

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Missiles from Yemen land near USS Mason

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two missiles fired from rebel-held territory in Yemen landed near an American destroyer in the Red Sea, the U.S. Navy said Monday, the second such launch targeting ships in the waterway in recent days.

The missile launches Sunday came as a ballistic missile fired from Yemen apparently targeted a Saudi air base near the holy city of Mecca, the deepest strike yet into the kingdom by Shiite rebels and their allies.

In a statement, the Navy said no American sailors were injured and no damage was done to the USS Mason, an Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyer. Lt. Ian McConaughy, a spokesman for U.S. Navy Forces Central Command, said it's unclear if the Mason

was specifically targeted.

At the time of the missile fire, the destroyer was north of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which serves as a gateway for oil tankers headed to Europe through the Suez Canal, the official said.

However, the Houthi-controlled SABA news agency, of Yemen, quoted an anonymous army official denying its forces fired on the USS Mason.

Last week, an Emirati-leased swift boat came under rocket fire near the same area and sustained serious damage. The United Arab Emirates described the vessel as carrying humanitarian aid and having a crew of civilians.

Analysts with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy suggested in a report that the Houthis could have targeted the Emirati ship with an Iranian

anti-shipping cruise missile.

Shiite power Iran has supported the Houthis but denied supplying them with weapons.

Meanwhile, Saudi state television aired a brief clip of what appeared to be a projectile that was said to have landed in Taif in the ballistic missile attack. Taif is home to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Air Base, which hosts U.S. military personnel training the kingdom's armed forces.

The video shows the flash of an explosion, followed by images of emergency vehicles. The Saudi military said the missile fired late Saturday night was intercepted and caused no damage.

Al-Masirah, a satellite news channel run by Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as the Houthis, identified the missile as a local variant of a Soviet-era Scud missile. It said the Volcano-1

missile targeted the air base.

The Houthis have fired a series of ballistic missiles in Saudi Arabia since a kingdom-led coalition of Arab countries launched an offensive against them in Yemen in March 2015.

In the Taif attack, the missile struck a target more than 325 miles from the border. Taif also is just outside of Mecca, which is home to the Kaaba toward which all Muslims pray.

The Saudi military also said it earlier had intercepted another ballistic missile fired Sunday on the Yemeni city of Marib.

Rights groups have mounted increased criticism of the Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen in recent months for killing civilians. The U.N. and rights groups estimate the conflict has killed at least 9,000 people and displaced nearly 3 million more.

Bases affected by hurricane slowly resume operations

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

U.S. military installations in the path of Hurricane Matthew were resuming some operations Monday, but power outages and storm damage were hampering return to full operations.

At Joint Base Charleston, S.C., a limited evacuation order was revoked. All personnel were to return to the base by Monday night, but recovery efforts were expected to take several days as officials continued to assess damage.

At Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., non-essential Defense Department personnel were asked not to return until conditions are deemed safe. It advised those planning to attend this week's graduation to postpone travel and instructed those who had expected to

begin recruit training Monday to contact their recruiters for information and changes.

The 6,000 recruits who were evacuated for their safety have been continuing their training at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., according to posts on the recruit depot's Facebook page.

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River, in Jacksonville, N.C., were still dealing with power outages Monday, though a majority of the "main-side" of Camp Lejeune has had power restored, said Nat Fahy, spokesperson for both bases. New River was still without power, but the base was "cautiously optimistic" power would be restored by noon Monday.

Some residents in Goldsboro, N.C. — where Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is located

— were asked to evacuate their homes due to an expected crest of the Neuse River, according to a post on the base's Facebook page early Monday.

Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., located just south of the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, suffered roof and water damage at the base's medical clinic, 45th Space Wing commander Brig. Gen. Wayne R. Monteith said in a post on the base's Facebook page.

But the wing was back in business, and the base was expected to be back to normal operations early this week, according to a separate Facebook post.

The Defense Department reported Sunday that all Army bases were open.

An evacuation order for personnel at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia ended Monday morning,

according to a memorandum posted to the base's Facebook page. Personnel were asked to inform their chain of command if their residences were uninhabitable due to storm damage.

Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, N.C., was expected to be operating on Tuesday, according to the base Facebook page, and all commissaries and Exchanges were open and operating on a holiday schedule Monday.

Meanwhile, in Haiti, which was devastated by the hurricane, Joint Task Force Matthew has delivered 50,000 pounds of aid and supplies, the DOD said.

U.S. Southern Command has approximately 300 personnel on the ground and 700 sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde. The USS Iwo Jima is to relieve the Mesa Verde later this week.

Afghan official: Attack in Helmand kills at least 14

BY CHAD GARLAND
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan forces were fending off Taliban assaults on multiple fronts Monday, including the capital of southern Helmand province, where a car bomb killed at least 14 people.

Afghan security forces were battling for an eighth day to push insurgents from the city of Kunduz; in western Farah province, Afghan forces called for reinforcements after insurgents surrounded an outpost there.

Despite the Taliban advances, both Afghan and U.S. officials expressed confidence in the Afghan security forces and their ability to withstand and repel the insurgent assaults.

In Lashkar Gah, capital of restive Helmand province, Taliban fighters entered the city and set off a suicide car bomb killing at least 14 people, including 10 police officers, The Associated Press reported.

