

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Petition on Navy ratings passes 100K mark

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A petition requesting restoration of the U.S. Navy's traditional rating titles that was posted to the White House website has exceeded the 100,000 signatures required to prompt a response from the White House.

The petition was created just hours after the Navy's top brass announced on Sept. 29 that the service would be modernizing its 200-year-old enlisted rating system. A part of that plan was the immediate scrapping of rating titles.

Instead of calling enlisted sailors by

their occupations, such as boatswain's mate and gunner's mate, sailors simply would be referred to by their ranks.

The Navy has said the changes to the enlisted rating system will allow for more career flexibility and will align sailors' jobs with the civilian workforce.

The decision was met with widespread criticism from active-duty and veteran sailors across social media, and the petition posted to the whitehouse.gov website garnered thousands of signatures within hours.

"Being known by your job title was a sense of pride, a sign of accomplishment,"

read the petition. "The Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations just senselessly erased this tradition."

By Friday, the petition had garnered more than 100,000 signatures within 30 days, meeting the requirement to expect "an official update from the White House within 60 days."

Since the Navy's initial announcement, it has released additional information about the modernization plan, including a phased approach to implementing further changes.

But the additional information has still been met with criticism on social media.

Clinton faces resurgent email issue late in race

Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — For more than a year, Hillary Clinton has been a reluctant participant in the email controversy that has dogged her campaign, responding defensively to inquiries — and often only when there's a political imperative to do so.

On Friday, the imperative was clear.

The email issue flared up unexpectedly just over a week from Election Day, threatening Clinton's lead over Republican Donald Trump. The FBI announced it was looking into whether there was classified information on a device belonging to Anthony Weiner, the disgraced ex-congressman who is separated from his wife, longtime Clinton aide Huma Abedin.

Clinton stepped in swiftly, holding a brief, hastily arranged news conference in a high school choir room in Des Moines, Iowa. She challenged FBI Director James Comey to release the full details of the new investigation, citing the crucial phase of the White House race.

"We are 11 days out from perhaps the most important national election of our lifetimes. Voting is already underway in our country," Clinton said. "So the American people deserve to get the full and complete facts immediately. The director, himself, has said he doesn't know whether the emails referenced in his letter are significant or not."

Clinton said neither she nor her advisers had been contacted by the FBI about the

new inquiry.

The news arrived with Clinton holding a solid advantage in the presidential race. Early voting has been underway for weeks, and she has a steady lead in preference polls, both nationally and in key battleground states.

The development all but ensures that even should she win the White House, the Democrat and several of her closest aides would celebrate a victory under a cloud of investigation.

Trump leapt on the FBI's disclosure, accusing Clinton of corruption "on a scale we have never seen before."

"We must not let her take her criminal scheme into the Oval Office," Trump said during a rally in New Hampshire.

Clinton's campaign was enraged by Comey's decision to disclose the existence of the fresh investigation in a vaguely worded letter to several congressional leaders. It wasn't until hours later that word emerged that the source of the new emails was Weiner, who is under investigation for sending sexually explicit text messages to a teenage girl.

"It is extraordinary that we would see something like this just 11 days out from a presidential election," said John Podesta, Clinton's campaign chairman.

Congressional Republicans already have promised years of investigations into Clinton's private email system. And that's only one of the email-related controversies fac-

ing her in the campaign's closing days. The tens of thousands of confidential emails from Clinton campaign insiders that were hacked — her campaign blames Russia — and then released by WikiLeaks have provided a steady stream of questions about her policy positions, personnel choices and ties with her husband's sprawling charitable network and post-presidential pursuits.

In his Friday letter to congressional leaders, Comey wrote only that new emails have emerged, prompting the agency to "take appropriate investigative steps" to review the information that may be pertinent to its previously closed investigation into Clinton private email system.

The FBI ended that investigation in July without filing charges, although Comey said at the time that Clinton and her aides had been "extremely careless" in using the system for communications about government business.

The agency, which did not respond to questions about Comey's letter and did not lay out a timeline for the review, is also investigating the recent hacks of Podesta's emails.

The swirling controversies have clouded what had looked to be a strong finish for Clinton's campaign. Moments before the FBI inquiry became public, her campaign announced plans to hold a rally in Arizona, a traditionally red state put in play by Trump's deep unpopularity among minority voters, Mormons and business leaders.

Zika concerns troops, spouses

BY ALEX HORTON

Stars and Stripes

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, HONDURAS — The Marines brought bug spray, mosquito nets and a vigilance to kill any bug within reach. But there was only one way to fully guard against the Zika virus during relief efforts in Haiti.

"You just try to be lucky," said Sgt. William Hubbard, a Marine Corps reservist deployed to Soto Cano Air Base in central Honduras.

The Zika virus has been transmitted in virtually every nation in Latin America, including Honduras and Haiti. The 300 Marines and sailors, deployed here since May, have agonized with their families at the potential of the virus returning with them.

And further frustrating families: Marines and sailors here have received guidance that no one will receive testing before they return home in the next few weeks unless they show symptoms of the virus.

