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Corps raises promotion requirements

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON

Stars and Stripes

Most Marines will have to serve longer before they're eligible to reach the ranks of sergeant and staff sergeant, beginning Jan. 1.

Corporals will need at least four years of time in service to be promoted to sergeant, while sergeants must have served in the Marine Corps for at least five years to make staff sergeant, a service administrative memo released Wednesday said.

Corporals were formerly eligible for promotion after two years, while sergeants could move up after four years of time in service. Sergeants must also now have spent 36 months in their rank before getting promoted, up from 27 months.

The time-spent-in-rank requirement can be waived if a Marine is being promoted on merit, but "there will be no waiver of the [time-in-service] requirement," the memo said.

Marines who have shown exceptional professionalism and performance over a period of time are eligible for meritorious promotions. There were 328 such promotions to E-5 in fiscal year 2019, compared to 11,566 standard promotions that year, Marine Corps officials said Friday.

There is no expectation that the number of meritorious promotions will rise after the policy takes effect, a Marine Corps spokeswoman said Friday.

Marines in pay grades E1-E3 will continue to be promoted based on time in service.

The changes are intended to "standardize the rate of promotion across the force" and keep Marines in the service longer, the memo said. As a result, other Marines would know that E-5s and E-6s have more experience in their fields, Marine Corps officials said Friday.

However, some Marines questioned whether the new policy would hurt retention and wondered what effects the changes would have on force structure.

Fewer Marines will want to reenlist, said Sgt. Jorge Ribera-Pedraza, a career planner with Marine Forces Reserve.

"Nobody is going to want to wait four years to pick up sergeant," he said.

The changes could mean there will be fewer sergeants, which would mean "less struc-

ture in the ranks," said Cpl. Sophia Roest, a maintenance chief with the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marine officials said the new policy brings promotions back in line with historical averages. In some job specialties, Marines are making sergeant in "quite less than" four years, said Col. Christopher Escamilla, branch head for the service's Manpower Plans, Programs and Budget section, in a Marine Corps Times interview.

About 38% of sergeants left active duty within 12 months of promotion in fiscal year 2019, service officials said Friday. Because active duty contracts often expire at the four-year mark, the new policy means that most Marines will have to reenlist to make sergeant.

Carolina Guard troops move into eastern Syria

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — National Guard members from North and South Carolina began moving into eastern Syria with heavy

armored vehicles on Thursday as part of the Pentagon's new mission to secure oil fields wrestled from Islamic State, a military spokesman said.

Soldiers with the North Carolina-based 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment and the South Carolina-based 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade were deployed to Deir al-Zour to protect American-held oil fields around that city, Army Col. Myles Caggins, the spokesman for the U.S.-led anti-ISIS mission known as Operation Inherent Resolve, tweeted

Thursday. Caggins' tweet included photos of soldiers loading M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles onto Air Force C-17 Globemaster cargo jets to be used on the mission.

The deployment consists primarily of infantrymen, said a Pentagon official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. That official and a Pentagon spokesman declined to say how many troops would be deployed into eastern Syria, where American special operators left in recent weeks by order of President Donald Trump. The officials said the number of troops had yet to be decided, though they insisted the force would remain below the 1,000 or so troops that remained in Syria recently.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Monday said he expected the new crop of troops

to be less than that amount. He declined to speculate how long troops would remain around oil-rich Deir al-Zour, the former ISIS stronghold about 80 miles southeast of Raqqa along the Euphrates River. He insisted, as Trump has, that eventually those troops would "be going home."

For now, the new deployment will not include M1 Abrams tanks, the Pentagon official said Thursday.

The 4-118th Infantry Regiment is part of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which includes about 4,200 soldiers from Army National Guard units from North and South Carolina and West Virginia. The entire brigade deployed to Kuwait during the summer for a nine-month rotation in support of Operation

Spartan Shield, during which it conducted desert training operations. That brigade includes armor units with dozens of M1 tanks. The Pentagon official said Thursday that military planners had not ruled out moving some of those tanks into Syria.

Esper said Monday that the troops' new mission would be to ensure the oil fields, once used by ISIS as its major revenue source to finance terrorist campaigns around the world, did not fall back into the terrorists' hands. While ISIS lost the last remnants of its so-called caliphate across parts of Syria and Iraq in March and its top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed Saturday, the group has retained dangerous cells across both countries, military officials have warned.

Naval Academy opens space for study group for atheists

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy who have beliefs associated with the Satanic Temple now have a study group available to them, according to the military institution.

A space for a study group at the academy in Annapolis, Md., was requested by students with “beliefs aligned with those practiced by The Satanic Temple” so they could gather and share their views, according to a statement issued Thursday by Cmdr. Alana Garas, a Naval Academy spokeswoman. The group is an atheist religious organization that is politically active.

An internal email sent out to

the student body Oct. 8 stated “satanic services” would be starting at the academy, Garas said. However, the announcement was not reviewed or approved by the school’s command chaplain nor did it represent the U.S. Naval Academy’s Command Religious Program, according to Garas.