The Taliban briefly held a police station in the second police district of Lashkar Gah before Afghan forces “kicked out” the insurgents, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Since the start of the fighting season this spring, the insurgents have expanded their presence in the province, closing in on the capital.

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, said U.S. “combat enablers” were in the area and were prepared to support the Afghans. Enablers can include air support and Special Forces troops.

The situation was “fluid” in Helmand, he said, but officials remain confident the Afghan security forces can continue to defend the country’s population themselves. They are doing better this year than last year, he said, and are on a “positive trajectory.”

Cellphone service in Lashkar Gah appeared to have been cut earlier in the day, but Twitter users posted updates apparently from the area, including one image of a pillar of smoke rising above the city.

Cecilia Strada, president of the medical charity Emergency, which operates a hospital in Lashkar Gah, said on Twitter that at least 30 wounded had been brought to the hospital shortly after the suicide car bomb exploded.

Iraqi federal court rules against al-Abadi’s reforms

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s federal court ruled on Monday that Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi’s move to abolish the largely ceremonial posts of the country’s vice president and deputy prime minister is unconstitutional.

Under Iraq’s constitution, abolishing the posts would require the approval of an absolute majority in parliament followed by a national referendum, the court said in a statement.

The decision, which is binding for the Iraqi government, was a

slap for al-Abadi, who canceled the posts last year as part of a wide-ranging reform plan that was approved by his Cabinet and passed by parliament. It was intended to shore up public support for his government in the face of widespread protests.

The cancellations also were an apparent attempt to consolidate power in order to combat corruption and to tackle the country’s ballooning budget crisis, sparked in part because of a plunge in the price of oil during the past two years, government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi said.

Doctors seek access amid Aleppo attacks

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Doctors Without Borders pleaded on Monday for access to treat the wounded in the rebel-held part of Syria’s Aleppo as government forces pressed on with an offensive to retake the eastern part of the embattled city.

The international charity, which supports eight hospitals in Aleppo’s besieged eastern quarters, said that only 35 doctors remain in the area, serving an estimated population of 275,000.

The organization, also known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement that the medical workers in Aleppo are exhausted and that the overstretched facilities face an impending fuel shortage.

Syrian government forces and their allies have kept eastern Aleppo under siege since July. The U.N. warned that the bombardment by Syrian and Russian warplanes could leave thousands dead by the year’s end, and aid officials are demanding an immediate pause to the violence.

“Russia and Syria must stop the indiscriminate bombing now and abide by the rules of war to avoid the extreme suffering of the unprotected civilian population,” said Pablo Marco, MSF’s operations manager for the Middle East.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist network that monitors the conflict through local contacts, reported heavy fighting between Syrian rebels and pro-government forces along the east-west Aleppo front lines. Another activist-run group, the Local Coordination Committees, said rebels were fighting to push government forces away from the city’s largest water facility, which serves more than 1 million people.

The U.N. Security Council

is deadlocked over how to respond to the Aleppo crisis, with Russia on Saturday vetoing a French-drafted resolution demanding an immediate halt to Russian and Syrian airstrikes and the rest of the council voting down a Russian resolution calling on the evacuation of opposition fighters.

It was Russia’s fifth veto of a Western-backed resolution aimed at ending the 5½-year-long Syria conflict. Moscow has been a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Russia and Syria’s government have both endorsed a proposal by U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura to evacuate al-Qaida-linked militants from east Aleppo while skirting around the reciprocal part of the proposal, to abide by a cease-fire for the besieged area.

An official at Syria’s Foreign Ministry said the government would ensure the safety of any civilians or militants who desire to evacuate, saying gunmen could take their personal weapons and relocate to other rebel areas. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with ministry regulations.

Meanwhile, the Czech Republic dispatched a plane with medical aid to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The Czech Republic has coordinated aid deliveries directly with the Syrian government, while other Western nations have worked through third parties. The Czechs pledged earlier this year to provide aid worth some \$8 million to Syria until 2019.

Elsewhere in Syria, the Observatory said Monday that Syrian pro-government forces recaptured two towns north of the central city of Hama in a counteroffensive aimed at reversing a string of losses to ultraconservative rebels in the region.

USS Arizona survivor of Pearl Harbor attack dies

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The memories of bombs falling onto the battleship USS Arizona were too painful for Raymond Haerry ever to return to Pearl Harbor while he lived.

But that's precisely where he wants to be laid to rest.

Haerry was one of the last living crewmembers on the Arizona during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He died Sept. 27 in Rhode Island at age 94, said his son, Raymond Haerry Jr. He was one of six remaining Arizona survivors.

Hundreds of sailors and Marines are entombed in the ship's sunken hull.

"As he was getting closer to the end, I think he felt that if there's any place that he'd like to be at rest, it would be with his crewmates, the people who suffered and died on that day," Haerry told The Associated Press on Friday.

Haerry said his father never wanted to talk about what happened on Dec. 7, 1941. But after 50 years of asking questions,

Haerry said, he pieced together the narrative.

His father, then 19, ran to an anti-aircraft gun after the first explosions, but the ammunition was in storage.

He tried to get ammunition, but a large bomb detonated first, igniting fuel and powder magazines. Most of the bow was instantly separated, and the ship was lifted out of the water.

Haerry said his father swam through flaming water, sweeping his arms in front of him to push the flames away.

