

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US, Brunei end training in South China Sea

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Brunei armed forces finished their 25th annual maritime training exercise Thursday at Muara Naval Base, Brunei, after more than a week of operations in the South China Sea.

"This is what partnership looks like," Navy Rear Adm. Joey Tynch, commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific, said in a Navy statement at the conclusion of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT. "There's no better demonstration of our shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific than working together at sea."

Brunei sits just 160 miles from the nearest island in the Spratly Island chain, closer than several of the countries laying claim

to territory within it.

China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia all claim portions of the Spratlys, a chain of nearly 100 small islands and reefs. Together, the claimants occupy 45 of the islands.

China, considered the most assertive in the region, has artificially created more than 3,200 acres and installed military facilities on seven of the islands, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Part of the 2018 U.S. National Defense Strategy calls for countering China's claims in the western Pacific, a move that includes the U.S. working with countries like the Philippines, Australia and Brunei.

During 10 days of exercises in the area, the littoral combat ship USS Montgomery and fast transport USNS Millinocket were

joined by the Brunei Royal Navy's offshore patrol vessel KDB Darulaman and inshore patrol vessel KDB Syafaat, according to a Navy statement.

The training included tracking exercises, deck landing qualifications and medical evacuation simulations, divisional tactics and replenishment at sea, according to the statement.

Additionally, the exercise this year included an aviation component, with a focus on joint training and search and rescue. A Navy P-8A Poseidon took part, along with Brunei military helicopters, according to the statement.

For the first time in this exercise, the Navy employed an MQ-8B Fire Scout Unmanned Autonomous helicopter with surveillance cameras for visit, board, search and seizure drills.

Army gives Marines' HIMARS a lift for 1st time

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

KIN, Okinawa — The Army successfully moved a Marine Corps mobile rocket system on a landing craft at sea for the first time Thursday, a short demonstration of U.S. ability to quickly move the system where it's needed.

The Marine Corps on Okinawa is working to improve its ability to defend the southernmost islands of Japan that stretch over hundreds of square miles between the East China and Philippine seas. The Marines' M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, is a key weapon in its arsenal.

Col. Michael Roach, commander of the 12th Marine Regiment, said mobility is the key to success in the event of a conflict in the Pacific. Cooperating with other services and allies is a big part of that.

"For the large amounts of

water in the region, the main way we're going to move around here is via landing craft," he said while overseeing Thursday's exercise. "So this really helps us maintain that lethality but also helps strengthen our interoperability with the Army that we don't get the opportunity to do as often as we would like."

Interoperability is a term the military uses often to mean, in this case, the ability of one service branch to use training methods and military equipment of another service. The Marines on Okinawa have twice shown they can move their HIMARS — basically a large truck with a complement of either rockets or missiles launched from a platform mounted on its back — with a landing craft. The Marines moved the HIMARS in a similar demonstration with the Navy on Aug. 14. This was a first for the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Moving the rocket system via

small landing craft will enable the Marines to establish advanced bases on Japan's islands during an attack.

The HIMARS can fire several types of rockets and missiles and reach targets beyond 40 miles away, according to the Marines. Originally developed by the Army for use on land, its range exceeds the reach of artillery cannons and its munitions are guided by GPS, according to the U.S. Naval Institute.

The system can be moved on a C-130 transport plane, for example, and while air travel is faster it comes with space and weight restrictions that landing craft don't have, Roach said. Landing craft can also get into places that some larger naval vessels can't.

"We're able to get more equipment and more Marines into an operating area, with more of their kit, than we normally have," he said.

Thursday's exercise started with the arrival of a 12th Ma-

rines HIMARS platoon in a five-vehicle convoy at an isolated dock called "Kin Red" in the Okinawan town of Kin.

Soon after, Landing Craft Utility 2022 — the USAV Harpers Ferry, of the Army 10th Support Group — arrived at the dock and lowered the ramp at the front of the boat.

The demonstration was "more of a proof of concept" that HIMARS is compatible with Army watercraft and the Army is capable of rapidly moving the Marines to islands in the Pacific, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Davis, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of marine operations for 10th Support Group.

The 10th Support Group's job is to mobilize and move units of the Army and other services throughout the Pacific, Davis said. It has just two boats in the region, but others could be brought from Hawaii if needed.

Suggestions made for AI use in warfare

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hoping to prepare for what many see as a coming revolution in artificial intelligence-enabled weaponry — and convince a skeptical public that it can apply such innovations responsibly — the U.S. military is taking early steps to define the ethical boundaries for how it will use such systems.

On Thursday, a Pentagon advisory organization called the Defense Innovation Board published a set of ethical principles for how military agencies should design AI-enabled weapons and apply them on the battlefield.

The board's recommendations are in no way legally binding. It now falls to the Pentagon to determine how and whether to proceed with them.

Lt. Gen. Jack Shanahan, director of the Defense Department's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, said he hopes the recommendations will set

the standard for the responsible and ethical use of such tools.

