USS John C. Stennis were conducting “high-end dual carrier operations,” the Navy said in a statement last week.

“The increased presence of two carrier strike groups in the region highlights the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,” 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer said in the statement.

The carriers brought 10 ships, about 150 aircraft and 12,600 personnel to maneuver and execute anti-submarine, surface and air warfare operations in the international waters, according to the statement.

“It shows our forces at their best, operating confidently at

sea, and demonstrates that the U.S. Navy will fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows,” Sawyer said.

Before arriving in the Philippine Sea, the Stennis was involved in dual-carrier operations with the USS Carl Vinson off the coast of Hawaii.

Dual-carrier operations typically involve a strike group from the U.S. West Coast joining a forward-deployed strike group in Japan, the Navy statement said. Similar exercises have been conducted in recent years

in the South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Korean Peninsula, East China Sea, Sea of Japan and Western Pacific.

Last year, the Navy conducted a rare tri-carrier exercise off the Korean Peninsula involving the Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Nimitz.

“As it has for decades, the U.S. Navy will continue to provide security in ways that promote regional stability and prosperity,” Sawyer said in the statement.

Australia joins in mine countermeasure training

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Australia is for the first time joining the United States and Japan for mine countermeasure training off the southern Japanese coast.

During the 3JA mine warfare exercise, which was expected to kick off Saturday and run through this week — the U.S. Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Royal

Australian Navy will practice sweeping, hunting and detecting underwater mines, a Navy statement said.

A variety of mine countermeasures aircraft and vessels from all three nations — including the USS Chief, JS Bungo, JS Uruga, HMAS Huron and HMAS Gascoyne — will also work together in a simulated minefield to clear a route for other ships, the statement said.

Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of 7th Fleet’s am-

phibious forces, lauded Australia’s participation in the annual exercise.

The fleet’s work with the JMSDF, as well as the addition of Australian troops “gives exercise 3JA a much more vibrant impact and allows for greater richness of training,” he said in the statement.

In July, India practiced mine countermeasure techniques with the United States and Japan off Aomori prefecture.

The annual 2JA mine countermeasure exercise traditionally involves only the U.S. Navy and JMSDF, but this year the Indian Navy sent four explosive ordnance disposal divers to participate with 20 others sent by the U.S. and Japan, according to the JMSDF.

Participants used sonar equipment to detect mines hidden in the water, a Navy statement said. Those assigned to explosive ordnance disposal units all practiced diving operations.

USS Reagan sailor gets 2 years for violent incidents

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A USS Ronald Reagan aviation ordnanceman has been sentenced to two years in prison after being accused of sexually assaulting a fellow sailor, lying to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and strangling a civilian woman.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Garcia, 27, pleaded guilty Wednesday to assault consummated by battery, making a false official statement and aggravated assault. He was originally charged with two counts of abusive sexual contact causing bodily harm but pleaded

down to the assault charges in a pretrial agreement with prosecutors.

The first assault happened Oct. 22, 2017, during a Ronald Reagan port visit in Busan, South Korea, Garcia admitted in court Wednesday. After a night of drinking with friends, his first victim said she lost consciousness and woke up in her hotel room to Garcia forcefully penetrating her with his hand and mouth, causing her pain.

“I remember telling him to stop and that I didn’t want this,” his victim told the court Wednesday. “He said, ‘You don’t [expletive] want this?’ ... I just physically couldn’t get him

off of me.”

The victim said Garcia knew she was not romantically interested in him because she had turned down his propositions before, reminding him of his marriage. She said she continues to suffer mentally and emotionally from the trauma.

In his stipulation of facts, Garcia admitted to “touching” — not penetrating — the victim’s vulva with his fingers without her consent, which a Navy official said does not meet the Uniform Code of Military Justice definition of sexual assault. Therefore, he was not convicted of a sex crime.

After the victim reported the assault, Garcia lied to NCIS in-

vestigators by denying he had any contact with the victim, he said Wednesday.

The second assault happened about two weeks ago. On Oct. 27, Garcia placed both of his hands around a civilian woman’s neck and squeezed long enough for her face to turn red, he told the military judge Wednesday.

“I squeezed hard enough that if I kept doing it, she would have passed out,” Garcia said. “She was having trouble breathing.”

For the judge to accept the aggravated assault charge associated with the strangling incident, it had to be proven that the act was “likely to cause grievous bodily harm.”

USS Sioux City joins Navy fleet

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Clouds, stormy seas and fog hampered and delayed the USS Sioux City's voyage to Annapolis.

But the sun broke out bright and early Saturday morning, and though clouds rolled in and a chilly breeze kicked up, nothing was going to cool the excitement in the air as the first U.S. Navy ship named for Sioux City, Iowa, officially joined the Navy fleet.

