

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Houston rain totals break 1978 record

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A pair of 70-year-old reservoir dams that protect downtown Houston and a levee in a suburban subdivision began overflowing Tuesday, adding to the rising floodwaters from Harvey that have crippled the area after five consecutive days of rain that set a new U.S. record for rainfall for a tropical system.

Brazoria County authorities posted a message on Twitter warning that the levee at Columbia Lakes south of Houston had been breached and telling people to “GET OUT NOW!!!” Brazoria County Judge Matt Sebesta said residents were warned that the levee would be overtopped at some point, and a mandatory evacuation order was given Sunday.

Engineers began releasing water from the Addicks and Barker reservoirs Monday to ease the strain on the dams. But the releases were not enough to relieve the pressure after one of the heaviest downpours in U.S. history, Army Corps of Engineers officials said. Both reservoirs are at record highs.

The release of the water means that more homes and streets will flood, and some homes will be inundated for up to a month, said Jeff Lindner, of the Harris County Flood Control District.

A weather station southeast of Houston reported 49.32 inches of rain as of Tuesday morning, according to the National Weather Service. That breaks the previous record of 48 inches set in 1978 in Medina, Texas, by Tropical Storm Amelia.

Already 14 sites in Houston have recorded more than 40 inches of rain and 36 different locations have recorded more than 3 feet.

Although forecasters had feared that another 2 feet could fall in some places, it appeared that the outlook had improved somewhat on Tuesday. The weather service said the amount of rain falling in the Houston area would be 2 to 3 inches, perhaps a little less in Houston proper, as the storm moved east.

But southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana still would see “relentless torrential rains,” with another 6 to 12 inches of rain across the upper Texas coast through Friday as Harvey continues to move slowly east over the Gulf of Mexico maintaining tropical storm force

winds of 45 mph, the National Hurricane Center said.

It is expected to make landfall again Wednesday morning, probably in southwestern Louisiana.

Meanwhile, more than 17,000 people are seeking refuge in Texas shelters, the American Red Cross said. With rescues continuing, that number seemed certain to grow.

The disaster is unfolding on an epic scale, with the nation’s fourth-largest city mostly paralyzed by the storm that parked itself over the Gulf Coast.

The Houston metro area covers about 10,000 square miles, an area slightly bigger than New Jersey. It’s crisscrossed by about 1,700 miles of channels, creeks and bayous that drain into the Gulf of Mexico, about 50 miles to the southeast from downtown.

North Korea fires missile over Japan

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan on Tuesday in one of its most brazen provocations in years, prompting President Donald Trump to warn that “all options are on the table.”

It was the second launch in three days and sharply escalated tensions as the United States and South Korea wrap up joint war games on the divided peninsula this week.

North Korea has conducted dozens of missile tests, including 13 this year, and officials said the one launched Tuesday broke into three pieces that apparently caused no damage before splashing into the Pacific.

But the symbolism of a North Korean missile soaring over Japan — a staunch U.S. ally — for the first time since 2009 was powerful, signaling defiance and progress in the communist

state’s efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

“The world has received North Korea’s latest message loud and clear,” Trump said in an official White House statement. He said the regime has signaled contempt for its neighbors, the United Nations and “for minimum standards of acceptable international behavior.”

Trump warned the North that its “threatening and destabilizing actions” would increase its isolation.

“All options are on the table,” he added.

North Korea fired rockets over Japan in 1998 and 2009, but in those cases it claimed they were carrying satellites into space.

Pyongyang also warned it would send missiles over Japan en route to the waters near the U.S. territory of Guam as part of a military plan presented to

leader Kim Jong Un earlier this month. Kim announced he would hold off on the plan for now.

The Japanese government issued alerts as the missile flew over Hokkaido, urging residents in some prefectures to take cover.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the missile test an “unprecedented, serious and grave threat” to the region.

Abe said earlier that he had discussed the launch with Trump in a 40-minute phone call and they agreed on the need to call on the U.N. Security Council to step up pressure against North Korea. Trump was quoted as telling Abe the U.S. is with Japan “100 percent” and is committed to defending its ally.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal leader who has shown increasing impatience with the North’s refusal to accept his offer for talks, ordered

the military to demonstrate its overwhelming capabilities Tuesday. Four South Korean fighter jets dropped eight bombs on a shooting range in a show of force near the heavily fortified border with the North, according to the presidential office.

The North Korean missile was launched eastward from an area near the airport in the capital, Pyongyang, according to South Korea’s military.

It flew more than 1,677 miles at a maximum altitude of 342 miles, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. That’s a departure from recent missiles launched at a steep angle in an apparent bid to avoid flying over Japanese territory.

Japanese government officials said the missile flew for 14 minutes and broke into three pieces before splashing into the Pacific about 730 miles east of scenic Cape Erimo.

Military plans to boost flood response

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Several thousand troops will soon join about 3,500 servicemembers already responding to Hurricane Harvey rescue efforts in southeastern Texas in an operation that could equal the size of the military's response to Hurricane Katrina, a National Guard general said Tuesday.