"Every Marine and sailor here is worried about this in some capacity," Hubbard said.

Navy Lt. Pierre Cagniart, the top medical officer for the Marines and sailors based in Honduras, confirmed Tues-

day there are no plans for widespread tests, which has prompted spouses of Marines to get Capitol Hill involved.

Nearly 100 U.S. troops, including three pregnant women, have contracted the Zika virus. Dependents were also affected, with 32 contracting the virus, including one pregnant woman, according to a Pentagon count as of Oct. 19.

The virus can be transmitted through mosquito bites and unprotected sex, according to the CDC. Zika has produced microcephaly, a condition in which babies are born with misshapen heads and brain defects. It has also been linked to problems in infants, including eye defects, hearing loss and impaired growth, according to the CDC.

The Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force is a rapid-response unit based in Honduras to strengthen security in the region and respond to natural disasters. It's essentially the same mission as the larger operation at Soto Cano, Joint Task Force Bravo, a group of approximately 500 troops.

The special task force was among the first U.S. troops on the ground in Haiti.

The Zika virus was already a concern for the troops in Hon-

duras. But when Hurricane Matthew dumped several feet of rain in Haiti, it produced a perfect storm for concern of mosquito-borne viruses: consolidated people in search of shelter and supplies, coupled with sprawling seas of trash and stagnant water right where the Marines were tasked to operate.

Marines here expressed concern they were not receiving guidance to alleviate their family's concerns. Cagniart said he did not hear many direct concerns or complaints, and did not want to confuse anyone with constant changes and revisions to CDC policy.

Some wives of troops here have written their congressmen demanding answers, using a form letter to send to multiple members.

Hubbard equated the issue to any visible injury or danger faced by troops on any other deployment.

"There is a reasonable expectation that the government will try its best to mitigate a problem like this," he said. "There is an expectation it will be addressed. And in this respect, it's not being addressed."

Marine recruit injured in fall

The Washington Post

A recruit at the Marine Corps' main East Coast training base was injured in a two-story fall Friday, a Marine spokesman said.

The recruit arrived at Parris Island, S.C., on Oct. 24 and was undergoing pretraining screening when he was injured, according to a statement from Capt. Greg Carroll.

"A recruit assigned to Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island fell from the second story in the recruit processing center today and has been transported to an off-site medical facility," said Carroll.

If the recruit had passed his pretraining requirements, he would have been assigned to 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, according to a Marine drill instructor familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of his active-duty status.

Third battalion has been at the epicenter of a number of recruit-related hazing incidents in recent months.

On March 18, Raheel Siddiqui, 20, who was of Pakistani descent, fell almost 40 feet from the third floor of his barracks and died a short time later. Siddiqui's death was ruled a suicide, but an ensuing Marine Corps investigation found Siddiqui had been slapped by his drill instructor before he ran the length of his barracks and jumped from its stairwell.

The investigation also found that, months earlier, the same drill instructor had put another recruit in a dryer before turning it on and had singled out that recruit because of his religion.

Almost two dozen Marines are under investigation for their roles in the hazing incidents and Siddiqui's death.

Iraqi forces keep up push into Mosul

Associated Press

SHURA, Iraq — State-sanctioned Shiite militias joined Iraq's Mosul offensive on Saturday with a predawn assault to the west, where they hope to complete the encirclement of the Islamic State-held city and sever supply lines from neighboring Syria.

Meanwhile, other Iraqi forces, aided by U.S.-led airstrikes and heavy artillery, drove the Islamic State group from the town of Shura, south of Mosul, where the militants had round-

ed up civilians to be used as human shields.

The twin thrusts come nearly two weeks into the offensive to retake Iraq's second-largest city, but most of the fighting is still taking place in towns and villages far from its outskirts, and the entire operation is expected to take weeks, if not months.

Iraqi troops approaching Mosul from the south advanced into Shura after a wave of U.S.-led airstrikes and artillery shelling against militant positions inside the town.

By the afternoon, Brig. Gen. Firas Bashar said his forces were clearing explosives and searching for Islamic State fighters in Shura. The sound of artillery still echoed in the distance.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, an Islamic State suicide bomber targeting an aid station for Shiite pilgrims killed at least seven people and wounded more than 20, police and hospital officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief reporters.

SCOTUS to hear transgender case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will take up transgender rights for the first time in the case of a Virginia school board that wants to prevent a transgender teenager from using the boys' bathroom at his high school.

The justices said Friday they will hear the appeal from the Gloucester County School Board sometime next year. The high court's order means that student Gavin Grimm will not be able to use the boys' bathroom in the meantime.

The court could use the case to resolve similar disputes across the country, said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "Obviously, for transgender people, the stakes of this case are incredibly high. Whatever the court rules in Grimm may ensure that transgender people are accepted and included as equal members of our society, or it may relegate them to outsiders for decades to come," Minter said.

A lower court had ordered the

school board to accommodate Grimm, but the justices in August put that order on hold while they considered whether to hear the appeal.

Grimm, 17, a high school senior, was born female but identifies as male. He was allowed to use the boys' restroom at his high school for several weeks in 2014. But after some parents complained, the school board adopted a policy requiring students to use either the restroom that corresponds with their biological gender or a private, single-stall restroom.

