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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Gas line might have caused AAV fire

The Washington Post

The fire that engulfed a Marine armored vehicle Wednesday, injuring 14 Marines and one sailor during a training exercise in California, appears to have been caused by an exposed gas line, a U.S. official with direct knowledge of the investigation said Friday.

The Marine Armored Amphibious Vehicle, or AAV, was carrying a squad of infantrymen and had pulled off the road in what is known as a “herring-bone” formation during a combat qualification exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

During the maneuver, the roughly 30-ton vehicle appears to have run over a gas line, severing it with its treads, and the line then somehow ignited. Fox News first reported that a ruptured gas line could have triggered the fire.

The ensuing explosion rapidly engulfed the vehicle in flames, and while no one was killed, some of the Marines, from both 1st Battalion 1st Marines and the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, were severely burned, including a staff sergeant who previously had been shot in the leg in Af-

ghanistan but stayed in the service. The Marines have been taken to burn centers and medical facilities in the surrounding areas, the Marine Corps said in a statement Thursday.

It is unclear if the vehicle’s fire suppression system went off, or was overwhelmed.

The Camp Pendleton accident was one of three last week that left two servicemembers dead and 23 injured. At Fort Bragg, N.C., a soldier was killed and seven others were hurt during demolitions training. And at Fort Hood, Texas, a soldier was killed in a fall from a helicopter.

Leaders in Congress have said the deadly accident is an example of the overtaxed state of the military at home and overseas.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Thursday that Congress and the president have failed to give troops the training, resources and equipment they need, according to the Fayetteville Observer of North Carolina.

On Friday, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said the training accidents are evidence of a force under stress, the Observer reported.

“Part of the underlying cause of the

training and maintenance problems that plague our military is Washington’s dysfunctional budget process. We cannot allow that to continue,” Thornberry said. “There is widespread agreement that Congress and the White House should do better. It is time to actually come through by funding the military for the full year at a level that matches what we are asking them to do.”

Marine AAVs like the one involved in the Camp Pendleton accident have been in service since the early 1970s. They have been updated and upgraded continuously. In 2014, the branch solicited a contract to outfit new fire suppression on the vehicles, according to online documents. In the past, the system was known to be temperamental, occasionally going off in Iraq just because of the ambient heat. In 2015, 22 Marines were hospitalized when the system accidentally went off, filling the cabin with halon, a fire-suppression chemical, and causing respiratory injuries.

The last major incident involving an AAV was in 2013, when a Marine was killed by the accidental detonation of a mine clearance charge stored aboard his vehicle. In 2011, a Marine drowned when his vehicle sank off the California coast during a training exercise.

4 Fort Bragg soldiers still in hospital after deadly mishap

The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

Four Fort Bragg soldiers remain hospitalized after a deadly training accident Thursday.

One soldier was killed and seven were injured during demolition training that was part of the Special Forces Qualification Course, officials with U.S. Army Special Operations Command have said.

Lt. Col. Rob Bockholt, a spokesman for the command, said Friday that three of the injured soldiers were treated and released on Thursday.

He said the command would not discuss the nature of the injuries for the remaining soldiers.

An observer from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was among the injured, officials said. He received minor injuries.

“Training incidents of this scope and nature involving demolitions are rare,” officials said in a statement released Friday. “The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School has not had an incident involving demolitions resulting in injury in more than 20 years. This training is inherently dangerous. Cadre and staff do everything within their power to ensure that the training we conduct is safe, with the well-being of our students always as our top priority.”

Staff Sgt. Alexander Dalida, 32, of Dunstable, Mass., was killed in the Fort Bragg incident, according to USASOC. The cause of death is under investigation.

Dalida was a student in the Special Forces Engineer Course and was assigned to 1st Special Warfare Training Group at the Special Warfare Center and School.

Officials previously said the others injured in the training were students and cadre at the Special Warfare Center and School, which trains the Army’s Special Forces, civil affairs and psychological operations soldiers.

The soldiers were transported by air and ground to Womack Army Medical Center for care.

Dalida had served in the Army for 11 years, officials said. He enlisted in September 2006 and trained at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Fort Eustis, Va.

Before attending Special Forces Assessment and Selection, officials said he served in aviation units and previously had deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper ordered all U.S. and North Carolina flags to be flown at half-staff at state facilities to honor Dalida.

Transgender troops can re-enlist — for now

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New guidance released Friday by the Pentagon makes it clear that any transgender troops currently in the military can re-enlist in the next several months, even as the department debates how broadly to enforce a ban on their service ordered by President Donald Trump.

In a memo to top military leaders, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said a high-level panel will determine how to implement Trump's ban on transgender individuals in the military. Trump directed the military to indefinitely extend the ban on

transgender individuals enlisting in the service, but he left it up to Mattis to decide if those currently serving should be allowed to stay.

Members of Congress already have sent a letter to Trump calling on him to reconsider the ban.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Friday he backed legislation that would bar the Trump administration from forcing transgender troops out of the armed forces.

McCain said in a statement that any servicemember, includ-

ing those who are transgender, who meets the standards for military readiness and medical fitness should be permitted to serve.