Air Force Gen. James Witham, the domestic operations director for the National Guard Bureau, said military efforts could last several weeks and grow as large as the Pentagon's involvement in 2005 to Katrina, when some 50,000 guardsmen and 20,000 active-duty servicemembers participated in the response to the devastating storm in Louisiana.

"This will be a long-term effort," Witham told reporters Tuesday at the Pentagon. "Usually when the Guard responds to hurricane-type events we normally talk about that first

72 to 96 hours for life-saving and sustainment then we're into a recovery effort. Due to the nature of this storm as it spins across southeast Texas for days and dumps record or historical levels of rainfall ... our response to this hurricane has been very different than ever before."

Already some 3,000 Texas National Guardsmen and about 500 active-duty soldiers and airmen are participating in rescue operations, primarily by boat but also by helicopter, Witham said. The bureau on Tuesday was in the process of alerting between 20,000 and 30,000 additional National Guard troops, primarily from states around Texas, to prepare to deploy should Texas Gov. Greg Abbott request them.

Witham said Abbott is likely to request the aid of all of those servicemembers in the coming days alongside about 12,000 Texas guardsmen who have already been called to duty and

will be phased into the operations as needed.

As of Tuesday morning, National Guardsmen had helped rescue about 3,500 people stranded by massive flooding throughout the region, the general said. Among those people, about 300 were rescued by National Guard helicopter hoist operations.

The response efforts have been especially difficult because the storm has remained in the area and continues to dump rain along the Texas coast and into southwest Louisiana, Witham said. The National Weather Service reported Tuesday that Harvey has already dropped more than 25 inches of rain along the coast and some areas could receive as much as 50 inches by Friday.

The National Guard will soon double the number of high-profile trucks to 400. The trucks can drive through 2 to 3 feet of standing water and are being used to evacuate stranded

residents.

It is also using about 30 National Guard helicopters and 21 Coast Guard helicopters. Witham said he expects more than 100 helicopters will be supporting rescue and medical evacuation operations within the next few days.

National Guardsmen from Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon and Utah have or will join rescue operations by Wednesday, according to the Guard Bureau.

Meanwhile, Louisiana had activated about 400 National Guard troops by Tuesday and was staging vehicles and supplies to respond to flooding in its southwestern region anticipated by state officials in coming days.

Witham said the Pentagon is prepared to assist Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards with anything he needs, just as it has pledged to Abbott in Texas.

President says Texas flooding of 'epic proportion'

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Eager to show he's attentive and on the job, President Donald Trump touched down in storm-ravaged Texas on Tuesday, taking pains not to interfere with Harvey recovery efforts.

"This was of epic proportion," the president declared as he met with local officials.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters traveling with Trump that the president's visit would focus on coordination among the levels of government and laying the groundwork for what is expected to be a lengthy recovery effort.

"The president wants to be very cautious about making sure that any activity doesn't disrupt the recovery efforts that are still ongoing," she said aboard Air Force One shortly before it touched down in sunny Corpus Christi.

Trump, who traveled with first lady Melania Trump and Cabinet secretaries who will play key roles in the recovery, was

greeted at the airport by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Some people lining roads near the airport held American flags and waved as the motorcade passed by.

Trump, who wore a black rain slicker with the presidential seal on his chest and a white cap that said "USA," was scheduled to receive briefings on relief efforts while in Corpus Christi. He was heading to Austin afterward to meet with state officials at the emergency operations center. Mrs. Trump wore a black baseball cap that read "FLOTUS," an acronym for "first lady of the United States."

The Cabinet secretaries were to meet with their Texas counterparts during Trump's visit.

"That's a big part of what today will be about, the coordination between local, state and federal officials and laying the groundwork for the recovery effort," Sanders said.

Trump has appeared to relish the role of guiding the nation's response to Harvey, which made landfall along the Gulf Coast on Friday night as a Category 4 storm near

Corpus Christi, and moved northeast along the Texas coast over Houston. The storm has dumped 49 inches of rain in parts of Texas and authorities have rescued thousands of people left stranded by the storm.

"Recovery will be a long and difficult road and the federal government stands ready, willing and able to support that effort," Trump said Monday.

Trump promised that Congress would act swiftly to approve a large recovery package to help the Gulf Coast region and said he was likely to return to Texas, and make a stop in Louisiana, during the weekend.

Hurricanes have sometimes presented American presidents with the potential for political peril. President George W. Bush struggled to recover in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 when he declared that then-Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown was doing "a heckuva job," comments that appeared to clash with reality once the full scope of the devastation became clear.

High-tech cloth will help Army fight in cold weather

BY WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

A revolutionary new cloth that uses nanotechnology to generate heat could end the days when soldiers deployed to Arctic environments are forced to walk around looking like 2-ton Stay Puft marshmallow men.

Created at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass., the material uses a coating of silver nanowires to reflect heat back to the wearer. The nanowires can generate temperatures up to 230 degrees Fahrenheit when an electric current is induced through them.

“Obviously the soldiers would not need that kind of heat, but that is just to show you the potential of how much we can heat up the fabric with just 3 volts, which is basically like a watch battery,” said Paola D’Angelo, a researcher at the center.