He shot at Japanese planes from shore. Later, he helped retrieve corpses from the harbor.

The ship lost 1,177 men, nearly four-fifths of its crew.

The senior Haerry served for 25 years in the Navy, retiring as a master chief. He lived with his wife of 70 years, Evelyn, at a nursing home in West Warwick, R.I.

Only USS Arizona survivors can be buried on the ship. Haerry said he'll take his father's ashes there when he can afford the trip.

Envoy: New action wanted 'quickly' against N. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.N. Security Council wants to pass new measures punishing North Korea for its latest nuclear test "as quickly as possible" without sacrificing substance, a senior U.S. envoy said Monday.

Samantha Power made the remarks during her first trip to South Korea since becoming Washington's chief envoy to the world body in 2013. She arrived in Seoul late Saturday after a trip to Japan as she seeks to reassure allies of the U.S. commitment to their security and to shore up support for a fresh Security Council resolution against Pyongyang.

"We are working around the clock to secure the passage of

this resolution as quickly as possible," Power told reporters after meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.

But, she added, "We are not going to sacrifice or short-change our ambition to rush this out. We want this resolution to be practically impactful on the ground."

The high-profile visit comes as tensions have risen sharply on the divided peninsula after North Korea conducted two underground nuclear tests and nearly two dozen ballistic missile launches this year. The most recent nuclear blast, on Sept. 9, was its strongest ever, and it claims to have developed nuclear warheads small enough to fit into a warhead.

When it's hot, carrier turns up the H.E.A.T.

By CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER — When it's really hot, bring on the H.E.A.T., a program to keep crewmembers aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower from suffering heat injuries during the summer months in the Persian Gulf.

Temperatures were often well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer and into the fall in the 5th Fleet area of operations, which covers the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Humidity and engine heat made it feel like 140 degrees or more.

Yet the Ike had only five reports of heat injuries through the summer, and all of those servicemembers returned to work within a day or two, according to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

Medical staff were instructed to respond aggressively to heat stress reports, to administer intravenous fluids, and to put sailors on "sick in quarters" status for 24 to 48 hours until their body temperatures returned to normal and all symptoms were gone.

"What's most important is the safety of the crew," said Ike's Command Master Chief Petty Officer Tyrone Blockton. "We want to make sure they remain hydrated, that they remain safe, that we don't have a lot of heat injuries."

To that end, the ship implemented a series of measures that the commander, Capt. Paul C. Spedero Jr., dubbed H.E.A.T., for hydrate, eliminate, acclimate and treat.

Most of the crew wore CamelBak hydration packs that they could refill from water coolers all around the ship. Uniform regulations were relaxed, allowing sailors to wear their blue T-shirts, unless safety requirements demanded other gear. Work rotations were increased to reduce the amount of time sailors spent in hot spaces or on

the flight deck, and the entire crew received training in recognizing heat injuries.

A chief hospital corpsman was appointed "ice boss" to ensure ice made from clean water was readily available around the clock, Blockton said. An ice station was set up where sailors could fill coolers and water jugs.

Sailors who work in hot environments were periodically assigned to man the ice station so they could cool off.

"This program is important because it makes sure everyone is hydrated and everyone has some ice to cool them down," said Seaman Jesus Diaz, who was working the ice station during a hot day in August.

Blockton also instituted Operation Deep Freeze to keep heat from getting into the skin of the ship.

The ship's cooling system works by pulling in water from the sea, but that is problematic when the seawater is 90 degrees or higher. Also, when hatches and scuttles by weather decks or the hangar bay are left open, heat gets sucked into the ship.

"The hot air takes maybe two minutes to get into the ship, and it takes maybe six hours to get the temperature back down to where it was before you opened the hatch," Brockton said.

Operation Deep Freeze, proposed by a chief machinist's mate experienced in air-conditioner repair, required almost all hatches leading to weather decks and the hangar bay to remain closed to keep spaces temperate. Only about four or five hatches are required to remain open for movement of equipment and groups of sailors, Blockton said.

"Temperatures around the ship have cooled off significantly due to Operation Deep Freeze," Blockton said, to about the mid-80s.

The lessons learned could be employed in the future by other ships in the region, as each ship passes on lessons learned to the next ship coming in.

Korean vet finally able to clear his name

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — An 86-year-old Korean veteran accused of treason and sentenced to death at the start of the Korean War has won a battle to clear his name. Now he is fighting to change history.

John Hong's story began with the North Korean invasion of Seoul in June 1950. He was a cadet at the military academy in the city and ended up stranded on the wrong side of the Han River after the U.S.-backed government fled south, blowing up a strategic bridge behind them.

Hong has spent decades combing through history books and archives to collect the documents to prove he was a war hero, not a traitor.

"I saved my country," said Hong, who lives in California and has dual citizenship. "They must give me something. They ruined my life."

As North Korea occupied Seoul, Hong fled to the mountains and hid at a friend's house. But the friend turned out to be a communist sympathizer who ominously warned the 19-year-

old private to surrender to the North or join the volunteer Red Army if he wanted to survive.

Then known by his Korean name, Hong Yoon-hee, he joined the volunteer forces planning to make his way to the front lines, then sneak across to rejoin friendly forces. He used a fake ID claiming to be the brother of North Korean Vice Premier Hong Myung Hi, who he said actually was a distant relative.

