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IG asks Army to make decision on XM25

BY ALEX HORTON

Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The Pentagon's internal watchdog has asked the Army to move forward or cancel its grenade airburst weapon after lengthy delays and malfunctions have stalled development, according to a report issued this week.

The XM25, heralded by its developers as a combat game-changer, has experienced a 5-year production delay since 2012, the Department of Defense Inspector General report said, adding that an internal Army council needs to make a production document available to move forward if testing that wraps in November shows the weapon has improved in design.

Tests were halted in 2013 after an operator was injured in Afghanistan, the report said. One of the rounds prematurely ignited, giving the soldier superficial injuries. The incident forced the Army to pull all the weapons from the combat theater, Foreign Policy reported.

The Pentagon internal re-

view said no malfunctions have been reported since design overhauls were implemented after the incident, but no production milestones have been made since 2010.

The XM25 is an airburst weapon designed to target combatants hiding in defilade — taking cover behind walls or inside buildings, trenches or bunkers, where traditional small arms cannot easily reach targets. The weapon calculates a distance to the threat and programs the 25 mm round to explode in midair above the target at an effective range of 500 meters — more than triple the effective range for the M203 grenade launcher.

Initial combat field tests produced mixed results in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2013. Three operators of the weapon received minor wounds from malfunctions, though the IG report suggests inadequate training could be the reason injuries occurred.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. James Carabello championed the weapon, saying soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan helped defeat

insurgents taking cover behind walls during the testing period.

"The XM25 is a devastating weapons system that changes the face of battle when we are in direct-fire contact with the enemy," he told Army.mil in 2012.

An Army Ranger unit was less enthusiastic. After an initial assessment, troops refused to take the bulky weapon on a raid, saying it and its ammunition were too cumbersome to leave behind a primary weapon, like an M4 rifle, Military.com reported in 2013.

The Ranger assessment points to an age-old preference for ground troops to carry weapons that balance weight, effectiveness and simplicity. The military's primary grenade-firing platform, the M203 launcher, has been used since the Vietnam War and attaches underneath the M4 rifle, providing two weapons in one with an additional three pounds.

"The M203 is simple. You're not carrying extra stuff with you that slows you down and gets stuck on doors and in ve-

hicles," said Victor Londoño, an Army infantry veteran who used the M203 in Iraq. Though he never used the XM25 in combat, Londoño said he is not surprised to hear that Rangers left the weapon behind due to its size and weight constraints.

"The simpler, the better, in combat," Londoño said.

The Army has begun phasing out the M203 in favor of the M320, a detachable replacement that fires the same rounds. Other branches, including the Marine Corps, will keep the M203 in their inventory.

Some parts of the Pentagon's IG assessment have been redacted, including fielding costs for the XM25.

The future costs, also redacted, "could be put to better use" if the program is canceled, the report said. The Army requested nearly \$10 million in funding for the XM25 next year, with a total of \$107.6 million through 2021 — an investment that could indicate the Army's ultimate preference to field the weapon.

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Port of Los Angeles celebrates Fleet Week

BY LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

Fleet Week is underway at the Port of Los Angeles, marking the first time the sea services have brought the popular celebration to the City of Angels.

Through Monday, members of the public will have a chance to meet sailors and Marines and to tour ships, including the guided-missile destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer, the amphibious-

assault ship USS America and the Coast Guard cutter Active.

Servicemembers will participate in community service projects, a Navy statement said. But many will get a chance to enjoy the city as well.

"Our hope is that the Marines and sailors will explore the local downtown and waterfront areas," Arley M. Baker, senior director for the Port

of Los Angeles communications group, said in a Marine Corps statement. "This is one of the oldest and proudest communities in LA, and they are very excited to welcome [the servicemembers]."

The celebration also will feature a science, technology, engineering and mathematics expo, and Marines will show off ground vehicles and will offer humanitarian,

peacekeeping and warfighting demonstrations.

There also will be hourly flyovers of active and historic military aircraft. Jefferson Starship and other bands are slated to perform.

Up to 10,000 people are expected to attend the event through the long weekend, according to Los Angeles TV station KABC.

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Last US cluster bomb maker won't make more

The Washington Post

Textron, the last U.S. company to build cluster bombs, announced in a securities filing this week that one of its subsidiaries would no longer produce the controversial, internationally derided munition, citing dwindling demand.

The Rhode Island-based company's decision comes after the Obama administration halted a shipment of approximately 400 of their cluster weapons — called CBU-105s — to Saudi Arabia in May, following reports that the Saudis were using the weapons indiscriminately during their air campaign over Yemen.

Cluster munitions is a blanket term for a variety of weapons that distribute submunitions or bomblets over an area, often to destroy concentrations of troops and equipment or to damage infrastructure such as roads and airfields. The United States first started using them widely during the Korean War and has used them in every major conflict since. The reason that many countries have banned their use is that the bomblets used in these attacks often fail to explode and go on to become highly dangerous pieces of unexploded ordnance that kill or maim the civilians who encounter them.

A total of 119 countries have signed or acceded to an inter-

nationally recognized ban on cluster munitions. The United States is not one of them, nor is Saudi Arabia.

