

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

GIs' presence in Syria about more than oil

Associated Press

BEIRUT — As U.S. troops beef up in eastern Syria to protect oil fields, residents hope their mission will bring stability and prosperity to the remote and resource-rich region — and keep the Syrian government out.

ANALYSIS Their hopes reflect the expectations being piled onto the operation, even as President Donald Trump flip-flopped on the scope and duration of troops deployment. He initially ordered all troops out of Syria last month, then decided to keep a force in place to hold the oil infrastructure.

That keeps the U.S. troops in the middle of eastern Syria's complex political geography, rich in oil and gas and packed with Turkish, Kurdish, Russian, Syrian and Iranian-backed troops.

The stretches of Syria east of the Euphrates River, where the oil is located, have been lost to the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad for most of the country's eight-year civil war. Its mostly Arab

population is opposed to Assad, angry with years of neglect that impoverished the area despite its resource wealth. Since U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces drove out Islamic State, it has been governed by a Kurdish-led administration.

So when Turkey invaded northeastern Syria last month, hundreds of residents of towns and villages east of the Euphrates held angry protests — not against Ankara but against the Syrian government and its Iranian allies. They feared the invasion would empower Damascus to send troops to their areas and restore control.

Residents welcomed Trump's latest decision, believing it a shield that would bring investments and an economic boom.

"Good things are coming," said Shehab, a 20-year-old who works as a herder and farmer in a small town in Deir el-Zour province, home to the largest oil fields.

"Deir el-Zour lives on a sea of oil. We are optimistic that if the U.S. takes over the fields, they will bring in (new) companies and expertise," Shehab said. "The unemployed will find jobs." He declined to give his

last name for security reasons.

It is still early to see if Washington plans to act on Trump's promises to bring in U.S. companies to modernize the oil fields.

Syria's oil reserves, strategically located along transit routes, are modest, estimated in 2011 at around 2.5 billion barrels. Production shrunk from a peak of 380,000 barrels a day to an estimated 80,000 now. Currently, the Kurdish-led administration sells the oil on the local market or through smuggling it to the Syrian government, but it has not had the resources to develop the fields.

The new U.S. mission blocks Damascus' plans to regain the east and Iran's efforts to complete a land corridor through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Iran's ability to project power and potentially transport advanced weaponry all the way to Israel's doorstep has long been a major U.S. concern.

"Iran is the real danger," said Omar Abu Layla, a native of Deir el-Zour who lives in Europe and runs activist collective Deir Ezzor 24, which monitors developments in the area.

Abu Layla said he met last

week with Joel Rayburn, U.S. special envoy for Syria, who expressed support for the protests and an understanding for concerns about Iran's threat to the area.

U.S. troops, including mechanized armored vehicles used for the first time in Syria, are deploying in bases in Hassakeh and Deir el-Zour provinces. The Pentagon will not say how many forces will remain in Syria, but officials have suggested they could number at least 800.

When the U.S. forces withdrew from the north, the Kurds — seeking protection from their No. 1 enemy Turkey — invited in the Syrian government and Russia. Assad's forces walked back into parts of Syria where they had not set foot in years. More are deploying along large parts of the border region under a Russian-Turkish deal while Turkish-Russian patrols monitor the withdrawal of the Kurdish-led forces.

While Kurdish-led forces fight side by side with government troops against continued Turkish incursions, the same force remains the main partner of the U.S. in its new mission.

USMC's opposition to umbrellas when in dress blues dries up

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

The few and the proud will remain amphibious, but they will no longer be soaking wet in their dress blues on rainy days.

All Marines wearing their dress or service uniforms are now allowed to use umbrellas, ending a long tradition and bringing the Corps generally in line with other services.

"Marines can carry an all-black, plain, standard or collapsible umbrella at their

option during inclement weather with the service and dress uniforms," a message signed by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger on Thursday said.

Before the change, only female Marines were allowed to use umbrellas. Marines will still be prohibited from using umbrellas while in their camouflage uniforms, as is the case with other services.

The decision was made by Berger and processed through the Marine Corps Uniform

Board in September.

Umbrellas must be carried in the left hand to allow for salutes, according to existing regulations.

The sight of male Marines holding umbrellas over the heads of President Barack Obama and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a 2013 press conference drew a storm of online comments in military circles at the time. Marine spokesman Capt. Greg Wolf told CNN that it was "extremely rare" and only because

the president needed it in the downpour.

The Marine Corps message Thursday also included uniform changes for women. Female Marines with medium-length hair may now wear half ponytails with physical training uniforms. They may also wear ponytails or braids during some organized physical training.

Full details on the changes can be found in message 28/19 on the Marines.mil website.

Video shows arrests at Camp Pendleton

The San Diego Union-Tribune

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The July mass arrest of 15 Camp Pendleton Marines in front of their 800-person battalion may have violated their rights and threatens to upend the case, attorneys for two of the accused told The San Diego Union-Tribune.

On the morning of July 25, as 800 Marines stood in formation at the Camp San Mateo area of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, 24 Marines' names were called.

Fifteen were ordered to stand in a line in front of the battalion "to be recognized," according to court filings in the case. The battalion sergeant major stood nearby, carrying a red folder that usually is associated with awards.