Hong stepped up his plans after learning that North Korean leader Kim Il Sung had ordered an all-out assault in early September to break through the Pusan Perimeter, the allied forces' defensive line around the southeastern tip of the peninsula.

He slipped away from his unit Aug. 31, 1950, walking overnight until he spotted U.N. troops and gave them his urgent news about the general offensive.

Still wearing the North Korean army uniform, he was interrogated for hours by an American intelligence officer.

But instead of being welcomed home as a hero, Hong was arrested a few days later

and charged with espionage. He said he was tortured and sentenced to death, but an old friend served as his attorney and got the charges reduced.

Hong was released after five years and reunited with his family. In 1973, he and his wife fled to the United States out of fear he might be rearrested under a new national security law.

Hong, who settled in Union City, Calif., initially didn't question his past.

"I thought my report must have been wrong, and there was no general offensive, and that's why they arrested me," he said.

But one day in 1988, he read a book giving credit to a North Korean defector, Maj. Kim Song Jun, for providing the tip and helping to turn the tide of the war. He was shocked to learn the official histories of the U.S. and South Korean militaries did the same.

"Then I said, 'Oh my god. I thought that my report was false, but it was true,'" he said.

Hong began searching history books and archives. He returned to South Korea and requested copies of his trial re-

cords and interrogation reports but was told they had been destroyed in a fire.

The breakthrough came in 2011, when he found a March 5, 1954, memo by a military historian, Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, in the archives of the National Institute of Korean History in Seoul.

Appleman wrote the U.S. Army's official history of the first six months of the war, "South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu," which describes Kim as tipping off U.N. forces about the offensive.

However, in the memo, the historian says he heard from intelligence sources that a South Korean cadet named Hong had reported on the offensive.

Appleman then recommends disregarding the "unconfirmed information of Hong" and citing Kim instead "due to the urgency" of publication deadlines.

It took two more years, but Hong finally got his retrial.

A Seoul court overturned his treason conviction Feb. 13, 2013. "I finally got a sentence of not guilty ... about 63 years too late," Hong said.

US-Philippine drills conclude

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CROW VALLEY, Philippines — The Philippine armored vehicle that bogged down Monday while following U.S. Marine Corps trucks across a muddy river at the Crow Valley Range Complex symbolized the allies' frayed relationship — frustrating and seemingly going nowhere fast.

U.S. and Philippine marines, participating in the annual PHIBLEX exercise, have been at the range, near Clark Air Base, a two-hour drive north of Manila, for the past week.

They've been doing this type of training for decades, but it's unclear how much longer that will happen with new Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte throwing mud at U.S. officials in the form of crass insults and

threats to end the bilateral training and get closer America's rivals, Russia and China.

Nearby, 845 Marines were getting ready to tear down their camp in a muddy field beside the river, possibly for the last time. While some maneuvered on the range, others loaded tactical vehicles onto trucks for transport back to the USS Bonhomme Richard or hung out with the Philippine marines.

The two countries' forces checked out each other's knives and signed Philippine flags for souvenirs.

T-shirt, jewelry and knick-knack vendor Ariel Pamintuan, 51, was happy to haggle with the Marines in the muddy lane where he set up.

"We want the Americans to come," he said. "We don't like the Russians or the Chinese."

Tug-of-war event held in Japan

BY JESSICA BIDWELL

Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — The tug of war has long been used to build a little camaraderie for a fun competition. Now imagine the rope is 200 meters long and weighs 40 metric tons, with 15,000 people pulling on each side.

That was the scene Sunday as hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets of Naha to revel in a tradition that dates back to the 1600s. Held on Route 58, the event is a battle between the East and West teams, which correlates with the competition between two rulers in the Naha area throughout the days of old.

It has developed into a tradition to bring prosperity to Okinawa and good health to all participants. Regardless of age

or nationality, this is an event everybody can participate in and feel like a part of the whole. The event truly embodies the soul of Okinawa.

The buildup for the daylong festival started in the morning with a parade featuring Hatagashira, or banner, handlers of all ages, with the staccato sounds of firecrackers adding to the lively atmosphere.

As the time for the tug of war approached, two massive ropes, representing the east and the west, were joined using a large wooden pillar. The Guinness Book of World Records listed the rope used in 1995-2005 as the world's largest rice straw rope used in a tug of war.

Nearly 45 minutes later, the East side triumphed. Participants got pieces of the rope as souvenirs as the crowd dispersed.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Authorities: Loan fraud investigation expanding

FL BOCA RATON — Authorities in South Florida said an investigation is expanding into a loan modification fraud scam perpetrated by a fake law firm.

Boca Raton police told the (Fort Lauderdale) South Florida Sun Sentinel that 50 additional people have filed complaints about the fake Asset Protection Law Firm. That's on top of 30 previous homeowners involved in the case, and police said the probe could spread to other states.

Authorities said the scam targeted homeowners seeking relief from high mortgages. The firm told people they could stop paying their mortgages while their problems were straightened out. But instead, the firm simply kept upfront charges and monthly fees and did no real work.

The firm also went by several other names. Two men who operated it are charged with practicing law without a license.

Man on run 48 years set to return to court

CT DANBURY — The case of a man who spent 48 years as a fugitive before being found in a small Connecticut town is set to return to court, where officials are expected to place him under the supervision of a state parole officer.