But the students’ request was for a space to conduct a study group, not to hold satanic services, according to Garas.

“The USNA Command Religious Program provides for the exercise of diverse beliefs. Arrangements were being made to provide the Midshipmen with a designated place to assemble as chaplains facilitate for the beliefs of all service members, a responsibility outlined by Navy

instructions,” Garas said in the statement.

The Satanic Temple is a separate organization from the Church of Satan, which was founded in 1966 by Anton Szandor LaVey in San Francisco. The Satanic Temple gained IRS tax-exempt status as a church in May and is headquartered in Salem, Mass.

“Midshipmen have the right to assemble to discuss their beliefs as they choose, but, to be clear, in accordance with Department of Defense policy, military members will not engage in partisan political activities, and will avoid the inference that their activities may appear to imply DoD approval or endorsement of a political cause,” Garas said.

Feds: Walmart refused to hire reservist

DENVER — Federal prosecutors say Walmart violated legal protections for military service members for allegedly refusing to hire a Colorado Navy reservist because she needed to take time off for training.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for Colorado says a personnel coordinator who contacted Navy Petty Officer Lindsey Hunger about her application for a summer job at a Grand Junction Walmart in 2016 told her the company couldn’t support giving her two weeks off.

Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove says they have policies and training to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Pilot ejects from F-16 before crash in NM

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The Air Force says a pilot successfully ejected from an F-16 before the fighter crashed in southern New Mexico during a training flight.

Holloman Air Force Base officials say the F-16 assigned to the 49th Wing at the base crashed Tuesday night about 80 miles southeast of the base.

Officials said in a statement that the pilot was taken to a hospital for treatment.

New assault trial set for ex-Hawaii sailor

HONOLULU — A new trial has been scheduled against a former Navy sailor whose sex assault conviction was overturned.

Hawaii News Now reports Honolulu prosecutors aren’t dropping their case against Roynes Dural. Dural was charged with sex assault in 2002, accused of having sex with his ex-girlfriend’s daughter. Dural was sentenced to 20 years in prison. While he was in prison, the girl’s mother found out it was another man who was having sex with her daughter.

The conviction was overturned on appeal.

From The Associated Press

Amazon might dispute DOD cloud deal

Associated Press

Amazon must decide soon if it will protest the Pentagon’s awarding of a \$10 billion cloud computing contract to rival Microsoft, with one possible grievance being the unusual attention given the project by President Donald Trump.

Amazon was long thought to be the front-runner in the competition for the huge military contract. Its Amazon Web Services division is far ahead of second-place Microsoft as the market leader for cloud computing and has experience handling highly classified government data. It survived earlier legal challenges after the Defense Department eliminated rival bidders Oracle and IBM and whittled the competition down to the two Seattle area tech giants before choosing Microsoft last week.

And what else distinguishes

the losing bidder? Amazon and its CEO Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post, have been frequent targets of Trump’s criticism.

The Pentagon was preparing to make its final decision when Trump publicly waded into the fray in July, saying he had heard complaints about the process and that the administration would “take a very long look.” He said other companies told him that the contract “wasn’t competitively bid.” Oracle, in particular, had argued that Pentagon officials unfairly favored Amazon for the winner-take-all contract.

The comments from Trump were “inappropriate and improvident,” though it would be a challenge for Amazon to prove the White House applied undue pressure in a way that made a difference, said Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George

Washington University.

Then again, given Trump’s known antipathy toward the company, Schooner said Amazon may not have much to lose in picking a fight.

Amazon didn’t return requests for comment about its next steps.

The clock is now ticking. Amazon has the right to ask the Pentagon to debrief the company on what led it to pick Microsoft instead.

The Pentagon declined to comment this week on the specifics of the debriefing process and whether it has already started.

If Amazon is not satisfied with the government’s explanation, it can file a formal protest with the Government Accountability Office, which then has 100 days to review the case. Amazon could also separately take its dispute to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Firefighters' efforts benefit from calmer Calif. weather

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Calmer weather allowed crews to increase containment of wildfires after a three-week siege of gusts fanned blazes across California and led utilities to cut power to prevent winds from blowing branches into electric lines and igniting an inferno.

Winds subsided in virtually all parts of the state, though red flag warnings for fire danger because of winds and ultradry conditions remained in place through Friday evening for some inland areas to the north and west of Los Angeles. Lingering winds were blamed for churning up a fire that erupted Thursday evening and spread from a hilltop near Santa Paula, northwest of Los Angeles.

Authorities in Ventura County ordered evacuations for about 7,500 people in an area that includes roughly 1,800 buildings as the blaze threatened the small, unincorporated rural community of Somis.

Hundreds of firefighters raced to attack the blaze, which initially was fanned by moderate winds. It grew in only a few hours early Friday to more than 12 square miles before winds eased. Firefighters were protecting avocado and citrus orchards and infrastructure, including radio communication facilities and high voltage power lines. Dozens of local schools in the area were closed.

For most of October, fires sprang up across the state, forcing residents to flee homes at all hours as flames indiscriminately burned barns, sheds, mobile homes and multimillion-dollar mansions.