"The DIB's recommendations will help enhance the DOD's commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards as outlined in the DoD AI strategy, while embracing the U.S. military's strong history of applying rigorous testing and fielding standards for technology innovations," Shanahan said in a statement emailed to reporters.

Artificial intelligence algorithms are computer programs that can learn from past data and make choices without the input of a human. Such programs have already proven useful in analyzing the vast quantities of intelligence data that military and intelligence agencies collect, and the commercial business world has found myriad uses for them.

But the prospect of computers making decisions in a combat scenario has been met with skepticism from some corners of the tech world.

The Defense Department is so far just dipping its toes in, analysts say.

"What you see DoD searching for is some early use cases that are relatively easy from a tech standpoint and from a policy and cultural standpoint," said Paul Scharre, a former Army Ranger and Pentagon official who studies the issue at the Center for New American Security, a think tank. "They're looking for the ability to demonstrate clear value," he said.

The AI principles released Thursday were light on specifics, setting few of the hard-and-fast boundaries that AI skeptics might have hoped for.

Its recommendations for the Defense Department pertained mostly to broadly defined goals like "formalizing these principles" or "cultivating the field of AI engineering." Other recommendations included setting up a steering committee or a set of workforce training programs.

What the document did do is establish a set of high-level

ethical goals the department should strive for in its design of AI-enabled systems.

It clarified that AI systems should first and foremost be "responsible" and always under the full control of humans. The document specified that AI systems should be "equitable," recognizing that some AI systems have already been shown to express racial biases.

The document asserts that they should also be "traceable," such that their design and use can be audited by outside observers and "reliable" enough to function as intended. And the systems should be "governable" so they can be shut off when found to be acting inappropriately.

Scharre, the Center for a New American Security fellow, said the actual impact of the board's recommendations will depend on how the Defense Department proceeds.

"There is going to have to be high-level sustained oversight on this issue," Scharre said.

Consequences of '79 Iran seizure of US Embassy still felt

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — For those who were there, the memories are still fresh 40 years after one of the defining events of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when protesters seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and set off a 444-day hostage crisis.

The consequences of that crisis reverberate to this day.

Veteran Iranian photographer Kaveh Kazemi recalled snapping away with his camera as he stood behind the gate where the Iranian militant students would usher blindfolded American hostages to those gathered outside waving anti-American banners and calling for the extradition of the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

"Sometimes they would bring

a U.S. flag and burn it, put it in flames and then throw it among the crowd," said Kazemi, now 67, pointing to the spot. "They would come and chant 'death to America,' 'death to the shah.' ... It changed the world as I knew it."

Anger toward America had already been growing throughout 1979 as Iran's revolutionary government took hold, but it boiled over in October when the United States took in the ailing shah for medical treatment.

After several protests, the Islamist students raided the embassy on Nov. 4 and took 98 hostages.

What initially began as a sit-in devolved into 444 days of captivity for 52 Americans seized in the embassy. It prompted President Jimmy Carter to expel Iranian diplo-

mats and launch a failed rescue mission before the Americans were eventually released on the last day of his presidency, setting off decades of hostility amid an Islamic takeover that turned the country from a former U.S. ally into perhaps its greatest adversary.

Many of those sentiments remain today amid the escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington following the disintegration of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and the subsequent U.S. sanctions that have sent the Iranian economy into free fall.

Outside the former embassy's shaded red-brick walls, which were in the process of being painted with anti-U.S. murals for the upcoming anniversary, former protester Hossein Kouhi said he turned

out in 1979 to denounce what he called U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs, something he says continues today.

"I had a good feeling then, but we have had a bad fate," said Kouhi, now 76, as he blamed the U.S. for shortages of medicines in Iran because of the sanctions. "Even today, if we allow, it (the U.S.) will come here to plunder Iran, just like it's doing to other countries in the region. No foreigner is a friend of Iran. They all lie."

Reza Ghorbani, 19, an engineering student at Tehran's Azad University, asked: "What is the result of this superlong hostility? I do not say the U.S. government is good, but these lengthy bitter relations have damaged Iran too."

Crews make progress on Calif. wildfires

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Authorities lifted evacuation orders for a farm community Saturday as firefighters make progress on a large wildfire in Southern California that continues to threaten about 2,500 homes and buildings.

Ventura County officials allowed an unknown number of residents in Somis to return home Saturday morning after firefighters contained 30% of the Maria Fire, which has burned nearly 15 square miles and forced nearly 11,000 people to evacuate.

Fire activity subsided overnight. The county officials said in a 6 p.m. update that the humidity level is expected to stay low and winds will become

more favorable to firefighting in Southern California.

Police in Santa Monica urged beachgoers to seek shelter indoors after lightning was reported over the city.

Crews battled to keep the flames away from orchards and farms in the rural area. Three buildings were destroyed.

The fire erupted on a hilltop northwest of Los Angeles on Thursday during what had been expected to be the tail end of gusty Santa Ana winds.