A hearing was set for Tuesday in Danbury Superior Court in the case of Robert Stackowitz, 71, who escaped a prison work camp in Carrolton, Ga., in 1968 while serving a 17-year robbery sentence.

Stackowitz was arrested at his home in Sherman, Conn., in May after his Social Security

application turned up an arrest warrant. He fought extradition to Georgia, citing his deteriorating health, including heart failure and bladder cancer.

Georgia officials accepted a proposal to allow Stackowitz to remain at his home under the supervision of Connecticut authorities.

Researchers, volunteers digging up mastodon

MI MAYVILLE — A team of researchers, teachers and graduate students is taking part in a dig in Michigan's Thumb area to unearth bones of a mastodon first discovered two years ago.

Farmer Seth Colling, a part-time teacher at the Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning, a year-round camp for children and adults with special needs, told the Times Herald in Port Huron that the dig for mastodon bones is "a dream come true."

Colling was on his knees Saturday at the site on the Fowler Center property, uncovering with a trowel and bare hands another large mastodon leg bone. Colling was with students two years ago when they found the first mastodon bone in the creek.

Since then, paleontologists have collected more pieces of the mastodon that have eroded out of the creek bank.

School's gay marriage question to be scrapped

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah is scrapping a question on an exercise for English-language learners that asks why gay marriage should be prohibited.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported a student from the

college's English Language Institute flagged it to the newspaper after being shocked by the question. The exercise, designed to teach argument skills, gives three answers to choose from. One of them is: "Gay marriage is disgusting."

Another one says: "Societies should promote traditional marriage as the ideal environment for children."

University spokeswoman Maria O'Mara said the exercise was created years ago by an instructor no longer at the college. O'Mara said the question will be eliminated from the course packet, which needs to be updated.

Utah's gay marriage ban was struck down in 2013. The U.S. Supreme Court declared same-sex marriage legal across the country in 2015.

Authorities seeking vandals of cemetery

MS LAUREL — Authorities are searching for the person who vandalized tombstones at the Hickory Grove Cemetery in Laurel.

Authorities said dozens of tombstones were knocked over Thursday, and the person responsible could face vandalism charges.

Barbara Monk's mother and father-in-law's tombstones were damaged. She told WDAM-TV she doesn't know how the person who did the damage could close their eyes at night, knowing what they've done.

Counterfeit money ring busted, officials say

NM LAS CRUCES — Dona Ana County sheriff's detectives say they have uncovered a counterfeit money-manufacturing ring, and one suspect in the case is

facing 104 counts of forgery.

The investigation began last month after the manager of a Las Cruces pizza delivery company reported fake bills used in a transaction between a driver and a customer.

Detectives traced the money back to a home, where a search warrant uncovered several pieces of equipment that detectives suspect were used to manufacture all denominations of bills, from \$1 to \$100.

They said counterfeit bills with a total face value of about \$3,300 were seized from the house.

Authorities said the fake bills possibly were passed at businesses in Las Cruces and Alamogordo.

Aquarium holds viewing of rescued manatee

CT MYSTIC — The public got a chance last weekend at Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium to see a manatee that was rescued off the coast of Cape Cod last month.

The aquarium has been rehabilitating the manatee and received permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow public viewing of the marine animal Saturday and Sunday during regular hours.

The 800-pound, pregnant female, dubbed "Washburn," was picked up in September in Nantucket Sound off Falmouth, Mass., by the International Fund for Animal Welfare. The group said the animal was well out of its range and was rescued just before water temperatures dropped below 67 degrees — too cold for it to survive.

The aquarium is preparing the manatee for a return to Florida waters and, eventually, farther into the ocean.

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Donaldson's dash caps Toronto sweep

Associated Press

TORONTO — Josh Donaldson's mad dash moved the Blue Jays into the next round of the playoffs.

Donaldson raced home from second base after Rougned Odor bounced a double-play relay in the 10th inning and Toronto beat the Texas Rangers 7-6 on Sunday night to sweep their AL Division Series.

Donaldson, the reigning AL MVP, led off the 10th with a double into the right-center field gap and Matt Bush intentionally walked Edwin Encarnacion.

After Jose Bautista struck out, Russell Martin hit a grounder to shortstop Elvis Andrus, who tried to start a double play with a feed to second base. After making the turn, second baseman Odor short-hopped his throw to first baseman Mitch Moreland and the ball skipped away, allowing Donaldson to sprint home and beat Moreland's throw with a dive across the plate.

"I was at third base when the throw was being made,"

Donaldson said. "Once I saw [Moreland] miss the pick, I felt like I had to take a chance right there."

The wild-card Blue Jays are headed back to the AL Championship Series after beating Texas in an ALDS for a second straight year and will face the winner of the Cleveland-Boston series. The Indians lead 2-0, with Game 3 scheduled for Monday following a postponement Sunday.

Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro, who spent 24 years with Cleveland before joining Toronto last fall, said he'd already reached out to one former Indians colleague about a potential ALCS meeting.

"It's something I've tried not to think about," Shapiro said, "but I texted (Indians GM) Chris Antonetti a two-word text about 10 minutes ago: Your turn."