Though the United States hasn't allotted funds for cluster munition production since 2007, the CBU-105 has been readily exported to several countries since. Saudi Arabia purchased more than 1,500 of the weapons between 2010 and 2011, according to a report by the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

While there are several different types of cluster bombs in the U.S. inventory, U.S. policy stipulates that exported cluster munitions must have no more than a 1 percent unexploded ordnance rate. Textron's CBU-105 was the last remaining U.S. cluster munition to meet that requirement — at least on paper, said Megan Burke, the director for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition. While U.S. forces haven't used cluster munitions in large quantities since the opening salvos of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, current Pentagon directives also enforce the 1 percent rule, though commanders can request an exception. According to a U.S. Air Force spokesman, neither the United States nor the international coalition has used cluster munitions in the air war against the Islamic State in Syria, Iraq and now Libya.

Attacks in Baghdad kill 15, hurt over 50

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of attacks across Baghdad, including an explosion at a weapons warehouse that set off munitions and sent a huge plume of smoke over the Iraqi capital, killed 15 people and wounded over 50 on Friday, according to Iraqi officials.

The attacks underscore the poor security situation in the Iraqi capital, which has been subject to several recent large-scale attacks, including a July shopping center bombing that killed nearly 300 people.

At least three rockets landed in eastern Baghdad, killing five people and wounding 15, police officials said.

The rockets that hit eastern Baghdad appear to have been set off by a blast at a weapons storage facility, according to a police official. An Associated Press reporter at the scene said members of the powerful Shiite militia group Asaib Ahl al-Haq were present at the scene of the attack. Police officials said it is unclear which militia the weapons store belonged to.

The weapons cache blast set off munitions stored there, sending a huge plume of smoke over the city skyline.

In the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Ghazaliya, a bomb struck a shopping street,

killing two people and wounding eight, police said.

Two bomb attacks on fruit and vegetable markets across the city killed five people and wounded 20, officials from the Interior Ministry said.

Meanwhile, a bomb attack on a commercial area in western Baghdad killed three people and wounded eight, according to police and hospital officials.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Friday also marked the martyrdom anniversary of the ninth Shiite Imam. In Baghdad, pilgrims descended on the Kadhimiyah shrine in Baghdad to commemorate the day, but none of the attacks wounded pilgrims nor hit near the shrine.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the Islamic State group often has said it was behind deadly bombings targeting Shiite civilians in the Iraqi capital, including the July shopping center attack.

Late Thursday night, an attack on Iraqi security forces killed nine fighters and wounded 15, according to Karim al-Nouri, the spokesman for Iraq's government-sanctioned mainly Shiite militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

Pakistan says it foiled Islamic State bid to grow network

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has foiled a bid by the Islamic State group to expand its network into this predominantly Muslim country, with the military arresting 309 suspects, including Islamic State members from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, a military spokesman said Thursday.

The remarks by Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa were a rare admission of Islamic State presence in Pakistan, where officials have long insisted that the extremist group has no footprint. Earlier, Pakistani officials

had insisted that Islamic State has no presence in the country.

Bajwa told reporters at a news conference in the capital, Islamabad, that among those arrested were 25 foreigners — all from countries where the Sunni militant group has an established presence.

He did not provide details of when and where the arrests were made but he said they came during military operations. Pakistan had stepped up military operations across the country — and specifically in the northwestern tribal regions border-

ing Afghanistan — after the 2014 Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar that killed 156 people, mostly children.

The suspects had planned attacks on diplomats in Pakistan as well as Pakistani officials, Bajwa said.

The Islamic State group “tried to make an ingress” into Pakistan, but “they failed,” he added. Pakistan is also taking steps to strengthen border control with Afghanistan to prevent militants from entering the country from Pakistan's war-torn neighbor.

Hermine is first hurricane to hit Florida in over ten years

Associated Press

CARRABELLE, Fla. — Hurricane Hermine made landfall in Florida's Big Bend area early Friday as the first hurricane to hit the state in more than a decade, bringing soaking rain, high winds and thousands of power outages. Injuries were reported in Tallahassee as trees fell onto homes.

The Category 1 storm hit just east of St. Marks about 1:30 a.m. EDT with winds of about 80 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. Hermine later weakened to a tropical storm as it moved farther inland.

Projected storm surges of up to 12 feet menaced a wide swath of the coast and an expected drenching of up to 10 inches of rain carried the danger of

flooding along the storm's path over land, including the state capital Tallahassee, which hadn't been hit by a hurricane since Kate in 1985.

As of 8 a.m. Friday, Hermine was weakening as it moved into southern Georgia, with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph, the Hurricane Center said. It was centered about 35 miles northeast of Valdosta, Ga., and was moving north-northeast near 14 mph.

After pushing through Georgia, Hermine was expected to move into the Carolinas and up the East Coast.

In Tallahassee, high winds knocked trees onto several houses injuring residents inside, fire-rescue spokesman Mike Bellamy said. He said an unknown number were taken to area hospitals with injuries

that weren't thought to be life-threatening. Bellamy said his agency responded to more than 300 calls overnight.

At Florida's Keaton Beach, just south of the state's Big Bend where the peninsula meets the Panhandle, about two dozen people waited on a road just after sunrise Friday trying to get to their homes. Police had the road blocked because of flooding. Taylor County Commissioner Jody DeVane said several homes were damaged.