Grimm is backed by the Obama administration in his argument that the policy violates Title IX, a federal law that bars sex discrimination in schools.

"I never thought that my restroom use would ever turn into any kind of national debate," Grimm said in a statement issued after the court announced it will hear his case. "The only thing I ever asked for was the right to be treated like everyone else. While I'm disappointed that I will have to spend my final school year being singled out and treated differently

from every other guy, I will do everything I can to make sure that other transgender students don't have to go through the same experience."

Gloucester County School Board Chairman Troy Andersen praised the court for agreeing to hear what he called a difficult case.

"The board looks forward to explaining to the court that its restroom and locker room policy carefully balances the interests of all students and parents in the Gloucester County school system," Andersen said.

The Education Department says transgender students should be allowed to use restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identities. Among the issues in the case is whether the department's guidance should have the force of law.

The case probably will be heard in the winter, and it is by no means certain that there will be a ninth justice to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February.

Lawmaker apologizes to opponent Duckworth

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Illinois Republican Sen. Mark Kirk apologized Friday for mocking his Democratic rival's immigrant background and her claim that her family's military service dates back to the Revolution — comments that drew wide criticism and threatened an already difficult re-election campaign.

"Sincere apologies to an American hero, Tammy Duckworth, and gratitude for her family's service," Kirk wrote in a Twitter post.

During a debate Thursday evening, Rep. Tammy Duckworth said her family has "served this nation in uniform going back to the Revolution."

Kirk responded that he had forgotten that the congresswoman's "parents came all the way from Thailand to serve George Washington."

Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran who lost both legs when the Black Hawk she was piloting was shot down in 2004, was born in Bangkok. Her mother, who is of Chinese descent, was born in Thailand. Duckworth has said her father first went to Southeast Asia while serving with the Marines in Vietnam.

Kirk's remark was greeted mostly by silence in the auditorium of the University of Illinois in Springfield on Thursday evening. Elsewhere, there were quick calls for him to apologize. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee immediately called the comment "offensive, wrong and racist."

Duckworth, the first Asian-American congresswoman from Illinois, later tweeted a photo of herself with her parents, including her father in uniform displaying his medals. Her tweet says: "My mom is an immigrant and my dad and his family have served this nation in uniform since the Revolution."

Kirk left the debate Thursday night without speaking to reporters.

Pilots abort takeoff of plane aflame in Chicago

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Pilots were forced to abort a takeoff and evacuate passengers from a burning American Airlines flight on a runway at Chicago O'Hare International Airport after the airliner experienced what a federal official said was a rare and serious type of engine failure.

American Airlines Flight 383 to Miami experienced an "uncontained engine failure," in which engine parts break off and are spewed outside the engine, the official said.

The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the incident and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The danger of such a failure is that engine pieces effectively become shrapnel and can cause extensive damage to the aircraft.

Flames and heavy black

smoke poured from the side of the Boeing 767 jet as it sat on the runway Friday after the aborted takeoff. Officials said the incident left 21 people injured.

Footage from the scene showed passengers coming down emergency slides and hurrying across grass next to the runway as emergency vehicles surrounded the plane. The right wing was drooping toward the ground and appeared to have partially melted.

Passenger Sarah Ahmed told WLS-TV the plane was speeding down the runway when she heard an explosion and saw flames and black smoke. She said everyone on the right side of the aircraft jumped from their seats and moved to the left side.

"People are yelling, 'Open the door! Open the door!' Everyone's screaming and jump-

ing on top of each other to open the door," Ahmed said. "Within that time, I think it was seven seconds, there was now smoke in the plane and the fire is right up against the windows, and it's melting the windows."

The pilots reported an engine-related mechanical issue and aborted the takeoff, according to American Airlines spokeswoman Leslie Scott.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that the plane made an emergency stop at about 2:35 p.m. after experiencing a problem during takeoff. An earlier FAA statement said the plane had blown a tire, but officials later deleted that information from the statement.

Chicago Deputy Fire Commissioner Timothy Sampey said 20 passengers suffered minor injuries as they used the emergency chutes to evacuate.

Russia voted off UN Human Rights Council

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The General Assembly voted Russia off the U.N. Human Rights Council on Friday, a stunning rebuke to a country that is increasingly being accused of war crimes over its actions in Syria.

The 193-member General Assembly elected 14 members to the 47-nation council, the U.N.'s main body charged with promoting and protecting human rights.

Russia, which received 112 votes, lost its regional seat to Hungary, with 144 votes, and Croatia, with 114 votes.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin played down the importance of the loss.

"It was a very close vote and very good countries competing: Croatia, Hungary," he said. "They are fortunate because of their size. They are not exposed to the winds of international diplomacy. Russia is very exposed. We've been on the council a number of years. I'm sure next time we'll get in."

Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, Brazil, Rwanda, Hungary, Cuba, South Africa, Japan, Tunisia, the U.S. and the U.K. all won seats on the council. Guatemala was the only coun-

try running for a seat besides Russia that was not elected.