The cause was under investigation but there was a troubling possibility that an electrical line might have been involved — as such lines have been at other recent fires.

Southern California Edison said Friday that it reenergized a 16,000-volt power line 13

minutes before the fire erupted in the same area.

Edison and other utilities up and down the state shut off power to hundreds of thousands of people last week out of concerns that high winds could cause power lines to spark and start fires.

SCE will cooperate with investigators, the utility said.

In Northern California, more people were allowed to return to areas evacuated due to the huge Kincade Fire burning for days in the Sonoma County wine country.

The 121-square-mile fire was 72% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

The tally of destroyed homes reached 175 and there were 35 more damaged, Cal Fire said.

Many other structures also burned.

Historic dry winds prompted the state's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., to initiate four rounds of widespread preemptive shut-offs in Northern California in recent weeks to prevent wildfires.

But the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District pegged the utility's equipment as the cause of three smaller fires that cropped up Oct. 27 in the San Francisco Bay Area suburbs of Martinez and Lafayette.

While the cause of the Kincade Fire hasn't been determined, PG&E reported a problem with a transmission tower near the spot where the fire started.

Trump threatens to cut funds for Calif. fire

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump is threatening to cut U.S. funding to California for aid during wildfires that have burned across the state during dry winds this fall.

Trump tweeted Sunday that California Gov. Gavin Newsom has done a "terrible job of forest management."

He tweeted that when fires rage, the governor comes to the federal government for help. "No more," he said.

Newsom replied with a

tweet: "You don't believe in climate change. You are excused from this conversation."

The state controls a small percentage of forest land. The federal government manages most of it.

Last year Trump made a similar threat amid Califor-

nia fires — accusing the state of "gross mismanagement" of forests.

At the time Newsom defended wildfire prevention efforts while criticizing the federal government for not doing enough.

Lawyer says whistleblower will take written questions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A lawyer for the whistleblower who raised alarms about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine said Sunday his client is willing to answer written questions submitted by House Republicans.

The surprise offer, made to Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, would allow Republicans to ask questions of the whistleblower, who spurred the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry, without having to go through the committee's

chairman, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif.

Attorney Mark Zaid tweeted that the whistleblower would answer questions directly from Republican members "in writing, under oath & penalty of perjury," part of a bid to stem efforts by Trump and his GOP allies to unmask the person's identity. Only queries seeking the person's identity won't be answered, he said.

"Being a whistleblower is not a partisan job nor is impeachment an objective. That is not our role," Zaid tweeted. "So we have offered to @DevinNunes.

"We will ensure timely an-

swers," he said.

Nunes' office did not have immediate comment.

The offer comes as Trump has repeatedly demanded the release of the whistleblower's identity, tweeting Sunday that the person "must come forward."

The whistleblower raised concerns about Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which he pressed Zelenskyy to investigate Trump's political rivals. That call became the catalyst for the impeachment inquiry.

"Reveal the Whistleblower

and end the Impeachment Hoax!" Trump wrote.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Sunday that he had not yet discussed the whistleblower's offer with Nunes, but he stressed that the person should answer questions in a public appearance before the committee.

"When you're talking about the removal of the president of the United States, undoing democracy, undoing what the American public had voted for, I think that individual should come before the committee," McCarthy told CBS' "Face the Nation."

ASEAN summit held; Trump absent

Associated Press

NONTHABURI, Thailand — Leaders from fast-growing Southeast Asian economies, China, Japan and other regional powers are aiming for a breakthrough on a free trade deal and an outline for handling territorial tensions at an annual summit that opened near Bangkok on Sunday.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha addressed the gathering of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by saying the group intends to reach a basic agreement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, a 16-member trade bloc encompassing nearly a third of all global trade.

Prayuth said the aim was to have a final deal by next year.

ASEAN also hopes to set a code of conduct with China regarding disputed waters

in the South China Sea, he said.

President Donald Trump skipped the ASEAN summit and related meetings this year, opting to send his national security adviser, Robert O'Brien instead. Last year, Trump sent Vice President Mike Pence. This year both Trump and Pence are busy campaigning at home.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told other leaders attending that Beijing was committed to 10-nation ASEAN's central role in the region.

"Given the complexity in the international and regional situation, our cooperation is built on a stable structure and moving forward in a positive fashion," Li said. "This is beneficial to the region and all parties involved."

On the long-troublesome issue of the South China Sea, Li welcomed progress in

efforts by China and ASEAN to negotiate a regional "code of conduct," which aims to tame aggressive actions that could set off armed confrontations in one of the world's most disputed regions.

After being accused of delaying the start of talks for years while building artificial islands with military outposts on contested reefs, China agreed to commence negotiations and both sides announced that the first of three expected rounds was concluded in July.

On the issue of trade, ASEAN officials plan to present to the leaders a report on RCEP negotiations. A draft of that report seen by The Associated Press says talks should be finalized by February 2020 and endorsed by leaders of member countries at next year's summit, which is due to take place in Vietnam.