But these men weren't awarded. The regiment sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Matthew A. Dorsey pointed to the Marines in front and said, "NCIS, arrest these Marines."

About 40 or so Naval Criminal Investigative Service and other military law agents swarmed toward the line of men, coming from behind and the sides. They handcuffed and searched the men before parading them, one-by-one, in front of their peers.

In total, 13 Marines were charged with human smuggling and conspiracy, and eight more were taken away for questioning. Those eight, who were said at the time to be suspects in an unspecified drug activity, were escorted off but not charged.

The arrests became national news.

The Marine Corps filmed the whole thing.

That video and the public way the arrests were handled are why two attorneys, each representing one of the Marines, are publicly criticizing the arrests. One of the attorneys filed a defense motion Friday saying the public arrests tainted the jury pool in any potential trial.

Bethany Payton-O'Brien, the attorney, wrote that the public nature of the arrests and the decision to film them amount to "unlawful command influence" and illegal pretrial punishment. Unlawful command influence is when military commanders use their authority to influence the outcome of a case.

In her motion her client, a Marine corporal, said he heard either Dorsey or the battalion commanding officer, Lt. Col. Eric M. Olson, tell the assembled Marines that the arrests are "what happens when you break the law."

A spokesman for the 1st Marine Division, 1st Lt. Cameron Edinburgh, told the Union-Tribune on Tuesday that the video came from the division's communication strategy office, which serves in a public affairs capacity for the division.

The decision to film the arrests by Marine public relations did not come from division commanders, Edinburgh said.

"It was something we felt should be done for proper visibility," Edinburgh said.

In the video, Olson addresses the battal-

ion once the arrested Marines are hauled off. The audio is difficult to hear at some points, but Olson says "what you just saw these Marines are a distraction to leadership and readiness."

Olson also tells the Marines that those arrested will be held accountable.

These comments, according to Payton-O'Brien, violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"The government's actions in this battalion formation arrest and their post-arrest comments to the battalion are wholly unacceptable and inappropriate," she said.

The Marines released charge sheets for 13 Marines on Tuesday but redacted the names of the accused. Each of the Marines is being tried separately, Edinburgh said.

Because the names of those Marines have not been released, the Union-Tribune is withholding the name of Payton-O'Brien's client.

The names of two Marines, Lance Cpls. Byron Darnell Law II and David Javier Salazar-Quintero, were made public after the two were arrested by Border Patrol for allegedly picking up unauthorized immigrants on July 3.

Those arrests led to the July 25 action, the Marine Corps said at the time.

Edinburgh told The Orange County Register that the arrests were an "eye-opening thing for the battalion. It had a shock and awe factor. The command wanted to send a message to make clear this type of behavior is not tolerated."

Navy offers new plan to upgrade Honolulu fuel depot

Associated Press

HONOLULU — The U.S. Navy is considering a plan to use double-wall tanks to upgrade a fuel storage facility in Honolulu, officials said.

The Navy updated its initial proposal to reinforce tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Hawaii Public Radio reported Thursday.

If the upgrade cannot be completed, the Navy will relocate the fuel in the facility's 20 tanks that lie beneath the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer, the main source of drinking water for more than 750,000 Oahu residents, officials said.

A 2014 leak of 27,000 gallons

'Secondary containment is actually practicable. It can be done.'

Ernie Lau

Board of Water supply chief engineer

of fuel at the facility prompted calls for improvements from councilors and residents.

The Navy's Sept. 9 proposal had favored single-wall tank upgrades with added monitoring features. The plan was rejected by a Honolulu City Council committee last month and was opposed by the Board of Water Supply.

The deadline for tank up-

grades is 2037, but the Navy proposed an extended timeline to 2045. The "technology does not currently exist" for a fiscally responsible approach to secondary containment, regional engineer Capt. Marc Delao previously said.

Delao told City Council members Wednesday that the Navy's new approach is a commitment to pursue a secondary-contain-

ment solution "using research, using select investments, academia and industry."

"And if that becomes mission impossible, or unattainable — not available, not practicable — then, again, what has changed is that commitment that we will de-fuel and get off the aquifer around 2045," Delao said.

Board of Water Supply Chief Engineer Ernie Lau expressed concerns about what the Navy defines as a secondary-containment system and its timetable.

"Secondary containment is actually practicable. It can be done," Lau said. "It is a matter of will, and also how many dollars do you want to spend on doing that."

Bonuses, delays at risk in budget spat

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Construction projects, bonuses in pay, and delays in maintenance could be the first funding casualties for the military if Congress does not approve a defense budget soon and continues to fund the Defense Department with temporary spending measures, according to information released Thursday by the Navy, Army and Air Force.

“The [Defense Department] needs sufficient, predictable, and timely funding. Under a continuing resolution, the department cannot continue the modernization progress made under the previous budget deal,” Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said.

The Pentagon has been operating under a temporary spending measure known as continuing resolution since Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2020. The Senate and House have yet to agree on the 2020 National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act, which directs policy and spending for the Defense Department, and the continuing resolution is set to expire Nov. 21.