Nearly 200,000 Sonoma County residents were allowed to return home even as the 121-square-mile fire that forced them to evacuate continued to burn. At least 167 homes were destroyed. The number of homes considered threatened was drastically reduced to about 1,600 as containment increased to 67% Friday.

Ex-Trump aide didn't deem Ukraine discussion illegal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former top White House official confirmed that military aid to Ukraine was held up by President Donald Trump's demand for the ally to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden but testified that there's nothing illegal, in his view, about the quid pro quo at the center of the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry.

Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his Thursday testimony, was the first White House political appointee to appear and spent more than eight hours behind closed doors with House investigators.

"I want to be clear, I was not concerned that anything illegal was discussed," Morrison said about a pivotal phone call between Trump and the Ukraine president, according

to prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press.

Late Thursday, Trump tweeted about Morrison's comment that no law was broken: "Thank you to Tim Morrison for your honesty."

But Morrison also confirmed what diplomat William Taylor told investigators in earlier testimony — that Morrison had a "sinking feeling" when he learned that Trump was asking the Ukrainians to publicly announce an investigation of Biden and the Democrats, even as the Republican president denied it was a quid pro quo.

Morrison told investigators that he and Taylor did not realize the money was being withheld for the investigation of Burisma, the gas company connected to Biden, until a conversation with European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland in September.

Family of SEAL seeks pardon from Trump

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Family members of Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, who beat murder charges this year but was convicted of posing for a photograph with an enemy corpse, are asking President Donald Trump for a pardon, they wrote Thursday on social media.

"Our family is seeking congressional support for a presidential pardon for Eddie," read the post on the Free Eddie Gallagher page on Facebook, which has sought support and donations since Gallagher was arrested in September 2018 on war crimes accusations stemming from a 2017 deployment to Iraq. "Please call your congressional representative and ask them to sign onto our letter to the POTUS to #FREED-DIE from this travesty of justice."

Gallagher was acquitted by a military jury at a court-martial in July of the most serious charges that he faced, including the murder of an Islamic State fighter in American custody and attempted murder of civilians. However, he was convicted of a single count of posing with the ISIS fighter's dead body.

This week, the Navy announced Adm. Michael Gilday, the chief of naval operations, upheld that conviction after reviewing the case. The admiral approved Gallagher's sentence, which included forfeiture of about \$10,000 in pay, four months' imprisonment and a reduction in rank from E-7 chief petty officer to E-6 petty officer first class. Gallagher did not spend time in prison after his conviction, having spent some six months in a Navy brig before his trial.

Navy prosecutors had argued Gallagher stabbed to death a teenage ISIS fighter while deployed to northern Iraq with SEAL Team 7 in 2017 as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. They also charged the 19-year veteran had shot indiscriminately

at civilians during the deployment and threatened fellow SEALs not to report his actions.

But the case faced many problems. Prosecutors were accused of using spyware embedded within emails sent to defense attorneys and a journalist in an attempt to track some of their online activity. The lead prosecutor on the case, Navy Cmdr. Christopher Czaplak, admitted to sending the bugged email in an attempt to detect sources of media leaks related to the case and was dismissed from the case by a judge.

Later, at Gallagher's court-martial, another SEAL, Petty Officer 1st Class Corey Scott, testified before the jury that he had actually killed the captive ISIS fighter, describing it as an act of mercy for someone who was critically wounded. Scott, who was a government-called witness in the case, had been granted immunity in exchange for testifying against Gallagher.

Gallagher, 40, and his supporters have long touted the innocence of the veteran of special operations assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those supporters include Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who previously pressed Trump for a pretrial pardon. Hunter, an Iraq veteran who served in the Marine Corps, said publicly that he, too, had posed with the bodies of dead enemy fighters on the battlefield and argued it was common among American military veterans. "A lot of us have done the exact same thing," Hunter said in May during a town hall event in California.

Trump was reported to have considered pardoning Gallagher — and other special operators accused of various war crimes — before his trial during the summer.

The White House did not immediately return an email Friday seeking comment on the Gallagher family's request to the president.

N. Korea says it test-fired new rocket launcher

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea confirmed Friday it conducted its third test-firing of a new, “superlarge” multiple rocket launcher that it says expands its ability to destroy enemy targets in surprise attacks.

The latest launches extended a monthslong streak of weapons displays by the North, which continues to use a standstill in nuclear negotiations to advance its military capabilities while pressuring Washington for concessions.

Pyongyang’s official Korean Central News Agency described the tests a day

after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said they detected two projectiles launched from an area near the North Korean capital traveling more than 200 miles cross country before landing in waters off the North’s eastern coast.

Experts say the North could continue to ramp up weapons demonstrations ahead of an end-of-year deadline set by leader Kim Jong Un for the U.S. to offer mutually acceptable terms to salvage a fragile diplomacy strained by disagreements over exchanging sanctions relief and disarmament steps.

Thursday’s launches followed statements of displeasure by top North Korean offi-

cials over the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States and demands that the administration of President Donald Trump ease crippling sanctions and pressure on their country.