The Army hopes the new material will reduce both the weight and number of layers soldiers need to protect themselves from winter conditions. The Army’s current Extended Cold Weather Clothing System has seven levels with 12 pieces of clothing — not including numerous accessories such as gloves, scarves and the aptly named “bunny boots.”

Made largely of Gore-Tex, polypropylene and different types of fleece, the current

cold-weather system is meant to protect users at temperatures ranging from minus 60 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Although it is a vast improvement over previous versions of cold-weather gear used in the 1990s and earlier, the third-generation gear now in use is still bulky, D’Angelo said.

Before scientists use the as-yet unnamed material in the base layer of new cold weather uniforms, they hope to create gloves from the material and evaluate the outcome.

D’Angelo and fellow researcher Elizabeth Hirst are experimenting with another type of coating for the cloth, a hydrogel that will wick away a soldier’s perspiration and store it. The gels in powder form can absorb 40 times their dry weight in water.

Pfc. John Kreycik, a combat engineer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, said the new material and gloves seem like a good idea, but he wondered about the specifics.

“It would give me the ability to perform my job more safely and quickly in harsh weather conditions,” he said.

“Working with countermobility obstacles like concertina wire, gloves tend to get destroyed. So they would need to be durable. I’m concerned about dependability and safety. What do they weigh? How long does a charge last? Is there a possibility of injury if it malfunctions?”

Trump says US ‘very protective’ of the Baltics

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump declined to single out Russia as a threat to the West during a news conference Monday but said America was ready to defend its interests in the Baltics if they are threatened.

“Well, we are very protective of that region,” Trump said. “That’s all I can say. We are very, very protective.”

Flanked by Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, Trump was asked if he regarded Russia as a threat, but the U.S. president balked and said he remains hopeful that the U.S. will establish warmer ties with Moscow. Unlike with other adversaries and rivals such as China, Trump has been reluctant to take a tough rhetorical line on Russia.

Trump’s mixed messages on Russia have caused confusion and elicited concern in some parts of Europe.

Niinisto said a boost in alliance operations around the Baltic Sea is “most important” for Finland, a non-NATO member but close U.S. military partner.

The U.S. and Russia have stepped up military drills in the Baltic region. Moscow recently conducted joint naval exercises in the Baltic Sea with China for the first time.

Political tensions and more military congestion in the region have some worried about potential military miscalculations that could increase the risk of events spiraling out of control.

Tal Afar victory shows ability of Iraqi forces

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — The battle to reclaim Tal Afar was expected to be less grinding than the nine-month campaign for Mosul, but its lightning pace surprised many — highlighting both the Iraqi military’s capabilities and the militants’ disorganization, officials said.

After routing Islamic State in a little more than a week, Iraqi forces on Tuesday battled an estimated 100 fighters who had fled to a village northwest of the city, a senior U.S. commander in Irbil said.

That action should be over in a day or two, said Army Col.

Charlie Costanza, a deputy commander for the U.S.-led coalition backing the government forces.

The quick collapse of ISIS resistance in and around Tal Afar is a sign of Iraqi confidence and competence, bolstered by lessons gleaned from the bloody fight in Mosul and earlier operations, U.S. advisers said.

“Unlike ISIS, they actually increased their capability,” said Army Lt. Col. John Hawbaker, an adviser to the Iraqi Army’s 16th Division at a joint tactical base in Bwayd, west of Mosul, on Sunday.

U.S. officials had prepared for the worst in Tal Afar, Hawbaker said. They thought battle-

hardened ISIS fighters from Mosul might have passed on knowledge from that deadly campaign to help maximize the lethality of their tactics against the attackers, but those lessons didn’t seem to migrate west.

Many ISIS leaders who would have passed on the information were captured or killed in Mosul, Hawbaker said, and “as it turns out, dead men tell no tales.”

Costanza said ISIS’ senior leadership was decimated in Mosul, leaving tactical units around Tal Afar disorganized, with “little groups fighting in different directions.”

Meanwhile, security forces mounted a coordinated offen-

sive involving five division-size units, each converging on the town center.

“That’s complex for any army,” said Costanza, attributing the success in Tal Afar partly to that Iraqi-led plan, which was based on knowing ISIS struggled to fend off attacks from several directions simultaneously.

The fight’s still not over, he said. Even after it wraps up, there remains work to be done beyond the initial liberation, such as hunting for hidden fighters and clearing the explosive devices littering the town. Iraqi forces will likely refit, rest and reorganize after the battle, Costanza said.

Arpaio lashes out at judge, critics

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Fresh off his presidential pardon, an emboldened Joe Arpaio on Monday lashed out at his critics and the judge who found him guilty of a crime as his attorneys went to court to throw out the court decision that was the basis for his conviction.

The former Arizona sheriff struck a defiant tone in insisting he “didn’t do anything wrong” and questioning whether his judge was fair. His comments came as President Donald Trump took a similar posture in defending his Friday pardon of the former lawman, blaming the Obama administration for Arpaio’s troubles and calling him a “patriot” who fought against illegal immigration.

“I thought he was treated unbelievably unfairly,” Trump said.