Tied to the Dewey Seawall at the U.S. Naval Academy, the USS Sioux City was "brought to life" here more than six years after Sioux City learned it would be the ship's namesake.

"Officers and crew of the USS Sioux City, man our ship and bring her to life," ship sponsor Mary Winnefeld called out to the crew, standing at parade rest before her.

"Aye, aye!" crewmembers yelled out.

Then, one by one, sailors hustled to the ship, each shaking

Winnefeld's hand before heading to one of two ramps up to the ship, running on board and taking a spot standing at attention at the rails.

A rousing round of cheers and applause from the more than 6,000 people, many of them having made the 1,200-mile trip from Sioux City, accompanied the sailors while the Naval Academy band played "Anchors Away."

Soon, the ship's horns began to blow, radars spun, the gun turret turned. The crowd's cheers grew louder.

"What a great day," the ship's commanding officer, Cmdr. Randy Malone, said once the crew was on board. He thanked Sioux City and its residents who have welcomed him and crewmembers every time they've visited, making them feel at home.

"We are proud to sail in your name," Malone said.

In return, the citizens of Sioux City, and all of Iowa, are

proud to be represented by a crew that will honor the city and state through its hard work and shared vision, said Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, the commissioning ceremony's featured speaker.

"You are all now the children of Iowa," Ernst said. "It speaks volumes that this ship carries the great name of USS Sioux City."

In February 2012, the Navy announced that Sioux City would be the name of the 11th ship of its new littoral combat ship class, designed to sail in shallow waters near shore. That unique design enabled it to sail into the shallow Severn River alongside the Naval Academy and become the first Navy warship ever commissioned here.

It made the commissioning a historic event not just for Sioux City but also for Annapolis, which provided a warm welcome for its Iowa visitors all week, creating a bond between the two cities.

Airman killed near Yokota is memorialized

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An airman who died in an off-base stabbing on Nov. 9 was honored with a ceremony hosted Friday by fellow security forces members at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, 35, was pronounced dead at a hospital after being stabbed with a knife at his home just outside Yokota's east gate in the city of Tachikawa.

A woman identifying herself as Aria Saito, 27, an office worker from Tokyo's Koto ward, was arrested and charged in the killing.

Comrades from the 374th Security Forces Squadron and other members of the Yokota community gathered at the base's Friendship Chapel to pay their respects during a ceremony that was broadcast to family members back in the United States.

A photograph of Vollweiler in his camouflage uniform was displayed, along with an image of him with his dog, a Belgian Malinois named Jimmy.

"Before he came to Yokota, he was a dog handler," said Chief Master Sgt. Paul Rodgers, his supervisor and friend. "He adopted his last military working dog."

Jimmy will attend his master's funeral back in the States and will be adopted by Vollweiler's family members, Rodgers said.

Those at the service heard about the fallen airman's service record, which featured multiple deployments and humanitarian missions in Asia, Europe and the Middle East since he enlisted in 2001.

At Yokota, he served as the Security Forces Squadron's chief of standards and evaluation.

Vollweiler is survived by his parents, Bernard and Laura; his wife, Deena; and two brothers.

Independent Pearl Harbor memorial to be made

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The U.S. House has voted to establish an independent Pearl Harbor National Memorial, separating it from a sprawling monument that includes sites in Alaska and California.

"This historic site deserves a name to match its separate identity and significance from the rest of the monument," Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, the Hawaii Democrat who introduced the bill last spring, said on the House floor shortly before passage.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument was established in 2008, bringing together the Alaska and California sites with five in Pearl Harbor: the USS Arizona Memorial, USS Oklahoma Memorial, USS Utah Memorial, Battleship Row and Ford Island.

Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., said on the House floor that the establishment of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial through H.R. 5760 is "giving it the full recognition that the hallowed site deserves."

The Pearl Harbor site receives about a million visitors each year.

Pearl Harbor was the primary target of the Japanese surprise attack on Dec. 7, 1941, although aircraft also targeted other military installations around Oahu.

More than 2,300 sailors, soldiers, Marines and civilians died in the attack, with 20 Pacific Fleet ships sunk or destroyed, many moored along Battleship Row.

The USS Arizona sank, entombing about 900 men aboard. Visitors view the sunken hulk from the memorial hall built above it. The wreck of the USS Utah also remains on the har-

bor floor.

The change in designation — which still requires passage by the Senate and the signature of the president to become law — would not affect the management of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Memorial.

The National Park Service manages the Pearl Harbor location, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the three Alaskan sites on the Aleutian Islands. The two services jointly manage Tule Lake War Relocation Center in northeastern California, where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II as the result of President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

The House bill also establishes the Honouliuli National Historic Site, the location of Hawaii's biggest and longest-operating WWII prison camp for Japanese-Americans.