KCNA said Kim expressed satisfaction over what North Korea described as a successful test of its new rocket artillery system, but it wasn’t clear whether the leader observed the launches on site. The North previously tested the system in August and September. The latest test verified the “perfection” of the system’s continuous firing ability that allows it to “totally destroy” enemy targets with “super power,” the agency said.

Iraqis launch largest demonstration so far

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Tens of thousands of Iraqis massed in Baghdad’s Tahrir Square on Friday in the biggest demonstrations since anti-government protests erupted a month ago, defying security forces that have killed scores of people and harshly criticizing Iran’s involvement in the country’s affairs.

The square and the wide boulevards leading into it were packed with flag-waving protesters, as security forces reinforced barricades on two bridges leading to the heavily-fortified Green Zone, the seat of government. The protesters want sweeping change to the political system es-

tablished after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, which they blame for widespread corruption, high unemployment and poor public services.

At least 255 people have been killed in two major waves of protests in the past month, including five who died Friday of wounds sustained earlier, according to security and medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief reporters. At least 350 people were wounded Friday as security forces fired tear gas grenades and rubber bullets to drive people back from the bridges.

Many protesters directed their rage at Iran, which emerged as a major power bro-

ker after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and has close ties to powerful political parties and state-backed militias that were mobilized to battle Islamic State but have now become an imposing political faction.

Videos circulated online of a group of protesters holding a poster showing Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the head of its elite Quds force, Gen. Qassim Soleimani, with their faces crossed out. The video, which showed protesters beating the poster with their shoes, appeared to have been filmed Thursday in Tahrir Square. On Friday, protesters marched over an Iranian flag painted on the pavement with a swastika added to it.

Woman dressed up as Carrie alarms first responders

The Washington Post

Sidney Wolfe, 20, was covered in blood. It coated her long chestnut-colored hair. It stained her face and arms. It soaked through most of her white, floor-length gown, turning the fabric a dark crimson.

That’s how she looked when first responders found her behind the wheel of her totaled Toyota Corolla along a stretch of highway in southern Ohio shortly before 1 a.m. last Saturday, prompting the medics to prepare for the worst.

“Everyone who was a first responder thought I was dead,” Wolfe, an accounting major at Marshall University in West Virginia, tweeted this week, sharing photos of her wrecked car and a grisly selfie. But not only was Wolfe very much alive after hitting a large deer that jumped in front of her car, she was completely unharmed save for

a minor bruise on her leg.

The copious amounts of blood that had initially alarmed the first responders and a good Samaritan who pulled over to help was makeup — Wolfe was dressed up as Carrie White, the title character of Stephen King’s 1974 horror novel “Carrie.”

“They kept asking over and over again if I wanted medical assistance, and I kept saying, ‘No, I’m OK,’” Wolfe told The Washington Post late Thursday. “Once I got my wits to me and kind of calmed down, I realized that I was in fact not injured, and I was just in a really ironic situation.”

The saga, which Wolfe chronicled in a now-viral Twitter thread that has amassed hundreds of thousands of likes, began last week when she donned the blood-splattered costume to advertise a production of “Carrie: The Musical” put on by the Para-

mount Arts Center in Ashland, Ky.

Ahead of the show’s Halloween opening night, a group of actors visited haunted houses in the state to promote the musical. But the person cast as Carrie couldn’t make it to a rural haunted house on Oct. 25, so Wolfe, who is playing the character of Sue Snell, stepped in.

When she left and headed home that night, Wolfe said, she didn’t worry much about her frightful look. “We were in a haunted house campground in the middle of nowhere in Kentucky,” she told the Post. “I wasn’t in the position to be able to show-er, and I thought nothing of it.”

Then, about 15 minutes into Wolfe’s drive back to Marshall’s Huntington, W.Va., campus, a deer bounded directly into the path of her car. At the time of impact, Wolfe said she was traveling at about 55 mph.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dog helps police ID person hit by vehicle

NJ FAIR LAWN — Police said a dog helped officers find the home of a pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle.

Fair Lawn police said the man was crossing Berdan Avenue at Sunnyside Drive when he was hit Wednesday night. The man, who didn't have any ID, was taken to a hospital for treatment of head and leg injuries. His American bulldog was not injured. "Mr. Wrinkles" led officers to the man's home about five blocks away so the 64-year-old's family could be notified.

The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was taken to a hospital for treatment of chest and arm injuries.

Teen falls, gets stuck between 2 buildings

PA BUTLER — Firefighters rescued a teenager after she fell from a roof and got stuck between two buildings.

Officials say the 14-year-old was jumping from roof to roof in Butler on Tuesday when she fell and became wedged in a space less than 2 feet wide.

Fire Capt. Jim Kaufman tells KDKA-TV there was a space in between the building about as wide as his shoulders. Kaufman says the girl was very lucky because another 3 feet, she would have fallen.

Firefighters reached the girl through a window.

Halloween display with guillotine riles some

UT BRIGHAM CITY — Officials said they've received "more than a few" complaints over a family's Halloween display that includes a guillotine chopping off the

heads of baby dolls.

