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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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N. Korea, US reach dangerous impasse

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis insisted the U.S. will never accept North Korea as a nuclear power, warning the communist state will face a massive military response if it attacks.

But he also clung to diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The messages reflect the lack of good options in dealing with the North, which conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3 and has made rapid progress in developing a missile that could threaten the U.S. mainland.

U.S. policy has been aimed at forcing Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions, but North Korea has defiantly persisted with its efforts despite punishing economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure.

While both sides say that in principle they're willing to return to dialogue, the standoff over the North's nuclear ambitions leaves little room for negotiation.

Mattis noted the growing threat from the North in remarks during his trip to Seoul over the weekend for security

talks ahead of President Donald Trump's first official visit to the region.

"Our military and diplomatic collaboration has taken on a new urgency," he said Saturday. "North Korea has accelerated the threat that it poses to its neighbors and the world through its illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear weapons program."

"It engages in outlawed behavior, threatening behavior, condemned by unanimous U.N. Security Council resolutions," he added, standing next to his South Korean counterpart at a press conference.

Mattis also said the North is "overmatched" by the firepower of the U.S.-South Korean alliance and will be "reducing its own security" if it persists with its nuclear weapons program.

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United States would accept North Korea as a nuclear power," he said in response to a question.

The defense secretary reiterated that diplomacy is the administration's preferred course of action but stressed that military options remain on the table.

"Make no mistake — any attack on the United States or our allies will be defeated," he said.

"Any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response, effective and overwhelming."

Trump has taken a hard line against the North despite past statements that he would sit down for a hamburger with the country's leader, Kim Jong Un.

In recent months Trump has dubbed Kim "Little Rocket Man" and warned that he'll "totally destroy" the country if necessary to defend the United States and its allies.

The heightened rhetoric has raised concerns that tensions could erupt into a new conflict that would be devastating for all sides.

BloombergNews reported last week that a new report found that as many as 300,000 people could be killed in the first days of fighting even without the use of nuclear weapons.

North Korea has hundreds of thousands of soldiers and a massive stock of artillery and other weapons dug into positions near the heavily fortified border and within striking distance of Seoul.

"Such a conflict could also involve a massive mobilization of U.S. forces onto the Korean Peninsula, and high military casualty rates," the news agency quoted the Congressional

Research Service report as saying.

Some 28,500 U.S. service-members are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. The U.S. also has tens of thousands of other troops along with nuclear-powered submarines, supersonic bombers, aircraft carriers and other assets poised to mobilize in the region.

Mattis said military options were needed to bolster the diplomatic efforts by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who has said he is reaching out to Pyongyang in hopes of resuming long-stalled dialogue.

But Trump himself tweeted that he thought Tillerson was "wasting his time." North Korea, meanwhile, has said it's open to talks but will never put its nuclear and missile programs on the table.

Pyongyang has been accused of using past negotiations to wrest aid and concessions from the West that ultimately failed to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles and sent two other missiles over Japan this past summer.

Pentagon IDs soldier killed in helicopter mishap

BY PHILIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Pentagon has identified the U.S. soldier killed in a helicopter accident in eastern Afghanistan on Friday as Chief Warrant Officer Jacob M. Sims.

Sims, 36, of Juneau, Alaska, was assigned to 4th Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The helicopter was transporting troops for a night raid in Logar province when it hit a tree, forcing an emergency landing, Salim Saleh, the provincial governor's spokesman, told Stars and Stripes.

The U.S. military said six other U.S. crewmembers were injured in the incident and were sent for medical treatment. Saleh said one Afghan servicemember also was wounded.

The joint raid with Afghan forces was part of a broader operation to clear the Tal-

iban from parts of Logar, Saleh said.

The militants, who are believed to control about half of the province, said they shot down the helicopter in the volatile Kharwar district, killing dozens of Americans — a claim NATO refuted.

"We can confirm the crash was not the result of enemy action," NATO's Resolute Support Mission said in a statement. "We have full accountability for all personnel and the crash site has been secured."

President of Iraqi Kurds dissolves own powers

Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — The president of Iraq's self-ruled northern Kurdish region, Masoud Barzani, dissolved his powers as president Sunday, distributing them between the Kurdish prime minister, Parliament and the judiciary, a Kurdish official told The Associated Press.