Human rights groups had called for countries to reject the candidacies of Russia and Saudi Arabia, which has been accused of indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Yemen. Saudi Arabia's election, however, was a foregone conclusion since it was running unopposed for its regional seat.

"In rejecting Russia's bid for re-election to the Human Rights Council, U.N. member states have sent a strong message to the Kremlin about its support for a regime that has perpetrated so much atrocity

in Syria," said Louis Charbonneau, U.N. director at Human Rights Watch. "Next year, U.N. member states should make sure that all regional groups have real competition so no one is guaranteed victory."

Britain's Human Rights Minister Baroness Anelay said she was delighted with her country's re-election to the council.

"The UK has been a strong advocate of the vital work of the Council since its inception, and we are honored to continue to serve as a member," Anelay said in statement.

Medical and recreational marijuana users at odds

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A handful of recreational marijuana legalization drives has the medical pot industry bracing for something it never expected: competition.

Legalization is on the ballot in five states in November, and all five currently allow some form of medical marijuana already.

Growers, medical professionals and users of medical marijuana say they worry people who want medical marijuana will buy it on the open market instead getting a doctor's recommendation.

"This is being structured for big corporations to come in and in a very short period of time wipe out the caregivers," said Lori Libbey, a board director of a Maine group campaigning against legalization and a nurse who administers cannabis. "I wonder who is going to be able to provide for pediatric patients."

In Maine and the other states considering legalization, others in the marijuana business are looking forward to the possibility of legalization. And some proponents believe medical marijuana professionals just don't want to lose their monopoly.

Recreational legalization measures are also on ballots in Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Nevada. Concerns from medical marijuana professionals have also cropped up in those states, and they have echoed similar struggles in states that have already legalized recreational marijuana.

Competition in the marijuana market has become part of the landscape in Colorado, which saw nearly \$1 billion in sales of medical and recreational marijuana last year. The state went legal in 2012.

Some advocates of medical marijuana feel state regulations are the key to making sure medical marijuana survives in the age of legal pot.

Americans for Safe Access, an organization that advocates for legal access to medical cannabis, said recreational marijuana programs should be kept separate from medical marijuana.

Carey Clark, a member of the board of directors for the Oregon-based American Cannabis Nurses Association, said recreational legalization will allow people who use marijuana as medicine to have easier access to it.

South Korean protesters urge leader to step down

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of South Koreans took to the streets of the capital on Saturday to call for increasingly unpopular President Park Geun-hye to step down over allegations that she let an old friend, the daughter of a religious cult leader, interfere in important state affairs.

The evening protest came after Park ordered 10 of her senior secretaries to resign over a scandal that is likely to deepen the president's lame duck status ahead of next year's election.

Holding candles and signs reading "Who's the real president?" and "Park Geun-hye step down," the protesters marched through downtown Seoul after holding a candlelight vigil near City Hall. Police estimated that about 9,000 people turned out for the biggest anti-government demonstration in Seoul in months.

"Park has lost her authority as president and showed she doesn't have the basic qualities to govern a country," Jae-myung Lee, from the opposition Minjoo Party and the mayor of the city of Seongnam, told the protesters from a stage.

Park has been facing calls to

reshuffle her office and Cabinet after she acknowledged on Tuesday that she provided longtime friend Choi Soon-sil drafts of her speeches for editing. Her televised apology sparked intense criticism about her mismanagement of national information and a heavy-handed leadership style that many see as lacking in transparency.

There's also media speculation that Choi, who holds no government job, meddled in government decisions on personnel and policy and exploited her ties with Park to misappropriate funds from nonprofit organizations.

Prosecutors on Saturday widened their investigation by searching the homes of presidential officials suspected of interacting with Choi and receiving their office files from the Blue House — the presidential office and residence.

The saga has sent Park's approval ratings to record lows, and the minority opposition Justice Party has called for her to resign. The Minjoo Party, a larger opposition party, said Park's decision to shake up her secretariat was too little, too late, and called for stronger changes, including the reshuffling of her Cabinet.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Cat caged, strapped to car on freeway

DC WASHINGTON — A Washington woman took a video of a driver transporting a cat in a humane animal trap strapped to the trunk of a car — a move she calls animal abuse.

District of Columbia resident Jessica Wright told WUSA-TV she saw the cat last Saturday while driving on the Beltway. She said she became so mad at what she saw that she recorded a video with her cellphone. Wright said she followed the car and confronted the driver, who told her the cat was wild.

Fairfax County Animal Protection Officer Kim England said that while this method of transporting animals isn't preferred, it's not necessarily illegal. England advised anyone who is having a problem with feral cats to call the nonemergency dispatch number.

Officials work to remove urban turkeys

CA DAVIS — Leaders of the city of Davis, Calif., are working to relocate turkeys that have been harassing people on the streets of the college town.

The Sacramento Bee reported that the city council voted to approve a wild-turkey management plan that includes trapping and relocating many of the birds and possibly killing some of the more aggressive ones. They also called for an ordinance prohibiting people from feeding the turkeys.

