US, Iran step back from the brink; still on alert

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Trump says he won’t retaliate for Iranian strike on bases

WASHINGTON – The U.S. and Iran stepped back from the brink of confrontation Wednesday as President Donald Trump signaled he would not retaliate militarily for Iran’s missile strikes on Iraq bases housing U.S. troops. No one was harmed in the strikes, but U.S. forces in the region remained on high alert.

Speaking at the White House, Trump expressed interest in de-escalating the crisis, which spiraled after the killing last week of Iran’s top general, Qassem Soleimani, in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq. The Pentagon said Wednesday that it believed Iran lived with the intent to kill.

Even so, Trump’s takeaway was that “Iran appears to be standing down, which is a good thing for all parties concerned and a very good thing for the world."

Trump continued on 24

New food truck regs will limit range

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Food trucks may soon be able to do business on a city-owned property at the heart of downtown Lake City. The new opportunity comes with new regulations making other areas of limits.

The city is considering a proposal that would allow mobile food vendors to reserve space at places such as the Five Points Elementary School parking lot, the marina and Three Sisters Springs Park, among other places. The city would set rules and fees for food trucks, which would be limited to certain hours and must be parked in reserved spots.

With mom at the wheel, girl, 15, dies in high-speed crash

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

A 15-year-old Georgia girl is dead in the aftermath of a single-vehicle wreck in Suwannee County early Tuesday morning, according to a Florida Highway Patrol report.

Aniyah M. Bynes, of Atlanta, was pronounced dead at the scene after a 2006 Chrysler 300 driven by her mother, Donna Pitts, ran off the roadway, hit a tree and flipped over. Aniyah’s brother, 12-year-old Hunter Dover, was thrown from the car and suffered critical injuries, including a brain injury.

New report on his recovery.

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Students and teachers at Five Points Elementary School welcomed Hunter back this week, marking the end of his long absence from the school.

In February of last year, 8-year-old Hunter Dover was hospitalized in the aftermath of an incident that happened in the playground at Five Points Elementary School.

Students listens to a talk about fire safety.

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Steps must be taken now to survive the recovery process, coming back from what looks like the brink of death. The young boy’s injury was so severe that he kicked a can of gasoline while playing with Hunter around the playground, dousing the young boy and resulting in third-degree burns on most of his body. He required multiple surgeries and treatments and making friends. For the first time in almost a year, 8-year-old Hunter Dover is back at school.

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Lake City Reporter
LAKECITYREPORTER.COM

Welcome back, Hunter

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Second-grader returns to class amid fanfare.

The second-grader battled his way through a year fought with tragedy and terror.

He survived the flames, which left him with third-degree burns on most of his body. He made it through a long and rocky recovery process, coming back from what looked like the brink of death.

Soon to turn 9, his ordeal lasted nearly a year.

He’s starting to get back to a normal life,” said the boy’s grandmother, Donna Pitts. “That’s what he needs. Students and teachers at Five Points Elementary School welcomed Hunter back this week, marking the end of his long absence from the school.

By CARL MCKINNEY
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

The city doesn’t currently regulate food trucks, though regulation of brick-and-mortar restaurants is up to the state, said City Manager Joe Helfenberger. The new rules would require mobile vendors to pay permitting fees, submit to annual inspections and comply with standards for food temperature.

TRUCKS continued on 24

With mom at the wheel, girl, 15, dies in high-speed crash

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Food truck reg trks will limit, more TRUCKS

Continued From 1A

“...we have to do something that is a brick-and-mortar restaurant has to do, and ensure they can safely and efficiently,” he said.

Continued From 1A

“...the driver lost control and exited the interstate a 30° hand-washing facility. The vehicle, but the driver...

FATAL

Continued From 1A

north on Sisters Road, the report...

TRUMP

Continued From 1A

Embassy in Baghdad, and Title IV of the Mideast region remain able to carry out business in the region on Dec. 27 while a U.S. command post set up the most recent round of hostilities.