"When less than 1 percent of Americans are volunteering to join the military, we should welcome all those who are willing and able to serve our country," McCain said.

The bill is an attempt to establish protections for transgender troops in law, cutting off Trump's efforts to kick servicemembers out based on their gender identity. Trump tweeted in July that he would ban transgender troops from serving anywhere in the U.S. military. The

directive caught the Pentagon flat-footed as defense officials struggled to explain what they called Trump's guidance.

About a month later the president issued more formal instructions, directing the Pentagon to indefinitely extend a ban on transgender individuals joining the military. But Trump also gave Mattis six months to come up with a policy on how to address those currently serving, leaving the door open to permitting their continued service.

Mattis has said the Pentagon will develop a plan that "will promote military readiness, lethality and unit cohesion."

Kim hails missile test, vows to press on

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Kim Jong Un hailed North Korea's latest missile test and vowed to press forward with his nuclear weapons program despite "limitless" sanctions aimed at punishing his country.

The comments were reported Saturday, hours after the U.N. Security Council convened in an emergency session and strongly condemned the launch that occurred the day before.

The missile traveled about 2,300 miles and flew over Japan before splashing into the Pacific Ocean, military officials said. It marked the longest flight for a North Korean ballistic missile after a spate of tests.

North Korea's state-run news agency posted several photos of a smiling Kim watching as the missile "zoomed to the sky with dazzling flash and big explosion."

The third-generation leader said the test thoroughly verified the "combat efficiency and reliability" of the Hwasong-12 missile, the same model that flew over Japan on Aug. 29.

He said the "final goal is to

establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about" military options against the North, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The Security Council met Friday to condemn the missile test just four days after it unanimously approved the ninth round of sanctions against the North since 2006. The new measures included a cap on oil imports and a ban on textile imports but fell short of the original U.S. proposal for a full oil embargo due to opposition from China and Russia.

But North Korea has continued to make progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped weapon that could threaten the U.S. mainland. The communist state insists its weapons program is necessary for self-defense.

"We should clearly show the big power chauvinists how our state attain[s] the goal of completing its nuclear force despite their limitless sanctions and blockade," Kim was quoted as saying.

Analysts say the North has made alarming progress after stepping up the pace of its test-

ing program. Also, it conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3.

The Security Council accused the North of undermining regional peace and security, saying its nuclear and missile tests "have caused grave security concerns around the world."

In its statement, the 15-nation council called on all countries to "fully, comprehensively and immediately" implement all U.N. sanctions.

China and Russia, which have veto power on the council, have been criticized for helping the North to skirt the sanctions and continue to earn the foreign currency needed to fund its weapons program.

Kim's comments suggest he has been clearly irked by President Donald Trump's bellicose remarks in recent months.

Trump has warned he would unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea if it continues to threaten the United States. He also said the U.S. military was "locked and loaded."

Pyeongyang, in turn, has threatened to fire missiles into the waters near the Pacific island of Guam, which is home to major U.S. bases.

McCain crash a cyberattack? Probe ongoing

Foreign Policy

The military is examining whether compromised computer systems were responsible for one of two U.S. Navy destroyer collisions with merchant vessels that occurred in recent months, Vice Adm. Jan Tighe, the deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare, said on Thursday.

Naval investigators are scrambling to determine the causes of the mishaps, including whether hackers infiltrated the computer systems of the USS John S. McCain ahead of the collision on Aug. 21, Tighe said during an appearance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Investigators are not, however, considering the possibility that the USS Fitzgerald collision, which took place on June 17, was the result of hacking.

"With the McCain incident happening so close to the Fitzgerald," questions immediately arose about whether computer manipulation could have been the cause of the crash, Tighe said.

Unmanned subs could spy on US enemies

The Washington Post

More than a decade after airborne drones took flight over battlefields, the world's biggest defense manufacturers are eyeing a new market below the ocean's surface.

The Navy recently opened up a competition for unmanned submarines that can navigate autonomously. Boeing has taken an early lead in the fledgling market: The company has developed a 51-foot-long vessel called the Echo Voyager to compete for the contract, and last year it bought a company called Liquid Robotics that focuses on smaller, unmanned subs.

Competitor Lockheed Martin also is competing for the contract, a company spokeswoman said, and it, too, is now ramping up its efforts by investing in another company specializing in the autonomous watercraft.

The company's technology investment unit, Lockheed Martin Ventures, announced Friday that it is backing a San Diego-based company called Ocean Aero, which makes various classes of seafaring drones,

termed unmanned underwater vehicles, or UUVs. The size and terms of the transaction were not disclosed. The venture unit typically makes investments of \$1 million to \$5 million.

Ocean Aero makes a 13-foot-long, battery-powered submarine called the Submaran S10. The S10 can loiter on the surface or dive to a relatively shallow 30 feet. It can navigate autonomously based on preprogrammed waypoints and is outfitted to scout for and hide from threats on its own. It can recharge its battery on the surface using tiny solar panels or raise a sail to harness the wind for propulsion, which the manufacturer calls "energy scavenging." The S10 already has been sold to two undisclosed customers.