In anticipation of continued temporary funding or a possible government shutdown, the military services released lists of how each would curtail spending without a fully funded defense budget. The Marine Corps on Thursday did not provide a list of impacts.

Navy

If the continuing resolution goes beyond three months from Oct. 1, the Navy might delay the delivery of one Virginia-class submarine, one fleet ocean tug, and two landing craft utility vessels, Lt. Tim Pietrack, a Navy spokesman, said in a statement.

The shortfall in funding could also set back maintenance for 14 ships. Thirty-three new military construction projects that were anticipated to start in 2020 will be halted, according to the service.

The Navy will also have to reduce its size, limit military moves, and eliminate bonuses and awards if the continuing resolution extends beyond six months from Oct. 1.

Army

If funded by a continuing resolution for six months, the Army might not be able to buy as many UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters or upgraded Strykers as planned. A six-month continuing resolution would also reduce the amount of munitions that the Army can procure.

If temporary funding extends for a year, the bonuses and special pay used for recruitment and reenlistment incentives would be reduced. The continuing resolution could also prevent the Army from awarding a contract for 4,400 new family and single soldier homes, according to the Army.

Major maintenance of up to 269 homes would be delayed, as the Army struggles with a housing crisis that has had

some service families living with mold and pest infestations in military residences.

Air Force

The F-15ex fighter jet, a new aircraft that replaces the older F-15Cs and is more cost-effective than the F-35, would be delayed in its development and production if limited funding from a continuing resolution lasts six months. The F-35 would also have reliability and maintenance improvement projects deferred.

For a yearlong continuing resolution, the Air Force might not see 41 military construction projects and the recovery efforts at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida and Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska would slow, according to the Air Force.

Temporary funding for a year could also limit a 3.1% pay raise and the Air Force’s planned increase of the size of its force by 4,400 for fiscal year 2020, according to the service.

USAF’s new gunship flies ‘every night’ in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force’s newest aerial gunships are in high demand in the skies of Afghanistan, where they provide close air support and armed overwatch to U.S. and Afghan operations.

AC-130J Ghostriders have already flown hundreds of sorties since beginning combat missions in June, said Col. Terence Taylor, commander of Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component–Afghanistan.

“Every night, the AC-130J is flying,” Taylor said in a phone call Wednesday. “The people they are supporting are requesting them every single night.”

This amounts to 218 sorties and 1,380 hours in the skies over Afghanistan, he said.

The new aircraft’s missions

are part of an increase in the pace of the air war following the collapse of peace talks between the U.S. and the Taliban in early September, and a vow by President Donald Trump “to hit our enemy harder” than ever before.

“The Ghostriders have saved lives,” said Chief Master Sgt. Edward Fry, enlisted leader alongside Taylor at the air component command.

Air Force officials have called the \$115 million Ghost rider “the ultimate battle plane” due to its arsenal of cannons, missiles and laser-guided bombs. The Ghost rider’s ability to unleash hell, including from its 105 mm howitzer and 30 mm autocannon, have helped Afghan forces both on the battlefield and psychologically, Fry said.

“Them hearing the sound of

the gunship overhead, that in many ways serves to embolden them,” Fry said of Afghan forces, who remain heavily reliant on U.S. air power. “Even if the gunship doesn’t fire one round, it still provides that utility.”

The Ghost rider replaced the AC-130U Spooky, which pilots said often struggled to loiter at high altitudes — an important capability when operating over Afghanistan’s mountainous terrain.

The low- and slow-flying gunships remain vulnerable to ground fire and are mainly used against guerrillas and other low-tech opponents lacking anti-aircraft cannons or portable surface-to-air missiles. Although the planes carry state-of-the-art countermeasures, they are generally employed in night actions to avoid being hit from the ground by

small-arms fire in daylight.

The new AC-130Js have upgraded engines and can fly higher, faster and for longer amounts of time, said Lt. Col. Mark Smith, the first commander of the 73rd Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, which has flown the Ghostriders over Afghanistan.

“It’s a rocket ship compared to what we used to fly,” Smith said.

The Ghost rider also has upgraded sensors that provide a better battlefield view in the air and on the ground, Smith said in a phone call from Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The new planes and their upgraded sensors will help support Afghan commandos while preventing civilian casualties, said Abdul Ghafar Nooristani, spokesman for Afghan special forces.

Mulvaney ignores subpoena for impeachment probe from Dems

Associated Press

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney has stood up Democrats in their impeachment inquiry, skipping his 9 a.m. deposition as Democrats wrap up closed-door interviews and move into a public phase of the investigation.

Democrats subpoenaed Mulvaney late Thursday as the White House signaled that he wouldn't appear. The White House has instructed its officials not to comply with the investigation, which is looking at President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

An official working on the inquiry said that Mulvaney's lawyer informed the commit-

tees leading the impeachment probe one minute before the deposition was supposed to start that Mulvaney had been directed not to comply with the subpoena. The person said Mulvaney's lawyer said he has "absolute immunity," a claim that Democrats have challenged in court for other administration witnesses.

The Democrats subpoenaed Mulvaney because other testimony indicated he "could shed additional light on the president's abuse of the power of his office for his personal gain," according to the person, who declined to be identified.