Toronto's bench emptied and swarmed around Donaldson near home plate after his dramatic dash, while Bush knelt in the infield and watched the celebration. The umpires huddled to review the play at sec-

ond base, but after a brief delay, the crowd of 49,555 went wild as crew chief Joe West signaled the run counted.

"You're like 'Oh gosh, let's not have a technicality ruin this moment for us right here,'" Martin said. "It was a little bit of a buzzkill at the time."

Donaldson had two doubles among his three hits and is batting .538 through four postseason games, all wins for the Blue Jays, who had to beat Baltimore in a wild-card game to get to the ALDS.

"We definitely feel good about where we're at," Donaldson said. "We're pitching well, we're playing good defense and right now we've been able to hit the homer. That's a big positive for our offense."

The Blue Jays now get four days off before the ALCS begins Friday, and they're happy to get it.

"Some people like to say a couple of days off might throw our timing off," Martin said. "I really don't believe in that. At this point in the year, a couple of days off can do wonders."

Bautista's homer and em-

phatic bat flip in Game 5 was the lasting image from Toronto's ALDS win over the Rangers last season. On May 15, Odor famously punched Bautista to spark a brawl in Texas, and the broadcast of Sunday's game showed a fan-made sign declaring "I would rather get punched in May than get knocked out in October."

Bush had thrown two scoreless innings in relief prior to beginning the 10th. It was the longest career outing for the 30-year-old rookie, who was crucial in the bullpen while Texas finished with the AL's best record.

Encarnacion had a two-run homer and Martin a solo shot in the first inning for Toronto, which swept a postseason series for the first time.

"Unfortunately we didn't click at the right time," Andrus said. "They hit the ball well and never let us feel comfortable."

Lobaton's blast helps Nats ties series with Dodgers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Little-used Jose Lobaton changed the complexion of the Washington Nationals' Major League Baseball playoff series with one big swing.

Getting a rare chance to play because of starting catcher Wilson Ramos' late-September injury, backup Lobaton hit a three-run homer through a strong wind to erase an early deficit Sunday. Daniel Murphy provided two RBIs, and Washington's bullpen threw 4²/₃ scoreless innings, leading the Nationals past the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-2 in a rain-postponed Game 2 to even the NL Division Series at 1-all.

"I've got to try to do some-

thing for the team," said Lobaton, who had one hit off a left-handed pitcher all season before connecting with a curveball that stayed up from LA lefty Rich Hill with two outs in the fourth inning.

After dropping Game 1, the Nationals trailed 2-0 when Hill allowed No. 8 hitter Lobaton to put the hosts ahead for good.

What made his big bop all the more surprising was that it went over the wall in left, where wind that topped 30 mph was blowing in much of the afternoon.

"When he hit it, there was a bunch of people in the dugout who were, like, cussing, because we didn't think he could get it out. All kinds of expletives were being thrown around,"

Nationals left fielder Jayson Werth said. "And then it snuck over for us. That was the game, right there."

Nationals slugger Bryce Harper's take?

"If Mother Nature wanted to keep it in the yard, then I guess she would have," the 2015 NL MVP said, "but the baseball gods overran her, I guess."

Murphy has been Washington's best hitter all season, considered a top contender for league MVP honors this year. Indeed, fans chanted those three letters after each hit as he went 3-for-3, including RBI singles in the fifth and seventh.

Five relievers made it stand up, with Mark Melancon working around a single in the ninth — the lone hit allowed by Wash-

ington's relievers — to earn the save.

Blake Treinen went 1¹/₃ innings and got the win, while lefties Marc Rzepczynski, Sammy Solis and Oliver Perez combined for seven outs as manager Dusty Baker mixed and matched his 'pen just right.

The best-of-five series shifts to Los Angeles for Game 3 on Monday afternoon, with Game 4 there on Tuesday, creating an unusual three-consecutive-days setup in the playoffs, thanks to the loss of a travel day.

"This was pretty much a must-win game for us," Werth said. "Definitely don't want to head West down two."

Vikings are NFL's last unbeaten team

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings followed their winning formula again to precision and maintained the NFC's only perfect record.

Adam Thielen caught a touchdown pass to cap Minnesota's opening drive and finished with a career-high 127 yards, and the Vikings defense flustered Brock Osweiler and the Houston Texans on their way to a 31-13 victory on Sunday.

"When your offense comes out on all cylinders like that, it just juices us up even more and wants us to play harder," defensive end Everson Griffen said. "We've just got to keep doing that."

Marcus Sherels returned a punt 79 yards for a touchdown and Cordarelle Patterson scored on another sharp throw by Sam Bradford, who deftly guided the offense to a fifth straight turnover-free game in his fourth start for the Vikings (5-0).

Lions 24, Eagles 23: Matthew Stafford picked apart one of the NFL's best defenses for a while, throwing for a touchdown on each of host Detroit's first three possessions.

Philadelphia answered, shutting him down for almost two quarters. Almost.

Stafford lofted a perfect pass to Golden Tate to set up Matt Prater's 29-yard kick with 1:28 left, sending Detroit to a 24-23 win over Carson Wentz and the Eagles.

"It was perhaps one of the better anticipatory passes that you'll see," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said.

Wentz, the No. 2 pick overall in the draft, was 25-for-33 for 238 yards with a pair of 1-yard TD passes to Ryan Mathews and Josh Huff.

The Lions (2-3) had lost three straight.