Davis residents are fond of urban wildlife. They built a tunnel for toads and protected jackrabbits from construction, but the well-known turkeys wandering the streets are too much.

Davis police Chief Darren Pytel said his department has fielded calls from people accosted by turkeys, including a man who was pinned against the wall of a bank by a bird.

One judge named Otto replaces another

VT MONTPELIER — It appears that if you want to become an assistant judge in Vermont's Washington County, you "otto" be named Otto.

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced Wednesday he had appointed Otto Trautz as a new assistant judge, replacing the retiring Otto Kinzel. Nonlawyer assistant, or side, judges help law-trained judges with some court cases and administer the county budget.

The website Behind the Name ranks Otto the 543rd most popular male name in the United States.

Ambulance company sued over photo post

CA SAN PABLO — A San Francisco Bay Area couple has filed a lawsuit against an ambulance company and a driver for posting a picture of their adult son's badly mangled leg on Instagram.

The East Bay Times reported that many hashtags, including "byebyeankle," accompanied the picture by driver Jacob Uyeyama, who was working for Falcon Critical Care Transport when he snapped the photo in March.

The suit was filed on behalf of Keyano Fiel, who sustained life-threatening injuries during a motorcycle crash in Vallejo, Calif., in March. He had severe brain damage and an injury to an ankle that required amputation, the newspaper reported.

It is unclear if Uyeyama is

still employed with Falcon. He did send a written apology to the family.

City's Comic Con bans realistic prop weapons

CO DENVER — The Denver Comic Con is banning prop guns at next year's event.

The Denver Post reported that organizers said in a statement Thursday that no realistic costume weapons will be allowed. The Comic Con said the change will make it easier for police and security to identify threats and keep attendees safe.

Organizers acknowledged the new rules will "impact some popular costumers," but said other props, such as plastic bats, swords and shields will still be allowed.

More than 100,000 people attended this year's Denver Comic Con at the Colorado Convention Center in June.

Mom sent to jail for pretending to kill baby

FL SANFORD — A judge ordered a mother in Florida to serve two months in jail for making a video in which she pretended to smother her 7-month-old son and sending it to the baby's father.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that Samantha Nicole Salinas, 19, pleaded no contest in September to felony child abuse charges and could have faced up to five years in prison.

The father received the video last year, along with a note that said, "Good luck finding your son's body."

Police said Salinas confessed in May, adding that she pretended to smother the boy because the father wasn't paying child support.

The child is now with the

father's mother.

City has reason for early Christmas decor

PA PITTSBURGH — Folks are used to retailers putting up Christmas decorations before Halloween, but why is it happening in downtown Pittsburgh?

Mayor Bill Peduto said city crews are already hanging green wreaths with red bows on some light poles because the wreaths will have electric lights. Since that's never been done before, its taking workers longer to wire the outlets needed to power them.

Peduto said the city wants to ensure the decorations are up in time for Light Up Night, the annual kickoff to the holiday shopping season on Nov. 18.

The city isn't paying for the extra-early decorations. The Colcom Foundation gave the city \$80,000 for the lighted wreaths.

Man claiming stripper stabbed him files suit

PA PHILADELPHIA — A man has sued a Philadelphia strip club claiming he was stabbed by a stripper for refusing a private dance.

Philly.com reported Errick Epperson sued Atlantis Gentleman's Club in Common Pleas Court earlier this month.

Epperson isn't suing the dancer, who is identified in the lawsuit but hasn't been charged with a crime.

Epperson claims the club's management hired the dancer even though she had a history of "erratic and tumultuous behavior." Epperson claims he needed stitches after being stabbed in the neck with a broken glass July 23.

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Westbrook has 51, triple-double in win

BY CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Tired wasn't an option for Russell Westbrook on Friday night.

The explosive point guard had 51 points in a triple-double and scored the winning points in the Oklahoma City Thunder's 113-110 overtime victory over the Phoenix Suns. He played just over 45 minutes and never slowed down.

"You've got to want to win," he said. "Very simple. When you want to win, you don't think about being tired. To me, being tired is a mind thing. It's in your mind. You've got to go out there and compete at a high level and leave it on the floor."

It was the first 50-point triple-double since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had one in 1975. Westbrook finished with 13 rebounds and 10 assists and took a career-high 44 shots to claim his 38th career triple-double.

It was the franchise's first home game without Kevin Durant on the roster since it moved to Oklahoma City in 2008. Durant left in the offseason to play for the Golden State Warriors. Westbrook reminded the fans that there's still star power in town.

Westbrook made a layup to put the Thunder up a point with 7.6 seconds remaining. Phoenix's Devin Booker missed a layup and Westbrook was

fouled. Westbrook scored his 50th and 51st points at the free-throw line with 3.5 seconds remaining. Booker missed a three-pointer as time expired.

Westbrook was 17-for-44 from the field, 2-for-10 from three-point range and made 15 of 20 free throws. He scored 39 points in the second half and overtime.

"That's what he does," Booker said. "He is an aggressive scorer. One of the best players in the league. We knew that coming in here."

T.J. Warren had a career-high 30 points for the Suns.