Arpaio called U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton biased and questioned the growing number of critics across the United States who denounced his pardon as a political reward for having been an early supporter of Trump’s campaign.

“Why are they speaking out right now? I’ve been sheriff for 24 years. Are they coming out

against me because of a biased judge?” Arpaio told The Associated Press in a phone interview. Arpaio, who was voted out of office last year, declined to explain how he believes the judge acted unfairly toward him, saying only that “it’s all documented — the bias and everything else.”

Not only will the pardon erase his contempt of court conviction, it also gave new life to a politician who left office battered after years of scandals over a racial profiling verdict, hundreds of sex-crimes complaints that weren’t properly investigated and racking up \$141 million taxpayer-funded costs for defending him in lawsuits. He was soundly defeated in the November election by a Democrat in heavily Republican Maricopa county. Now, he’s talking about getting back into politics and taking shots at his critics.

Arpaio was found guilty four weeks ago of the misdemeanor contempt charge for defying a 2011 order that he stop carrying out immigration patrols. He prolonged the patrols for 17 months, prompting Bolton to find him guilty in a 14-page ruling issued on July 31.

Vets, others oppose legislation limiting VA tests with dogs

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More veterans, military and medical organizations have come out against legislation limiting medical experiments on dogs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Advocates and lawmakers attempting to shut down dog testing in the VA gained a new adversary earlier this month when Paralyzed Veterans of America argued that stopping the research would limit future medical advancements. More than 80 organizations joined the opposition Friday.

Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research, or FOVA, represents more than 83 groups. It lobbies for increased research at the VA and makes recommendations each year on funding levels for VA research and research facilities.

A measure to stop funding for VA research that causes pain to dogs passed the House floor on July 26 as part of a multi-agency funding bill. It was supported by Republicans and Democrats and drew no opponents on the House floor.

On Friday, FOVA’s seven-member executive committee sent a letter to Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., and Rep. Nita Lowery, D-N.Y., urging

them to act against the measure. The bill would stop funding on research that causes pain or distress to dogs, even when the pain could be relieved with anesthetics. The group wrote the restriction would “impede scientific research and unnecessarily delay research advances for our nation’s veterans.”

One of the FOVA committee members is with Paralyzed Veterans of America, and others represent Disabled American Veterans, the American Thoracic Society, American Psychological Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, National Association of Veterans’ Research and Education Foundations, and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

White Coat Waste Project, which describes itself as a taxpayer watchdog group, has advocated since early this year for restrictions on dog testing at the VA. The measure also has support of the Humane Society of the United States. White Coat Waste Project was founded by a former Republican strategist and frames animal rights as a conservative issue by linking it to the waste of taxpayer dollars.

The restrictions on dog testing that passed the House in July have yet to go to the Senate.

Domino’s, Ford team up to test driverless deliveries

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — No ring of the doorbell, just a text. No tip for the driver? No problem in this test, where Domino’s and Ford are teaming up to see if customers will warm to the idea of pizza delivered by driverless cars.

Starting Wednesday, some pizzas in Domino’s hometown of Ann Arbor were to arrive in a Ford Fusion outfitted with radars and a camera that is used for autonomous testing. A Ford engineer will be at the wheel, but the front windows have been blacked out so customers won’t interact with the driver.

Instead, people will have to come out of their homes and type a four-digit code into a keypad mounted on the car. That will open the rear window and let customers retrieve their order from a heated compartment. The compartment can carry up to four pizzas and five sides, Domino’s Pizza Inc. says.

The experiment will help Domino’s understand how customers will interact with a self-driving car, said company President Russell Weiner.

Domino’s, which delivers 1 billion pizzas worldwide each year, needs to stay ahead

of emerging trends, Weiner said. The test will last six weeks, and the companies say they’ll decide afterward what to do next.

Only one car will be deployed in Ann Arbor, and it has a special black-and-white paint job to identify it as a research vehicle.

Customers in the test area will be chosen randomly when they order a pizza, and will get a phone call to confirm they want to participate. If they agree, they’ll get a text message letting them know when the vehicle is pulling up and how to retrieve their food.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Girl, 7, kidnapped and thrown into lake

MA WORCESTER — Police in Massachusetts said a 7-year-old girl is recovering after being kidnapped from her grandparents' home by a family friend and thrown from a bridge into a lake.

Police said the ordeal started about 2:30 a.m. Sunday when she was taken from the Worcester home by Joshua Hubert, 35, without her parents' permission.

Investigators said she was put in a car, choked and then thrown from a bridge into Lake Quinsigamond.

The girl swam to shore in the town of Shrewsbury and was discovered about 4 a.m.

Hubert, charged with kidnapping, entered a not-guilty plea Monday.

Suspects use stolen bat to steal wedding cake

CT TOLLAND — Two Connecticut men are in custody after police say they used a baseball bat stolen from one home to steal wedding cake from a second home.

Police said Zachary Jurewicz, 24, and Eric Rawson, 26, face charges including home invasion and burglary after breaking into two Tolland homes Sunday.

Authorities allege they stole a bat from the first home which they used to strike items on the victim's property.