Studies show how daylight saving time affects health

Associated Press

Office workers bemoan driving home in the dark. Night owls relish the chance to sleep in. As clocks ticked toward the end of daylight saving time, many sleep scientists and circadian biologists were pushing for a permanent ban because of potential ill effects on human health.

Losing an hour of afternoon daylight sounds like a gloomy preview for the dark winter months, and at least one study found an increase in people seeking help for depression after turning the clocks back to standard time in November — in Scandinavia.

Research shows the spring-time start of daylight saving time may be more harmful, linking it with more car accidents, heart attacks in vulnerable people and other health problems that may persist throughout the time change.

Here's what science has to say about a twice-yearly ritual affecting nearly 2 billion people worldwide.

■ **Sleep effects.** Time changes mess with sleep schedules, a potential problem when so

many people are already sleep-deprived, said Dr. Phyllis Zee, a sleep researcher at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago.

■ **Heart problems.** It has also been shown that blood tends to clot more quickly in the morning. These changes underlie evidence that heart attacks are more common in general in the morning and may explain studies showing that rates increase slightly on Mondays after clocks are moved forward in the spring, when people typically rise an hour earlier than normal.

■ **Our internal clocks.** Circadian biologists believe ill health effects from daylight saving time result from a mismatch among the sun "clock," our social clock — work and school schedules — and the body's internal 24-hour body clock.

Disruptions to the body clock have been linked with obesity, depression, diabetes, heart problems and other conditions. Circadian biologists say those disruptions include tinkering with standard time by moving the clock ahead one hour in the spring.

Iraqis block roads in support of anti-government protests

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi protesters blocked roads in Baghdad on Sunday to raise pressure on the government to resign after more than a week of renewed mass demonstrations.

Protesters blocked one road with burning tires and barbed wire and held up a banner reading, "Roads closed by order of the people." They appeared to be borrowing a tactic from Lebanon, where similar anti-government demonstrations have been underway since Oct. 17 and where protesters have repeatedly blocked major roads.

Tens of thousands of protesters have gathered in Baghdad's central Tahrir Square and across southern Iraq in recent days, calling for the overhaul of the political system established after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Protesters have also taken over a large tower in the square that was abandoned after it was damaged in the war.

Security forces have fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition at the protesters, killing more than 250 in two waves of demonstrations since early October. Since the protests restarted on Oct. 25 after

a brief hiatus, there have been near-continuous clashes on two bridges leading to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the headquarters of the government and home to several foreign embassies.

The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights said Siba al-Mahdawi, an activist and physician who has taken part in the protests, was abducted on Saturday night by an unknown group. The semiofficial body called on the government and the security forces to reveal her whereabouts. Al-Mahdawi was one of several doctors who have volunteered to provide medical aid to the protesters.

Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi met with top security officials late Saturday, stressing the need to preserve peace, security and the safety of the protesters.

Last week, President Barham Salih said Abdul-Mahdi is willing to resign once political leaders agree on a replacement. He also called for a new election law and said he would approve early elections once it is enacted, but that process could take weeks or even months. The protests have only grown since his announcement.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

No citation for woman who put bobcat by boy

CO DENVER — A Colorado Springs woman who put an injured bobcat in her car, inches from where her child was in a safety seat, will not be cited.

KCNC-TV in Denver reported Colorado Parks and Wildlife decided not to cite the woman, who spotted the injured adult male cat while driving, wrapped it in a blanket and put it in the back of her SUV in September. A boy, about 3 years old, was in the back seat.

District Wildlife Manager Sarah Watson used a trapping device to remove the 20-pound cat, which was later euthanized due to its injuries.

Weeklong peanut festival is underway

AL DOTHAN — An event that bills itself as the world's largest celebration of the peanut is under way in Alabama.

The National Peanut Festival opened Friday in Dothan and continues through next Saturday with rides, exhibits, music and agricultural competitions.

Now in its 76th year, the festival began in 1938 as a three-day event with an appearance by agricultural scientist George Washington Carver, of Tuskegee. It has been held each year since except during the 1940s, when organizers took a break for World War II.

The festival draws an estimated 200,000 people annually.

State pays woman allergic to smells

MO ST. LOUIS — The state of Missouri has paid at least \$76,000 to a

former social worker who said her supervisors ignored her allergic reactions to perfume, air fresheners and cleaning products.

A report released by Attorney General Eric Schmitt on Friday shows two payouts to Gwendolyn Hill, a Department of Social Services employee for 26 years.

Court documents show Hill developed allergylike reactions to strong-smelling products. In 2009, she wasn't able to return to work and the state ended her employment. The state argued that Hill didn't seek a 100% fragrance-free workplace between 2006 and when she left the job.

The state has paid millions of dollars in cases related to managers not addressing workplace concerns. Schmitt's report projects the contested legal cases could cost taxpayers \$483 million.