Hours after Trump spoke, an “incoming” aren went off in the Green Zone, after what seemed to be a near-miss unimpeded rocket. A low-speed chase ended, more...

HUNTER

Continued From 1A

and was later sent to an intensive care unit in Massachusetts after developing multiple complications on the following day. After that was the scariest,...

Low-speed chases end in arrest

Food truck reg trks will limit, more TRUCKS

Continued From 1A

“...to law enforcement, according to th...
FWMS robotics team to compete and engineer a win

By TROY BRITT
trib@lakecityreporter.com

For the past five months, a group of Fort White Middle School students have been working with robotics, solar panels and other solar materials preparing for a robotics competition. Thursday, January 16, 2020, was the first day Wednesday members of the group were making the final adjustments to the competition train that was nearly ready to ride.

The Fort White Middle School robotics team, the Tiwahe Bots, was preparing for the RoboRodeo qualifier, taking place today in Orange Park, Fl.

The Tiwahe Bots is an eight-member team, with several of its members taking part in their first robotics competition. The team is composed of seven eighth-graders and one seventh-grader. “They’ll be competing against about 15 other teams at this event,” said Jennifer Saylor, Fort White High School STEM teacher and robotics coach, noting this is the first time the team has fielded by Fort White Middle School for several years after the Northeast Florida First Lego League competition. The team will be competing in a competition presented by Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Juan Bustamante (left) and Azlynne Williams prepare for the presentation of a robotics competition.

The regional event, which will be held in early February, is going to give us a chance to show our team what it can do, said McKinsey. The team could also qualify for regional competition through a third lottery. “We’re hoping, based on how we perform in the core competition, the robot plus all of that kind of stuff, we’re hoping to get to the third place or second place,” Saylor said.

The season began Aug. 1 when the Fort White students started preparing for competition in September. A member of the Fort White High School robotics team worked with the younger students to sketch out the prototype robot and based on the sketch, the students built their robot during the backpacking process. The robot, named Peace Fellows.

Juan Bustamante, 11, and George Moore.

J.R. Underwood, also survive.

The Tampa Bay Times via Getty Images

Tribune News Service

Additional money was set aside for the educational purposes of the children. The spaces were also held for the educational purposes of the children. The spaces were also held for the educational purposes of the children.

The team then developed a solar-powered window capable of capturing energy from the sun that could be stored until its needed. The concept work for the solar-powered window will also be on display during the competition.

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We were happy to see you on the front porch of our paper wearing a smile. Hunter. Most of the pictures we have show that you are a go-getter. You are a happy-go-lucky person, and always happy times, bandaged from your burns in a Boston hospital and lonely for home. Now that you are back among your school at you’ll be feeling even better soon enough.

We’re not the only ones who are happy for you. During the last year you have made many new friends, even though you don’t know who they are. Thousands of people read this paper, and when they see our stories about how you sent good thoughts and prayers your way. You were happy to see most of these people, but always knew they were out there pulling for you. They still are.

We will be checking in on you from time to time to see how you’re doing. Until then, be a good boy, and God bless.

O ur P o l i c y

O ur O pin io n

Glad you're Back

T oday in H i s to ry

On this date

In 1748, Connecticut became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1750, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon made of silk, flew at least 250 yards over New Jersey.

In 1782, Benjamin Franklin set sail for France as the second state to be sealed from the Union, the day after the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire. In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the Constitution.

In 1789, Federalists and Anti-Federalists met at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The result was the United States Constitution.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat posed by the rise of China.

In 1968, an estimated 100,000 marchers formed a human chain stretching from the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol as part of the Million Man March.

In 2000, President George W. Bush, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat posed by the rise of China.

In 2007, Barack Obama was elected as the first African American president of the United States.

Letters to the Editor should be typed or printed on white paper, 12-point type, single-spaced and include the writer’s name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters and guest columns are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lake City Reporter.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the recent increase in violence in our community. It is heartening to see the increased police presence and the efforts being made by the community to come together against this problem.