The company plans to introduce a larger model called the S200 next year that can travel faster and dive deeper. It is about to start testing a 39-foot-long model it calls the Silent Arrow that aims to dive to about 650 feet and to navigate with the help of an electronic thruster.

The industry is responding

to a new school of thought in the upper echelons of the U.S. military. Agencies are looking to use advances in robotics and artificial intelligence as "force multipliers," with the idea that combat-capable robots will augment, but not replace, humans in the wars of the future.

The Air Force is working on robotic drones that would fly alongside fighter jets, scout ahead and absorb enemy fire. The Army is experimenting with reconnaissance robots. Even U.S. law enforcement officers are buying in: Last year, Dallas police used a robot outfitted with C-4 explosive to remotely kill a gunman who had killed five police officers.

Some worry that involving robots in military operations could imperil human lives and could inflame conflict.

Last month, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and 115 robotics and artificial-intelligence experts wrote an open letter to the United Nations urging the body to "protect us all" from autonomous weaponry.

Lockheed and Boeing argue

that the robotic subs one day could become the Navy's robotic scouts, augmenting the efforts of the Navy's limited, aging fleet of manned submarines.

"My main challenge in the Navy was there were many demands for what people wanted a submarine to do and you couldn't come close to meeting all of them," said Mike Connor, a retired Navy vice admiral and submarine force commander who now runs a company called ThayerMahan.

Autonomous watercraft "could make each one of those submarines and destroyers that much more powerful and impactful by orders of magnitude," he said.

For now, the small subs are being pitched mainly as a surveillance tool. Officials at Lockheed Martin say Ocean Aero's subs are most likely to be used to map maritime threats, similar to how U.S. military and intelligence agencies already use satellites and aerial drones to collect information from above.

Qatar diplomatic spat puts US in awkward position

Associated Press

Qatar's emir is persona non grata to four U.S.-allied Arab states that accuse his wealthy Gulf nation of sponsoring extremists, but he recently received a warm welcome at the sprawling military base his troops share with thousands of American soldiers.

Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base, a crucial staging ground for U.S. operations in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, is one of several American military outposts across the Gulf that are intended to serve as a bulwark against Iran, but now put Washington in a delicate balancing act.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates cut all ties to Qatar in June, accusing it of supporting extremism and being soft on Iran. Some U.S. officials have defended Qatar, but are making little headway in mediating the crisis. With its hosts at each other's throats, the Pentagon has been placed in an awkward position.

"We're tracking all the Gulf nations' disputes right now," said U.S. Air Force Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for the U.S. military's Central Command. "That doesn't lessen that they are good hosts."

The U.S. has deepened its military relationships across the region in the 26 years since it helped expel Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait.

The island nation of Bahrain hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Kuwait, which has also sought to mediate the Qatar dispute, is home to 13,500 American troops and the forward command of U.S. Army Central. The UAE's massive Jebel Ali port in Dubai is the Navy's biggest port of call outside of the U.S., while American forces also fly out of al-Dhafra Air Base near Abu Dhabi.

Some 10,000 American troops are stationed in Qatar, a small, energy-rich peninsular nation that sticks out into the Persian Gulf. Most work out of the vast Al Udeid Air Base just south of the capital, Doha, which hosts the forward operating base of the U.S. military's Central Command. By comparison, experts estimate Qatar's own military strength at some 11,800 troops, one of the region's smallest forces.

For years, the U.S. military wouldn't acknowledge the base's location out of security concerns, at most simply describing it as being in Asia. It houses the Combined

Air Operations Center, which oversees the U.S.-led coalition's bombing campaign of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, and manages a direct line to Russia to manage Syria's crowded skies.

Yet even before the Qatar crisis began on June 5, some in Washington questioned the U.S. military's reliance on a base in a country whose leadership has supported Islamist groups like the Muslim Brotherhood.

While President Donald Trump has tweeted and made comments that can be seen as siding against Qatar, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has traveled to Doha to offer his support. The Trump administration also agreed to an in-the-works sale of F-15 fighter jets to Qatar for \$12 billion.

However, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's visit to the base on Sept. 11 added new tension. He posed with troops in front of warplanes, some American-made, and met with senior U.S. officials. One photograph at the base released by state media showed a stenciled poster of Sheikh Tamim, an image now seen across Doha as a sign of support for the ruler amid the boycott.

Hundreds protest acquittal in St. Louis

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Hundreds of people protesting the acquittal of a white former St. Louis police officer in the fatal shooting of a black man several years ago marched for hours in mostly peaceful demonstrations, until a broken window at the mayor's home and escalating tensions led riot police to lob tear gas to disperse the crowds.

For weeks, activists had been threatening civil disobedience if Jason Stockley were not convicted of murder in the death of Anthony Lamar Smith. Barricades were erected around police headquarters and the courthouse, among other sites, in anticipation of the verdict.

Within hours of St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson acquitting Stockley of first-degree murder, a racially diverse crowd of protesters took to the streets.

More than 20 arrests were made by early evening, and some protesters were pepper-sprayed during confrontations with authorities. St. Louis police reported that 10 officers had suffered injuries by the end of the night, including a broken jaw and dislocated shoulder, and some journalists reported being threatened by protesters.