Speared sea turtle released after rescue

FL KEY WEST — A federally protected green sea turtle was released in the Florida Keys after recovering from a spear shot into its neck.

The 150-pound female, dubbed Splinter, returned to the Atlantic Ocean on Friday at Higgs Beach in Key West.

The turtle was rescued off Key Largo on Sept. 7 after being entangled in a commercial fishing trapline. The reptile was transported to the Middle Keys-based Turtle Hospital in Marathon, where a veterinarian removed the 3-foot-long spear.

Man faces trial for taking grizzly claws

MT MISSOULA — A Washington state

man faces a federal trial next year for taking the claws from a grizzly bear he said he shot in self-defense.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Bryan Berg, 35, of Spokane, Wash., was charged with two misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act, taking the claws and not reporting the shooting, which occurred sometime between September 2017 and March 2018.

He pleaded not guilty to both counts Thursday before U.S. Magistrate Kathleen DeSoto in Missoula.

Frostbitten man's legs are amputated

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — A man had his legs amputated below the knee after suffering frostbite while climbing a mountain.

KDVR-TV reported that Colorado Springs resident Nick Noland mistakenly went off the main trail while descending the 14,232-foot peak.

Noland said he reached the summit of Mount Shavano near Salida on Tuesday and didn't make it back down until Wednesday after his feet went numb and became frozen. Authorities said search teams were deployed but they could not find him.

Noland said he called 911 and was taken to the Denver area for treatment before having his legs amputated at UC Health University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora due to severe frostbite.

Police obtain Alexa recordings in killing

FL HALLANDALE BEACH — Police in South Florida think there may have been a witness to a homi-

cide and are trying to get "her" to talk.

Hallandale Beach officials said the Amazon Echo or a similar device was in a home where a woman was slain in July.

The Sun Sentinel reported that the device, nicknamed Alexa after its wake word, might have heard and recorded more than a shopping order in the house of Silvia Galva and her boyfriend, Adam Reechard Crespo. Galva died with a spear through her chest.

Crespo was charged with first-degree murder and is out on \$65,000 bond.

Company removes clocks, avoids change

MN MAPLEWOOD — While most everyone wishes they could turn back time, one of the largest corporations in the country is sick of it.

Minnesota-based 3M is taking advantage of the end of daylight saving time and removing about 1,000 wall clocks at its 400-acre Maplewood campus.

For decades, nearly two dozen people worked in 12-hour shifts for two weekends a year to adjust the time and put in new batteries.

DNR: State-record chain pickerel caught

WV SOUTH CHARLESTON — West Virginia regulators said a state-record chain pickerel was caught in Preston County.

The Division of Natural Resources said Matt Born, of Reedsville, used an in-line spinner to catch the fish Oct. 13 at Upper Deckers Lake.

The fish measured a record 27.87 inches.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Air Force's defense stands up to Army

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The goal-line stand by Air Force at the start set the tone. The one at the end clinched it.

Defense ruled the day.

Air Force turned in a goal-line stand in the final minute as the Falcons beat service academy rival Army 17-13 on Saturday.

"It definitely means the world to me," Falcons senior cornerback Zane Lewis said.

The Black Knights were well-positioned with a first-and-goal at the 7 after a long pass by starting quarterback Jabari Laws.

One wrinkle: Laws got hurt on the 31-yard play. He had to be helped off the field after taking a wallop from Air Force defensive lineman Jordan Jackson, who was called for targeting and ejected from the

game.

Kelvin Hopkins Jr. was summoned from the sideline. Usually the starter, he's been banged up and didn't practice. Laws started in his place because coach Jeff Monken wasn't sure if he was healthy enough to make it the entire way.

Hopkins threw an incompleting on first down, ran for 2 yards on second, nearly completed a third-down attempt in the end zone — it was broken up by Lewis — and overthrew his intended target on fourth down with 33 seconds remaining. With that, the Falcons (7-2) snapped a two-game skid against Army (3-6).

"I thought the guys made a heck of an effort to get it down there," Monken said. "Ultimately we didn't make the plays that they did."

Still, the Falcons weren't out of the

woods. They fumbled the snap trying to run out the clock. It was recovered by tailback Kadin Remsberg. Asked what was going through his mind as the ball squirted free, Air Force quarterback Donald Hammond III cracked: "Some bad words."

On the opening drive of the game, the Black Knights chewed up 8 minutes, 34 seconds in making their way to the 1-yard line. Laws' fourth-down sneak was stuffed by Jackson and Parker Noren.

"We got killed the opening drive by not scoring from the 4-inch line," Monken said.

This was a solid performance for Laws, who rushed for a score and threw for 214 yards, including an 87-yard TD strike. It was the fifth-straight loss for an Army team that entered the game as a two-touchdown underdog.

Top 25 roundup

Fromm, No. 8 Georgia dominate No. 6 Florida

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jake Fromm was a little late to the after-party.