However, the city attorney for Brigham City, Michael Christiansen, said the display isn't a public nuisance under the city code even though "it's distasteful to some."

KUTV-TV reported that In addition to the guillotine, the lawn display includes a bloody nurse standing over a baby incubator containing angry looking babies and baby parts.

Julie Bawden said her family's annual Halloween displays are just intended "to be spooky and fun."

Official: Nearly 400 bags of heroin seized

MD DELMAR — A man is accused running from a traffic stop and throwing 300 bags of heroin into a backyard.

The Wicomico County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Wednesday that three people were in a car that was pulled over during a drug investigation Saturday in Delmar.

Cpl. Tyler Bennett said Lamerice Oney, 32, tossed the heroin and was later captured a couple blocks away.

A K-9 unit searched the vehicle and Bennett said another 80 bags of heroin were found, along with crack cocaine, a digital scale and money.

Oney, Terri Johnson, 46, and Katelyn Larrimore, 27, were arrested on drug charges.

School bus driver charged in crash

NC WILLIAMSTON — A school bus driver has been charged in a crash that injured 11 people, including nine children.

News outlets reported Christopher Bracy, 50, is accused of failing to yield when making a left turn Tuesday afternoon near Williamston.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Brian Allen said Bracy said 25 students from Rodgers Elementary School were on the bus. Nine students were taken to Martin General Hospital to be checked out. The extent of their injuries was unclear.

Two people in the other vehicle were also taken to a hospital.

New York City banning sale of foie gras

NY NEW YORK — New York City lawmakers have passed a bill that bans restaurants and grocery stores from selling foie gras, the fattened liver of a duck or goose.

The bill, which is expected to be signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, would ban the sale of the delicacy starting in 2022. Animal welfare activists had campaigned for a ban on the grounds that the methods used to produce foie gras are cruel.

Usually, it involves force-feeding a bird through a tube briefly slipped down its throat.

Farmers who produce foie gras say the birds are treated humanely and don't suffer during the fattening process.

Letter carrier robbed at gunpoint by 2 men

FL DEERFIELD BEACH — Federal officials are offering a reward up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest of two people who robbed a letter carrier at gunpoint in a South Florida neighborhood.

The robbery happened Saturday morning in Deerfield Beach.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service spokesman Ivan Ramirez told news outlets the suspects approached the mail carrier and demanded a master key that gains access to community mailboxes in apartment and

condominium complexes.

Ramirez said the letter carrier didn't have a master key, so the suspects took several trays of mail and some packages.

Replicas of Columbus' ships coming to state

AL ROGERSVILLE — Replicas of Christopher Columbus' ships are coming back to northern Alabama.

WAAY-TV reported the Nina and Pinta were to open to the public at Joe Wheeler State Park Marina on Thursday.

The two are historically accurate to the real ships. They were in northern Alabama this summer before heading to Tennessee for almost two months.

While in port, visitors can walk around the ships and take self-guided tours.

Sheriff: Fake doctors' notes sold to students

LA EVANS — Authorities said a woman who worked at a medical clinic has been arrested for selling fake doctor's notes to high school students so they can get out of class.

News outlets reported Belinda Gail Fondren, 52, was charged with filing or maintaining false public records.

Vernon Parish Sheriff Sam Craft said Fondren was selling medical excuses for \$20 each. He said two students at Evans High School received excuses on 14 occasions.

Deputies said a physician received a call from the Vernon Parish School Board about the notes. He told deputies that he neither treated the students nor authorized the excuses.

Craft said Fondren worked in a clerical position at the clinic. Fondren's daughter attends the school, the sheriff's office said.

From wire reports

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49ers top Cardinals, remain unbeaten

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — San Francisco's game-manager turned into quite the game-changer in an impressive performance.

Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns on a night his team's vaunted defense wasn't at its best, and the San Francisco 49ers reached the halfway point of their season undefeated, beating the Arizona Cardinals 28-25 on Thursday.

For a quarterback who often gets the backhanded compliment of being a good game-manager, Garoppolo's stellar performance provided some proof that the 27-year-old might be a little better than people think.

His teammates already knew.

"Yeah, he's pretty good," San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle said. "I don't know why people don't think he

is. He makes some pretty gutsy throws out there, doesn't he? Goodness gracious."

San Francisco (8-0) fell behind 7-0 but responded with three touchdowns — one as time expired in the second quarter after Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury called a timeout and gave the 49ers a second chance on fourth down — to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

The 49ers were in control until about five minutes left in the fourth quarter, when Andy Isabella caught a short pass and sprinted for an 88-yard touchdown to help the Cardinals pull to 28-25.

But the 49ers were able to run out the clock on their ensuing offensive drive to end Arizona's comeback. Garoppolo had two crucial third-down completions to keep the final drive alive, including one to Emmanuel Sanders, who caught seven passes for 112 yards and a touchdown.

Garoppolo completed 28 of 37

throws including touchdowns of 30, 7, 1 and 21 yards.