Barzani also informed parliament that he will not seek an extension of his term, which is set to expire Nov. 1, said Barzani's senior assistant, Hemin Hawrami.

The moves come just over a month after a controversial vote on support for independence from Iraq, spearheaded by Barzani.

Hawrami said Barzani could remain in office if mandated to hold the post until the next Kurdish presidential elections are held.

Kurdish presidential elections scheduled to be held in November have been postponed indefinitely. Hawrami added that no political party submitted candidates to run against Barzani.

He added that Barzani did not "step down" and "will stay in Kurdish politics and lead the high political council."

After reading the letter, Parliament postponed its session for one hour to allow for further discussion.

The referendum on support for independence held in September has since left the region increasingly isolated.

Despite warnings from Baghdad, the U.S., Turkey, Iran, the United Nations and others, the vote was held Sept. 25 in the three provinces that make up the autonomous Kurdish zone as well as in disputed territories claimed by Baghdad, but at the time held by Kurdish forces.

Within weeks, backlash from the referendum revealed it to have been an extraordinary miscalculation.

The region lost nearly half of the territory that had been comfortably under Kurdish control for years, including the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. The region's airspace was closed to international commercial flights, Turkey threatened the use of military force and both Iran and Turkey threatened to close border crossings vital to the landlocked region.

Syrian government shelling kills 11 civilians, hits school

Associated Press

BEIRUT — At least 11 civilians were killed and a school day was interrupted violently amid intensive Syrian government shelling of a rebel-held enclave north of the capital, Damascus, on Sunday, sending panicked kindergarten children scurrying for shelter, opposition activists reported.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Eastern Ghouta Media Center said those killed in the Saqba and Hamouriyah districts include two women, one child and a media activist. The Ghouta Media center said the media activist worked for the local al-Jisr TV.

In a video posted by the Ghouta Media Center, kindergartners were seen running in the streets of Kfar Batna, another village in the area that was shelled. Panicked children were scattered in the small rural streets of the village, some in tears while others called out for their parents. Rescuers struggled to escort the children out of the area covered in a cloud of dust following the explosions.

The first-responders group in the Damascus suburbs, the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as the White Helmets, reported that two shells fell onto a school in the center of the village, injuring several. Baraa Abdurrahman, a resident of Kfar Batna, said the shells fell in a street that has a couple of schools. He added that six were injured.

Eastern Ghouta, north of Damascus, is part of a de-escalation zone declared earlier this year in Syria. But violence amid a tight government siege has persisted in the area, which has faced intense government shelling for four years.

Images of starving children and adults emerged from the Ghouta suburbs, one of

the hubs of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule, prompting U.N. officials to say the area is facing a humanitarian crisis.

Syria's state TV also reported Sunday that one person has been killed and several others injured in east Damascus after shells fired from rebel-held areas landed there.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders said Sunday that fighting between Iraqi forces and Kurdish fighters near the border threatens the delivery of humanitarian aid to half a million newly displaced civilians in northeastern Syria.

The medical charity, also known as MSF, said it is "extremely concerned" because the fighting threatens its only cross-border supply routes between the two countries.

Scattered clashes have erupted in recent weeks as Iraqi forces have retaken disputed territory from the Kurds, part of a crisis sparked by last month's Kurdish vote for independence. Federal forces have sought to regain control of the country's borders from forces loyal to the Kurdish regional government.

The Fishkhabur crossing is the only gateway for residents, aid workers and journalists to enter northeastern Syria. A nearby crossing used for commercial traffic was closed on Thursday due to fighting in Iraq and has yet to reopen.

U.S. officials say the fighting also has hindered the movement of military equipment and supplies in Syria and Iraq, where Iraqi, Kurdish and other allied forces are battling Islamic State.

A Kurdish official on the Syrian side of the border said access for aid workers and journalists has not been affected. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Somalia fires intelligence, police chiefs after an extremist attack kills 23

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Somalia's government has fired the country's police and intelligence chiefs in the wake of Saturday's deadly extremist attack, which killed at least 23 people, including three children, and wounded more than 30 others.