Dustin Beach, 31, rushed to Keaton Beach on Friday from a hospital in Tallahassee where his wife had given birth Thursday night to a girl.

"When my wife got up this morning she said, 'Go home and check on the house. I need to know where we're going after we leave the hospital,'" Beach said.

Dallas police chief set to retire

Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas police Chief David Brown, whose impassioned response to a sniper attack that killed five officers made him the face of a city reeling from tragedy, is retiring from the department.

Brown, who will be 56 this year, issued a statement Thursday saying he will retire Oct. 22 after 33 years with Dallas police and six years as chief. He did not give a reason for his decision to retire, but the mayor and city manager both said at a news conference that he was not being forced out.

"I became a Dallas cop in 1983 because of the crack cocaine epidemic's impact on my neighborhood," Brown said in the statement. "I wanted to be part of the solution. Since that time I have taken great pride in knowing that we have always been part of the solution and helped to make Dallas the world class city it is today."

Arguably his defining moment leading a department of more than 3,600 officers was his response to the July 7 fatal shootings of four Dallas officers and one transit officer as a downtown protest against police brutality was ending. But he also drew criticism during his tenure as he clashed with police union leaders and others over how to deal with a surge in violent crime earlier this year that reversed a decadelong decrease in killings.

Brown, who is black, drew broad praise from President Barack Obama and others for his leadership in the days after the shootings.

Yet Brown also experienced friction with rank-and-file officers during his time as police chief. Earlier this year, he sought to reassign hundreds of officers to target high-crime neighborhoods.

Putin denies Russian involvement in DNC hack

Bloomberg

Vladimir Putin said the hacking of thousands of Democratic National Committee emails and documents was a service to the public, but denied U.S. accusations that Russia's government had anything to do with it.

"Listen, does it even matter who hacked this data?" Putin said in an interview at the Pacific port city of Vladivostok on Thursday. "The important thing is the content that was given to the public."

U.S. officials blame hackers guided by the Russian government for the attacks on DNC servers earlier this year that resulted in WikiLeaks publishing about 20,000 private emails just before Hillary Clinton's nominating convention in July. The documents showed attempts by party officials to undermine her chief Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders, and led to the resignation of the head of the DNC, Rep. Debbie Wasser-

man Schultz, of Florida.

Putin, in power since 2000 and facing re-election in 18 months, has had an acrimonious relationship with Clinton since her failed attempt to "reset" relations as secretary of state in 2009.

"There's no need to distract the public's attention from the essence of the problem by raising some minor issues connected with the search for who did it," Putin said of the DNC breach. "But I want to tell you again, I don't know anything about it, and on a state level Russia has never done this."

The FBI has high confidence that the government in Moscow was behind the theft at the DNC and other Democratic Party organizations, a person familiar with the findings has said. Republican nominee Donald Trump has praised Putin as a great leader, and the billionaire's former campaign chairman spent years working for the Kremlin ally who was

ousted from Ukraine's presidency in 2014.

An internal DNC probe by CrowdStrike Inc., a cybersecurity company, traced the DNC break-in to two groups it says are linked to Russian intelligence services.

James Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said Russia's "track record" of state hacking goes back at least a decade, so Putin's denials aren't credible.

"Nice try, but no goal," Lewis said.

The digital net cast by the hackers has widened almost weekly — security experts say it now includes congressional staffers, NATO generals, Washington think tanks and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The subsequent leaks have included the mobile number of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who said she was barraged with "obscene" calls within hours.

At least 13 dead in two attacks in Pakistan

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Northwestern Pakistan was struck by two separate militant attacks hours apart on Friday, when gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed a Christian colony near the town of Peshawar, killing one civilian, and a suicide bomb attack on a district court in the town of Mardan killed 12 people and wounded 54 others.

Militants stormed the Christian neighborhood early on Friday morning, triggering a shootout in which four attackers were killed, and one Christian died, police and the military said. Three security officials

and two civilian guards were wounded in the attack.

Army spokesman Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa said in a statement that the attack was quickly repulsed and that security forces were searching for any accomplices.

Local police official Shaukat Khan said four suicide bombers entered the Christian colony. One of them went into a church, but no one was there at the time. He said the attackers killed one Christian in the neighborhood. It was not immediately clear if any of the suicide bombers had detonated their explosives.

The quick response from the

local civilian guards and security forces prevented more deaths, Khan said.

Ahsanullah Ahsan, a spokesman for Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway Taliban faction, claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the town of Mardan, some 25 miles from Peshawar, a suicide bomber threw a grenade at the district court before detonating his explosives, according to government spokesman Mush-taq Ghani.

A rescue official, Bilal Jalal, said at least 12 people were killed and another 54 wounded in the suicide attack at the court, among them lawyers,

policemen and passers-by. He said some of the wounded in a critical condition.

A local police official, Ijaz Ahmed Khan, said the attacker apparently wanted to target a gathering of lawyers at the bar room but was thwarted by police. When a policeman asked the attacker to stop, the attacker threw a grenade at him, killing the officer, Khan said. A second policeman then opened fire at the attacker, who detonated his explosives.

Lawyer Adil Hussain confirmed the police account.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for court attack.