The 2011 confrontation began when Stockley and his partner tried to arrest Smith for a suspected drug deal in a fast-food restaurant. Smith sped off, leading to a chase that ended when he crashed.

At the trial, Stockley testified that he saw Smith, 24, holding a silver revolver as he sped away at the start of the chase. He said when he shot Smith, he felt he was in imminent danger.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car

after the shooting — Stockley's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't.

Dashcam video from Stockley's police car captured him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive), don't you know it." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" uttered during a dangerous pursuit.

In his decision, Wilson wrote, "This court, in conscience, cannot say that the State has proven every element of murder beyond a reasonable doubt or that the State has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense."

Early confrontations erupted Friday when protesters blocked a bus full of officers in riot gear and later surrounded a police vehicle that was damaged with

rocks, prompting police to deploy pepper spray. A freelance Associated Press videographer said a protester threw his camera to the ground and damaged it, and he was later threatened with a beating if he didn't put another camera away.

As night fell, hundreds of demonstrators walked through the streets to the upscale Central West End section of the city, where they chanted and marched as people looked on from restaurants and hospital windows lining busy Kingshighway.

Tensions escalated after protesters broke a front window and splattered red paint on the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson, who had called for calm ahead of the verdict and later said she was appalled by what happened to Smith and "sobered" by the outcome.

Veteran suicide highest in West and rural areas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Suicide among military veterans is especially high in the western U.S. and rural areas, according to new government data that show wide state-by-state disparities and suggest social isolation, gun ownership and access to health care may be factors.

The figures released Friday are the first Veterans Affairs Department data on suicide by state. It shows Montana, Utah, Nevada and New Mexico had the highest rates as of 2014, the most current VA data available. Veterans in big chunks of those states must drive 70 miles or more to reach the nearest VA medical center. The suicide rates in those four states stood at 60 per 100,000 individuals or higher, far above the national veteran suicide rate of 38.4.

The overall rate in the West was 45.5. All other regions had rates below the national rate.

Other states with high veteran suicide rates, including

West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky, had greater levels of prescription drug use. A VA study last year found veterans who received the highest doses of opioid painkillers were more than twice as likely to die by suicide compared to those receiving the lowest doses.

The latest VA data also reaffirmed sharp demographic differences: Female veterans are at much greater risk, with their suicide rate 2.5 times higher than for female civilians. Among men, the risk was 19 percent higher among veterans compared to civilians. As a whole, older veterans make up most military suicides — roughly 65 percent were age 50 or older.

Rajeev Ramchand, an epidemiologist who studies suicide for the Rand Corp., said it was hard to pinpoint specific causes but likely involved factors more prevalent in rural areas, such as social isolation, limited health care access, gun ownership and opioid addiction.

British police make arrest in London subway explosion

Associated Press

LONDON — British police made a "significant" arrest Saturday in the manhunt for suspects a day after the London subway was hit by a partially exploded bomb and launched a heavily armed search of a home southwest of London.

The inquiry into the subway blast that wounded 29 people has shifted to Sunbury, on the outskirts of the British capital, where neighbors were evacuated amid the police operation as a precaution.

A no-fly zone was established over the area to keep out small planes and drones as police moved in and police cordons were put in place to keep the public away.

No details about the search were released, but it came after the arrest of an 18-year-old man who is being held under the Terrorism Act. The man was arrested Saturday morning by Kent police in the port of Dover on the English Channel.

Dover is a major ferry port for travel between Britain and France. The suspect hasn't been charged or identified.

Authorities had increased Britain's terrorism threat level to "critical" late Friday — the highest possible level — after a bomb partially exploded on a subway train during morning rush hour.

Police are combing through closed-circuit TV images and have extensively studied the remains of the explosive device.

Officials have hinted there may be more than one person involved, but haven't released details.

Prime Minister Theresa May said raising the threat level to its highest point was a "proportionate and sensible step." Police called on the public to be vigilant.

The bomb went off around 8:20 a.m. Friday as the District Line train, carrying commuters from the suburbs was at the Parsons Green station. In all, 29 people were wounded.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

French city to send US misspelled jerseys

VT MONTPELIER — Vermont's capital city is saying merci to a French city it's named after for plans to send some misspelled soccer jerseys its way.

The city manager in Montpelier, Vt., said Montpelier, France, ordered jerseys for its professional soccer team and fans, but they came with one L instead of two.

The evolving plans call for the jerseys to go to the Montpelier High School soccer teams for a game or two and then possibly sold in the community to benefit high school boosters "and turn this all into a good thing," City Manager Bill Fraser said.

Montpelier contacted the Vermont city to let official know about the gift.

There are tentative plans to have an event on the Statehouse lawn with the Montpelier High School girls and boys soccer teams wearing the jerseys, followed by back-to-back games, said Matt Link, the school's athletic director.

Lawmakers warned to keep their ties on

PA HARRISBURG — After spending months in futile efforts to complete a budget, Pennsylvania legislators have turned their attention to what they should be wearing as they fight over state finances.

The parliamentarian for the state House of Representatives issued a memo reminding members that men must wear a coat and tie.