Norway to question US Navy officer on ship

The Washington Post

The U.S. Navy expects one of its officers to be questioned as part of an investigation into the collision of a Norwegian warship and a commercial oil tanker this month in one of the Scandinavian nation's fjords.

The American officer, who has not been identified, was onboard the Norwegian navy frigate as part of a military personnel exchange, according to U.S. and Norwegian officials. The sailor's role on the ship remains unclear.

The Nov. 8 incident ultimately sank the 439-foot Norwegian warship and left several people injured.

Norwegian naval officers beached the vessel — the KNM Helge Ingstad — in an attempt to save it, but the frigate sank five days later after the cables holding it in place snapped. The tanker it struck, the Sola TS, was nearly twice its size at

820 feet. It suffered only minor damage.

"The U.S. Navy has an officer assigned to the Personnel Exchange Program with Norway as part of the crew of the KNM Helge Ingstad," Cmdr. Kyle Raines, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet, said in a statement. "This program exchanges personnel from various military components to foreign countries to enhance interoperability with partner navies and services. The concept was born out of the need for partners and allies to share ideas and build relationships."

Raines declined to identify the American officer by name, citing privacy interests. He said the U.S. Navy is supporting the Norwegian investigation.

Traditionally, investigators interview all officers aboard military ships involved in collisions, so the U.S. Navy expects the American officer to

be questioned as well, officials said.

Ann Kristin Salbuviik, an official at the Norwegian Defense Ministry, confirmed that an American officer was on board the ship but declined to specify the officer's duties.

"The exchange program has been established to share experiences and create a basis for good cooperation between our navies," Salbuviik said. "If incidents should occur or if there are situations that involve personnel on an exchange, there is a duty, according to the valid status agreement, to inform the sending state's military authorities as well as to ensure that relevant authorities are put in contact with relevant national authorities."

Salbuviik said Norwegian authorities have notified their American counterparts but declined to elaborate.

The KNM Helge Ingstad was involved in a massive naval

exercise last month — Trident Juncture 2018 — in which the U.S. Navy sent an aircraft carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman, north of the Arctic Circle for the first time in decades. The exercise was widely seen as a message to Russia.

The Navy has a tradition of hosting Norwegian military personnel and embarking its own personnel on foreign vessels through exchange programs. Participants typically serve two-year tours as a fully integrated member of the host nation's navy.

U.S. servicemembers who participate in such programs are required to obey all orders from host commanders and remain subject to the American military's rules and regulations.

The incident comes at a sensitive time for the U.S. Navy, following two fatal collisions of guided missile destroyers in the Pacific last year that, collectively, left 17 sailors dead.

Coalition denies airstrikes killed dozens of civilians

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The U.S.-led coalition denied reports that airstrikes it carried out in a part of eastern Syria held by Islamic State killed dozens of civilians, while opposition activists reported clashes Sunday between government forces and ISIS in nearby districts.

The coalition said late Saturday that it struck only "legitimate" militant targets, and that another 10 airstrikes in the area were not carried out by U.S.-led forces.

ISIS controls an area in eastern Syria near the Iraqi border where some 15,000 people, including fighters and their families, live. U.S.-backed fighters of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been trying to capture the area since September.

Syrian government forces and Iran-backed militiamen have also bombarded the ISIS-

held area in recent weeks, according to opposition activists.

Syrian state media, a war monitor and an ISIS-linked news agency reported Saturday that coalition airstrikes killed 40 people, mostly women and children.

The coalition said in a statement late Saturday that it conducted 19 strikes in the area starting late Friday in support of ground operations against ISIS. It said no civilians were present near the targets it struck.

Syria and Russia regularly launch airstrikes against suspected militants, and Iraq has carried out cross-border strikes targeting ISIS.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Deir Ezzor 24, an activist collective, reported clashes Sunday between Syrian government forces and ISIS in other parts of Deir el-Zour.

Taliban, US hold talks in Qatar

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban have held three days of talks with U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Gulf state of Qatar, where the Afghan insurgent group has a political office, a Taliban official and another individual close to the group said Sunday.

Without referring explicitly to the talks in Qatar, Khalilzad told a news conference Sunday in the Afghan capital, Kabul, "I am talking to all interested parties, all Afghan groups ... and I think there is an opportunity for reconciliation and peace."

"The Afghan government wants peace," he said. "The Taliban are saying they do not believe they can succeed militarily, that they would like to see the problems that remain resolved by peaceful means, by political negotiations."

Peace efforts have accelerated since Khalilzad's appointment as Washington's peace

envoy to Afghanistan aimed at eventually winding down America's longest war.