Drug booths razed after Denmark shootout

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN — Residents of Copenhagen's semi-autonomous Christiania neighborhood on Friday tore down the area's hashish market after an alleged drug dealer shot two police officers and a bystander.

The 25-year-old gunman escaped after the attack but was arrested after a shootout with police. Authorities and his defense lawyer said Friday that he had died from his wounds.

The violence marked an escalation in clashes between police and drug dealers who sell hashish openly in Christiania, a largely self-governing enclave created when hippies

occupied abandoned navy barracks in 1971. Sale of hashish is illegal in Denmark.

Fed up with the violence, some of Christiania's 600 residents on Friday morning tore down the market stalls used by drug dealers on the neighborhood's infamous "Pusher Street."

"It is important that we do this today with the wounded police officer in our thoughts," community spokesman Risenga Manghezi told The Associated Press. "But we cannot guarantee that they won't pop up again, unfortunately."

Copenhagen's police chief Thorkild Fogde welcomed the dismantling of "the hashish supermarket," adding it was

"a clear attempt to help the police."

Danish lawmakers, who for years have called for the open hashish sale to stop, rushed to applaud the residents' action. Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen tweeted "Great Christiania. Hold on tight."

Though many Christiania residents have liberal attitudes toward drugs, they are uncomfortable with the presence of criminal gangs running the hashish trade in the neighborhood.

"What we, the residents, don't want is to be associated with the violence connected to the hashish sale," Manghezi said. "As for now, we have no concrete plans as to what will

happen with Pusher Street."

Authorities say the gunman, identified as Mesa Hodzic, a Danish national born in Bosnia, opened fire on two police officers as they tried to arrest him late Wednesday. The gunman also shot a bystander in the leg.

One of the officers is in critical condition while the other and the bystander are stable, police said.

Police later shot Hodzic as they confronted him south of Copenhagen. He was taken to Copenhagen's university hospital, where he died from his wounds early Friday, his defense lawyer Jacob Kiil said. Manghezi said Hodzic was not a Christiania resident.

Year after Syrian boy drowned, dad says little changed

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The father of a 3-year-old boy whose lifeless body photographed on a Turkish beach drew the world's attention to the plight of refugees says little has changed in the year since.

Abdullah Kurdi, a Syrian who now lives in Iraq, lost not only Aylan, 3, but also son

Galip, 5, and wife Rihan, 35, one year ago Friday.

Kurdi was quoted by Germany's Bild newspaper as saying this week that he's glad the photo of his son's body was published to "make clear to people what is happening" but he's upset that more hasn't been done for refugees since.

"Politicians said after the death of my family: never

again!" he said. "Everyone allegedly wanted to do something after the photos that had so moved them. But what is happening now? The dying goes on and nobody's doing anything."

Kurdi urged others contemplating the journey that he undertook with his family to rethink their plans.

"I'd like to say to the refugees in the refugee camps that

they shouldn't make this journey," he said. "The danger is too great. It's not worth it."

His sister, Tima Kurdi, posted this week on her Facebook page that "we must never forget the price for freedom."

"Please keep (Aylan) and all those who died for the chance of freedom from the shackles of war in our daily prayers," she wrote.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Students to live among retirees for project

MI CASCADE TOWNSHIP — Occupational therapy students at a Michigan university plan to live among retirees as part of a social and communication-based research project.

Three Western Michigan University students were expected to move in Monday to a retirement community for 19 months. The project builds on collaborations between the community and the Kalamazoo university's regional location in Grand Rapids.

Organizers said research will include the impact of isolation, an in-depth look at aging, and stereotypes of retirees by college students and vice versa.

Nancy Ayers is director of resident living of Clark on Keller Lake in Cascade Township, which has 80 senior residents. She said the research "will help create better communication between the aging population and those who provide vital services to them."

Man jumps out of ambulance into traffic

DC WASHINGTON — A man jumped out of a moving ambulance into oncoming traffic on the Capital Beltway and sustained minor injuries.

WRC-TV reported that a private ambulance was transporting the man from one hospital to another Aug. 25 when he jumped out on Interstate 495's Outer Loop. Video shot by a commuter nearby showed the man rolling on the ground, getting up, running toward the shoulder, jumping the barrier and running into the woods.

The driver of the ambulance stopped in the middle of the road and tried to chase the pa-

tient, who was later found by police and taken to a hospital.

Springsteen tour given an extra 15 minutes

MA FOXBOROUGH — Officials in the Massachusetts town of Foxborough think Bruce Springsteen is worth an extra 15 minutes.

The Sun Chronicle reported that the Board of Selectmen this week voted to extend the concert curfew for the rocker's Sept. 14 show at Gillette Stadium to 11:30 p.m.

The typical curfew for week-night concerts is 11:15 p.m.

Jess Enos, the stadium's director of external affairs, said Springsteen has played Gillette twice before with no issues and he's been playing three- to four-hour sets on his latest tour.

And if Springsteen plays past 11:30? Selectman Chris Mitchell noted that stadium concert curfews are not set by any town law.

'Bad apple culprit' hits homes with fruit

WA VANCOUVER — One rotten apple spoils the bunch, but a man known as the "bad apple culprit" doesn't stop at just one.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office in southwest Washington said someone has periodically been tossing apples onto roofs. Sometimes the culprit leaves a note, as was the case when he recently struck at a home in Hazel Dell.