Democratic Rep. Jake Wheatley responded, saying he'd consider wearing a tie "if dressing in the appropriate attire would get us to actually be good public servants and do our appropriate work."

That triggered a response

from Rep. Rick Saccone, a Republican and Air Force veteran. He compared the dress code to military uniforms, saying they project "a sense of professionalism that impacts performance."

Wheatley said later he regrets using reply-all on the email and promised he'll wear a tie.

People dressed as ninjas started fires

NJ NEWARK — Police said two people dressed up as ninjas broke into a New Jersey apartment building and set several fires.

Newark police officials said the man and woman broke in through a second-floor apartment. WNBC-TV reported there is video showing the two exiting through a side entrance and running down a hill.

Resident Melissa Ditonto said the alarm alerted everyone to the fire and many people evacuated.

According to police, the building's sprinkler system quickly doused the flames.

Artists drag giant pen through US desert

UT VERNAL — Two German artists wearing black suits pulling a giant metallic pen made out of foam board began last week on a roughly 250-mile rectangular route through Utah, Colorado and Wyoming as an artistic project aimed to show the contrast between the straight lines humans make and the winding lines found in nature.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Wolfgang Aichner, 51, and Thomas Huber, 52, have been planning the trip for months and began their trek after gathering permits to walk across mostly public and American Indian reservation lands.

The painters consider themselves performers, "merely a

temporary, ephemeral appearance on the horizon of an immense landscape."

The pen stands more than 4 yards high and has a small wheel on the point.

Restaurateur accused of buying stolen meat

TN KNOXVILLE — An undercover operation has netted a restaurant owner accused of buying stolen meat for low prices.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported Samer Tobe, 57, was arrested Wednesday after Knox County Sheriff's deputies served a search warrant at The Round Up. An arrest warrant said Tobe made eight illegal buys from KCSO informants and an undercover officer between Aug. 24 and Sept. 8, purchasing \$2,960.44 worth of merchandise for \$755.

Knox County Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Lee Tramel said the business had been doing this for a couple years. Tobe bought the South Knoxville mainstay in 2002. A health inspector accompanying the raid destroyed 50 pounds of meat.

Suspect caught after slipping off cuffs

KY LOUISVILLE — A suspect led corrections officers on a chase after slipping out of handcuffs and escaping from a detention facility.

The Courier-Journal reported Houston Briscoe, 27, had been booked into Metro Corrections in Louisville on an assault charge Thursday morning. An arrest citation said he was handcuffed to a metal cage but slipped out and fled the building, "crossing traffic and creating a substantial risk of substantial physical injury" to the six officers chasing him.

Briscoe now faces additional charges of second-degree es-

cape and first-degree fleeing or evading police.

One officer sustained injuries on his hands, elbows and knees during the chase and was taken to the hospital.

Hunter shoots man mistaken for wild hog

SC ANDERSON — A man was killed after a hunter using a night-vision scope mistook him for a wild hog, authorities said.

Anderson County Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman told news outlets that Kenneth Jason Young, 40, was hunting wild hogs on private land Wednesday night. Boseman said a woman hunting on land nearby saw through her night-vision scope something "on all fours in the grass" and fired a shot, thinking she was aiming for a wild hog.

Boseman said the shot hit Young in the head, killing him. Boseman said foul play is not suspected. No charges have been filed.

Pedestrian hit by car gets jaywalking ticket

NH ROCHESTER — Police issued a summons to a New Hampshire woman who was struck by a car after she started walking across a street against a crosswalk signal.

Police said Angela Davis, 34, of Rochester, started walking at about 4:45 a.m. Friday. A driver had just started from a stop light and didn't see Davis or her companion until they were in her lane. The driver tried to swerve to avoid them, but struck Davis with her mirror. Davis fell and complained of elbow and ankle pain.

Police said Davis was issued a summons for crossing against the signal.

From wire reports

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Cleveland's win streak ends at 22 games

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — When reality set in, the ovation steadily grew as the Cleveland Indians emerged from their dugout.

With the scoreboard showing a loss and the Kansas City Royals shaking hands and high-fiving each other nearby, the Indians tipped their caps to salute fans who came hoping to see more late-inning magic and a record streak continue.

You can't win 'em all.

Cleveland's historic run is over.

The Indians, who captured America's attention during a dominating three-week run, had their AL-record winning streak stopped at 22 straight on Friday night with a 4-3 loss to the Royals, who became the first team to conquer the defending league champions since Aug. 23.

Jason Vargas (16-10) pitched into the sixth and Brandon Moss homered off Trevor Bauer (16-9) as the Royals, who were beaten five times by Cleveland over the past few weeks, ended baseball's longest winning streak in 101 years.

But when it ended, there was a celebration as a crowd of

34,025 fans saluted a team that took them on an improbable ride they are unlikely to see again in their lifetimes.

"They've been so supportive," said Indians manager Terry Francona, who led his team out of the dugout to return the love to the crowd. "The atmosphere around here is incredible and I think our players wanted to show their appreciation. It's by no means the last game of the year or anything like that, it's just been pretty incredible how they've reacted and we just wanted to show our appreciation because we don't take it for granted.