Mulvaney said in a news conference last month that the Trump administration's deci-

sion to hold up military aid was linked to Trump's demand for the investigations. He later walked back his remarks, but Democrats said that was tantamount to a confession and have cited it as evidence in their inquiry.

Trump said Friday morning that he thought Mulvaney would "do great" and "I'd love to have him go up," but that he didn't want to validate what he calls a "corrupt" investigation.

Mulvaney's defiance came after former national security adviser John Bolton also failed to appear for an interview Thursday. Democrats say they will use the no-shows as evidence of the president's obstruction of Congress.

Juul halts sales of mint pods

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Juul Labs said Thursday it will halt U.S. sales of its best-selling, mint-flavored electronic cigarettes as it struggles to survive a nationwide backlash against vaping.

The voluntary step comes days after government research showed that Juul is the top brand among high schoolers who use e-cigarettes and that many prefer mint.

"These results are unacceptable," said the company's CEO K.C. Crosthwaite, adding in a statement that the company must "earn the trust of society."

Underage vaping has reached what health officials call epidemic levels. In the latest government survey, 1 in 4 high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous month, despite federal law banning sales to those under 18.

Under fire for its alleged role in sparking the vaping craze among teens, Juul has made a series of concessions to try and weather a crackdown from local, state and federal officials. It stopped selling popular fruit and dessert flavors in stores last year, and last month, stopped selling them online, too.

Earlier, the company replaced its CEO and pledged to stop advertising its products. For years, Juul has argued that its e-cigarettes are intended to help adult smokers switch to a less harmful nicotine product. But its early marketing campaigns were mainly on social media and featured young, stylish models. The company subsequently shuttered its Facebook and Instagram accounts.

After halting mint sales, Juul will only sell menthol and tobacco flavors. Mint and menthol accounted for nearly 60% of the company's retail sales in the past year, according to data compiled by Wells Fargo analyst Bonnie Herzog.

Bloomberg considers presidential bid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, is opening the door to a 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, warning that the current field of candidates is ill equipped to defeat President Donald Trump.

Bloomberg, who initially ruled out a 2020 run, has not made a final decision on whether to jump into the race. If he were to launch a campaign, it could dramatically reshape the Democratic contest less than three months before primary voting begins.

The 77-year-old has spent the past few weeks talking with prominent Democrats about the state of the 2020 field, expressing concerns about the steadiness of former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign and the rise of liberal Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, according to people with knowledge of those discussions. In recent days, he took steps to keep his options open, including moving

to get on the primary ballot in Alabama ahead of the state's Friday filing deadline.

In a statement on Thursday, Bloomberg adviser Howard Wolfson said the former mayor believes Trump "represents an unprecedented threat to our nation" and must be defeated.

"But Mike is increasingly concerned that the current field of candidates is not well positioned to do that," Wolfson said.

Bloomberg's moves come as the Democratic race enters a crucial phase. Biden's front-runner status has been vigorously challenged by Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who are flush with cash from small-dollar donors. But both are viewed by some Democrats as too liberal to win in a general election faceoff with Trump.

Bloomberg, a Republican-turned-independent who registered as a Democrat last year, has flirted with a presidential run before but ultimately backed down, including in 2016.

He endorsed Hillary Clinton in that race and, in a speech at the Democratic Party convention, pummeled Trump as a con man who has oversold his business successes.

Bloomberg plunged his efforts and his money into gun control advocacy and climate change initiatives. He again looked seriously at a presidential bid earlier this year, traveling to early voting states and conducting extensive polling, but decided not to run in part because of Biden's perceived strength.

Biden did not address Bloomberg's potential candidacy at a fundraiser Thursday night in Boston.

With immense personal wealth, Bloomberg could quickly build out a robust campaign operation across the country. Still, his advisers acknowledge that his late entry to the race could make competing in states like Iowa and New Hampshire, which have been blanketed by candidates for nearly a year, difficult.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man spends night in tree after dog attack

IL BELLEVILLE — Southern Illinois authorities said a man was seriously injured when he spent a night trapped in a tree he'd scaled to escape an attacking dog.

The Belleville Fire Department said a woman heard the 38-year-old man calling for help Wednesday morning and found him stuck about 4 feet off the ground in a tree in Belleville's Bicentennial Park.

The man told firefighters who rescued him after about 11 hours in the tree that he'd climbed it Tuesday night after a dog chased him, but his knee became lodged in a fork in the tree, trapping him there. Belleville Fire Chief Tom Pour said the man's knee was seriously injured due to a lack of circulation.

Man attacks suspected burglar with machete

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A man appeared in court with a heavily bandaged arm one week after authorities said he tried to break into the house of a man armed with a machete.

The Sun Sentinel reported that Roderick Thomas, 26, made his initial appearance Wednesday in Broward County court on a burglary with assault or battery charge. The judge ordered he be held without bond.

Prosecutors said Thomas was trying to pry open the door of a Fort Lauderdale home with a copper pipe on Oct. 30 when he was confronted by a resident armed with a machete. The two men began to fight, pipe versus machete, until the resident managed to pin a badly injured Thomas and call for police.

Thomas had been hospitalized with extensive injuries.

Decoy police patrol car totaled after collision

MT KALISPELL — The owner of a auto repair shop said a decoy squad car parked in his lot was totaled when a truck crashed into it.