Westbrook tied it at 59 on a layup and free throw early in the third, but the Suns respond-

ed with a 12-0 run. Westbrook kept the Thunder in it with 23 points in the third quarter on 7-for-12 shooting, but the Suns led 83-77 heading into the fourth.

Westbrook returned from a rest with 8:50 remaining and the Thunder trailing 89-81. Four minutes later, his driving layup gave the Oklahoma City a 97-96 lead. Westbrook then found Andre Roberson open, and Roberson's three-pointer pushed Oklahoma City's lead to 102-98 with 2:39 to play.

After Phoenix rallied to tie it at 102, Westbrook missed several chances to put the Thunder ahead late in regulation, including a missed three-pointer with 2.9 seconds left.

Skinner scores 2 goals as Canes beat Rangers

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Jeff Skinner had two goals and an assist as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 3-2 on Friday night.

Skinner originally had his fifth career hat trick before the third goal was awarded to Bryan Bickell on a scoring change. Still, Skinner's 16th career three-point night — in his debut wearing the "A" as an alternate captain — helped the Hurricanes win their home opener.

Victor Rask had two assists, giving him points in all seven games, and Cam Ward made 28 saves — stopping Mats Zuccarello with about 5 seconds left — to help Carolina snap a two-game losing streak.

Zuccarello scored two power-play goals and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 18 shots for the Rangers, whose three-game winning streak was snapped.

Blackhawks 3, Devils 2 (OT): Artem Anisimov scored on a rebound at 1:15 of overtime as Chicago rallied to hand New Jersey its first home loss.

Marian Hossa tied the game with a power-play goal with

2:11 left in regulation after the Blackhawks pulled goaltender Corey Crawford for a sixth skater.

Oilers 2, Canucks 0: Connor McDavid scored on a breakaway in the second period and Cam Talbot made 26 saves for his 13th career shutout to lead visiting Edmonton to its fifth consecutive victory.

Milan Lucic added an empty-netter to help Western Conference-leading Edmonton, off to its best start since 1985, improve to 7-1-0.

Blue Jackets 4, Ducks 0: Sam Gagner and Brandon Saad each scored twice in the first period and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 35 shots for his 14th career shutout as Columbus beat host Anaheim.

Jets 1, Avalanche 0: Shawn Matthias scored in the second period against his former team and Michael Hutchinson stopped 37 shots for his third career shutout as Winnipeg beat host Colorado.

Flames 5, Senators 2: Dougie Hamilton scored his first two goals and added an assist to lead host Calgary to its third consecutive victory.

Warriors bounce back, top Pelicans

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Klay Thompson added 28 and Golden State bounced back emphatically from a surprising season-opening loss to beat New Orleans 122-114.

After scoring only six points on five shot attempts in the first half, Stephen Curry asserted himself more with an array of inside and deep shots to finish with 23 points, including a momentum-swinging 8-0 run by himself in the third quarter. Durant also had 17 rebounds.

Anthony Davis, who scored 50 points in New Orleans' season-opening loss, finished with 45 points and 17 rebounds against Golden State.

Cavaliers 94, Raptors 91: Kyrie Irving had 26 points and LeBron James scored 21, helping visiting Cleveland hold off DeMar DeRozan and Toronto.

DeRozan had 32 points for Toronto in the first of four games scheduled between last season's Eastern Conference finalists. Cleveland beat Toronto in six games on its way to winning its

first NBA championship.

Hornets 97, Heat 91: Kemba Walker scored 24 points to lead six players in double figures as visiting Charlotte erased a 19-point deficit in the second half.

Rockets 106, Mavericks 98: Trevor Ariza scored 27 points and James Harden had 26 as Houston beat Dallas with Dirk Nowitzki missing from the Mavericks' home opener.

Nets 103, Pacers 94: Jeremy Lin had 21 points in his Brooklyn home debut while Brook Lopez scored 25 as the Nets got their first victory.

Pistons 108, Magic 82: Andre Drummond had 12 points and 20 rebounds, helping Detroit rout Orlando in what might have been the final home opener for the Pistons at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Pistons owner Tom Gores confirmed before the game the team was close to a deal to move downtown next season.

Jazz 96, Lakers 89: George Hill scored 23 points and Rudy Gobert had 13 points and 13 rebounds to help Utah win its home opener.

Worth's 4 scores not enough for Navy

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — South Florida beat No. 22 Navy at its own game.

Quinton Flowers rushed for 176 yards and two touchdowns, and the Bulls scored on their first six possessions Friday night to build a 28-point half-time lead before holding off the Midshipmen 52-45 to get back on track in the American Athletic Conference.

"We ran into a buzzsaw," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "They just had so many things going. ... We sputtered early on offense and that compounded the problems for us."

Rebounding from a 16-point loss to Temple that cost the Bulls (7-2, 4-1) sole possession of first place in the AAC's East Division, Flowers keyed a balanced attack that amassed 629 yards total offense against an overmatched Navy defense that yielded TDs on six of USF's seven first-half possessions to fall behind 42-14.