Cowboys 28, Bengals 14: At Arlington, Texas, the rookie-led Cowboys kept winning without Tony Romo and Dez Bryant.

Ezekiel Elliott ran for 134 yards and two touchdowns, fellow rookie Dak Prescott threw for a score and ran for another TD, and the Cowboys earned their fourth consecutive victory.

Without Romo, the Cowboys (4-1) have already matched their victory total from a year ago. Bryant has missed two games with a hairline fracture in his right knee.

The Bengals (2-3) have a losing record a year after being 8-0 midway through the season.

Redskins 16, Ravens 10: Visiting Washington used an 85-yard punt return by Jamison Crowder and an uncharacteristically strong performance by its defense to beat Baltimore.

It was the third straight win for the Redskins (3-2), who came in with the league's 29th-ranked defense. Washington allowed a touchdown on the game's opening drive

and smothered the Ravens (3-2) the rest of the way.

The game wasn't decided until the final minute, when an apparent 23-yard touchdown catch by Baltimore's Breshad Perriman was overturned by replay. Perriman got his right foot down in the end zone, but his left foot was out of bounds.

Steelers 31, Jets 13: Ben Roethlisberger passed for 380 yards and four touchdowns and surging host Pittsburgh pulled away in the second half.

Sammie Coates caught six passes for a career-high 139 yards and two scores, including a 72-yard catch-and-run for a score on Pittsburgh's opening drive as the Steelers moved the ball at will against a secondary missing injured star Darrelle Revis.

Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell racked up 154 yards of total offense, including a career-high nine receptions, while Antonio Brown caught nine passes for 78 yards and a touchdown.

Bills 30, Rams 19: Although Buffalo's three-game winning streak is equal parts exciting and improbable, LeSean McCoy sees ways it can get even better.

McCoy shredded host Los Angeles' defense for 8.3 yards per carry on the way to 150 yards rushing — and he still wasn't impressed.

"There were some plays I missed today," McCoy said. "I could have easily had over 200 yards."

Packers 23, Giants 16: Green Bay appears to have the makings of a defense that could power a deep run into the playoffs.

It's the offense, for once, that is looking to maintain consistency.

Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, and the offensive line pushed around visiting New York's front and powered the ground game in a win over the Giants.

But the offense was mired by uncharacteristic drops, and couple of big plays were called back by penalties. Mason Crosby kicked three field goals, including two in the fourth quarter.

Raiders 34, Chargers 31: After too often finding themselves on the wrong end of close games a year ago, Oakland has thrived in those situations this season.

Derek Carr and the host Raiders found a new way to win, using a go-ahead, fourth-down 21-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree and a botched hold on a potential tying field goal to win.

After using a late 2-point conversion to win the opener, stopping a late Tennessee drive in a Week 3 win and using a late score and defensive stop to beat Baltimore last week, the Raiders (4-1) survived against the Chargers (1-4) to post their first three-game winning streak in five years.

That has put an Oakland team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2002 in a tie for first place in the AFC West with Denver.

Titans 30, Dolphins 17: At Miami, DeMarco Murray found room on the flanks and then shimmed for extra yards. Marcus Mariota kept scrambling up the middle past the first-down marker before sliding to safety.

Smashmouth, Titans style.

There was muscle involved, but also lots of finesse as Tennessee rushed for 235 yards to grind up Miami.

The Titans (2-3) clawed back into the conversation in the AFC South, while the Dolphins (1-4) appear destined for an eighth consecutive year out of the playoffs.

Colts 29, Bears 23: Host Indianapolis got Andrew Luck on track by playing fast Sunday. Now they'll try to use the same strategy to save their season.

After hearing the clamor for changes all week, the Colts cranked up the pace, took their first halftime lead of the season and, yes, even managed to pull out a badly needed victory.

"We needed to get off the snide and get a win," Luck said. "We needed to get that taste out of our mouth. We needed a win. Winning cures all in this league."

Indy threw a change-up at the Bears' defense and Luck took full advantage by taking shots down the field and putting points on the scoreboard early.

Falcons 23, Broncos 16: Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons didn't need another 300-yard performance from Julio Jones to decipher host Denver's dazzling defense and wreck Paxton Lynch's first NFL start with a win over the Broncos on Sunday.

Using a steady dose of I-formation runs and short passes that put Denver's linebackers in coverage, the Falcons (4-1) handed the Super Bowl champs their first loss since Dec. 20 at Pittsburgh and left the Vikings as the NFL's last unbeaten team.

Patriots 33, Browns 13: Tom Brady claimed there was no extra motivation when he took the field in Cleveland on Sunday.

His actions spoke otherwise.

The arm pump toward the Patriots fans in the Cleveland stands as he began warmups. The mini-USain Bolt celebration on the sideline after running for a first down. Oh yeah, the 406 yards passing and three touchdowns, all to Martellus Bennett, a tight end he'd never thrown to in a real game.

It might not have been vintage Brady after four weeks suspended for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal, but it was plenty good in a 33-13 victory over Cleveland.

Chase field remains bunched after Charlotte

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — It should have been catastrophic nearly any way Joey Logano looked at his situation. His wrecked race car was in the garage during the opening race of the second round of the playoffs, his crew frantically trying to get him back on track.