The Kalispell Daily Inter Lake reported that Monday's collision was caught on security cameras at Speed Farm Automotive in Somers.

Owner Shannon Farmer said the video shows a truck hitting the police car before flipping into the air. Farmer said he believes the truck was traveling at least 60 mph.

Montana Highway Patrol officials said the driver was taken to the hospital.

Authorities said the dummy police officer, known as Deputy Doug, that sits in the decoy car was placed in a new car.

"Doug took one for the team," Farmer said. "That dude is sitting up there day-in and day-out with people throwing eggs at him, and people using BB guns to shoot him. It's like the Wild West down there."

Man arrested for role in swastika graffiti

AZ SCOTTSDALE — Police said they've arrested a man for his alleged involvement in five swastika graffiti incidents last month.

They said Rick Sagaser, 47, was identified as a suspect after being arrested for aggravated assault on another homeless person.

Police said Sagaser was interviewed last week in jail, where he allegedly confessed to creating the graffiti in the five Oct. 8 cases when black swastikas were painted on sidewalks and walls of an area of the city. They said Sagaser admitted a past association with a prison gang and claimed he used the graffiti as protection

from being assaulted by other homeless people.

Family asks thieves to return stolen ashes

NJ SOUTH AMBOY — A woman whose home was burglarized is pleading with the thieves to return one item, a box containing her late husband's ashes.

Jamie Stratton, niece of the victim, said burglars kicked down the front door, stole the box and jewelry that included a commemorative wedding band set.

Stratton said her aunt, Liz Stratton, "just wants the box to be returned," and the jewelry has no value compared to his ashes.

Liz Stratton was away from Oct. 24 to Oct. 30.

Woman charged after rental cars damaged

WV CHARLESTON — Authorities said a woman has been charged after five rental cars at Yeager Airport were found scratched up and spray-painted.

Airport Police Chief Eric Johnson on Wednesday said officers used security footage to track down Anntonia Lipscomb after the cars were damaged last week.

She was been charged with felony destruction of property. Her public defender declined to comment.

Johnson said surveillance video shows Lipscomb and three other people drive into the rental car garage and point at multiple vehicles.

Lipscomb's license plate was captured on the video.

The group returned an hour later and one man vandalized the rental vehicles before taking off again. The total damage to the rental cars is about \$5,000.

Worker charged with photographing corpses

PA READING — Authorities said a nursing home employee took photographs of deceased residents and shared them with co-workers and friends.

Stephanie Thomas, 28, of Muhlenberg Township, now faces corpse abuse charges.

WPVI-TV of Philadelphia reported Thursday that Berks County District Attorney John Adams said the woman admitted to taking the photos and did it because her ex-boyfriend "liked that kind of thing."

Bern Township police said the deceased patients at the county-owned Berks Heim senior living facility were between the ages of 84 and 92. Berks Heim said that Thomas no longer works at the home.

Adams said it caused "a lot of embarrassment" with some of the patients' family members.

Authorities said an anonymous source tipped off police. No attorney was listed for Thomas.

Woman gives birth on the day she is elected

CT NEW HAVEN — A woman running for local office has given birth to her first child — on Election Day.

The New Haven Register reported that Ellen Cupo both gave birth to her son and won an uncontested seat on the New Haven Board of Alders on Tuesday.

Cupo's son Hunter Ian Cupo Dunn weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces. Cupo said she was especially grateful for the "incredibly caring and professional group of providers" at Yale New Haven Hospital.

From wire reports

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Carr helps rally Raiders past Chargers

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Derek Carr engineered another late winning drive. Karl Joseph delivered the sealing defensive play.

It may not have come easily, but the Oakland Raiders managed to pull out another dramatic victory that has put them squarely in the AFC playoff race.

Josh Jacobs scored on an 18-yard run with 1:02 remaining and the Raiders pulled out their second thriller in five days, beating the Los Angeles Chargers 26-24 on Thursday night.

“We just found a way to win. That says so much about our team,” Carr said. “Some nights are just tougher than others. This was just one of those nights that was just tougher. You see our team with the resilience. No one cared, no one flinched.”

It was a repeat performance from Sunday when Carr’s late

TD pass to Hunter Renfrow and Joseph’s pass breakup in the end zone delivered a 31-24 win over Detroit. This time the late-game heroics came after Philip Rivers threw a 6-yard pass to Austin Ekeler that gave the Chargers (4-6) a 24-20 lead with 4:02 remaining.

Carr completed three passes to Jalen Richard and two to Hunter Renfrow to start the game-winning 75-yard drive before Jacobs finished it off with his seventh touchdown of his rookie season, running through a big hole created by center Rodney Hudson and guard Richie Incognito.

“As soon as I saw it, I was just thinking, ‘Go!’” he said. “I knew this would either be a big run or a first down and luckily it was a big run.”

Daniel Carlson missed the extra point, putting more pressure on the tired Raiders defense to stop Rivers. Trayvon Mullen was called for holding on a fourth-down pass to extend the drive, but Joseph then intercepted a fourth-down pass

from Rivers to seal it.