A statement from the prime minister's office issued Sunday said police Chief Abdulahi Mohamed Ali and Gen. Abdihakim Said were sacked after a Cabinet vote.

Five extremist attackers stormed a Moga-

dishu hotel after a suicide car bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the entrance gate on Saturday afternoon.

Troops regained control of the Hotel Nasa-Hablod on Sunday morning, having killed three attackers and captured two alive, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

Al-Shabab, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, quickly claimed responsibility for the attack.

From the Associated Press

Yokota engineers learn new way to fix runways

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Air Force engineers are learning a new repair method that should have runways back online within a couple of hours if enemy missiles strike U.S. bases in Japan.

Airmen from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron practiced the new “rapid airfield damage repair” procedure early Friday just as they would do if an enemy attacked the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force in western Tokyo.

Experts believe U.S. bases are in North Korea’s crosshairs. An analysis of a missile test conducted by the North earlier this year suggests it was designed to simulate a strike on Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

North Korea isn’t the only potential threat. Google Earth images showing Chinese missile test sites on the edge of the Gobi Desert resemble ships docked at Yokosuka Naval Base and aircraft and facilities at Kadena and Misawa air bases.

There’s been a steady stream

of North Korean missiles flying over and around Japan this year, and U.S. forces conduct several exercises that have drilled troops on how they should respond to such an attack.

The new repair system drilled last week is geared toward quickly filling large numbers of small craters caused by cluster bombs, said a team leader involved in the training, Tech. Sgt. Tang Hy.

Crews start by clearing debris using heavy equipment. Then they cut a square around damaged tarmac, remove more debris, fill the hole with concrete and top it with a rapid-set cap, he said.

Many of the Yokota airmen had never practiced the repair method or done it at night before the training.

The new repair method was developed in 2014. An older way of fixing bomb-damaged concrete, known as rapid runway repair, dates to the 1950s. That method allows engineers to repair three large craters from 750-pound bombs in four hours, Hy said.

Japanese pilots’ remains recovered from Seahawk

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The remains of two Japanese aviators have been recovered from a SH-60J Seahawk helicopter that crashed into the Sea of Japan on Aug. 26.

The wreckage of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft — which was conducting nighttime takeoff and landing drills when it crashed about 50 miles off Tappizaki, Aomori Prefecture — was raised from the seafloor Thursday evening, a service spokesman said.

Inside, investigators found the remains of pilot Lt. Cmdr. Yuki Sato, 36, and co-pilot Ensign Hiroaki Tajima, 24. The remains of aerial navigator Petty Officer 2nd Class Hiroki

Uchino, 36, have not been found, the spokesman said. One member of the four-person crew was plucked from the sea alive after the crash.

Human error was the likely cause of the crash, Japanese officials have said.

The wreckage was discovered Oct. 16 in 8,530 feet of water by a private company using an unmanned underwater vehicle.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force is also searching for four crewmembers missing after a UH-60J helicopter crashed at sea during training on Oct. 17 about 20 miles south of Hamamatsu Air Base in Shizuoka Prefecture. Officials have said they are considering using the same unmanned underwater vehicle to find the second helicopter.

Study: Transfusing blood on medevac helos saves lives

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Gravely injured troops who received blood transfusions during battlefield evacuations were more likely to survive than troops who first received them at a hospital, according to a new study.

The study, led by doctors at the Joint Trauma System at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and published last week in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, provides the most conclusive data to date in support of what many doctors have said for years: People with severe bleeding should be given blood transfusions right away.

“People who bleed to death die fast,” said Air Force Col. Stacy Shackelford, a trauma surgeon and the study’s lead author. “Getting blood to them as soon as possible is critical to their survival. We found a delay of even a few minutes had a strong effect.”

The study found that 55 troops transfused with red blood cells, plasma or both aboard medevac helicopters in Afghanistan were much more likely to live than the 447 troops not transfused until arriving at combat hospitals.

Bleeding is the No. 1 cause of combat death.

The study reviewed the outcomes of 502 troops evacuated from the battlefield in Afghanistan from 2012 to 2015. Most had been in explosions; some had been shot. All of them had lost limbs at or above the elbow or knee, or were in shock with extremely low blood pressure, which indicates massive bleeding.