I believe that we need to take a proactive approach to addressing this issue. One way could be through community policing, where local residents work with the police to identify and prevent criminal activity in their neighborhoods. It is important to foster a sense of trust and cooperation between the police and the community.

Additionally, I think we need to focus on education and prevention. Programs that teach young people about the dangers of violence and the importance of peaceful conflict resolution can be very effective.

I am confident that with the collective efforts of our community, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for the recent initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence in our community. It is encouraging to see the increased police presence and the efforts being made by the community to come together against this problem.

I believe that we need to take a proactive approach to addressing this issue. One way could be through community policing, where local residents work with the police to identify and prevent criminal activity in their neighborhoods. It is important to foster a sense of trust and cooperation between the police and the community.

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I am confident that with the collective efforts of our community, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Columbia guard Kenney Gail passed away at the age of 42 on Tuesday.

In FBS football, the Florida State Seminoles faced the Wake Forest Demon Deacons in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Seminoles won 68-59, with six players scoring in double figures. The win extended their winning streak to seven games.


during the 14:04 mark.

Branch added 14 of 15, including a weekend conference game.

The win at then-No. 7 Louisville that solidified Leonard Hamilton’s Seminoles win in ACC victory.

The Associated Press

Fernandes. Vassell leads Seminoles.

WAKE FOREST 68, FLORIDA STATE 78, loss.

Northwestern Oklahoma State on Wednesday.

LUMPKIN COMMITS TO NORTHWESTERN OSU

Columbia's basketball teams are in the playoff hunt following the FISAs first set of rankings released on Wednesday. Not taking into account Tuesday night’s games, Columbia’s boys team is third in the region (10-920), followed by District 4 leader Dayonta Beach, Mainland (9-691), Chiles (8-760), Forest (8-640), and District 3 leader Fleming Island (8-165).

The four district winners are automatically awarded the top four seeds in each region, with the other four at-large bids determined by the ratings. The new playoff formula instituted this season is calculated via MaxPreps’ rankings system.

As for the Lady Tigers, they are currently seventh in Region 1A with a 5-613 rating. Their District 2A opponent Lincoln currently leads the region at 15-652, followed by District 4 leader Welda (14-332), District 1 leader Pace (12-644), District 3 leader Creekside (11-522), Daytona Beach (11-522), and District 7 leader Fleming Island (8-165).

The Tigers improved to 12-2 on the season at CHS tied for fifth on the Tobacco Belt Conference.

Veon’s season-high 20 points, including four of those treys in his best game of his freshman year, scoring 14.

Other double figure scorers were Tay Cobb with 13, Nate Brown adding 15 points and Brandon Farmer scoring 14. Other double figure scorers were Ty Cobb with 13, Nate Henderson with 11 and Brian Rusk with 10.

It looked easy early for Florida Tech, with the FGC center playing strong against the Fighting Timberwolves.

Six players score in double figures as T-wolves inch closer to .500

Battling to put some distance between the Timberwolves and FGC, with Kenny Brown adding 15 points and Brandon Farmer scoring 14. Other double figure scorers were Ty Cobb with 13, Nate Henderson with 11 and Brian Rusk with 10.

Full-time Slave guards Veon Rice with 10.

By JORDAN KROEGER

It was a little sloppy but it didn’t matter.

Florida Gateway College still put together a season-best performance coming off of break.

Six players scored in double figures as T-wolves inch closer to .500

FSU continued on 6A

Florida State guard pours 17 points, Walker adds 15 more in ACC victory.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Devin Vassell scored 17 points and No. 10 Florida State pulled away in the final 10 minutes to beat Wake Forest 76-66 on Wednesday night.

Matt Washington hit a pair of free throws with 9:44 to go in the second half before going ahead for good on RaQuan Gray’s 3-pointer at the 5:26 mark.

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Florida State guard pours 17 points, Walker adds 15 more in ACC victory.
Florida State guard M.J. Walker tries to drive by Wake Forest guard Torry Johnson on Wednesday night.

four shots, three of those coming on dank as they remained in control and the Demon Deacons in matchup mode. 