In the note, the culprit claimed he targeted five homes — three apples per house. He also wrote of his experience tossing apples at homes across the Columbia River in Portland, Ore.

He said Portland "might be the best place on Earth for a hooligan riding a bicycle with a

backpack full of apples." That's because there are bicyclists everywhere and it's easy to get lost in the neighborhoods.

Deputies released a surveillance image of the culprit in hopes the public can identify him.

Bee swarm ousts police department

PA CARBONDALE — One might say they were buzz-ted.

A swarm of bees forced a police department out of its offices in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The (Scranton) Times-Tribune reported Carbondale police had to abandon their station Tuesday when the bees arrived.

Most settled into cracks and crevices in the City Hall's third-floor exterior, but some others were able to get inside the building and into the police station.

A beekeeper removed more than 400 bees on Tuesday, while officers worked from other offices in the building. The expert was expected to return Wednesday to remove the rest of the bees from the building's brick exterior.

Woman's trucks stolen from same station

NM BELEN — Police said two trucks belonging to a woman were stolen from a New Mexico rail station within three months of each other.

Mary Phillips told KOB-TV in Albuquerque this week it's frustrating that her second truck recently was stolen from a Rail Runner station in Belen after the first one was taken in June.

Police said surveillance cameras at the station were unable to capture the first culprit.

The video just shows one of the trucks driving away.

Snake perplexing city actually an anaconda

ME WESTBROOK — Wessie P. Thon might actually be Wessie A. Conda.

A Texas scientist who ran tests on a large snakeskin found in the Maine city of Westbrook said Tuesday the tests came back as "100 percent from anaconda."

A big snake caused a stir in Maine when it was seen eating a beaver along a riverbank. The discovery of a 10-foot snakeskin last month indicates it's lurking locally.

Locals dubbed it Wessie. That spawned a parody Twitter account called Wessie P. Thon.

Biologist John Placyk, who performed the skin test, said Wessie's behavior corresponds with that of an anaconda.

The Wessie Twitter account tweeted Tuesday that the news was causing "a mid-life crisis."

Anti-wrinkle device forces evacuation

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities said a vibrating device that claims to fight wrinkles as it rolls over a person's face forced a Southwest Airlines flight to evacuate in New Mexico.

Albuquerque Aviation Police told news station KOB-TV that passengers were ordered off the plane Monday after the anti-aging skin roller was discovered in the back of a seat.

Authorities said the flight crew moved the item to the galley, and police searched the plane.

No other suspicious items were found, and no arrests were made.

From wire reports

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No. 9 Vols hold off Appalachian St. in OT

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Exactly nine years to the day after it pulled off one of the greatest upsets in college football history, Appalachian State nearly did it again.

A couple of missed kicks and an inability to recover an overtime fumble prevented the Mountaineers from getting it done.

Jalen Hurd pounced on quarterback Joshua Dobbs' fumble in the end zone and No. 9 Tennessee overcame a 10-point half-time deficit to escape with a 20-13 win over Appalachian State on Thursday night.

"It's definitely heartbreaking," said Appalachian State's Marcus Cox, who rushed for 115 yards. "I feel like we put ourselves in position to win, and we just didn't capitalize when we should have."

Appalachian State was trying to stage a repeat of its 2007 upset of No. 5 Michigan, which marked the first time a Football Championship Subdivision program had beaten a Top 25 team. The Mountaineers have since left the FCS ranks and had their first season as a full-fledged Bowl Subdivision member last year.

Tennessee faced third-and-goal from the 2 when Dobbs ran to his right and lost control of the ball as he tried to stretch his arms across the goal line. Hurd won the scramble for the loose ball in the end zone to give the Volunteers their only lead of the night.

"I thought I was in, and then I just saw

Jalen dive on the ball and I said, 'All right, we're good. We scored,' " Dobbs said. "A touchdown's a touchdown."

Micah Abernathy ended the game by breaking up a pass into the end zone on fourth-and-5 from the 20.

The Vols tied it on Dobbs' 67-yard touchdown pass to Josh Malone with 10:30 left in regulation. Appalachian State redshirt freshman kicker Michael Rubino, who earlier missed an extra point, was wide right on a 42-yard field goal attempt with 5:24 remaining.

Rubino's miss wasted a 57-yard punt return by Jaquil Capel that gave Appalachian State the ball at the 28.

Tennessee entered the season with its highest ranking since 2006 after winning its final six games last year, but the Volunteers looked nothing like a Top 10 team Thursday. The Volunteers committed two first-half turnovers and lost linebacker Jalen Reeves-Maybin to a targeting penalty in the opening quarter as Appalachian State built a 13-3 lead.

"On a night where just about everything and anything went wrong, we found a way to win," Tennessee coach Butch Jones said.

Cam Sutton fumbled on a punt return and Appalachian State's Alex Gray recovered at Tennessee's 36 to set up the first touchdown, a 5-yard keeper from Taylor Lamb barely four minutes into the game. Appalachian State's other touchdown came

in the second quarter on a 33-yard completion from Lamb to Cox.

The Takeaway

Appalachian State: The Mountaineers had lost by at least 28 points in each of their six meetings with Power Five teams since that Michigan game, but they showed Thursday that they could compete with college football's big-name programs. Appalachian State refused to get pushed around and kept Tennessee's offense out of the end zone for the first 49½ minutes.