"Our team has done a good job of winning in different ways this year," Garoppolo said. "Whether it's offense, special teams, defense or mixing and matching all of them. That's how you create a good football team. You're not relying on one part and everyone's playing tomorrow. Complementary football."

"That's where we're at right now."

Even in victory and at 8-0, Niners cornerback Richard Sherman was downright grumpy when asked about the defense. Arizona had 357 total yards.

"It's not about the results. The results are going to be what they are," Sherman said. "Thank goodness our offense executed. But it's about the process, it's executing the way you're supposed to. It's about doing your job repeatedly, like

with robotic consistency."

Arizona (3-5-1) lost its second straight game. Rookie quarterback Kyler Murray threw for 241 yards and two touchdowns.

The Cardinals came into the game without their top two running backs, David Johnson and Chase Edmonds, who were battling injuries.

Kenyan Drake — who was acquired by the Cardinals on Monday in a trade with the Miami Dolphins — ran for 36 yards on the first play of the game and capped the opening drive with a 4-yard touchdown run. He finished with a team-high 110 yards rushing and 52 yards receiving.

"That's what we expected from him, why we traded for him," Kingsbury said. "His skill set is perfect for what we do. He's explosive, he runs tough and to come and learn an entirely new offense, we didn't hold anything back. We knew we could call our best game."

Redskins' Williams reveals cancer scare, explains holdout

Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins tackle Trent Williams revealed a cancer diagnosis that played a part in his lengthy holdout and distrust of the team's medical staff and the organization.

Williams on Thursday said he told the team of the medical issue six years ago, and the growth on his head grew substantially over time. The 31-year-old said he had a tumor removed from his skull and needs to get checked out every six months to make sure he's OK.

The seven-time Pro Bowl selection had multiple surgeries during the offseason related to the tumor's removal and remained away from the team during that time. Williams said it got pretty serious and he was "told some scary things" by doctors that changed his outlook on life.

The riveting, almost 20-min-

ute discussion with reporters unfolded with Williams, selected fourth overall by Washington in the 2010 draft, seated by his corner locker stall.

"It was a lot of emotions; I'm not going to lie and say it wasn't," Williams said of returning to Redskins Park on Tuesday shortly before the NFL trade deadline.

The Redskins later Thursday released a statement saying they've requested the NFL Management Council convene a joint committee with the Players Association to review Williams' medical records and the care given to him. In the statement, the team said it continues to "prioritize the health and well-being of our players and staff."

Williams' feelings were not of fondness, but frustration over the team's medical personnel, according to Williams, downplaying the growth's severity over the years only for a local

Northern Virginia hospital to eventually provide a more serious diagnosis.

"I almost lost my life. Seriously, I almost lost my life," Williams said. "You're 30 and coming off seven straight Pro Bowls and a doctor tells you to get your affairs in order. It's not going to sit well with you. It still doesn't. It's a scary thing to go through. Think how you describe to your 9-year-old, your 5-year old that daddy might not be here. It's tough."

Williams said extracting the tumor was the only acceptable path even though that approach meant "losing 30 percent of my scalp." Radiation treatment "would have put a cap on my life I think 15 years was the most I would have had after I started chemo. So I had to cut it out," Williams said.

Williams failed his team physical this week because of discomfort with a standard helmet. Interim coach Bill Cal-

lahan said the team would seek an alternative. Washington has a two-week exemption before needing to put Williams on the active roster.

Such frightening thoughts put playing football in a proper perspective, but "I still love it," Williams said. "That's the sport." Playing for Washington again is another story.

Asked if he envisioned playing for Washington again, however, Williams said, "We'll see how this helmet thing turns out."

Subsequent comments make it clear his relationship with the organization, specifically team president Bruce Allen, is strained.

"No, there's no trust there," Williams said. When asked about whether his relationship with Allen could be salvaged, Williams paused before saying, "Next question."

Callahan said Wednesday he was "hopeful" Williams would play for Washington again.

No. 12 Baylor holds off West Virginia

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — No. 12 Baylor got quite defensive to remain undefeated.

While Charlie Brewer threw for 277 yards with two touchdowns, the defense blocked a late field-goal try while allowing only one big play, and the Bears won a game when scoring less than 20 points for the first time since 2006.

“A tremendous, tremendous defensive game,” coach Matt Rhule said after the 17-14 victory over West Virginia on Thursday night. “We are still learning that it’s OK just to play defense and not worry.”

John Mayers kicked a go-ahead, 36-yard field goal with 10:19 left to break a 14-all tie, and Baylor won its 10th game in a row despite an often frustrating night on offense and special teams.

Two seasons after winning only one game, the Bears (8-0, 5-0 Big 12) are the league’s only undefeated team — and one of eight remaining among FBS teams.

“Don’t apologize for going 8-0, for winning this game,” Rhule said. “Just have to continue to improve as we try to move forward.”

West Virginia (3-5, 1-4) had eight quarterback sacks. With second-and-goal from the 1 late in the second quarter, Baylor was stuffed for no gain on three consecutive plays and had to settle for a 7-0 halftime lead.