Officials said they used the bat to break into another nearby house, stealing a laptop, purse, alcohol and the top portion of a wedding cake from the homeowner's freezer.

The men ran into the woods after being confronted by the homeowner and were captured by police.

Escaped monkey is back with owner

TN KNOXVILLE — Pretty Boy Floyd is back with its owner after the pet Capuchin monkey escaped and spent a week on the loose in Tennessee.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported the monkey was captured Sunday after walking up to the owner's 14-year-old daughter in Knoxville.

Martin Maner had helped Bill King search for his lost pet. Maner says King's eyes were "filled with tears of joy" at the return of the monkey, which was taken to a veterinarian for a checkup.

King, an Army veteran from Crossville, said Floyd serves as a therapy animal to help him cope with post-traumatic stress disorder and other health problems.

Man makes advances on teen, then her mom

PA CHAMBERSBURG — Police said a Pennsylvania man made sexual advances toward a 13-year-old girl he met on Facebook, then did the same to her mother after the woman discovered the illicit online conversation.

Tyler Hornbaker, 22, remained in the Franklin County jail Monday on charges of corruption of minors and illegal contact with a minor.

State police said the Mechanicsburg man made online sexual advances toward the girl who told him she was 17, including sending her a nude picture.

Police said Hornbaker was driving to the girl's home when her mother learned of the conversation and told him to stay away. Police said Hornbaker then messaged the woman asking for a sex act "for what ur daughter did."

Man slashes 52 tires on police, fire vehicles

NJ SOMERDALE — Police in New Jersey are searching for a suspect who they say slashed 52 tires on multiple police and fire vehicles.

Surveillance cameras at the Somerdale Police and Municipal building captured a man entering the parking lot around 1:30 a.m. According to police, the suspect slashed tires on nine police cruisers, one fire vehicle and three personal cars of police officers.

Macaw missing from zoo found after 3 days

OH POWELL — A central Ohio zoo said a macaw that flew away from an open-air exhibit area was safely recaptured after people spotted the bright yellow and blue bird near a golf club a few miles away.

Milo the macaw typically flies between handlers at the Columbus Zoo but took off on a gust of wind Thursday.

The zoo said it got multiple calls from the same area in Powell on Sunday, and staff recaptured Milo when one of his favorite people called to him and he flew to her.

Area reports minor quake over weekend

AL BIRMINGHAM — A minor earthquake was reported in Alabama over the weekend.

AL.com reported that, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, the tremor was a magnitude-2.2 recorded shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday morning in the northeast part of the state.

The Geological Survey said a magnitude-2.2 earthquake produces weak shaking and

does not cause damage. It was the eighth such temblor in the northern portion of Alabama since February.

Giant tooth sculpture draws visitors to city

IN CROWN POINT — A 20-foot cast aluminum tooth has been drawing plenty of attention in northwestern Indiana this summer.

The tooth by sculptor Seward Johnson has been on display in Crown Point since May along with a dozen other pieces around the city for a public art display.

City Councilwoman Carol Drasga told The (Northwest Indiana) Times that the giant tooth is kind of goofy and has helped draw visitors to the community.

The tooth sculpture and other statues will be on display through November, and the city already is negotiating for artworks for next year.

Boaters spot rare sea otter off coast

CA DANA POINT — A group of boaters spotted a sea otter off Dana Point, which they say is a rare sighting in Orange County in Southern California.

The Orange County Register reported Capt. Chris Pica spotted the sea otter as he was taking a group of Boy Scouts toward Newport Beach on Saturday. He said it's the second sea otter he has seen in 30 years. Sea otters use to frequent the Orange County area until the 1920s.

Marine mammal experts say more sea otter sightings could mean their population is on the rise and that local kelp forests and marine invertebrate populations are improving.

From wire reports

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3 new Big Ten coaches have lofty goals

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Tom Allen and Jeff Brohm remember watching the Big Ten at its ragged best.

P.J. Fleck just heard the stories about the emotional sideline antics of Woody Hayes and Bo Schembechler being as entertaining as the games. Back then, 3 yards and a cloud of dust was all the rage and massive offensive linemen overpowered defenders while big running backs crashed through holes.

Today, the names, faces and even the tactics have changed but the tough-guy coaches remain one of the conference's most endearing characteristics.

At Michigan and Ohio State, Jim Harbaugh and Urban Meyer can often be seen on the sideline with pained, perplexed facial expressions. Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald has embraced his role as a disciplinarian. And after going 3-9 in 2016, Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio wasted no time blaming the poor season on a lack of discipline inside the locker room.

So in a conference that has

never been big on congeniality, the three new coaches — Allen at Indiana, Brohm at Purdue and Fleck at Minnesota — are starting on their quest to polish the Big Ten's longtime image.

"You can't change or overreact," Allen said, describing his more temperate style and Love Each Other motto. "The other thing is I think it matters who they are but different individuals in the organization deserve to be treated with the utmost respect, kindness and to feel like a part of the program and that doesn't always happen."

Especially at these schools.

Over the last half-century, fans around Indiana and Minnesota have heard and seen it all.