Afghan authorities said a roadside bomb killed two local officials in the eastern Logar province late Saturday.

Shah Poor Ahmadzai, spokesman for the provincial police chief, said the acting district chief and intelligence director in the Baraki Barak district were killed in the blast as they were heading toward the district headquarters.

The Taliban claimed the attack.

The U.S. administration now appears focused on reaching a political settlement with the Taliban and has given in to a number of the group's longstanding demands, beginning with the holding of direct talks. The Taliban have long refused U.S. demands to negotiate with the Western-backed government in Kabul, which the insurgents view as a puppet regime.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Snow strands team on bus for 9 hours

OH YOUNGSTOWN — An Ohio university basketball team had plenty of time to think about a New York City tournament when snow stranded them on a city bridge for more than nine hours.

The Youngstown State team was on its way to New York for the Johnny Bach Classic when an unusually heavy November snowfall halted their travels Friday on the George Washington Bridge.

The Vindicator reported the players and coaches had plenty of snacks and water and passed the time watching movies. Head coach Jerrod Calhoun said it appeared the city wasn't ready for the snow.

Youngstown State defeated Columbia 94-83 Friday night.

City bans stores from selling cats, dogs

GA ATLANTA — Pet stores in a Georgia city are now banned from selling cats and dogs.

News outlets reported Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms signed an ordinance into law last week that aims to discourage the operation of puppy and kitten mills.

City pet stores can still house and put up for adoption cats and dogs that are older than 8 weeks and are owned by a rescue or care facility.

Courthouse clock to get birthday overhaul

IN GOSHEN — A clock that's told the time since the early 1900s from its perch atop a northern Indiana courthouse is getting a full overhaul ahead of its 150th birthday.

The \$80,000 renovation, re-

painting and thorough cleaning of the Elkhart County Courthouse's clock is expected to start in early 2019 in Goshen.

The clock was installed in 1870 but later moved to the center of the courthouse during a renovation completed in 1909.

The Elkhart Truth reported that the clock's bells will be restored to bring back the timepiece's original chime, while the clock's worn original mechanics will be repaired and some missing parts will be fabricated.

Hunters have app to report wildlife

VT MONTPELIER — The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife launched a new app for hunters to report wildlife sightings.

People using the app will be able to record how many hours they hunted and how many deer, moose, bears or other wildlife they see during the November rifle season.

The department will use the information to evaluate the number of animals in different parts of the state. Department deer project leader Nick Fortin said the information will help make deer management more effective.

The app is free to use, and it works without cellphone service.

Cannon, shipwreck found off the Keys

FL KEY LARGO — Federal scientists said two archaeological artifacts have been found in the waters off the Florida Keys.

A diver swimming near a reef off Key Largo found a cannon believed to be nearly 200 years old. A commercial fisherman spotted the wooden wreckage from a 19th-century

ship off Islamorada.

In a statement to the Miami Herald, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Communications and Outreach Specialist Gena Parsons praised the citizens who reported their finds last month without disturbing the artifacts.

Parsons said both pieces will remain in sanctuary waters. She said the cannon likely came from a sinking ship that crashed on the reef.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration maritime archaeologist Matthew Lawrence said Hurricane Irma may have made the shipwreck more visible.

Rescue seeks owner of vest-clad pigeon

AZ PEORIA — A bird rescue center in Peoria is trying to find the owner of one colorfully dressed pigeon.

Jody Kieran, the director of Fallen Feathers, said Friday that nobody has come forward to claim ownership of a pigeon found wearing a bedazzled vest.

The Arizona Republic reported someone found the fine-feathered friend near an intersection last week and took it to the rescue center.

Kieran said she will wait a month before putting the bird up for adoption.

Cops: Note in stolen car led to arrest

CT SHELTON — Police in Connecticut said a school note left in a stolen car led to the arrest of a 15-year-old on larceny charges.

Shelton Police Detective Richard Bango said a car dealership was burglarized and two vehicles were stolen Oct. 26. The Connecticut Post reported police said another vehicle was stolen Nov. 11 from a different

dealership.

Bango said one of the stolen vehicles from the first dealership and the one from the second were recovered, and police found a school note in one of the cars.

The note led police to a 15-year-old juvenile student in Bridgeport.

Equipment stolen from pet rescuers

PA PHILADELPHIA — A firefighter who has dedicated her life to helping pets affected by fires is hoping someone will return her team's stolen equipment.

Jennifer Leary, with Red Paw Emergency Relief Team, said a brand new cargo unit was stolen from their response vehicle while it was parked in northeast Philadelphia.

She said new respirator masks and her personal protective gear were also stolen.