Still, the Bears avoided what happened last Saturday, when while they had an open date the Big 12’s other three ranked teams that did play lost. That included Oklahoma’s loss at Kansas State that left Baylor alone atop the conference standings.

“We talked about how this wasn’t good enough,” linebacker Jordan Williams said. “We need to grow from it because we don’t want to have that same feeling those teams had.”

After R.J. Sneed muffed a punt that was recovered at the Baylor 34, West Virginia couldn’t get a first down.

“We’re pretty good on defense,” linebacker Blake Lynch

said.

Casey Legg kicked the ball through the uprights on a 43-yard field-goal attempt, but the Mountaineers were penalized for delay of game and had to try again. Nose tackle Bravvion Roy then blocked Legg’s 48-yard attempt with 3½ minutes left.

The Mountaineers had two big plays for their touchdowns. George Campbell had an 83-yard catch-and-run from Austin Kendall on the first play after a punt, and Winston Wright went 95 yards for the Mountaineers’ first kickoff return for a touchdown in five years.

West Virginia finished with 219 total yards, 136 outside of that one big play.

Wright’s return was on the ensuing kick after Brewer’s 21-yard TD pass to Denzel Mims, who had opened the second half by fumbling at the end of a 30-yard reception on his first catch since taking a hard hit early in the game.

West Virginia beat Baylor 58-14 last year, but the Moun-

taineers were coming off a 52-14 loss at Oklahoma in their last game and came into this game as a nearly three-touchdown underdog.

“A lot of guys hurt in that locker room. I hurt for them,” first-year Mountaineers coach Neal Brown said. “I hurt because they invested. They came up short. I don’t know if we necessarily got beat, but we came up short.”

Safety targeting

Both teams had a starting safety ejected after targeting calls.

Josh Norwood, the leading tackler for West Virginia and with four consecutive games of at least 10 tackles, was flagged after the hit on Mims late in the first quarter.

Baylor’s Chris Miller got penalized for a play against Kendall in the final minute before halftime. Miller is subject to an automatic one-game suspension because it was his third targeting penalty this season.

Georgia Southern knocks off No. 20 Appalachian State

Associated Press

BOONE, N.C. — When Georgia Southern quarterback Shai Werts kept the ball on an option play instead of pitching out, he looked up to see one thing.

“Field, just field,” Werts said of his 55-yard touchdown run.

There was plenty of open field for Eagles ball carriers Thursday night at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

Wesley Kennedy ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns, Werts ran for 87 yards and Georgia Southern racked up 335 yards on the ground behind its triple-option offense to upset No. 20 Appalachian State for the second straight season, 24-21.

The Eagles defense held the country’s ninth-highest scoring offense in check most of the night on a rainy, windy Hallow-

een night where temperatures dipped into the 20s.

Georgia Southern (5-3, 3-1 Sun Belt) ended Appalachian State’s 13-game winning streak, handing the Mountaineers their first loss since knocking them out of the Top 25 more than a year ago with a 34-14 victory.

Appalachian State again struggled defending Georgia Southern’s triple option.

Kennedy struck the biggest blow when he took an option pitch from Werts and raced 68 yards for a touchdown on the first possession of the second half. Werts blew through a huge hole in the line and raced 55 yards for a score on the ensuing possession to give the Eagles a 24-7 lead, sending the vast majority of the crowd heading to the exits.

“This is a good milestone for us beating a Top 25 team, but

we have to keep going,” Werts said. “But we are going to enjoy this one for the next few days.”

Kennedy, who didn’t play in Georgia’s Southern’s losses to No. 1 LSU and No. 13 Minnesota, averaged 11.2 yards per carry. He did most of his damage getting around the corner behind solid blocking.

“The O-line just opened up the holes and I was just hitting them,” Kennedy said.

Appalachian State (7-1, 4-1) came in averaging 41 points, but struggled to get any momentum going for the first three quarters other than a 92-yard touchdown drive in the final 2 minutes of the first half.

Zac Thomas tried to rally Appalachian State with two fourth-quarter TD passes to Corey Sutton, but the Mountaineers’ final two drives ended without any points. Thomas

finished with 272 yards passing and three touchdowns.

“It hurts,” said Thomas, who fell to 17-3 as the Mountaineers starting QB.

Poll implications

The loss will almost certainly knock the Mountaineers out of the Top 25. Appalachian State came into the game as the highest ranked Sun Belt team ever, but now they will need outside help just to reach the conference championship game. “We’ll put this behind us and keep moving forward,” Mountaineers coach Eli Drinkwitz said. “There’s a lot of season left. There are a lot of things still to play for. Obviously, we don’t control our own fate. They have the tie-breaker over us, but there’s a lot of conference games left to be played.”

NBA roundup

Undrafted Nunn leads Heat past Hawks

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Kendrick Nunn is enjoying the best start of any undrafted player in NBA history.

The rookie is taking the Miami Heat along for the ride.

Nunn scored a career-high 28 points to add to his record-setting start and Miami beat Atlanta 106-97 on Thursday night, giving the Heat two wins over the Hawks in three days.