He was in the third and final wave of Georgia players leaping into the stands at the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party."

It was a fitting spot for Fromm considering how effective he's been on third down against Florida.

Fromm threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns, including a 52-yarder to an uncovered Lawrence Cager in the fourth quarter, and the No. 8 Bulldogs beat the sixth-ranked Gators 24-17 on Saturday.

No. 24 Memphis 54, No. 15 SMU 48: Brady White threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns, Antonio Gibson had a school-record 386 all-purpose yards with three scores and the host Tigers held off the previously unbeaten Mustangs.

Memphis (8-1, 4-1) moved atop the American Athletic Conference's Western Division to improve its case to represent the Group of Five in the New Year's Six.

No. 11 Auburn 20, Mississippi 14: The Tigers piled up yards, if not points, and the defense didn't permit many of either in a win at home.

Bo Nix passed for a career-high 340 yards and had a 1-yard touchdown run and 11th-ranked Auburn withstood the Rebels' final drive.

The Tigers (7-2, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) mostly dominated on the stat sheet but struggled to put the 19-point underdogs away after repeated stalled drives and three missed field goals.

No. 16 Notre Dame 21, Virginia Tech 20: Fighting Irish quarterback Ian Book ran 7 yards for a touchdown with 29 seconds left to cap an 18-play, 87-yard drive to pull out a win at home over the Hokies. Jonathan Doerer kicked the go-ahead PAT after holder Jay Bramblett fielded a low snap and freshman Kyle Hamilton then picked off a long pass by Quincy Patterson to seal the victory.

No. 14 Michigan 38, Maryland 7: Giles Jackson returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown and the visit-

ing Wolverines used freshman Zach Charbonnet's two first-half scoring runs to pull away.

No. 9 Utah 33, Washington 28: Tyler Huntley threw for one touchdown and ran for another, Jaylon Johnson returned an interception 39 yards for a score and the visiting Utes Utah overcame an 11-point deficit.

No. 4 Clemson 59, Wofford 14: Trevor Lawrence scored four touchdowns, Travis Etienne ran for 212 yards and two TDs and the Tigers won their 24th consecutive game, rolling over FCS opponent Wofford.

Etienne, the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, helped Clemson (9-0) had scoring runs of 47 and 86 yards in the first 15:12. the Tigers improved to 34-0 against FCS programs. It was the Clemson's sixth straight win over Wofford (5-3), which fell to 1-21 against FBS schools.

No. 7 Oregon 56, Southern California 24: Justin Herbert passed for 225 yards and threw three touchdown passes to Juwan Johnson in the second half, and the Ducks recovered from a slow start to cruise to their eighth consecutive

victory.

No. 17 Cincinnati 46, East Carolina 43: Sam Crosa kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Bearcats to a win on the road.

No. 23 Wake Forest 44, North Carolina State 10: Jamie Newman returned from injury to throw for three touchdowns and run for two more for the host Demon Deacons.

Newman had a game and part of another with a shoulder injury, and his status was uncertain for the long-running series. But Newman and the Wake Forest (7-1, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) got off to a dominating start that had this one wrapped up early.

No. 21 Boise State 52, San Jose State 42: George Holani ran for 126 yards and four touchdowns, and the Broncos bounced back from their first loss of the season by winning on the road.

No. 22 Kansas State 38, Kansas 10: Skylar Thompson ran for 127 yards and three touchdowns, Harry Trotter added 92 yards rushing and another score and the Wildcats won on the road.

Top-rated recruits not a championship guarantee

Associated Press

Memphis' Penny Hardaway has become one of the nation's top recruiters in two seasons as a college coach.

The former NBA star signed a solid recruiting class in his first year, and his second, headed by projected lottery pick James Wiseman, was No. 1 in the country, according to a composite of ranking sites compiled by 247Sports.

The top-rated class has ratcheted up expectations in Memphis. The Tigers were ranked in The Associated Press preseason poll for the first time since 2013 at No. 14 and picked as co-favorites with Houston to win the American Athletic Conference.

"They all have this swag about them that they feel like, 'Hey, we want to go out there and prove, whether you like it or not, we want to play the best and we want to go out and prove we can be No. 1 in the country,'" Hardaway said.

The Tigers face a historical hurdle to get there.

Landing the top-rated class doesn't always lead to a national championship. Duke, led by Jahlil Okafor, in 2015 and Kentucky in 2012 are the only two teams in the past 15 years to win a national championship with the top-rated incoming recruiting class.

In the one-and-done era, not to mention the yearly exodus of transfers, the best recruiting classes rarely stay together for very long. Incoming freshmen, no matter how talented, still need time to adjust to college life and the college game.

Older teams don't wilt under the pressure because they've been there before. Young teams often take longer to jell.

"Creating habits is what we have to do," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "Create professional habits that will carry you."

The Wildcats have been the standard bearer in the correlation between top recruiting classes and success on the court. Kentucky landed the nation's No. 1 recruiting class six times and was in the top four the other times under Calipari.