Since finishing in a three-way tie atop the league standings in 1967, their chase for football glory has resulted mostly in futility. While coaches and stars, promises and credos have come and gone, bowl bids have been rare and conference championships virtually nonexistent. Purdue shared the 2000 Big Ten title with Michigan and Northwestern. Indiana and Minnesota are still looking to end their droughts.

Why should this time be different?

Because the new coaches' refreshing approach could become appealing to high school players who are ready to work for these men

The 47-year-old Allen, like Super Bowl-winning coach Tony Dungy, is a defensive whiz who waited decades to land his first big head coaching job. Allen, like Dungy, is a change of pace from his predecessor. And Allen, like Dungy, puts a premium on faith and family before wins and losses, which explains why both believe they get more impact out of a hug or stare than an expletive-laced tirade.

Maybe it shouldn't be such a surprise given that Allen and Dungy attended the same church in Tampa, Fla.

But if Fleck or Brohm have proven anything over the past few years, it's that many styles work in today's college football world.

While Fleck demonstrated his coaching aptitude by taking a Mid-American Conference team, Western Michigan, and put it on the national map, the 36-year-old rising star might

be an even better salesman.

His media campaign to promote the school and Kalamazoo, Mich., as well as the football team created a community effort that culminated in a multi-day promotional opportunity on ESPN that included a trip for the "College GameDay" crew to a MAC campus for the first time in 13 years.

Brohm walks into the toughest situation.

While Minnesota has played in three consecutive bowl games and the Hoosiers have been to back-to-back bowl games, Purdue hasn't made the postseason since the 2012 season. Here, at the Cradle of Quarterbacks, the depth chart is thin, the schedule is daunting and crowds have been dwindling.

Yet Brohm looks like a perfect fit. A former quarterback with an NFL pedigree, like Harbaugh, could be an enticing situation for recruits who dream of being the next Drew Brees. And Brohm's creative, high-scoring offense could be just the remedy to bring fans back to Ross-Ade Stadium.

Defending champ Penn St. overshadowed by Ohio St.

Associated Press

Defending Big Ten champion Penn State returns a Heisman Trophy candidate at running back and a record-setting quarterback, and the Nittany Lions generally are regarded as one of the 10 best teams in the country.

They're not even picked to win their division this season.

The Big Ten East favorite, as usual, is Ohio State, which is loaded with as much talent as ever and motivated to atone for an embarrassing finish to 2016.

So as great an accomplishment as it was for Penn State to go from being picked fourth in the division to winning its first league title since 2008, another grind is about to start. Coach

James Franklin wants his players to put last season out of their minds.

"We've talked about it enough. The fans have talked about it. The media's talked about it," Franklin said. "They've been given rings. So that's behind us. We have moved on."

Saquon Barkley thrust himself into 2017 Heisman consideration after a dominant performance in the last-second Rose Bowl loss to Southern California. Trace McSorley led the Big Ten in passer rating and threw for four touchdowns in both the Big Ten championship game against Wisconsin and the bowl. The question is whether a defense that allowed 34 points a game against ranked opponents can hold up its end.

The favorites

East Division: Ohio State has 15 starters back after having seven players drafted, including six of the top 70 picks. You can be sure Urban Meyer will have the Buckeyes on a redemption tour after they lost 31-0 to Clemson in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

Penn State also feels it has something to prove. The Nittany Lions beat Ohio State and won the conference — and were left out of the playoff because of losses to Pittsburgh and Michigan.

Michigan, with losses in three of its last four games, is still waiting for the big payoff from its splash hire of Jim Harbaugh. He's finished third

in the East each of his first two years and still is looking for his first win over Ohio State.

West Division: Wisconsin brings back an experienced QB in Alex Hornibrook and a seasoned defense from its 11-win team. The Badgers don't play Ohio State, and their toughest road game is at Nebraska.

Northwestern has a three-year starting QB in Clayton Thorson and a workhorse in RB Justin Jackson. Back-to-back games against Wisconsin (away) and Penn State (home) come early.

Iowa will rely heavily on 1,000-yard rusher Akrum Wadley and a veteran offensive line as it breaks in a new QB. Penn State visits in September, but the hardest part of the schedule comes in November.

PAC-12 PREVIEW

QBs have Washington, USC primed for big year

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Pac-12 divisional races will be short on drama if preseason projections actually translate into regular-season results on the West Coast.

Washington and Southern California are major favorites to earn a showdown in the conference title game in Santa Clara in December, and both are considered national title contenders.

In a conference crowded with untested young teams and perennial powers in search of bounce-back seasons, the Huskies and Trojans are built around talented starting quarterbacks who have already shown the mettle to win big games. Defending Pac-12 winner Washington made the College Football Playoff while USC won the Rose Bowl last season, and large portions of those championship teams are back in uniform this fall.

Washington is coming off its best season in a quarter-century. Quarterback Jake Browning led the Huskies to an 8-1 record in Pac-12 play last year, but coach Chris Petersen isn't assuming his Huskies are guaranteed a spot atop the North.