Cox showed he can run effectively against any team from any conference. Cox now has 4,203 career yards rushing to rank second among all active FBS players, behind San Diego State's Donnel Pumphrey.

Tennessee: The Vols vowed they weren't overlooking Appalachian State and weren't distracted by sky-high preseason expectations, but something was clearly missing Thursday.

The biggest question surrounding Tennessee during the offseason was whether it could add efficiency and explosiveness to its passing attack. That area remains a major concern. Dobbs went 16 of 29 for 192 yards with one touchdown and an interception.

"I'm never going to apologize for a win, guys," Jones said. "I think we've learned around here wins are pretty hard to come by."

Jackson, No. 19 Louisville dismantle Charlotte

BY GARY B. GRAVES

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Lamar Jackson not only hit 16 Louisville receivers with passes — six for touchdowns — he weaved his way through Charlotte's beleaguered defense for a couple of hard-earned scores himself.

Jackson accounted for a school-record eight touchdowns and 405 offensive yards by half-time to help No. 19 Louisville dismantle Charlotte 70-14 on Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

"I was just trying to get everyone the ball," said Jackson, who completed 17 of 23 passes for 286 yards. "We have a lot of big-time players."

Jackson broke Chris Redman's 1998 record for combined rushing and passing TDs and tied Redman's mark for passing

TDs. He seemed poised to add a few more before exiting without taking a snap in the second half.

Cardinals coach Bobby Petrino joked, "He should've had nine."

Jackson rushed 11 times for 119 yards, including a 36-yard TD run on Louisville's opening drive. Louisville outgained Charlotte 663-208.

Jackson's performance was an impressive follow-up to his breakout freshman season in which he combined for 2,800 yards and 23 TDs — including 960 rushing to break Louisville season and career marks by a QB. His final game last season was a 453-yard, three-TD combined effort in a Music City Bowl win over Texas A&M that earned MVP honors.

That showing raised expectations for this year, and the 6-foot-3, 204-pound Jackson

quickly delivered for a sellout crowd of 53,127.

That was only after a shaky start in which Jackson had to escape Charlotte's blitzes and run, while a couple of his passes sailed.

The 49ers barely touched Jackson several plays later as he broke through a left-side hole and barreled for the first of eight TDs on nine first-half possessions.

Jackson weaved a 1-yard TD run between a run of powerful throws that broke the game open. He hit six receivers with touchdowns long and short, and the 49ers could do nothing to stop them.

"We were having a hard time handling Lamar," Charlotte coach Brad Lambert said. "He can make you look bad."

Jackson made good use of his running backs, hitting Jeremy

Smith out of the backfield for a 24-yard TD, Brandon Radcliff with a 16-yard TD and L.J. Scott for a 20-yard score.

Jackson's best TD throw came late in the first half when he hit senior James Quick in the back of the end zone, a play initially ruled out of bounds. Replay showed Quick pulling in Jackson's pass with little room to spare as his feet dragged past the end line; the call was reversed to the delight of the crowd as the score broke Redman's mark.

Given another scoring opportunity as seconds ticked down toward halftime, Jackson positioned Louisville with a 6-yard run to the 1 before coaches called timeout with nine seconds remaining. H-back Cole Hikutini then took Jackson's short pass for a 1-yard TD reception four seconds later, capping the record-setting night.

Pats' Brady gets into game

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — See you again in five weeks, Tom Brady.

With a four-game suspension for his role in the “Deflategate” scandal beginning in just a few days, Brady had an NFL going-away party Thursday night, playing the first half in the New England Patriots’ preseason finale against the New York Giants.

Brady completed 16 of 26 passes for 166 yards, a touchdown and an interception as the Patriots (3-1) missed a perfect preseason with a 17-9 loss to the Giants (2-2).

“I was happy I was able to play as much as I did,” Brady said. “It was a good opportunity to get out there and play. We did a decent job of moving the ball, but we turned it over too many times.”

Eagles 14, Jets 6: New York quarterback Bryce Petty threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Robby Anderson before injuring his shoulder, but a pair of big plays helped host Philadelphia win its preseason finale.

Paul Turner returned a punt 71 yards for a touchdown and Ed Reynolds took an interception 90 yards for a score to help the Eagles (4-0) complete an undefeated preseason for the first time since 2012, when they finished 4-12 in Andy Reid’s last season as coach.

Seahawks 23, Raiders 21: On a night when the starters for both teams spent most of the game on the sideline, visiting Seattle running back Thomas Rawls made a big statement by getting on the field for only a few plays.

Rawls carried twice for 8 yards in his first game in more than eight months since breaking his ankle and the Seahawks finished the preseason by beating Oakland.

Lions 31, Bills 0: Dwayne Washington took a handoff to the left and with a burst of speed, the rookie running back got to the outside and up the sideline for a 58-yard touchdown to likely seal his chances of earning a spot on host De-

troit’s opening-day roster.

Jake Rudock probably boosted his chances, too, with three touchdown passes to help the Lions close the preseason with a win over Buffalo.