Eighty-five of the 447 troops who did not get transfusions during their medevacs — waiting an average of 30 minutes

from the time the helicopter lifted off until arriving at the hospital — died within 24 hours.

“The vast, vast majority died within the first hour,” Shackelford said. “Some of them died before they got to the hospital.”

Seventeen more died within 30 days, the study found, for a 23 percent mortality rate.

But of the 55 troops who were transfused on helicopters before reaching hospitals, within about seven minutes of takeoff, only three died the same day. Three more died within 30 days, for an 11 percent mortality rate.

The study’s researchers matched the injuries by severity and type and controlled for age, injury year, transport team, tourniquet use and time until rescue.

The “golden hour rule” was in effect during the time frame of the study. Initiated in 2009 by then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates, it mandated that critically injured servicemembers arrive at a hospital equipped with surgical capability within an hour from a medevac request. Before that, the rule had been two hours.

The median total evacuation time was 47 minutes for troops in the study.

The policy fueled expansion of medevac services and forward-deployed surgical resources.

But even by 2012, medevacs with transfusion capabilities were rare, Shackelford said, used primarily by the British and on some U.S. Air Force flights. That same year, the Army started training its medical teams to provide blood transfusions on medevacs.

The study suggested that even earlier blood transfusion — at the point of injury — could save more lives.

Puerto Rico seeks to cancel \$300M Whitefish contract

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico's governor on Sunday demanded that the board of the island's power company cancel the \$300M contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings amid increased scrutiny of the Montana company's role in Hurricane Maria recovery efforts.

The announcement by Gov. Ricardo Rossello comes as federal legislators seek to investigate the contract awarded to the small company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown.

"There cannot be any kind of distraction that alters the commitment to restore electrical power as soon as possible in Puerto Rico," Rossello said, adding that nearly \$8 million has been paid to Whitefish so far.

Whitefish spokesman Chris Chiames told The Associated Press that the company would soon issue comment. Power company spokesman Carlos Monroig did not return messages for comment.

Rossello said he has request-

ed that crews from New York and Florida come help restore power in Puerto Rico as he criticized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for not meeting its goals. The agency could not be immediately reached for comment.

Power company Director Ricardo Ramos has said the Federal Emergency Management Agency had approved of the deal, something the agency has denied.

FEMA has raised concerns about how Whitefish got the deal and whether the contracted prices were reasonable. The 2-year-old company had just two full-time employees when the storm hit, but it has since hired more than 300 workers.

Whitefish Energy Holdings is based in Whitefish, Mont. Zinke, a former Montana congressman, knows Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanski, and Zinke's son also had a summer job at a Whitefish construction site.

"I had absolutely nothing to do with Whitefish Energy receiving a contract in Puerto Rico," Zinke recently said in a statement linked to a tweet.

Trump calls for more scrutiny of Dems, Clinton

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On Sunday morning, President Donald Trump expressed frustration that his campaign is under investigation over possible ties to Russia's plot to influence the 2016 election but that his former opponent Hillary Clinton is not facing the same level of scrutiny.

In four tweets sent over 24 minutes, Trump wrote: "Never seen such Republican ANGER & UNITY as I have concerning the lack of investigation on Clinton made Fake Dossier (now \$12,000,000?), the Uranium to Russia deal, the 33,000 plus deleted Emails, the Comey fix and so much more. Instead they look at phony Trump/Russia, 'collusion,' which doesn't exist. The Dems are using this terrible (and bad for our country) Witch Hunt for evil politics, but the R's are now fighting back like never before. There is so much GUILT by Democrats/Clinton, and now the facts are pouring out. DO SOMETHING!"

The tweets came as CNN has continued to report that on Friday a federal grand jury in Washington approved the first charges in the investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller III, citing "sources briefed on the matter." The charges are sealed, and it's unclear who could be charged and for what.

The history of the dossier

Trump referenced is a complicated one. During the 2016 Republican primaries, the conservative Washington Free Beacon paid the Washington firm Fusion GPS to investigate Trump's background and, eventually, his business ties to Russia, The Washington Post reported Friday. The publication receives financial support from billionaire GOP donor Paul Singer, according to two people familiar with Singer, whose firm did not respond to requests seeking comment.