"I don't think you reload," Petersen said. "That's not our mentality at all. At all. We rebuild. That's just the mindset. We're not even kind of the same team we were last year. So that's always our process. We start from ground zero. We take nothing for granted."

The Huskies' only regular-season loss came at home to USC and quarterback Sam Darnold, who led the Trojans to nine consecutive victories to end the season. USC returns with its usual array of NFL-bound playmakers, but coach Clay Helton isn't taking anything for granted, either.

Helton said he opened his training camp with a brief reminiscence about the epic Rose Bowl triumph over Penn State.

"But then I asked the next

question: 'Are you satisfied?'" Helton said. "And to a man, not one hand rose. Because we understand what USC is about. It's about winning Pac-12 titles, and it's about winning national championships. And the fact of the matter is we did not accomplish that. That's always our goal and always our expectation."

The favorites

North: Washington. Nobody is betting against Petersen's machine yet, but the Cardinal and Ducks have the rosters to make it interesting if the Huskies have the injury problems they avoided last season.

South: USC. The Trojans' usual stratospheric expectations aside, they're the only program in the division without serious rebuilding questions. Utah is perennially solid, while Colorado has ample motivation.

Top players

Luke Falk, QB, Washington State. The Cougars' big-armed passer needs 27 touchdown passes to match the conference record set in 2012 by USC's Matt Barkley. There's little doubt he'll get them in Mike Leach's high-octane offense.

Ryan Nall, RB Oregon State. The Beavers don't get much national attention, but the speedy tailback is primed for a breakout year.

Josh Rosen, QB, UCLA. The touted passer missed half of his sophomore season with injuries. He could swiftly return his NFL Draft stock to its former heights.

Lowell Lotulelei, DT, Utah. Star Lotulelei's 320-pound little brother is the heir to the Utes' tradition of vaunted defensive line play.

Royce Freeman, RB, Oregon. The star returned for another season, and the Ducks are a prime candidate for a quick rebound.

KC's scoreless run extended by Rays

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals are closing in on a major league futility record.

The Royals extended their scoreless streak to 43 innings, five shy of the record, getting shut out for a fourth straight game in a 12-0 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

Kansas City hasn't scored since the second inning of a 3-2 loss to Colorado last Thursday, and it was blanked three times over the weekend by Cleveland. The 1968 Chicago Cubs and the 1906 Philadelphia Athletics hold the major league record at 48 innings.

The 1992 Cubs were the last team to be blanked in four straight games, and it hasn't happened in the AL since the 1964 Washington Senators — nine years before the adoption of the designated hitter. No team has been shut out in five straight games since at least 1913, according to information gathered from baseball-reference.com.

"At the end of the day if we haven't scored in four days, I can still look at this group knowing that this group has been all in for four days," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "They've played to the last out for four games. There is nothing more than I can ask from them."

Indians 6, Yankees 2: Corey Kluber outpitched Luis Severino in a marquee matchup of All-Stars, and slumping Jose Ramirez homered twice to power visiting Cleveland past New York for its fifth straight victory.

Carlos Santana hit a tie-breaking homer off Severino in the seventh inning and Austin Jackson also went deep for the AL Central leaders, who increased their cushion to seven games over idle Minnesota.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 5: Christian Vazquez had four hits, including a two-run home run, Eduardo Nunez added a

solo shot and visiting Boston beat Toronto, snapping a four-game skid.

The AL East-leading Red Sox averted their first five-game losing streak of the season.

Orioles 7, Mariners 6: Adam Jones hit a milestone home run and Welington Castillo had three hits and two RBIs, and host Baltimore topped Seattle for its fifth straight victory.

Cubs 6, Pirates 1: Mike Montgomery pitched six-hit ball into the eighth inning and helped himself at the plate, leading host Chicago past Pittsburgh.

Nationals 11, Marlins 2: Max Scherzer overpowered Giancarlo Stanton, Howie Kendrick hit a three-run triple and host Washington beat Miami.

Stanton, named NL Player of the Week for the second time this month on Monday, went 0-for-3 against Scherzer with two strikeouts and a groundball double play.

Giants 3, Padres 0: Jeff Samardzija allowed just three singles in pitching his first shutout since 2015, and Brandon Crawford and Joe Panik homered to lead visiting San Francisco over San Diego.

Tigers 4, Rockies 3: Nicholas Castellanos had three hits, including a two-run triple, and Jordan Zimmermann rebounded from early trouble to help visiting Detroit beat Colorado.

The Rockies stranded 11 baserunners as they began a nine-game homestand. Their lead for the second NL wild-card spot dwindled to three games over idle Milwaukee.

Angels 3, Athletics 1: Andrew Heaney struck out a career-high 10, Martin Maldonado had three hits and scored twice and host Los Angeles beat Oakland.

Phillies 6, Braves 1: Rhys Hoskins had his homer streak end, but he drove in the go-ahead run with a sixth-inning double, and Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings as host Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

Sharapova knocks off No. 2 seed Halep

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Maria Sharapova's first Grand Slam match after a 15-month doping suspension ended with a victory at the U.S. Open, she dropped to her knees and covered her face, tears welling in her eyes.