The Wildcats won their 2012 title with a group led by freshman Anthony Davis, and the program has reached the Sweet 16 eight times, including four trips to the Final Four. But Kentucky and Coach Cal are anomalies.

Virginia won last season's national title with an incoming recruiting class ranked 65th. Villanova's two national titles were

with classes ranked 28th and 29th. Connecticut was 37th before winning its 2014 national title and Louisville checked in at No. 79 nationally before its 2013 title.

Kansas and coach Bill Self consistently have top-level recruiting classes and make deep NCAA Tournament runs, but the Jayhawks' 2008 national title came from an incoming class ranked No. 49.

Arizona has racked up consistent top-10 recruiting classes but has yet to reach the Final Four in 11 seasons under Sean Miller. Programs like UCLA, Ohio State, Syracuse and Texas are typically among the top recruiting classes, but the last NCAA title from that group was the Orange in 2003.

Highly rated recruiting classes certainly make teams better. Having consistency within the program and cohesion, more often than not, is what leads to national championships.

"We really try and find guys that are going to fit this culture," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "We really try to explain to them what it is and then let them make the decision. Our recruiting is different. It's not the bells and whistles. It's really getting to know the people."

Wright brought in a stellar recruiting class for this season, topped by five-star players Jeremiah Robinson-Earl and Bryan Antoine. The Wildcats' 2019 class was fifth in the 247Sports composite, behind Memphis, Kentucky, Duke and Oregon.

Hardaway's 2019 class is arguably the most talked about in college basketball. The 7-foot-1 Wiseman has been projected as the No. 1 overall pick in next year's NBA draft. Forward Precious Achiuwa also could be a lottery pick and five other freshmen come highly rated.

"I think these kids understand what they're reading and they see it and it drives them," Hardaway said. "We'll see how they handle that going out on the court."

Duke had a similar recruiting class last season led by Zion Williamson, RJ Barrett and Cam Reddish.

The Blue Devils lost in the Elite Eight to Michigan State while Virginia, led by a group of primarily veteran players, won the national title.

Highly touted recruiting classes generate buzz and add high-level talent to a program.

It's not always enough to win a title.

NBA roundup

76ers edge Blazers on late three

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Furkan Korkmaz made a three-pointer with 0.4 seconds left and the Philadelphia 76ers rallied for their fifth straight victory to start the season, 129-128 over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Anfernee Simons made a corner three-pointer with 2.2 seconds left to put Portland in front, but the Sixers got the ball back after a timeout to set up Korkmaz's falling-down, 24-footer for the win — without suspended center Joel Embiid. Philadelphia is the last undefeated team in the NBA with its first 5-0 start since 2000-01.

Embiid served the first of a two-game suspension for an altercation with Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns during the 76ers' 117-95 home victory Wednesday.

Bucks 115, Raptors 105: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists to lead host Milwaukee past Toronto in their first meeting since the Eastern Conference finals.

The Bucks had the best record in the East last season and took a 2-0 lead over the Raptors in the conference finals, but Toronto took the next four en route to its first NBA championship.

Pistons 113, Nets 109: Andre Drummond had 25 points and 20 rebounds, Bruce Brown added career highs of 22 points and seven assists and Detroit beat visiting Brooklyn.

Suns 114, Grizzlies 105: Devin Booker scored 21 points and Aron Baynes hit a career-high four three-pointers and had 20 points in Phoenix's win over host Memphis.

Hornets 93, Warriors 87: Terry Rozier made a short go-ahead jumper and added two free throws with 4.9 seconds left after missing three straight, and visiting Charlotte held off injury-depleted Golden State.

Nuggets 91, Magic 87: Jamal Murray scored 22 points, Nikola Jokic had 20 points and seven rebounds and both made big late plays to help Denver beat host Orlando.

Timberwolves 131, Wizards 109: Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points, Robert Covington and Jarrett Culver each added 20 and visiting Minnesota cruised past Washington.

Thunder 115, Pelicans 104: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 23 points and eight rebounds in host Oklahoma City's victory over New Orleans.

NHL roundup

Draisaitl's OT goal lifts Oilers by Pens

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Leon Draisaitl scored in overtime to give the Edmonton Oilers a 2-1 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday.

Draisaitl had Alex Galchenyuk on his back when he flipped a rolling puck past Matt Murray on a breakaway 2:37 into overtime for his NHL-best 13th goal of the season. Draisaitl had 12 goals and 25 points in October and has seven goals and 10 points during a five-game point streak.

Colby Cave also scored for Edmonton, which has three wins in its last seven games after starting 7-1. Mike Smith stopped 51 shots for the Oilers.

Brian Dumoulin scored a short-handed goal for Pittsburgh, which has lost four of its last six. Murray made 27 saves.

Bruins 5, Senators 2: David Pastrnak had a goal and two assists as host Boston beat Ottawa, in a game in which the Senators' Scott Sabourin was taken to a hospital for evaluation after being taken off on a stretcher.