Expert: Rare snake with 2 heads has died

VA WAYNESBORO — A wildlife expert said a rare, two-headed snake found several months ago in Virginia near the nation's capital has died.

The Washington Post reported state herpetologist JD Kleopfer said in a Facebook post the snake died.

He said it peacefully passed away last week for no apparent reason, as it was just discovered dead one morning.

The Copperhead was found in a yard in a northern Virginia neighborhood in September.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia previously said in a statement that an examination of the reptile found it had two tracheas and two esophagi, but shared one heart and a set of lungs.

From wire reports

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Duke's freshmen already turning heads

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Drake has already been spotted wearing Zion Williamson's high school jersey.

Let that be proof: Duke's season is just starting, and the Blue Devils' freshmen have already arrived.

Just three games into their college careers, the youngsters have made top-ranked Duke the top story in college basketball. But Williamson said it's not all about the freshmen.

"This is a team, and there are other players — there are upperclassmen, and they lead us, because they've been through this," said the 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson, who wows fans with his athletic ability and acrobatic dunks. "We can sit here and say we know what away games will be like, but we really don't until we experience it."

Everyone seems to want to take that journey with them.

It's early, but the youngsters are becoming a must-see phenomenon while their highlights

take social media by storm and even their pregame layup lines draw oohs and aahs.

"They're so much more than just highlight plays and dunks," co-captain Jack White said. "These guys are great basketball players."

It all started, of course, with that season-opening 118-84 rout of then-No. 2 Kentucky, turning the Champions Classic into their personal and collective showcase.

A group that showed up on campus as the consensus No. 1 recruiting class in the nation has done nothing to disprove that evaluation. Tre Jones, at 6-2, runs the point. The 6-8 Cameron Reddish spots up for three-pointers. Then there's 6-7 RJ Barrett, the top-rated player in the class, who does a little bit of everything. And Williamson runs the floor and finishes strong at the rim — often dazzling the crowd in the process.

"As long as we play unselfish and play together," Reddish said, "we're pretty good."

According to Duke officials,

the team's Instagram videos during the first week of the season were viewed more than 2 million times — more than fellow blueblood programs Kentucky (412,000) and North Carolina (172,000).

The highlights kept coming throughout an 84-46 beat-down of Eastern Michigan on Wednesday night.

One in particular — perhaps Williamson's signature dunk, at least so far — stood out.

Reddish lofted an alley-oop pass that at first seemed headed for the Duke pep band. Williamson leaped so high to grab it that his armpits and eyes were level with the rim, and he slammed it home. By that point, Williamson had more dunks (four) than Eastern Michigan had field goals (three).

Williamson acknowledged that he even surprises himself sometimes.

In the locker room after Wednesday night's game, he broke into a hearty laugh when teammate Joey Baker pulled out his cellphone to show a

photo proving that Williamson did, in fact, soar to eye-level with the rim.

"I wanted to get super-hyped," he quipped, "but I had to get back on defense."

Having one-and-done players roll through the program has become commonplace in recent years — Duke replaced four one-year players from last season with this group — and Barrett and Williamson are popular projections as the first two picks in next June's NBA Draft. Both of them have scored at least 20 points in all three games.

Nor is Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski a stranger to the spotlight that always glares on the Duke program he's led to five national championships.

But college stardom is a new experience for these freshmen, and what Krzyzewski has described as "exceptional noise" surrounding the team became exponentially louder after the 34-point rout of Kentucky — now arguably no longer the capital of one-and-done.

College basketball roundup

Little Furman knocks off No. 8 Villanova in overtime

Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. — First, it was Loyola. Next came Villanova.

One by one, Furman is picking off teams from last year's Final Four and proving to be the surprise story of the first month of the college basketball season.

Jordan Lyons scored 17 points, Matt Rafferty had 15 points and 17 rebounds, and Furman stunned the defending national champion and eighth-ranked Wildcats in overtime, 76-68 on Saturday.

"We're just tiny old Furman," coach Bob Richey said. "Most people ask us what state we're in, what city we're in. Now all of a sudden people are starting to figure out who Furman is."

If opponents and fans aren't paying attention to the team from Greenville, S.C., they'd better start now.

Clay Mounce added 15 points and Noah Gurley and Alex Hunter scored 13 apiece for the surging Paladins, who have started 5-0 for the first time in 30 years.

Lyons and Rafferty delivered huge buckets in overtime to key a 7-0 spurt that put the Paladins ahead 69-63 in the final minute, enough cushion for them to hang on for the victory in front of a shocked sellout crowd at the recently renovated Finneran Pavilion.

"It almost can bring me to tears to think about how proud I am of the resolve, the resiliency and the fight this team has," Richey said. "They play

together, they play connected. It's the definition of a team."