"Great win for us," USF coach Willie Taggart said. "I'm really excited the way our guys responded to how we performed last week."

Will Worth ran for four TDs for Navy (5-2, 4-1), which leads the AAC West and entered the game as the only team without a loss in league play after beating then-No. 6 Houston and Memphis to nudge into the Top 25.

Flowers joined Marlon Mack in topping 100 yards rushing for the third time in four games. The dual-threat quarterback scored on runs of 1 and 63 yards, while also throwing for 219 and two more TDs.

Mack scored on an 85-yard run in the first quarter and finished with 125 on 11 carries for the 18th 100-yard performance of his career, fifth this season.

"Our guys accepted the challenge. We needed to run the ball well and score early," Taggart said. "You want (Navy) to have to play from behind."

Backup QB lifts AFA

Falcons can clinch bowl appearance with win over Army

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Arion Worthman is supposed to be the Air Force quarterback of tomorrow. Problem was, the Falcons needed him Friday to keep their free-falling bowl game hopes solvent.

With the starting quarterback injured, and Air Force staring at a fourth consecutive loss, Worthman came off the bench midway through the third quarter and rushed for 102 yards and two touchdowns to rally the Falcons to a 31-21 win at Fresno State.

"Coming off three straight losses, I knew I had to do everything I could to give us a chance to win," said Worthman, who entered the game with one rush and one pass in his career. "I wanted to help our seniors finish strong."

Air Force (5-3, 2-3 Mountain West Conference) can clinch a third consecutive postseason bowl with a victory Saturday at Army, or in any other of its final four games.

As for the Bulldogs (1-8, 0-5), they lost a seventh consecutive game for just the second time in school history, joining the 1929 team, and matched the second-worst start in program history.

Worthman was just the spark the Air Force game, and season, needed. Falcons coach Troy Calhoun was in no mood to discuss any potential quarterback controversy when asked who will start next week.

"That's not something we have to answer right now," Calhoun said.

Senior captain Nate Romine appeared to injure his ankle on a 2-yard carry with 6:19 remaining in the third quarter. Fresno State had just taken a 21-17 lead on KeeSean Johnson's third touchdown of the day, a 52-yard catch and dive to the pylon.

"It was crazy," Worthman said. "Nate went down, and our whole sideline went quiet. I heard them shouting my number - '2-2-2!' and I knew it was my time to go."

Fresno State, playing its first game since head coach Tim DeRuyter was fired, soon wished it hadn't knocked out the starting quarterback.

Worthman showed an instant burst of speed running the triple option on keepers around the edge, and used his stout frame to muscle through the pile on interior runs.

And, run, Air Force did. Worthman dropped back for one pass out of 31 plays, and was dropped for a sack with no attempted throws. Everything else was Air Force showing off the nation's fifth-ranked rushing offense — this time, with a quarterback leading the way.

Worthman leaped into the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown to give the Falcons a 24-21 lead with 13:02 left in the game. He sealed the win with a 4-yard keeper with 2:34 to play.

"Oh my gosh, Arion was awesome," senior tailback Jacobi Owens said. "I'm proud of him. It makes our team even better. We definitely needed to win. We're happy to get out of that slump."

The takeaway: Air Force: The Falcons have struggled on pass defense all season, but used four interceptions to turn back the Bulldogs. One, an end zone interception by Brodie Hicks, stopped Fresno State from taking a 21-0 lead in the second quarter. Another, by Patrick Healy for a 35-yard touchdown return, capped a 17-0 Falcons run. "The (first) pick was really huge," Calhoun said. "One stopped points, one converted into points. We needed both."

Fresno State: The Bulldogs are out of bowl-game contention, so their attention is focused on finding the next head coach to replace DeRuyter. Local media reports name former Cal coach Jeff Tedford, a former Fresno State player and offensive coordinator, as the clear front runner. Tedford has long-running ties with Fresno State athletic director Jim Bartko from their mutual time at Oregon. Other potential candidates include Alabama offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, a former Fresno State quarterback, and former USC coach Steve Sarkisian.

Pumphrey 5th in NCAA after Aztecs roll

Associated Press

LOGAN, Utah — Donnel Pumphrey ran for 223 yards, moving into the top five on the NCAA career list, and Juwan Washington added 137 yards and two touchdowns in San Diego State's 40-13 victory over Utah State on Friday night.

John Baron II was perfect on

a career high four field goals in the driving rain for the Aztecs (7-1, 4-0), who have won 15 straight over Mountain West Conference rivals.

Pumphrey leads the country with 1,469 yards this season. He passed Cedric Benson, Travis Prentice and Charles White as he reached 5,741.

Washington had scoring runs of 39 and 1 yards en route to his first 100-yard game and the Aztecs piled up 400 yards on the ground.

Malik Smith scored his first touchdown with a 28-yard return on his ninth career interception for the final Aztec score.

Indians crash Cubs' party at Wrigley

Cleveland takes 2-1 lead with shutout in first World Series game at field since 1945

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cody Allen, Andrew Miller and the Cleveland Indians crashed a Wrigley Field party 71 years in the making.

Leave it to that sensational bullpen to silence the Chicago Cubs and their revved-up fans.