“That says a lot about our team,” coach Jon Gruden said. “We have a lot of resilient guys. We compete. You may beat us. But we’ll be a hard out to get. We’ll battle.”

Rivers threw interceptions on his first two drives, falling into a 10-0 hole when Erik Harris took the second back 56 yards for a TD. But Rivers responded by throwing two TD passes, including the go-ahead score to Ekeler in his final start at the Coliseum. But he fell short at the end.

“You give a team 10 points at their place and then you have the ball with a chance to win at the end and you have eight snaps and go nowhere, it’s going to be tough to win,” Rivers said.

The Raiders blew a chance to open up the game in the third quarter, settling for a field goal after driving to the 4 on the opening drive and then missing a 53-yard field goal in the next drive after DeAndre Washington got stuffed for no gain on

third-and-1.

The Chargers settled for a field goal after getting inside the 10 later in the quarter.

Melvin Gordon had 22 carries for 108 yards and a TD that put the Chargers up 14-10 in the second quarter.

The Raiders responded with their first sustained drive of the game and took a 17-14 lead at the half on Carr’s 9-yard pass to rookie fullback Alec Ingold with 20 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

Pick it

Harris intercepted Rivers’ passes on the first two drives of the game. He returned the first one 59 yards to the 31, setting up a field goal by Daniel Carlson. Harris then took the second one back 56 yards for a TD, giving the Raiders a 10-0 lead. Harris became the first Raiders player since Phillip Buchanon in 2003 to have two interceptions, including a pick-6, in a single game.

Lloyd scores twice as US holds off Sweden in friendly

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — New coach. Same result.

Carli Lloyd scored twice, Christen Press added a goal and the United States held off Sweden 3-2 on Thursday night at Mapfre Stadium, giving Vlatko Andonovski a victory in his first match as head coach.

The U.S. is 19-1-3 in 2019 and has a 22-match unbeaten streak.

The U.S. dominated early in the friendly, as Lloyd took a pass in the third minute from Press with a right-footed shot from the center of the box and put it past goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl to the bottom right corner.

Press followed in the 28th minute, faking out a pair of defenders with fancy footwork and burying a ball from Lindsey Horan for her 50th goal in international competition.

Press is just the 11th American to reach that milestone.

“We knew what we wanted to do, and I think we did a good job controlling the game defensively,” Andonovski said. “The only thing I thought we could do better, and we did it in the second half, is push the block a little bit higher from the middle to the high block. We were successful when we did that. Obviously, it will just take a little bit of time to adjust the timing, the angle and the approach to all the players.”

Three minutes later, Lloyd found the back of the net again with a right-footed shot just inside the box, off a chip pass from Tobin Heath.

Lloyd, who has 22 multi-goal games, has 120 international goals and leads the U.S. in scoring this year with 15.

“For me, it’s going out and trying to be better than I was

the game before, help the team and implementing the philosophy that Vlatko wants,” Lloyd said. “Goals come when you are really not seeking goals. If you go out and give 100% effort, some good things usually happen.”

“I’m really proud of the team. There was some fabulous stuff out there. There was also some stuff will need to work on. Overall it was a good game.”

But Sweden would not go quietly, with the No. 5 team in the world finally getting on the board in the 75th minute on Anna Anvegard’s right-foot shot from close range. Anvegard scored her second goal three minutes later when goaltender Alyssa Naehrer played a ball high in the box and was caught out of position on the score, leaving the net open for a right-footed shot from the center of the box.

Lloyd was primed to complete a hat trick with a penalty kick in the 81st minute, but it sailed high.

The United States is ranked No. 1 in the world after winning its fourth World Cup this past summer in France, defeating Sweden in the group stage before taking out Spain, France, England and the Netherlands on its way to the championship.

Andonovski on Oct. 28 became the ninth U.S. coach after the retirement of Jill Ellis, whose 106 victories made her the winningest coach in U.S. women’s soccer history and the first international coach to win two Women’s World Cup titles.

A native of Macedonia, Andonovski played in Europe before an indoor soccer career in the United States. He coached in the National Women’s Soccer League for the past seven seasons.

LSU-Alabama loser could still make CFP

Associated Press

All eyes are on LSU-Alabama this week.

It's the first matchup of Nos. 1 and 2 teams in The Associated Press Top 25 since the Tigers and Crimson Tide met in 2011. LSU and Alabama are 2-3 behind Ohio State, and ahead of Penn State, in the first College Football Playoff rankings released this week.

The stakes in Tuscaloosa are high, but not as high as they could be. Imagine if this were an elimination game for a spot in the four-team playoff. As it is, the loser still would have a path to the playoff if it wins out and a one-loss Georgia (No. 6 CFP) falls in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

The other big game Saturday is in Minneapolis, where fifth-ranked Penn State (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) plays No. 13 Minnesota (8-0, 5-0). The Nittany Lions have two wins over ranked teams. This is by far the toughest opponent for the Gophers, who have won eight straight to start a season for the first time since 1941.

No. 18 Iowa (6-2, 3-2, No. 18

CFP) visits No. 16 Wisconsin (6-2, 3-2, No. 13) in the other Top 25 matchup. The winner will be in the best position to run down Minnesota in the Big Ten West.