Phil Booth scored 20 points and Colin Gillespie had 19 for the Wildcats (2-2), who were coming off a 27-point loss to Michigan in a rematch of April's national championship game. It marked the first time Villanova lost back-to-back games since March of 2013.

No. 18 Michigan 84, George Washington 61: At Uncasville, Conn., Charles Matthews scored 25 points to lead the Wolverines into the finals of the Air Force Reserve Tip-Off tournament.

Jordan Poole made five of his eight three-point shots and added a career-high 22 points for Michigan (4-0). Xavier Simpson had 14 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Michigan led by nine points at halftime and blew the game open with a 13-2 run to open the second half.

No. 24 Marquette 74, Presbyterian 55: Sam Hauser scored 19 points and Joseph Chartouny added 16 off the bench as the Golden Eagles overcame a sluggish start to pull away from the stubborn Blue Hose.

Marquette (3-1), coming off a 96-73 loss at Indiana on Wednesday, erased a six-point deficit with a flurry of three-pointers to trigger a 29-8 run midway through the second half.

Adam Flagler scored 20 points and J.C. Younger added 12 for Presbyterian (3-2).

Top 25 roundup

No. 9 Buckeyes escape Terps

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Ohio State went to overtime to avoid one of the most stunning upsets of the season, beating Maryland 52-51 on Saturday when the Terrapins failed to convert a 2-point conversion after matching the Buckeyes' touchdown in the first extra period.

Favored by 14 1/2 points, No. 8 Ohio State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten, No. 10 CFP) trailed by two touchdowns in the third quarter and 45-38 with under two minutes left before rallying.

After a 5-yard touchdown run by Dwayne Haskins gave the Buckeyes the lead to start overtime, Tayon Fleet-Davis scored to get the Terrapins within a point. Interim coach Matt Canada decided to end it right there, going for 2, but Tyrrell Pigrome's pass to Jashaun Jones was off target.

No. 1 Alabama 50, The Citadel 17: Tua Tagovailoa passed for 340 yards and three touchdowns, but the Crimson Tide struggled at home for 30-plus minutes before putting away the Bulldogs. Alabama (11-0) went into halftime tied at 10 with The Citadel (4-6) a FCS team.

No. 2 Clemson 35, Duke 6: Trevor Lawrence was 21 for 38 for 251 yards and two touchdowns and the No. 2 Tigers overcame a slow start to beat the visiting Blue Devils to finish a perfect Atlantic Coast Conference season.

No. 3 Notre Dame 36, No. 12 Syracuse 3: Ian Book returned to the starting lineup for Notre Dame and threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns in New York to help the Fighting Irish stay on target for a trip to the College Football Playoff.

No. 4 Michigan 31, Indiana 20: Karan Higdon ran for a go-ahead touchdown early in the third quarter and Jake Moody set a Wolverines record with six field goals.

No. 5 Georgia 66, UMass 27: Freshman Justin Fields threw two scoring passes and ran for another touchdown, Tyler Simmons had rushing and receiving scores, and the Bulldogs protected their playoff hopes with a win at home.

No. 6 Oklahoma 55, Kansas 40: Kyler Murray accounted for two of his five touchdowns in the fourth quarter to help the host Sooners survive Jayhawks freshman running back Pooka Williams Jr.'s big game.

Oklahoma State 45, No. 7 West Virginia 41: Taylor Cornelius threw a touchdown pass to Tylan Wallace with 42 seconds remaining to rally Oklahoma State.

No. 8 Washington State 69, Arizona 28: Gardner Minshew threw a school-record seven touchdown passes and the Cougars extended their longshot bid for the College

Football Playoff with the home win.

No. 10 LSU 42, Rice 10: Joe Burrow passed for a career-high 307 yards and two touchdowns in less than three quarters for the host Tigers.

No. 11 UCF 38, No. 19 Cincinnati 13: McKenzie Milton threw for 268 yards and accounted for four touchdowns to help the Knights remain unbeaten and extend the nation's longest winning streak to 23 games.

No. 13 Texas 24, No. 18 Iowa State 10: Sam Ehlinger ran for a touchdown and passed for another before leaving with a shoulder injury, and the host Longhorns smothered Iowa State freshman quarterback Brock Purdy.

No. 14 Utah State 29, Colorado State 24: Collin Hill's apparent 34-yard touchdown pass to Preston Williams with no time left was negated by penalty, giving the Aggies the road victory in a wild and stunning finish to a game played in snow and freezing rain.

No. 15 Florida 63, Idaho 10: Feleipe Franks passed for 274 yards and three touchdowns — all in the first half — and the host Gators ran up 600 total yards.