After the Free Beacon stopped paying Fusion GPS, the research firm offered in April 2016 to continue researching Trump for the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee, The Post reported last week. According to that reporting, Fusion GPS then hired Christopher Steele, a former British intelligence officer with ties to the FBI and the U.S. intelligence community, who compiled a dossier on Trump. Clinton and others working on her campaign have said that they didn't know anything about the dossier until the 35-page document was posted online by BuzzFeed in January.

It's unclear how much the Clinton campaign and DNC paid for the information. It's also unclear how Trump arrived at the \$12 million figure used in his tweets.

Doctors to do microscopic study of Vegas shooter's brain

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Scientists are preparing to do a microscopic study of the Las Vegas gunman's brain, but whatever they find, if anything, likely won't be what led him to kill 58 people attending a music festival in Las Vegas, experts said.

Stephen Paddock's brain is being sent to Stanford University for a monthslong examination after a visual inspection during an autopsy found no abnormalities, Las Vegas authorities said.

Doctors will perform multi-

ple forensic analyses, including an exam of his brain tissue to find any possible neurological problems.

The brain will arrive in California soon, and Stanford has been instructed to spare no expense for the work, The New York Times reported. It will be further dissected to determine if Paddock, 64, suffered from health problems such as strokes, blood vessel diseases, tumors, some types of epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, degenerative disorders, physical trauma and infections.

Dr. Hannes Vogel, Stanford University Medical Center's director of neuropathology, would not discuss the procedure with The Associated Press and referred questions to officials in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located. They also refused to provide details.

Vogel told The Times he will leave nothing overlooked to put to rest much of the speculation on Paddock's health as investigators struggle to find a motive for the shooting.

The examination will come about a month after Paddock

unleashed more than 1,000 bullets through the windows of a 32nd-floor suite at the Mandalay Bay into a crowd attending an outdoor country music festival. After killing 58 people and wounding hundreds more, Paddock took his own life with a shot through his mouth, police say.

If a disease is found, experts say it would be false science to conclude it caused or perhaps even contributed to the massacre, even if that explanation would ease the minds of investigators and the world at large.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police ID suspect in car theft with boy inside

DE CLAYMONT — Authorities in Delaware are searching for a 31-year-old woman identified as the suspect in a carjacking earlier this month that involved a child.

State police said Amy D. Davis is suspected of stealing a car from a Claymont Wawa store with a 6-year-old boy inside.

The incident took place Oct. 18. Police said a woman parked her vehicle outside the store and left the keys in the ignition and her son in the car.

The suspect got into the vehicle and drove away. The boy noticed the woman wasn't his mother and exited the car. He wasn't harmed.

State sets rules for sex offenders on Halloween

SC COLUMBIA — South Carolina is requiring many sex offenders to stay inside their own homes during prime trick-or-treating hours on Halloween night.

The State newspaper of Columbia reported that the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services has set a 5:30-to-9 p.m. curfew for all offenders under its supervision for a sex offense.

The curfew applies to sex offenders on probation or parole. The state has set other rules for them, including no candy distribution.

Runner carries injured teammate to finish line

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah teen said he has no regrets about being disqualified from the state cross-country championship after carrying his injured teammate on his back and over the finish line.

The Deseret News reported that Riverton High School senior Sean Rausch saw his teammate Blake Lewis writhing in pain on the ground during the Salt Lake City race earlier this month.

The 16-year-old runner had hit the ground after hearing a crack followed by pain in his left leg. He had broken his tibia.

Rausch said he asked Lewis if he wanted to finish the race, and he then carried the teammate over the remaining 200 meters.

Police: Employee made false robbery report

OR EUGENE — A convenience store employee who reported an armed robbery was arrested after police alleged the employee is the one who stole the store's cash.

The Register-Guard reported in a story Friday that police arrested Justin James Linn, 25, of Eugene, on suspicion of initiating a false report.

Police on Oct. 22 responded to the Buy 2 Market in Eugene after receiving a report of an armed robbery.

No suspect was found, and investigators ultimately concluded no armed robbery had occurred.