"I don't think anything is over."

The Indians set a new league mark and came within four of matching the overall record held by the 1916 New York Giants, a 26-game string that became the subject of scrutiny because it included a tie in the middle.

But despite the loss, Cleveland's magic number for clinching the AL Central dropped to two after second-place Minnesota was beaten by Toronto.

Following a magical, walk-off win in extra innings on Thursday night, the Indians couldn't

muster another late rally.

When Francisco Lindor, one of the stars in Cleveland's 3-2 win on Thursday, struck out with a runner on first to end it, the crowd experienced the slightest moment of disappointment before appreciating what they had just seen. And as they stood and cheered, the Indians clapped in return.

"It's been great," Bauer said. "They came out, they supported us. The atmosphere last night and tonight was spectacular. Shoot, even tonight after the loss, everyone was standing and stuff like that. It was a pretty cool moment."

The Indians, who are already assured a playoff spot, not only broke the previous AL record of 20 held by the 2002 "Moneyball" Oakland Athletics, but they served notice that they well could be the team to beat in the postseason as they attempt to get back to the World Series and perhaps end their 68-year title drought after the Chicago Cubs halted their 108-year dry spell at Cleveland's expense in 2016.

Jose Ramirez, who has forced his way into the MVP conversation, hit a two-run homer and the Indians took a 3-1 lead be-

fore the Royals scored a run in the fourth, fifth and sixth.

With one last chance in the ninth, the Indians put the tying run on base before Royals reliever Mike Minor struck out the side for his first pro save, fanning Lindor on a pitch in the dirt.

That touched off a wild celebration, which shook Progressive Field and gave Cleveland fans a chance to get ready for bigger games to come.

"I think it was appropriate. We haven't lost a game in three weeks. We played a good game," Cleveland outfielder Jay Bruce said. "It wasn't like we got just blown out or anything. I think (it was important) to have a bit of a light-hearted attitude about it all, and not take it too hard, obviously, because we're in a great position.

"We just did something that, depending on who you ask, one or no teams have ever done. So, it's one of those deals where we understand what the situation is, and this is not something that would happen very often."

For the better part of a month, the Indians had no equals.

MLB roundup

Angels beat Texas, trim wild-card deficit to 2 games

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — C.J. Cron hit a two-run homer to cap a five-run rally in the sixth inning, and Los Angeles trimmed its deficit in the AL wild-card race to two games with a 7-6 victory over the Texas Rangers.

Andrelton Simmons had two run-scoring singles for the Angels (75-72), who gained a game on the Minnesota Twins (77-70).

Dodgers 7, Nationals 0: Alex Wood struck out eight in six innings, Corey Seager hit a three-run homer during a five-run second and visiting Los Angeles blanked Washington.

Brewers 10, Marlins 2: Neil Walker hit a grand slam during an eight-run eighth inning, and host Milwaukee won the opening game of a series relocated from Miami in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Red Sox 13, Rays 6 (15): Xander Bogaerts had two hits in his team's seven-run 15th inning and visiting Boston beat Tampa Bay in a game that lasted 6 hours, 5 minutes.

Yankees 8, Orioles 2: Didi Gregorius hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and drove in four runs, leading host New York to its fifth win in six games.

Astros 5, Mariners 2: Car-

los Correa and Evan Gattis had two hits apiece and each drove in a run, and host Houston moved closer to clinching the AL West title.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2: Robbie Ray won his fifth straight start and A.J. Pollock hit a two-run double as visiting Arizona beat San Francisco.

Blue Jays 4, Twins 3: Josh Donaldson homered and drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with an infield single, sending visiting Toronto to the win.

Rockies 6, Padres 1: Tyler Chatwood pitched into the sixth inning and drove in his first runs of the season, helping host

Colorado to the victory.

Reds 4, Pirates 2: Zack Cozart hit two of his teams's four solo home runs, powering host Cincinnati to the victory.

Athletics 4, Phillies 0: Daniel Mengden pitched a two-hitter for visiting Oakland, and Matt Olson and Matt Joyce each hit a two-run homer.

Tigers 3, White Sox 2: Mikie Mahtook hit a game-ending RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning, helping host Detroit stop a six-game skid.

Braves 3, Mets 2: Sean Newcomb struck out eight in 5 1/3 innings, and Atlanta handed visiting New York its fifth straight loss.

College football roundup

Quarterback leads USF to rout of Illinois

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A big night passing for Quinton Flowers, three 100-yard rushers and another lopsided victory for No. 22 South Florida.

There was plenty for Charlie Strong to like Friday night in a 47-23 rout of Illinois, but nothing resonated more than the way Flowers led the Bulls back from a Hurricane Irma layoff.

The dual-threat quarterback threw for 280 yards and four touchdowns, moving ahead of Matt Grothe and B.J. Daniels into second place on USF's career touchdown pass list with 53.

The 2016 American Athletic Conference offensive player of the year also scored his 32nd rushing touchdown, tying Marlon Mack's school record.

"We can still improve," Strong said, "but offensively it was a major step for us. Offensively we hadn't produced like that," in the first two games.