No. 16 Penn State 20, Rutgers 7: Trace McSorley threw two touchdown passes to tight end Pat Freiermuth and the Nittany Lions' defense set up two touchdowns with turnovers on the road.

No. 17 Washington 42, Oregon State 23: Jake Browning threw three touchdown passes and Myles Gaskin rushed for 135 yards in the final home game of their careers.

No. 20 Kentucky 34, Middle Tennessee 23: Mike Edwards had two takeaways leading to the Wildcats first two touchdowns, and host Kentucky made several fourth-quarter defensive stops.

No. 21 Utah 30, Colorado 7: Jason Shelley threw for 221 yards and two touchdowns in the snow, and the visiting Utes earned their first Pac-12 title game appearance.

Florida State 22, No. 22 Boston College 21: Deondre Francois threw a 74-yard touchdown pass to Tamorrion Terry with 1:49 left and the host Seminoles beat the Eagles to keep FSU's bowl hopes alive.

No. 24 Northwestern 24, Minnesota 14: Isaiah Bowser rushed for 85 yards and two touchdowns and the visiting Wildcats turned three turnovers by Gophers quarterback Tanner Morgan into 10 points.

No. 25 Mississippi State 52, Arkansas 6: Nick Fitzgerald threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score to lead the host Bulldogs.

Academies roundup

Woolfolk gets 3 TDs to lead Army to win

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Jeff Monken breathed a sigh of relief after the Black Knights finished their second straight unbeaten season at home. Now, he has three weeks to prepare for archrival Navy.

Fullback Darnell Woolfolk rushed for three touchdowns, the 10th time in his career with multiple scores, and Kelvin Hopkins Jr. ran for another score as Army held off Championship Subdivision foe Colgate 28-14 on Saturday to snap the Raiders' 14-game winning streak.

The Black Knights (9-2), who just missed breaking into the AP Top 25 this week, have won seven in a row and 13 straight at Michie Stadium over two seasons. The last time Army accomplished back-to-back unbeaten seasons at home was in the mid-1980s.

This one wasn't so easy against sixth-ranked Colgate, which had dominated in winning its first nine games with a stalwart, gang-tackling defense that had allowed only 29 points in nine games. That defense limited the second-ranked rushing team in the nation to 261 yards rushing, 46 below its average, as Army only outgained the Raiders 286-251.

Navy 37, Tulsa 29: Zach Abey did not complain after being moved to wide receiver prior to the season, despite leading the team in rushing and touchdowns as a quarterback last season.

When coach Ken Niumatalolo needed a spark, he let Abey retake control of the offense as the quarterback. The senior came up big in his final home game.

Abey ran for 128 yards with a pair of touchdowns and Navy snapped a seven-game losing streak with a victory over the visiting Golden Hurricane.

Wyoming 35, Air Force 27: Tyler Vander Waal's redemption gave the Cowboys their third straight win.

Vander Waal came off the bench and tossed two touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score on a 22-yard strike with 1:09 left in the game, and rushed for two more TDs in leading host Wyoming to a come-from-behind win.

Vander Waal, who replaced injured starter Sean Chambers in the first quarter, led the Cowboys on a nine-play, 58-yard drive for the winning score, and Xazavian Valaday added a 27-yard scoring run.

NBA roundup

76ers beat Hornets despite Kemba's 60

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jimmy Butler knocked down a three-pointer as time expired in overtime, and the Philadelphia 76ers overcame a career-high 60 points from Kemba Walker to beat the Charlotte Hornets 122-119 on Saturday night.

Butler's play in the final seconds was the difference.

He blocked Walker's shot and saved the ball to a teammate with 15 seconds left, setting the stage for his winning jumper from the top of the key over Dwayne Bacon.

Joel Embiid finished with 33 points and 11 rebounds and Ben Simmons had 23 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists as the 76ers defeated the Hornets for the third time this season. Butler had 15 points in his third game with his new team.

Walker's 60 points were the most in the NBA this season, topping Klay Thompson's 52 against Chicago on Oct. 29.

Walker finished 21-for-34 from the field and had six three-pointers. He had seven rebounds and four assists.

Clippers 127, Nets 118: Danilo Gallinari scored 28 points, Tobias Harris had 27 and Los Angeles rallied to beat host Brooklyn.

Montrezl Harrell added 16 points and 10 rebounds as Los Angeles opened a three-game trip with its fourth straight win. Fellow reserve Lou Williams finished with 16 points and five assists.

Pacers 97, Hawks 89: Bojan Bogdanovic scored 22 points, Darren Collison had 12 points and five assists as Indiana dealt visiting Atlanta its seventh straight loss.