Sabourin was taken from the ice with his head immobilized following a collision with David Backes in which the players' helmets hit at nearly full speed early in the first period. Patrice

Bergeron, Brad Marchand, Danton Heinen and Jake DeBrusk also scored for the Bruins, who have lost just once in regulation this season.

Islanders 1, Sabres 0: Semyon Varlamov made 27 saves, and New York won at Buffalo for its ninth straight win.

Derick Brassard scored in the first period as the Islanders continued their longest unbeaten streak in 30 years. They have won nine in a row twice before, in 1989-90 and during a franchise-record 15-game win streak during the 1981-82 season.

Panthers 4, Red Wings 0: Sergei Bobrovsky earned his first shutout with host Florida, and Jonathan Huberdeau had two goals and an assist as the Panthers cruised past struggling Detroit.

Rangers 2, Predators 1: Alexandar Georgiev made 32 saves to lead New York to a win at Nashville.

Ilip Chytil and Ryan Strome scored for the Rangers, who have won three of four.

Viktor Arvidsson had the lone goal for the Predators, who have two straight.

Devils 5, Hurricanes 3: P.K. Subban scored early in the third period, lifting New Jersey to its first road victory of the season.

Miles Wood had a goal and an assist for the Devils, who entered having been outscored 14-2 in three road games. Wood assisted Subban's score, and Mackenzie Blackwood made 24 saves. Nico Hischier and Jack Hughes also scored, and Damon Severson added an empty-net goal in the final minute.

Flames 3, Blue Jackets 0: Sean Monahan, Sam Bennett and Matthew Tkachuk scored, and David Rittich recorded the shutout as Calgary won at Columbus.

The Flames won their second game in two nights.

Rittich stopped 43 shots for his seventh victory and second shutout.

The Blue Jackets outshot the Flames 43-29 and goalie Joonas Korpisalo lost his third straight start.

Maple Leafs 4, Flyers 3 (SO): Andres Johnsson scored in the 11th round of the shootout to give Toronto the win at Philadelphia.

Kasper Kapanen, Jason Spezza and Mitchell Marner scored in regulation for Toronto, which received 37 saves from Frederik Andersen during regulation and overtime and 10 stops in the shootout session.

Ivan Provorov, Claude Giroux and Travis Sanheim scored for Philadelphia. Brian Elliott had 25 saves.

Stars 4, Canadiens 1: Denis Gurianov scored two goals, one on a penalty shot, and Ben Bishop made 35 saves to lead host Dallas past Montreal.

As Gurianov skated in on Canadiens goalie Carey Price on a breakaway, Nick Suzuki was called for slashing at 18:49 of the second period. After the stoppage, Gurianov slid the puck between Price's legs.

Blues 4, Wild 3 (OT): Ryan O'Reilly scored 2:27 into overtime and St. Louis extended its winning streak to four with a win at reeling Minnesota.

Coyotes 3, Avalanche 0: Darcy Kuemper stopped 33 shots in his first shutout of the season, Phil Kessel had a goal and an assist and Conor Garland scored his team-high seventh goal as host Arizona beat Colorado.

Canucks 5, Sharks 2: Elias Pettersson scored two goals, Thatcher Demko had 24 saves and Vancouver won at San Jose.

Kings 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Drew Doughty scored with 16.6 remaining in overtime and host Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Jets 4, Golden Knights 3 (OT): Kyle Connor scored in overtime to lift Winnipeg to a win at Vegas. It was Connor's seventh career goal in seven games against the Golden Knights.

Watson, Texans roll past Jaguars in London

Associated Press

LONDON — Deshaun Watson's most impressive throw Sunday went backward — a flip under pressure to running back Carlos Hyde, whose 7-yard gain set up Houston's first TD in a 26-3 runaway over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The rugby-style pitch was spot-on perfect for a game in London, where the locals are still recovering from England's 20-point loss in the World Cup final on Saturday, and now must deal with the added insult of watching their adopted home team, the

Jaguars (4-5), getting hammered just as badly.

But more than anything, the Watson-to-Hyde connection was indicative of both players' days in general: They were very hard to stop.

Hyde finished with 19 carries for 160 yards for the Texans (6-3), including a 58-yard run that looked headed for a touchdown until Jags safety Jarrod Wilson stripped the ball at the 2.

Watson, meanwhile, finished 22-for-28 for 201 yards and a pair of 1-yard touch-

down throws, along with 37 yards running. He did it all with his left eye still swollen and red, a week after getting kicked in the face just before throwing the winning touchdown pass against the Raiders.

Jaguars linemen Taven Bryan and Yannick Ngakoue were swarming Watson in the second quarter with the Texans on the move. Seeing nothing downfield as the linemen closed, Watson instead flipped one back to Hyde, who took it to the Jacksonville 7. Two plays later, Watson tossed a 1-yarder to Darren Fells for a 9-0 lead.