Cardinals 38, Broncos 17: Matt Barkley, trying to hang on to No. 3 quarterback job, outshone visiting Denver rookie Paxton Lynch in Arizona’s victory in the preseason finale for both teams.

As the starters for both teams took the night off, Barkley, in his fourth NFL season out of USC, completed 20 of 29 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions.

Ravens 23, Saints 14: Baltimore defensive tackle Michael Pierce was a little-known undrafted rookie out Samford when the preseason began.

He was among the stars of the visiting Ravens’ preseason finale, sacking and stripping Saints backup quarterback Luke McCown, then recovering the loose ball for a touchdown and a Baltimore victory. That it happened in a stadium just two hours’ drive from his hometown of Daphne, Ala., made it all the better.

Texans 28, Cowboys 17: Tom Savage made it through Houston’s preseason finale against visiting Dallas unscathed despite getting slammed on his back while scrambling late in the third quarter.

The third-year quarterback popped back up after a play that unfolded not far from where he sustained a season-ending shoulder injury on the same field in the same game a year ago.

Bears 21, Browns 7: Time’s up for Cleveland, which looks as if it could use another preseason game — or two — this summer.

With the season opener against Philadelphia 10 days away, the Browns played their offensive starters the entire first quarter, but only managed a short touchdown drive against visiting Chicago’s backups in a loss to the Bears.

Chiefs 17, Packers 7: Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy got everything he wanted out of the preseason.

Two series for Aaron Rodgers and a bunch of work for his backups.

Panthers 18, Steelers 6: Carolina running back Cameron Artis-Payne is expected to ease some of Jonathan Stewart’s load this season in the running game.

He showed Thursday night he’s up to the task.

Artis-Payne ran for 77 yards on 18 carries, and Graham Gano kicked six field goals as the host Panthers defeated Pittsburgh. Both teams rested their starters.

Vikings 27, Rams 25: Rookie Jared Goff’s first start of the preseason for visiting Los Angeles featured two turnovers and one touchdown, as Minnesota reserve running backs helped lead the way to a victory in the teams’ preseason finale.

Goff played the whole first half, finishing 6-for-16 for 67 yards. The first overall pick in the draft capped the first drive with deft touch on a 1-yard scoring pass to Kenny Britt, but ugliness ensued.

Falcons 17, Jaguars 15: Dan Quinn believes his Atlanta players go through everything together as a team, even in the fourth week of the preseason.

For Matt Ryan and Devonta Freeman, that meant playing one snap. For Terron Ward, it meant playing virtually the full game.

Colts 13, Bengals 10: Stephen Morris’ 25-yard touchdown pass to undrafted rookie Tevaun Smith with 40 seconds left gave visiting Indianapolis a preseason victory over Cincinnati with both teams’ starters watching from the sidelines.

Titans 21, Dolphins 10: Tennessee coach Mike Mularkey decided his starters would play one series, and for the defense, that meant a single snap.

The Titans forced and recovered a fumble on the game’s first play, setting up a touchdown as they beat Miami in the Dolphins’ remodeled stadium.

Kaepernick takes knee for anthem

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Colin Kaepernick began the game by taking a knee during the national anthem. The veteran quarterback ended it with reason to hope he’ll have more games with the San Francisco 49ers.

Kaepernick passed for 103 yards after kneeling in protest alongside teammate Eric Reid during the national anthem in the Niners’ 31-21 preseason victory over the San Diego Chargers on Thursday night.

Kaepernick and Reid, a starting safety who wasn’t playing, declined to stand for the anthem before a preseason game dedicated to military appreciation by the Chargers. Kaepernick has decided not to stand this season to draw attention to American racial injustice, minority oppression and a litany of additional concerns ranging from police brutality to military veterans’ rights.

“The message is that we have a lot of issues in this country that we need to deal with,” Kaepernick said. “We have a lot of people that are oppressed. We have a lot of people that aren’t treated equally, that aren’t given equal opportunities.”

Kaepernick then played a solid first half in his competition for the 49ers’ starting job, going 11-for-18. The veteran didn’t have an interception or a touchdown pass, missing on two potential scoring throws in the waning seconds of the half. He also rushed four times for 38 yards.

Less than four years after leading the 49ers to the Super Bowl, Kaepernick is in competition for the starting job with Blaine Gabbert, who didn’t play in San Diego after getting extensive playing time in the first three preseason games for the Niners (2-2).

Kaepernick hopes to be the 49ers’ starter, but he is likely also in competition for a roster spot after a disappointing 2015 season during which he lost his starting job.

Russell delivers, lifts Cubs over Giants

Associated Press

CHICAGO — There it was, another big at-bat staring at Addison Russell. And once again, the young star delivered.

Russell hit a two-run single with the bases loaded in the seventh inning, and three relievers combined for five perfect innings to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 5-4 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Thursday night.

“He’s growing up,” manager Joe Maddon said. “As a major league baseball player, his confidence could not be higher.”

The Cubs spoiled a shaky Jeff Samardzija’s return to Wrigley Field and started September on a winning note after going 22-6 to match the 1932 team for the best August in franchise history.

The major league leaders also moved a season-high 39 games over .500 and a jaw-dropping 15½ games ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central — their largest lead in the standings since the 1907 team finished 17 games ahead of Pittsburgh, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Russell’s bloop single off

Cory Gearrin gave the Cubs a 5-4 lead. Dexter Fowler had two singles and scored two runs.