Aaron Holiday scored 12 points off the bench and Thaddeus Young had 11 points and seven rebounds for the Pacers, who played most of the game without All-Star guard Victor Oladipo because of a sore right knee.

Magic 130, Lakers 117: Nikola Vucevic had 36 points and 13 rebounds, D.J. Augustin added 22 points for host Orlando.

Vucevic scored 24 points in the second half as Orlando led by as many as 21 and ended the Lakers' four-game winning streak.

Pelicans 125, Nuggets 115: Anthony Davis scored 40 points to lead host New Orleans.

Davis followed up his 43-point performance in a 129-124 victory against New York on Friday night by leading a balanced scoring effort for New Orleans, which won for the fifth time in six games. Davis shot 10-for-20 from the field and converted 20 of 21 chances from the line.

Jazz 98, Celtics 86: Donovan Mitchell had 28 points and six assists, bouncing back from one of his worst performances of the season and leading visiting Utah to its second win over Boston in eight days.

Raptors 122, Bulls 83: At Chicago, Fred VanVleet scored 18 points, Danny Green added 17 and Serge Ibaka had 16 points and four blocks as short-handed Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak.

Rockets 132, Kings 112: James Harden had 34 points and eight assists, and host Houston used a big first-half run on the way to its fourth straight victory.

Mavericks 112, Warriors 109: Luka Doncic scored 24 points, including a short jumper that gave host Dallas the lead for good.

Thunder 110, Suns 100: Paul George scored 32 points, Steven Adams added 26 and visiting Oklahoma City won for the 10th time in 11 games.

The Thunder played without Russell Westbrook for the sixth straight game. He missed the first five with a sprained ankle, but the team said his absence on Saturday was for "personal reasons."

NHL roundup

Lightning hold on to top Flyers in OT

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Anthony Cirelli saved the day for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Tampa Bay coughed up a four-goal lead, yet escaped with the win when Cirelli scored 1:47 into overtime to lift the Lightning to a 6-5 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday.

Cirelli outmuscled Wayne Simmonds to gain position in front of the net and beat Calvin Pickard with a top-shelf wrist shot. It was his fourth goal of the season.

"He's a pretty strong guy so he was battling pretty hard," Cirelli said. "Luckily at that last second I kind of pulled it across my body and had a little bit of room to get a quick shot off and it went in."

The Lightning became the sixth team in NHL history to squander a four-goal lead in the third period and go on to win the game. Tampa Bay is the first to accomplish the feat since the Stars beat Carolina 6-5 on Dec. 8, 2015.

Tampa Bay opened a 5-1 lead 9:08 into the third on Brayden Point's fifth goal in two games. But Philadelphia rallied behind two goals by Travis Konecny and Simmonds tied it with 3:32 left in regulation, beating Louis Domingue while lying on his back.

"It was a weird game," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "We were up 5-1 and I don't think the game felt like we were up 5-1. ... From a coach's perspective, it's probably one you're not too happy with, but I'm sure the fans were pretty entertained."

Sabres 3, Wild 2: Jason Pominville scored with 1:30 remaining to lift visiting Buffalo Sabres to a win over Minnesota, helping Buffalo extend its winning streak to five games.

Rangers 4, Panthers 2: Vladislav Namestnikov scored in the second period, Henrik Lundqvist made 39 saves and New York earned its fifth consecutive home win.

Blue Jackets 4, Hurricanes 1: Cam Atkinson had three goals and an assist, and Columbus won at Carolina for its fifth victory in six games.

Bruins 2, Coyotes 1: Jakob Forsbacka Karlsson and Jake DeBrusk scored less than three minutes into the game, and Boston held on for the road win.

Predators 5, Kings 3: Calle Jarnkrok scored three times for his first career hat trick, powering Nashville to the victory over visiting Los Angeles.

Senators 6, Penguins 4: Mark Stone and Matt Duchene each scored twice, leading Ottawa to the win at home. Brady Tkachuk and Cody Ceci also scored.

Red Wings 3, Devils 2 (OT): Dylan Larkin scored 4:09 into overtime, Jonathan Bernier stopped 38 shots and Detroit won at New Jersey to earn its fifth victory in six games.

Canadiens 3, Canucks 2: Jonathan Drouin scored a power-play goal with less than three minutes remaining to lead Montreal to the road win. Drouin scored just seconds after Vancouver defenseman Michael Del Zotto was whistled for interference.

Sharks 4, Blues 0: Erik Karlsson scored his first goal and Aaron Dell earned his fourth career shutout in leading San Jose past visiting St. Louis.

Flames 4, Oilers 2: Elias Lindholm scored two goals and Sean Monahan added a goal and an assist as host Calgary took over the top spot in the Pacific Division with the win. Derek Ryan also scored.