This was merely a win to get to the second round, yes, but it also clearly meant so much more to Sharapova. It meant she was back.

Displaying as much emotion on court as she ever did after one of her five major championships, Sharapova recovered after faltering midway through the match and emerged to beat No. 2-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at the U.S. Open over more than 2½ hours Monday night.

"Behind all these Swarovski crystals and little black dresses," Sharapova told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, "this girl has a lot of grit, and she's not going anywhere."

So much about Sharapova was the same as it ever was: the shot-punctuating shrieks, the aggressive baseline style, the terrific returning, the sometimes-shaky serving.

Another familiar sight: She gutted out a win.

"It's been a while," said Sharapova, who missed additional time after her ban because of injuries. "It almost seemed like I had no right to win this match today. And I somehow did. I think that is what I'm most proud of."

After leading by a set and 4-1 in the second, Sharapova showed some fatigue and rust, dropping five games in a row. But in the third, Sharapova regained control by going ahead 3-0, using her power to keep two-time French Open runner-up Halep under pressure.

Sharapova had not played at a Grand Slam tournament since January 2016, when she tested positive for the newly banned heart drug meldonium during the Australian Open.

The 30-year-old Russian was allowed back on the tour this April, but she was denied a wild-card invitation for the French Open. The U.S. Tennis Association did grant a wild card to Sharapova, who was once ranked No. 1 but is currently 146th.

It was as if every one of Sharapova's winners Mon-

day — and she compiled 60, a startling 45 more than Halep — was her way of declaring, "Look out, everybody!"

Halep was among eight women who entered the U.S. Open with a chance to top the WTA rankings by tournament's end. The draw at Flushing Meadows randomly paired the two players, providing a buzz-generating matchup that managed to live up to the hype on Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

"I gave everything I had," Halep said. "She was better."

And at an event that began without Serena Williams, who is expecting a baby, and is already missing two of its top seven seeded women — No. 7 Johanna Konta, a Wimbledon semifinalist just last month, was upset by 78th-ranked Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 — Sharapova must be considered a serious title contender. She did, after all, win the U.S. Open in 2006.

But Sharapova wasn't interested in looking too far ahead just yet.

"This is a big win for me, and I will enjoy it," she said, "then move on to the next one."

The last match on Monday's schedule actually finished at 2:04 a.m. on Tuesday: The fourth-seeded man, Alexander Zverev, needed to get through an 80-minute first set before eventually beating 168th-ranked qualifier Darian King 7-6 (9), 7-5, 6-4.

Sharapova vs. Halep was a tremendously entertaining and high-quality contest, more befitting a final than a first-rounder.

These two women have, indeed, faced off with a Grand Slam title at stake: Sharapova beat Halep in the 2014 French Open final, part of what is now her 7-0 head-to-head record in the matchup.

On Monday, they traded stinging shots, often with Sharapova — dressed in all black, from her visor, to her dress that sparkled under the lights, to her socks and shoes — aiming to end exchanges and Halep hustling into place to extend them.

"I expected her to hit everything," Halep said. "Some balls were really good. I couldn't even touch them."

Hurricane forces many Houston teams to move games

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Hurricane Harvey has forced both the Houston Astros and Houston Texans to play home games miles away from the flood-stricken city with players wondering when they will be able to come back.

The Astros will play a three-game series against the Texas Rangers at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla., this week, starting Tuesday, and the Texans will wrap up their preseason schedule against the Dallas Cowboys at AT&T Stadium in Arlington instead of NRG Stadium.

"You have to go about your business and handle it," Texans cornerback Johnathan Joseph said Monday as the schedule

for the week became clear and the misery of Harvey continued unabated.

"But it's kind of hard at the same time to kind of sit there and play football and then think about your family that's back home when there's constantly updates going on around the clock about things that are going on back in your hometown."

Both the Astros and Rangers flew to Dallas after games in California on Sunday to await news of where the series would be held.

After a day off Monday, they will now head to St. Petersburg, where the Astros will have "home" games far away from home, just as they did in the wake of Hurricane Ike in 2008

when they played two scheduled home games in Milwaukee.

"The safety of our fans, players and staff remain our main priority," Astros President Reid Ryan said. "We are extremely grateful to the Tampa Bay Rays organization for allowing us to use their facility."

The Texans have been in the Dallas area since leaving New Orleans after playing the Saints there on Saturday night. As the flooding dominated the news for another day, athletes with ties to Houston kept nervous watch, worrying about loved ones.

Nationals star Anthony Rendon, who grew up in Houston, has been stressed out hearing tales of his relatives struggling back home. He spoke to his parents on Monday morning.

"They were saying the water was creeping up to their garage now," he said. "They've got a lot of land so it has to cover the land first before it gets to their house. It's tough to know they're not in a flood zone. They're in the middle of nowhere so how can the water reach over there?"

The University of Houston football team, meanwhile, is in Austin, where former coach Tom Herman is preparing for his first season in charge of the Longhorns after two seasons at Houston. He said the Cougars canceled their scheduled practice Sunday when the flooding was getting worse back in Houston, and "guys being worried and not really being focused on football, nor should they have been."