The Bulls (3-0) beat a Big Ten opponent for the first time on a night USF honored first responders who worked the

past week to help victims of the massive storm that impacted the entire state of Florida.

"We felt like we had a chance to give back ... provide some relief for our communities, if only for a few hours," coach Charlie Strong said.

"I was really proud of how our team responded," to a short practice week that followed the postponement of last week's game at Connecticut, Strong said, adding that senior leadership provided by Flowers was one of the keys to the dominating performance.

"He goes about his work," the coach said, "and guys follow."

Illinois (2-1) stumbled in what also was a homecoming of sorts for coach Lovie Smith, who returned to the stadium where he led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for two seasons before being fired and accepting the challenge of rebuilding the Illini.

Illini freshman Mike Epstein scored on a 46-yard run and a 21-yard pass from Jeff George Jr., who replaced starter Chayce Crouch in the second half.

"A total breakdown, but, of

course, it counts one game," Smith said. "The good part about it is we're going to leave our nonconference schedule and get to Big Ten play."

Flowers completed 15 of 25 passes, including TD throws of 39 yards to Deangelo Antoine, 17 yards to Marquez Valdes-Scantling, 17 yards to D'Ernest Johnson and 13 yards to Tyre McCants. Flowers also scored on a 6-yard run on the last play of the first half and finished with a team-best 106 of USF's 376 yards rushing.

Johnson and Darius Tice joined Flowers in topping 100 yards rushing, with USF amassing 680 yards total offense to Illinois' 354.

Arizona 63, UTEP 16: Brandon Dawkins scored six touchdowns — three passing and three rushing — to lead the visiting Wildcats to a rout of the Miners.

Dawkins, who played only one series in the fourth quarter, threw for 155 yards on 18-for-22 passing and ran for 143 yards on 13 carries.

Arizona came into the game as a 25-point favorite, but strug-

gled in the first quarter against winless UTEP before scoring 28 unanswered points.

The Wildcats (2-1) scored on the first play of the second quarter when Dawkins found freshman J.J. Taylor for 2-yard TD on fourth-and-goal, capping a 12-play, 78-yard drive. Dawkins connected with Shun Brown on a 36-yard touchdown pass followed by a 5-yard Dawkins TD run three minutes later to push the lead to 28-0.

After UTEP (0-3) scored on a pass from Zack Greenlee to Tyler Batson with 2:50 remaining in the half, Dawkins scored his fourth touchdown on a 3-yard run as the Wildcats scored 35 second-quarter points to take a 35-9 lead.

It was the first points allowed by the Wildcats in three quarters after holding Houston scoreless in the second half last week.

Arizona continued its offensive onslaught in the third, scoring two more touchdowns — on Dawkins' 13-yard run and Bryce Wolma's catch.

Sauter wins, gains momentum going into truck playoffs

Associated Press

JOLIET, Ill. — Johnny Sauter took the checkered flag. Christopher Bell held a trophy.

Ben Rhodes was the real big winner at Chicagoland.

Sauter won the NASCAR Truck Series race Friday night at Chicagoland Speedway and heads into the playoffs trying to win his second straight series championship.

"This is what we needed," he said. "This is the momentum, this is the shot in the arm."

Rhodes overcame a penalty on pit road that dropped him a lap back to finish sixth, which was just good enough to take the final playoff spot over Ryan Truex on a tiebreaker. Rhodes claimed the only open spot in

the eight-driver field headed into the Chicagoland cutoff race.

"They gave me the (playoff) hat and I'm like, 'Are you sure this is ours?' They said we were tied and we got the tiebreaker," Rhodes said. "I can't believe it. I'm glad we're in. Overall, everything worked out for us."

Truex, the younger brother of Cup star Martin Truex Jr., started on the pole and led 30 laps.

"We did everything we could do besides win," Truex said.

Bell, who drives for Kyle Busch Motorsports and leads the standings by 21 points over Sauter, was awarded a trophy for being the top driver in the regular season.

But it's winning it all in the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway that really counts.

The field is set next week for the playoff opener at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Cup drivers with more than five years full-time experience were already restricted to 10 races in the Xfinity Series and seven races in the Truck Series. Veterans also are prohibited from competing in the regular-season finale and all playoff races.

John Hunter Nemechek, Matt Crafton, Austin Cindric, Kaz Grala and Chase Briscoe also are in the field. Briscoe was second in the race and is the only Truck driver in the

playoff field without a victory this season.

In other racing news:

■ Kyle Busch opened his bid for a second NASCAR Cup championship with a lap of 187.963 mph to win the pole Friday night at Chicagoland Speedway.

Busch and Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin will start on the front row and fellow Toyota driver Martin Truex Jr. was third. Truex has four wins and the Furniture Row Racing driver is considered the favorite to win his first career Cup title.

NASCAR playoff drivers Kevin Harvick, Brad Keselowski and Kyle Larson had the next three spots.

Kahne exploring options off the track

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kasey Kahne is not a candidate to replace Danica Patrick next season and, as he prepares to start NASCAR's playoffs, he's considering a future outside the series.