Game of the week

No. 1 LSU (8-0, 4-0 SEC, No. 2 CFP) at No. 2 Alabama (8-0, 5-0, No. 3)

Chances are good this won't be the defensive slog that defined the 2011 meeting when the teams were 1-2 in the AP poll. LSU won that one 9-6 in overtime. Alabama won the rematch 21-0 in the BCS title game two months later.

This game pits two of the highest-scoring teams in the nation, and the Tide are a touchdown favorite to win a ninth straight in the series. LSU's Joe Burrow, with 30 touchdown passes against four interceptions, would all but lock up the Heisman Trophy with a strong performance in a win. Tua Tagovailoa, a game-time decision coming off a high-ankle sprain, would re-energize his Heisman bid by outperforming Burrow in a win.

Heisman watch

Oklahoma QB Jalen Hurts

The Sooners host Iowa State in their first game since losing at Kansas State. Hurts had 491 yards of total offense that day but couldn't finish the comeback against the Wildcats. He remains the nation's most efficient passer, is averaging 100 yards rushing per game and ranks third in the country with his 7.8 yards per carry.

Numbers game

3 — Wins by LSU over top-10 opponents this season, most in the nation.

16 — Straight quarters Akron has gone without a touchdown, three more than Northwestern.

22 — Takeaways by Illinois, most in the nation.

65 — Consecutive weeks Alabama has been ranked in the top five of The Associated Press Top 25, the longest streak in poll history.

Under the radar

Florida State (4-5, 3-4 ACC) at Boston College (5-4, 3-3)

The Seminoles' post-Willie Taggart era begins with Odell Haggins in his second stint as interim coach. The Eagles are feeling good about themselves after piling up 496 rushing yards, and 691 total, against

Syracuse.

UAB (6-2, 3-1 C-USA) at Southern Mississippi (5-3, 3-1)

The winner keeps pace with or moves into a tie with Conference USA West leader Louisiana Tech; the loser's hopes in the division will be dealt a big blow.

Princeton (7-0, 4-0 Ivy) vs. Dartmouth (7-0, 4-0)

The top two teams in the Ivy League meet at Yankee Stadium as part of college football's 150th anniversary celebration. Princeton has won a program-record 17 straight games since losing to Dartmouth in the 2017 finale. Dartmouth lost to Princeton last year, its only defeat in 20 games.

Hot seat watch

If Southern California coach Clay Helton's fate wasn't sealed by the 32-point home loss to Oregon, it will be if the Trojans (5-4, 4-2) are beaten at Arizona State (5-3, 2-3). USC has dropped 12 of its last 22.

Missouri's Barry Odom is in trouble after losing back-to-back road games against Vanderbilt and Kentucky. It could take the Tigers (5-3, 2-2) until the regular-season finale against Arkansas to get bowl eligible.

Defense takes center stage as Temple downs USF

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Sam Franklin scooped up a fumble and returned it 39 yards for Temple's second touchdown and the Owls went on to a 17-7 victory over South Florida on Thursday night.

Christian Braswell punched the ball out of the grasp of receiver Terrence Horne and Franklin grabbed it and raced down the left sideline for a 14-0 lead in the third quarter.

Jager Gardner rushed for a career-high 133 yards on 25 carries, including a 57-yarder, while Jadan Blue caught 11 passes for 121 yards for the Owls. Quincy Roche led the defense with 3½ of the Owls' nine sacks.

Kenny Yeboah took a 1-yard

pass from Todd Centeio with 1½ minutes left in the first half to complete a nine-play, 80-yard drive for the Owls (6-3, 3-2), who snapped a tie for third place with USF (4-5, 2-3) in the American Athletic Conference's East Division.

Jordan McCloud threw a 14-yard TD pass to Bryce Miller late in the third quarter for the Bulls' lone score before Owls kicker Will Mobley booted a career-tying 44-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

Young won't play

COLUMBUS, Ohio — No. 3 Ohio State announced Friday it will not play star defensive end Chase Young against Maryland this weekend amid concerns he violated NCAA rules by taking

a loan last year from someone he describes as a "family friend."

The surprising move was disclosed in the team's status report and depth chart for Saturday's game. Ohio State said only that Young was being held out because of a "possible NCAA issue from last year" the athletic department is "looking into." The school did not elaborate or say how long he might be out.

Young, however, took to Twitter a short time later.

"I made a mistake last year by accepting a loan from a family friend I've known since the summer before my freshman year at OSU," he wrote on his verified Twitter account Friday. "I repaid it in full last

summer and I'm working with the University and NCAA to get back on the field as soon as possible."

Tim Nevius, an attorney and former NCAA investigator, confirmed he is working with Young. He tweeted that Young "took a small loan from a close family friend last year to cover basic life expenses. Loan was repaid months ago and we're working to restore his eligibility."

The suspension has been the first hint of off-field trouble or any significant adversity for the Buckeyes, who are ranked No. 1 in the current playoff rankings with legitimate hopes for a national championship in coach Ryan Day's first season in charge.

NBA roundup

Williams lifts Clippers over Blazers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Clippers were kings of the fourth quarter. Portland star Damian Lillard lost his crown, at least for a night, anyway.