At the moment, Logano's only saving grace was that Kevin Harvick had his own disabled vehicle and was stuck watching Sunday's race at Charlotte Motor Speedway roll on without them.

Then Austin Dillon wrecked, Chase Elliott, too. Denny Hamlin lost an engine and Martin Truex Jr. had a pit road miscue.

In all, five drivers finished 30th or worse Sunday, meaning the field remained bunched enough that everyone has an equal shot to recover.

There are two more races, at Kansas and Talladega, before this field of 12 is whittled to eight, and only eight points separate Hamlin, in the cutoff position, from Harvick, who is last in the standings. Logano, who got back on track to finish 36th, is two points ahead of Harvick and only six behind

Hamlin.

"I feel better about it," Logano said of the standings. "My team did a good job fighting to get back out there and I think we gained two points by doing that, and that could be the difference when it's all said and done."

No one was immune Sunday, not Chevrolet, Ford or Toyota. The longshots Dillon and Elliott were wrecked, the favorites Harvick and Logano fallen by broken parts or tire issues.

The big winner? Why, Jimmie Johnson, who suddenly has a record-tying seventh championship in reach.

Hendrick Motorsports has been underwhelming this year, Johnson stuck in a 24-race losing streak. This Chase so far had been a Truex and Harvick show, Johnson just the driver of a car that seemed to have some speed but was no ultimate match with the others.

His win Sunday showed otherwise, and he stamped his name into the third round of the playoffs. Johnson had failed to advance to the round of eight each of the last two years, but he's got his slot now, and that's the first step in winning that elusive seventh title.

He sounded hungry after the

race, his eighth win at Charlotte and 78th of his career.

"We can't sit back and celebrate too much," Johnson said. "We've got to buckle down and get to work and keep advancing our race cars."

The race was originally scheduled to run Saturday night, but Hurricane Matthew washed out almost the entire weekend. So all racing was pushed to Sunday, which turned into an 800-mile doubleheader with the Xfinity Series.

Logano went on to win the Xfinity Series race, which was the eliminating event in the inaugural Chase for that series. Ty Dillon was knocked out by Bubba Wallace by one point, and Brennan Poole, Ryan Sieg and Brandon Jones were also eliminated.

The second round of the Chase is a reprieve for Erik Jones, the pre-playoff favorite who fell into a deep hole in the opening race and is now back to even.

Kenseth to Kansas: Matt Kenseth left Charlotte on solid footing for the first time in the elimination system via a second-place finish to Johnson.

The stop in Charlotte had been his downfall the last two years. He tackled Brad Kesel-

owski in the garage following a disappointing finish in 2014, and was second-to-last a year ago.

So to leave in decent shape, with the pressure not nearly as high this weekend at Kansas, Kenseth felt OK.

"Honestly, last two years in a row, pretty much Charlotte has kind of taken us out of the Chase — mostly my doing," he said.

Hendrick returns: This had been a miserable season for Hendrick Motorsports, by its own standards. Only two of its four drivers made the Chase this year and Dale Earnhardt Jr. is sidelined with a concussion.

Johnson has the only wins for the organization, but Elliott had been sniffing victory lane all season.

On Sunday, the two combined to lead 258 of the 334 laps, and Johnson and Elliott ran 1-2 for a huge chunk of the race.

Elliott was involved in an accident with 75 laps remaining and could not hide his disappointment.

"We had such a good car," he said. "I'm devastated that we didn't get the result that my guys deserve."

Penguins' Crosby diagnosed with concussion

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins say superstar Sidney Crosby has been diagnosed with a concussion.

General manager Jim Rutherford made the announcement Monday.

The Penguins say Crosby sat out a pre-season game Saturday against Columbus because he wasn't feeling well and missed practice Monday to undergo testing.

Pittsburgh opens the regular season Thursday at home against Washington.

The two-time Stanley Cup champion and reigning Conn Smythe Trophy winner missed significant time earlier in his career with concussion problems.

Ravens fire OC Trestman

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens have fired Marc Trestman as of-

fensive coordinator and replaced him with quarterbacks coach Marty Mornhinweg.

Coach John Harbaugh made the move Monday, less than 24 hours after the Ravens managed only one touchdown in a 16-10 loss to Washington.

In other NFL news:

■ The Denver Broncos say coach Gary Kubiak has been diagnosed with a "complex migraine condition that caused extreme fatigue and body weakness."

The Broncos (4-1) visit San Diego (1-4) Thursday night.

Kubiak, 55, was hospitalized following Denver's 23-16 loss to the Falcons on Sunday. He was taken from the stadium via ambulance.

Flash wins NWSL title on PKs

HOUSTON — Sabrina D'Angelo made three saves in the penalty shootout and the

Western New York Flash won the National Women's Soccer League championship 3-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw with the Washington Spirit on Sunday.

Crystal Dunn gave the Spirit the lead in the 92nd minute, but Golden Boot winner Lynn Williams scored for the Flash in extra time of the second overtime period to send the match to penalties.

Haas wins Toshiba Classic

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Jay Haas birdied the first hole of a playoff with Bart Bryant on Sunday in the Toshiba Classic to become the second-oldest winner in PGA Tour Champions history.

At 62 years, 10 months, 7 days, Haas trails only Mike Fetchick, the 1985 Hilton Head Seniors Invitational winner at 63 years to the day.