Allen escaped a ninth-inning jam and the Indians set a major league record with their fifth shutout this postseason, holding off the Cubs 1-0 Friday night for a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

"As fun of a game as it was to be a part of, that was agonizing because we used so many guys," Indians manager Terry Francona said.

Pinch-hitter Coco Crisp delivered an RBI single in the seventh off Carl Edwards Jr. And that was all Cleveland needed to win the first Series game at Wrigley since 1945.

The crowd began forming beyond the ivy-covered walls in the early morning, all pumped for the big day. And fans, some who paid thousands of dollars to pack the seats and nearby rooftops, were roaring after a two-out error by first baseman Mike Napoli helped Chicago put runners on second and third in the ninth.

Allen quieted the neighborhood ballpark, striking out co-NL Championship Series MVP Javier Baez to end it.

"We know we're going to have our hands full to beat these guys, and tonight was a good example," Francona said. "I mean, that was as close a ballgame as you're ever going to find, and we found a way to manage to win that game."

Indians starter Josh Tomlin went 4²/₃

innings with his dad Jerry watching from the stands in a wheelchair just two months after circulatory malformation left him paralyzed from the chest down. Miller, Bryan Shaw and Allen took over.

The Cubs have been blanked four times in the past eight games this postseason. Their first 1-0 loss in the World Series since Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox beat them in 1918 came on a night when the wind was blowing out.

"I actually told Miller we were going to win 1-0 tonight," Napoli said. "Everything you saw on the TV was the wind was blowing out and there's going to be a bunch of runs scored. ... I turned to him and was like, 'We're going to win 1-0 tonight.'"

Cleveland has a chance to take a commanding 3-1 lead with Corey Kluber starting Game 4 on short rest Saturday and coming off a dominant performance in the opener. John Lackey pitches for Chicago.

Not since they dropped Game 7 against Detroit in 1945 had the Cubs hosted a World Series game. The last time they won one? That was two days earlier when they beat the Tigers in 12 innings.

Decades of disappointment and curses gave way to a major league-leading 103 wins and hope for the Cubs that their first championship since 1908 is on the way.

Just as they did against the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS, they will have to rally from a 2-1 deficit if they are finally going to win it all.

"We have seen good pitching," manager Joe Maddon said. "The one component of our team that's going to blossom over the next couple years is the offensive side. I think what you're seeing on defense and arm strengths and baserunning abilities, that's going to be pretty much static. But the part that's going to keep getting better

is what we're doing at the plate. So this is a great experience for us."

Miller got the final out for Tomlin in the fifth, stranding a runner at second. The ALCS MVP then struck out Dexter Fowler, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo in the sixth.

Shaw worked the seventh and exited after Fowler singled with two out in the eighth. Allen struck out Bryant to end the inning.

Rizzo opened the ninth with a single and took second on a one-out grounder. Jason Heyward followed with a grounder that Napoli misplayed, but he kept the ball in front of him and kept the tying run from scoring.

Heyward stole second without a throw before Allen struck out Baez for this sixth save this postseason.

Two more wins and the Indians will claim their first championship since 1948. The Cubs still need three more victories for the first crown in 108 years.

It was quite a scene in and around the ballpark, one generations of long-suffering Cubs fans had never witnessed.

They started flooding the streets around Wrigley hours before the gates opened. By mid-afternoon, the blocks outside the 102-year-old ballpark were a sea of blue. This just wasn't Chicago's night.

The Cubs' Kyle Hendricks, dominant in the clinching NLCS victory over Los Angeles, exited with the bases loaded in the fifth after he hit Chicago-area product Jason Kipnis.

Justin Grimm then got Francisco Lindor to ground into 4-6-3 double play and gave a huge pump of the right fist as the crowd roared.

Tomlin pitches game of life with dad in stands

Associated Press

CHICAGO — When Josh Tomlin's night was done and he made the walk to Cleveland's dugout, his eyes scanned the Wrigley Field crowd searching for his dad.

He found Jerry Tomlin, who made it to the World Series — just like they both had dreamed.

With his dad watching from a wheelchair, Tomlin pitched

4²/₃ scoreless innings Friday night as the Indians spoiled a game Chicago fans had waited 71 years to see.

On a historic night in one of baseball's grandest ballparks, the Tomlins' story was as sweet as it gets.

"I knew where he was, and what this meant to him and me and my mom," Tomlin said after Cody Allen struck out Javier Baez for the final out. "So

it was pretty special, one of the most emotional starts I've had in my career."

Jerry Tomlin nearly died two months ago from a circulatory malformation that has left him paralyzed from the chest down. He spent two months in the Baylor Rehab Institute in Dallas before being released on Josh's birthday, which happened to be the day the Indians clinched the AL pennant.

Although he can't walk, and faces a daunting future, Jerry wasn't going to miss seeing Josh pitch in the Series.

"It's hard to put into words," he said about 30 minutes before Josh threw his first pitch. "I didn't know what I was going to say when I got here and I still don't. The way everything planned out and the way people helped me to get here, man, it's definitely a dream come true."