Kris Bryant added an RBI single to extend his hitting streak to 14 games, matching a career high. And the Cubs rallied behind a dominant bullpen and another big hit by Russell.

“I kind of embrace those situations,” he said. “In that situation, I didn’t try to do too much. I just wanted to see a pitch, really, and just try to go about my approach the same way.”

The 22-year-old Russell’s 88 RBIs are tops among National League shortstops. He is 8-for-18 and has driven in 23 runs with the bases loaded.

Braves 9, Padres 6: Freddie Freeman homered and Atlanta broke it open with a five-run fifth inning, beating San Diego to complete its first three-game sweep at Turner Field this season.

One day after Minnesota dipped below Atlanta to the worst record in the majors, the Braves kept on winning behind six solid innings from Mike Foltynewicz (8-5) and another strong showing from the hitters. They scored at least seven

runs for the fifth straight time at home.

Freeman put Atlanta up in the third with his 28th homer, a two-run liner into the right-field seats off Jarred Cosart (0-2). After Hector Sanchez homered for the Padres in the fifth, the Braves finished off Cosart in the bottom half. Freeman walked with the bases loaded, followed by two-run singles from both Matt Kemp and Anthony Recker.

The Padres scored three runs in the ninth off Chaz Roe before Jim Johnson came on to get the final out for his 14th save.

Marlins 6, Mets 4: Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer that helped visiting Miami beat shaky Jacob deGrom to end its season-worst five-game losing streak.

Yelich homered and singled twice, drove in four runs and stole two bases. He also made a dashing, diving catch in center field with the bases loaded and two outs — that made up for him later dropping a routine fly for an error.

Jose Urena (3-5) outpitched deGrom (7-8) as Miami averted

a four-game sweep. Down 6-1, the Mets made it close, boosted by pinch-hitter Asdrubal Cabrera’s two-run homer in the ninth off Fernando Rodney.

The Mets fell two games behind idle St. Louis for the second wild-card spot, with the Marlins another game back.

Twins 8, White Sox 5: Byron Buxton homered in his return to the majors, and Trevor Plouffe continued his resurgence with a two-run shot as host Minnesota ended a 13-game losing streak.

Minnesota got to Chicago starter Jose Quintana, who entered the day leading the American League with a 2.77 ERA. Quintana (11-10) allowed seven runs and seven hits in five innings and saw his ERA rise to 3.05.

Ervin Santana (7-10) escaped trouble to win for the fourth time in five decisions. He gave up 11 hits and two walks, but allowed just two runs as the Twins snapped their losing streak, one off the franchise record for a season.

Brandon Kintzler recorded his 13th save in 14 chances.

Murray overcomes noise to win second-round match

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When heavy rain began pelting the closed roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Andy Murray couldn’t pick up the usual sounds of a tennis match.

Most importantly, he said, the thwack of a ball coming off his opponent’s racket strings — or his own, for that matter — was completely indiscernible during a 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 second-round victory over Marcel Granollers at the U.S. Open on Thursday.

As it is, the new \$150 million retractable cover makes the tournament’s main stadium louder because the structure, even when open, traps the sounds of spectators chatting in the stands.

When it’s shut, as was the

case Wednesday because of showers that delayed play on all other courts for hours at a time, the roof amplifies all of that ambient noise.

And when the drops came down early in Murray’s second set, well, it was loud as can be.

“You can’t hear anything, really,” 2012 U.S. Open champion Murray said. “I mean, you could hear the line calls.”

But that was about it.

Because of Thursday’s wet weather, action around the grounds was limited until the early evening — but matches kept coming under the roof in Ashe, including Serena Williams’ 6-3, 6-3 victory over American wild-card entry Vania King at night. That pulled Williams even with Martina Navratilova’s Open-era record

of 306 Grand Slam match wins; only Roger Federer, with 307, owns more.

Men advancing included 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro, No. 3 Stan Wawrinka, No. 6 Kei Nishikori, No. 8 Dominic Thiem, No. 14 Nick Kyrgios and No. 22 Grigor Dimitrov, but No. 16 Feliciano Lopez lost to Joao Sousa 6-2, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5. Olympic silver medalist Del Potro won one point by hitting a between-the-legs, back-to-the-net lob while eliminating 19th-seeded Steve Johnson of the U.S. 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-2.

Williams’ older sister, seven-time major champion Venus, beat Julia Goerges 6-2, 6-3, 2011 U.S. Open winner Sam Stosur lost 6-3, 6-3 to Zhang Shuai of China, and No. 5 Simona Halep eliminated Lucie Safarova 6-3,

6-4 in a meeting between past French Open finalists that was the first contest played entirely with the roof closed.

The del Potro vs. Johnson match was played with the roof open and was delayed for less than 10 minutes in the first set by a brief rain delay. After del Potro won, there was no more play in the main stadium, which usually is the site of each day’s final encounter. This time, because of earlier weather delays, there was still action on other courts at midnight. Play finally wrapped up shortly before 1 a.m., when 2013 French Open runner-up David Ferrer closed a 6-0, 4-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 comeback victory at Court 13 against Fabio Fognini, the husband of last year’s women’s champion in New York, Flavia Pennetta.