Kahne is not returning to Hendrick Motorsports next season. He was informed he was being let go with one year remaining on his contract not long after he won at Indianapolis in July.

As he heads into Sunday's opening race of the 10-race playoffs, he's also trying to put together a plan for 2018. Kahne is apparently close to signing a deal with Leavine Family

Racing to drive the No. 95 next season.

But, should it fall through, he's given thought to other routes.

"It was just like three or four days ago I had this great plan to like do sprint cars and see if I could do an IndyCar race or two and do a couple of NASCAR races, like the (Daytona) 500 and Brickyard, things like that," Kahne said Wednesday. "I thought that would be quite a dream and pretty awesome to do.

"That has been on my mind. But I also want to, if I can come up with a strong deal for next year, then I would like to do that because I enjoy racing in NASCAR and feel like I don't

want to get too far away from it because I think I still have some strong years left in me racing in the Cup Series."

Danica Patrick said Tuesday that Stewart-Haas Racing is not bringing her back to the No. 10 Ford next season, and that at first seemed to open the possibility that either Kahne or Matt Kenseth could land that ride. But both said during NASCAR's playoffs preview Wednesday they aren't in the running.

"No, nope. It's not me. I can tell you that, it's not me," Kenseth said.

Added Kahne: "I don't really think the No. 10 is an option. I've talked to them and things, but they've obviously been

working in other areas."

Kahne said he's been talking to as many team owners as possible, and admitted that the speculation about his future is "actually kind of miserable at times." He felt that all the uncertainty has been a distraction to the No. 5 team, but now that he knows he's not returning and the team is in the playoffs, they can focus on their final 10 races.

From there, he's not sure what will happen. Kahne has had opportunities to race in the Indianapolis 500 before, but has never been able to make it work. Now, that could be an option.

Golden Knights hit ice for first time as camp opens

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The expansion Vegas Golden Knights hit the ice for the first time Friday morning to a standing-room only crowd at City National Arena.

Sixty players were divided into four groups for two training camp practice sessions that included a pair of scrimmages.

"We're a new group, it's not like you're coming back to a team like when I was in Florida and 19 of your players are returning," coach Gerard Gallant said. "This year it's all new players. I can't put the face with the name yet. I'm probably going to call them the wrong name a few times on the ice, and they'll sort of laugh and giggle and we'll get to know each other and we'll work hard and have fun.

"I thought everybody worked hard today, it was a good day. As far as I know nobody got hurt, I thought they worked hard and competed hard and did some good things in the scrimmage."

The Knights play their pre-season game Sunday in Vancouver, leaving Gallant little time to build chemistry with the NHL's first expansion team since 2000. He'll rely on vet-

erans like Marc-Andre Fleury and Deryk Engelland to lend leadership.

"Leadership is huge for us as an organization, and as a coach," Gallant said. "I like the veteran players, I like character guys. Fleury has won three Stanley Cups, that's really important and he's a really good leader, he's a good person. It's important for me and it's important for our organization to have those leadership guys. The expectation is to come to the rink every day and get better and work hard as a team."

Fleury said there will be challenges in bringing life to a new franchise, but it starts with communication and chemistry, both of which the former Pittsburgh goalie felt were present before the start of training camp.

"It's a big challenge, not something I've been through before," Fleury said. "Everything is new and different, but it's also nice. The guys in the room, the staff that we have, the facilities that we have — everything has been awesome. It's up to us to have a good camp here and have a good show on the ice in the preseason."

The 32-year-old Fleury said his only issue personally has been his relocation process, after playing his entire NHL career in Pittsburgh, adding he would much rather stop 100 mph slapshots than unpack boxes.

"I've never had to move before, I've been lucky with that," he said. "Moving houses, getting all set up, getting all the boxes from Pittsburgh, getting TVs installed, I don't know a few little things, but it's just minor things. The only thing that matters to me is the rink and the ice."

Meanwhile, Engelland is right at home. He's lived in Las Vegas since 2003, when he first joined the now-defunct Las Vegas Wranglers of the ECHL. The 35-year-old defenseman said he is ecstatic to play in his hometown.

"And probably more for my family," said Engelland, who spent the last three seasons with the Calgary Flames. "My oldest boy is five, starting kindergarten this year, and for him not to have to pack up and move and meet all new friends in school, it's huge. For my wife to be able to stay at work and

not have to quit her job, it's huge for them."

Then there's rookies like 20-year-old Keegan Kolesar, who knows how fast the NHL game can be after going through training camp with the Columbus Blue Jackets, who drafted the physical wing in 2015.

"Being a younger guy, sometimes you're like a deer caught in the headlights," said Kolesar, who added he has spent time playing X-Box and bonding with several of the 14 other rookies who haven't turned 21 yet. "The main thing I want to do is come in here and get to know the guys a little bit better and get on a better page with them. I want to play my game and play how I always do. I don't want to be just some kid going through the motions. I want to stack up well against them."

Notes: The Colorado Avalanche have signed restricted free agent defenseman Nikita Zadorov to a two-year deal. The 6-foot-5, 230-pound Zadorov led the Avalanche with 153 hits last season before missing the final 25 games with an ankle injury. He finished with 10 assists.