Lou Williams made a go-ahead jumper with 58 seconds left, then added a three-pointer and finished with 26 points to lift Los Angeles over the Trail Blazers 107-101 on Thursday for coach Doc Rivers' 900th career victory.

"Doc never stops going and grinding," Kawhi Leonard said. "He never gets bored."

Lillard and CJ McCollum led Portland with 22 points apiece, but surprisingly both got blanked in the fourth quarter. That's usually Lillard's time to shine, but the Clippers' defense wasn't having it.

"Usually I can make those shots down the stretch, but they weren't falling," Lillard

said. "They were coming out to guard me and picking up full court. Pat Beverley did a good job on defense."

Leonard and Williams combined to score the Clippers' final 15 points. Leonard sealed the win with four straight free throws as fans chanted "MVP! MVP!"

"The Lou-him combination was lethal down the stretch," Rivers said.

With Lillard and McCollum not getting anything, Anfernee Simons scored 16 of his 17 points in the fourth, including Portland's first 12 of the quarter.

Celtics 108, Hornets 87: Kemba Walker had an emotional return to his former hometown, Jayson Tatum scored 23 points and Boston beat host Charlotte.

Walker had an off-night shooting and finished with 14

points and six assists, but the Celtics won their sixth straight game.

Walker received a rousing minute standing ovation after the Hornets showed a highlight tribute on the videoboard that left the point guard in tears. The three-time All-Star played eight NBA seasons in Charlotte and is the franchise's scoring leader. He signed with the Celtics this past offseason after Hornets owner Michael Jordan elected not to pay Walker a five-year, \$221 million supermax contract.

Gordon Hayward added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and the Celtics scored 17 points off 21 Charlotte turnovers. Miles Bridges had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

Spurs 121, Thunder 112: LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 39 points and host San Antonio beat Oklahoma

City.

Point guard Dejounte Murray had a career-high 10 assists along with 17 points and eight rebounds.

DeMar DeRozan added 16 points and nine assists.

Danilo Gallinari scored 27 points for the Thunder. Chris Paul had 19 points and five assists in 31 minutes.

Heat 124, Suns 108: Jimmy Butler scored 30 of his 34 points in the first half, Goran Dragic added 25 and visiting Miami rolled past Phoenix.

Miami bounced back from a 20-point loss to Denver to win for the fourth time in five games. The Heat improved to 6-2 for the first time since 2012, when they had LeBron James and eventually won the NBA title. Dragic, who played six seasons in his 12-year career with the Suns, scored 20 points in the second half.

NHL roundup

Penguins end Islanders' 10-game winning streak in OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After two terrific periods, the New York Islanders abandoned their strong fundamental play in the third.

And in a flash, their 10-game winning streak was over.

Bryan Rust scored his second goal of the game in overtime and the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied past the Islanders 4-3 on Thursday night in Brooklyn.

Pittsburgh erased a three-goal deficit in the third period and snapped its three-game skid. Jared McCann had a goal and two assists, and Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins. Matt Murray made 20 saves.

"These are definitely character-building wins," Rust said. "For us as a team, that just kind of breeds confidence throughout the lineup."

Casey Cizikas, Cal Clutterbuck and Adam Pelech scored for New York. Semyon Varlamov stopped 35 shots.

Rust, who extended his point streak to five games, took the puck from Islanders center Brock Nelson behind the net and scored on a wraparound 3:25 into the extra session.

"Rusty is playing with a hunger and you can see it in his game," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "His speed is so evident, and he is hard to play against because he can track pucks down, strip defensemen from behind and that's what he brings to this team. He has the ability to score. He is finishing for us, but his second effort for us is impressive."

Avalanche 9, Predators 4: Joonas Donskoi scored his first career hat trick and host Colorado used a six-goal second pe-

riod to rout Nashville.

Capitals 5, Panthers 4 (OT): Tom Wilson scored twice, the second 17 seconds into overtime to lift visiting Washington past Florida for its fifth consecutive victory.

Flyers 3, Canadiens 2 (OT): Sean Couturier flipped a shot from the slot that trickled past a surprised Carey Price just 55 seconds into overtime to lift host Philadelphia past Montreal.

Maple Leafs 2, Golden Knights 1 (OT): John Tavares scored at 2:33 of overtime to push host Toronto past Vegas.

Senators 3, Kings 2 (OT): Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored 3:12 into overtime in host Ottawa's victory over Los Angeles.

Blue Jackets 3, Coyotes 2: Gustav Nyquist had a goal and two assists, Joonas Korpi also scored 31 shots and visiting

Columbus beat Arizona to end a five-game losing streak.

Flames 5, Devils 2: Noah Hanifin had a goal and two assists and host Calgary scored four times in the second period to beat New Jersey.

Rangers 4, Hurricanes 2: Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and an assist and Henrik Lundqvist made a season-high 45 saves in visiting New York's victory over Carolina.

Blackhawks 5, Canucks 2: Patrick Kane had a power-play goal and two assists and Corey Crawford made 36 saves in host Chicago's victory over Vancouver.

Sharks 6, Wild 5: Logan Couture had a goal and three assists, Evander Kane scored his team-leading 10th of the season, and host San Jose held off Minnesota.