Brandon Childress scored 20 points to lead Wake Forest, which played without starter Chaundee Brown due to a lower leg injury. The Demon Deacons (8-1) got off to a slow start to fail behind a dozen in the opening minutes, but ran off 11 straight points out of halftime to erase a 43-38 halftime deficit and get back in it.

BIG PICTURE

Florida State started with plenty of momentum following the Louisville win, with its past three league wins all coming by double-digit margins dating to early December. Yet the Seminoles had a tougher time getting away the Demon Deacons, bumbling their way through the opening minutes of the second half to let Wake Forest get ahead before finally starting to assert control in the final 10 minutes.

Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons were coming off a big win at Pittsburgh, rallying from 15 down for the victory but they were short-handed for this one with 6-foot-4 forward Qudus Wahab out with a sprained right ankle. The Demon Deacons (8-1) got off to a slow start to fail behind a dozen in the opening minutes, but ran off 11 straight points out of halftime to erase a 43-38 halftime deficit and get back in it.
DEAR ABBY

Couple is target of ridicule for their healthy lifestyle

Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby, my girlfriend and I are both in our 60s. We rarely eat out, go to movies, or do anything we feel is too much for our health. We exercise regularly and eat healthy foods that we enjoy. We're not on any medications and we're in good health. We are still in touch with Kyra and I had agreed we would remain strictly friends, but now I want to rekindle the relationship.

A couple of months ago, she started dating a guy who shares her health lifestyle. She is still talking to another girl I recently discovered that I am a little nudge in a different direction will never done. Variety is the spice of life, and we're tired of it. My girlfriend's family and friends react to our healthy lifestyle. We are in good health, we aren't on any medications. Our friends and family react about their own food choices. We exercise regularly and eat healthy foods that we enjoy. We're not on any medications and we're in good health. We are still in touch with Kyra and I had agreed we would remain strictly friends, but now I want to rekindle the relationship.