Nunn's 112 points are the highest total through the first five games for any undrafted player in NBA history. Connie Hawkins of the Phoenix Suns scored 105 points in his first five games of the 1969-70 season.

"It's surreal a little bit," Nunn said. "... All I needed was the opportunity."

Nunn, a 6-foot-2 guard from

Oakland University in Michigan, scored 14 points in the third quarter. He began his career with 24 points against Memphis on Oct. 23, and he has kept shooting. He has scored at least 24 points three times in Miami's first five games.

"He can shoot it," Hawks rookie Cam Reddish said. "I have a lot of respect for that guy."

Another record-setting rookie, Tyler Herro, had 17 points. Herro scored 29 points off the bench in the Heat's 112-97 win over Atlanta on Tuesday night to set a franchise record for a rookie reserve.

The rookies have helped Miami (4-1) enjoy a strong start.

Nunn and Herro are feeding off Jimmy Butler, who had 11 assists while scoring only five points. He added nine re-

bounds, six steals and blocked three shots.

The Heat had 29 assists with only 13 turnovers.

"To tell you the truth, that was winning basketball today," Butler said.

Nunn was impressed by Butler's play, especially the assists.

"That's huge, for your star player to be unselfish like that," Nunn said.

Butler had 21 points in his Heat debut on Tuesday night.

Pelicans 122, Nuggets 107: Jahlil Okafor scored 26 points, Brandon Ingram added 25 and host New Orleans beat Denver for its first victory in five games this season.

Ingram has scored at least 22 points in each of his first five games for New Orleans after coming over from the Los Angeles Lakers.

Michael Porter Jr. led the Nuggets with 15 points in his NBA debut.

Clippers 103, Spurs 97: Kawhi Leonard scored 38 points, Montrezl Harrell added 24 and host Los Angeles dealt San Antonio its first loss of the season.

Leonard also grabbed 12 rebounds for his first points-rebounds, double-double this season. It is also Leonard's first double-double in three meetings against the Spurs, where he played seven seasons (2011-18).

The game was close for the first 28 minutes, before the Clippers took control with a 9-1 run to take a 64-55 lead with 6:55 remaining in the third quarter.

DeRozan led San Antonio with 29 points and Derrick White added 20.

NHL roundup

Tkachuk ties it late, then wins it for Flames in OT

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Matthew Tkachuk didn't think a comeback win was possible after Calgary's terrible start.

Then, he scored a pair of improbable goals for a come-from-behind win.

Tkachuk scored the tying goal with 40 seconds left in regulation and the winning goal with 1.4 seconds left in overtime on a between-the-legs shot as the Flames beat the Nashville Predators 6-5 on Thursday night.

Calgary rallied from a three-goal deficit after Nashville took the game's first 14 shots.

"I didn't think it was going to be possible after the first 20 minutes or first 10 minutes," Tkachuk said. "We were all over them in that third period and that's the way we need to be to be at our best."

On the winner, Tkachuk skated in front of the net against two Nashville defenders, let the puck slip between his legs and flipped a shot that beat Predators goalie Pekka Rinne high to the stick side.

Derek Ryan, Rasmus Andersson, Elias Lindholm and Alan Quine also scored for the Flames.

Austin Watson scored twice, Calle Jarnkrok scored two short-handed goals and Nick Bonino had a goal as the Predators saw their four-game winning streak halted.

"I think this comeback kind of gives us confidence that we can be down in the third, even though we don't want to be, and we can come back," Tkachuk said. "So I guess that's the positive we can take."

Tkachuk's rebound goal with 40 seconds left tied the game at 5 and forced overtime.

Calgary's David Rittich made 31 saves. Rinne made 21 saves.

Quine's first goal tied it at 4 with 3:21 left. Watson gave Nashville a 5-4 lead with 1:22 remaining.

Lindholm scored his team-leading ninth goal from close range, narrowing the gap to 4-3 of the third period.

"A lot of good things in the third period and it looks a lot more like us, right," Flames coach Bill Peters said. "We put the work boots on and played with some speed and possessed the puck. It should be a springboard to bigger and better things."

Calgary didn't take its first shot until about six minutes remained in the first period.

Bonino gave the Predators a 1-0 lead when he scored on a backhanded rebound at 5:33 of the first period.

It was his fourth straight

goal, including a hat trick in Nashville's 3-0 win over Chicago on Tuesday. The center leads the Predators with seven goals.

Canadiens 5, Golden Knights 4: Max Domi scored 27 seconds into overtime and visiting Montreal beat Vegas.

Montreal's Brendan Gallagher scored his seventh of the season during a 6-on-5 sequence with 1:58 left in regulation, taking a perfect feed from the corner and beating Vegas goalie Marc-Andre Fleury between the pads to tie the game at 4-all.

Domi then scored his fourth goal of the season when the puck trickled through the pads of Fleury for the winning goal.

Phillip Danault, Jonathan Drouin and Tomas Tatar also scored for Montreal.

Goaltender Keith Kincaid made 31 saves for Montreal.