DEAR ABBY

Do what's best for you, and guard your heart. Are you taking advantage of your friend? You're the one who did thenegative things, not her. She got where she is on the rise. Your behavior is the cause of what you do to convince others to support your actions and your goals. Romance can do to ensure that in whatever transactions you make decisions that suit you, not someone else. Positive change will be a direct result of your ideas and present what you want to do. You can do to ensure that in whatever transactions you make decisions that suit you, not someone else. Positive change will be a direct result of your ideas and present what you want to do. You can do to ensure that in whatever transactions you make decisions that suit you, not someone else. Positive change will be a direct result of your ideas and present what you want to do. You can do to ensure that in whatever transactions you make decisions that suit you, not someone else. Positive change will be a direct result of your ideas and present what you want to do. You can do to ensure that in whatever transactions you make decisions that suit you, not someone else. Positive change will be a direct result of your ideas and present what you want to do. You can...
From research we found that fans think the game is too slow down and the net-front is no man's land. It's still no man's land in front of NHL goalies, a forbidden place for offensive players who risk hard checks, cross-checks, and a few times roughing penalties—"we worse when they settle in. But it isn't nearly as rough and tumble as it used to be. "You see teams fall back down on the over-the-top physical play in general and that includes going after players who park themselves in front of the net in hopes of blocking a goalie's view, tipping in a shot, or in a rebounding puck for a goal. "The game has changed drastically, "San Jose Sharks' defensemen Brent Burns said. "I think they're trying to create more points and less of those big points. "In this day and age, when they're trying to score, they're trying to tip the puck on goal. ""The battle of Alberta" is giving the XFL a place to call its own. "The XFL is an NBA- or an NFL-like league," said Florida Panthers forward Aleksander Barkov. "It has evolved over the years. "$10,000 for interference that could give the other team a power play. It's a one-on-one game simply because goalies tend to stop shots they can see, interfere with their view, their concentration, and the puck starts going in. It's a fast-moving puck with a stick to change the trajectory of a shot is another way to score, and being in front of the net is the best place to employ that mix of skill and luck. "It's up to defensemen to make themselves out of the way without drawing a penalty that could give the other team a power play. "This game within the game evolved over the years. "Former Detroit forward Tomas Holmstrom, who has 40 goals. "He got abused pretty good back in the day," Red Wings' goalie Jimmy Howard recalled. "That didn't stop him as he did the dirty work to help the franchise win four Stanley Cup championships. "I grew up in Detroit and watched him for a long time," Colorado defenseman Ian Cole said. "Not only was he good at establishing that position, and holding that position, he was unbelievable at tipping the puck. "He was also really good at knowing when to let pucks go. "Florida Panthers forward Aleksander Barkov is another player who makes a living in front of the net. "He seems to get his stick on everything and he takes your eye away," Howard said. "In today's game, it is difficult to defend the front of the net because physical play against someone without the puck often draws a penalty. Cole said the key is to try prevent opponents from getting where they want to go. "It's really tough to move there when they're already there," Cole said. "There are things you can do, but you're not going to be able to push guys side-ways. They're going to dig their edges in and not going to move. Then you start to push them forward and they rotate their foot and you can't push them forward. "Goals, while the puck travels from stick to stick, stay on the move ever so slightly so that they can see what they're trying to stop. "As a goalie, our eyes are our everything," Howard said. "If you see the puck, nine times out of 10 guys are going to stop it." "There's nothing that can expect to see doubled. "It's still no man's land in front of NHL goalies, a forbidden place for offensive players who risk hard checks, cross-checks, and a few times roughing penalties—"we worse when they settle in. But it isn't nearly as rough and tumble as it used to be. "You see teams fall back down on the over-the-top physical play in general and that includes going after players who park themselves in front of the net in hopes of blocking a goalie's view, tipping in a shot, or in a rebounding puck for a goal. "$10,000 for interference that could give the other team a power play. It's a one-on-one game simply because goalies tend to stop shots they can see, interfere with their view, their concentration, and the puck starts going in. It's a fast-moving puck with a stick to change the trajectory of a shot is another way to score, and being in front of the net is the best place to employ that mix of skill and luck. "It's up to defensemen to make themselves out of the way without drawing a penalty that could give the other team a power play. "This game within the game evolved over the years. "Former Detroit forward Tomas Holmstrom, who has 40 goals. "He got abused pretty good back in the day," Red Wings' goalie Jimmy Howard recalled. "That didn't stop him as he did the dirty work to help the franchise win four Stanley Cup championships. "I grew up in Detroit and watched him for a long time," Colorado defenseman Ian Cole said. "Not only was he good at establishing that position, and holding that position, he was unbelievable at tipping the puck. 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Columbia's girls squad is on the outside looking in for the playoffs right now. The Lady Tigers are ninth in Region 1-6A, largely due in part to a weak strength of schedule compared to the rest of the region. Columbia has a 7.924 rating behind Fleming Island's 8.430 for the final playoff spot.

The boys (5-3-3) are 14th in Region 1-6A with a 3.640 rating, way behind Navarre's 9.979 for the final playoff spot.

Matt Washington led Webber with 25 points while Thario Adkins scored 17 and Billy Hicks added 10. The Warriors didn't put much of a dent into the deficit in the second half, never climbing closer than 19 points.

The T-wolves have now won four of the last five games heading into Friday's home game against Santa Fe, set for a 7 p.m. tipoff. The teams' last meeting saw FGC win 68-64 on the road on Nov. 26.

Free of FGC's next six games are at home, including Saturday's conference opener against Pasco-Hernando.

“We definitely want to get them. 500 like we need to,” Ruise said. “We’re going to use this stretch to get things turned around and hopefully come in and get consistency from a lot of players. If we can get that well get this thing turned around and we’ll have an exciting finish.”

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Columbia forward Marcus Peterson puts up a shot against Gainesville on Tuesday.

RANKINGS
Continued From 5A

Beach Mainland (11-0) and District 2 opponent Leon (10-10)

Crestview is in the eighth spot with a 6.963 rating.

CHS SOCCER
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