Mail carrier gets jail over cocaine deliveries

NY NEW YORK — A New York City mail carrier who admitted to delivering hundreds of pounds of cocaine for a drug-trafficking ring has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Former Bronx mail carrier Jermaine Sandifer was sentenced Tuesday after pleading guilty in January to distributing more than 300 pounds of cocaine. The Daily News reported prosecutors said he was recruited by a drug ring to in-

tercept packages from Puerto Rico that contained cocaine and then to deliver them.

Judge allows parents to force-feed daughter

NJ MORRISTOWN — A New Jersey judge last week cleared the way for parents to force-feed their 20-year-old anorexic daughter.

The judge ruled that the woman, known as S.A., was incapable of making her own decisions and gave her parents the power to make medical decisions on her behalf.

The judge found her physicians all said she does not understand the risks to her life by not eating and she has a chance of recovery through her parents' guardianship.

The Parsippany resident weighed 60 pounds in June when she was taken to a clinic in Princeton and has gained 15 pounds.

Suspect's bite severs tip of deputy's finger

OR ALOHA — Authorities said an Oregon sheriff's deputy suffered a bite wound while trying to arrest a suspect.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office said Erik Rodriguez-Reyes, 24, got into a confrontation Oct. 23 with deputies who responded to a complaint that he was assaulting his pregnant girlfriend at an apartment in Aloha.

He is accused of biting two deputies, severing the tip of one deputy's index finger. The deputy was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Rodriguez-Reyes faces charges of assault, assaulting a public safety officer, coercion, kidnapping, harassment and resisting arrest. The suspect's father was charged with harassment, resisting arrest and interfering with a peace officer.

Man pleads guilty to in-flight fondling

PA PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh-area man has pleaded guilty to a lesser federal assault charge for fondling a sleeping woman during a flight from Las Vegas.

Wei-Ming Shi, 59, of Mount Lebanon, pleaded guilty Oct. 23 to simple assault on an aircraft during flight and has agreed to a \$5,000 fine. A federal judge in Pittsburgh also can impose up to six months in jail and probation when Shi is sentenced March 16. The original charge of unlawful sexual contact carried up to three years in prison.

Shi's attorney told the judge the incident stemmed from flirting aboard the Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas to Pittsburgh in August 2016.

Body found buried in cave is identified

CA CRESTLINE — Authorities have identified a body that was discovered buried in a Southern California cave after someone saw a hand sticking out of the ground.

San Bernardino County coroner's investigators said she's Jessica Widner, 32, of Lake Arrowhead.

The woman's body was discovered Thursday night in a cave in Crestline, in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles.

A woman contacted authorities to say she had seen a human hand sticking out of the ground near a glass bottle dump. Sheriff's deputies found a small cave dug into a hillside and the body was inside the cave.

Authorities said it appears part of the cave may have collapsed and buried the woman.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

No. 6 Buckeyes upset No. 2 Penn State

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In the tunnel at Ohio Stadium that leads from locker room to the field, J.T. Barrett was posing for pictures with friends, receiving handshakes and hugs and thanking one older man with a scratchy voice for screaming himself hoarse.

Barrett smiled and laughed. Apparently, the Ohio State quarterback even busted out some moves in the locker room celebration. The stoic fifth-year senior doesn't show much emotion on the field. And if he gained any particular gratification from playing the best game of his decorated career seven weeks after a lot of Buckeyes fans were wondering if he should be benched, he was not about to let on.

This is certain: When Barrett said goodbye to his friends and left the Horseshoe on Saturday night he did so as a Heisman Trophy candidate with absolutely nothing left to prove.

Barrett was near flawless against No. 2 Penn State, capping a brilliant performance with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Baugh with 1:48 left in the fourth quarter that gave No. 6 Ohio State a 39-38 victory.

Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer called it one of the best games he has ever seen a quarterback play.

"I've never had a kid play perfect, but damn he was close tonight," Meyer said.

Barrett was 33-for-39 for 328 yards and four touchdown passes, three in the fourth quarter after the Buckeyes (7-1, 5-0 Big Ten) were down 35-20. He also ran for 95 yards on 17 carries. In the fourth quarter, he was 13-for-13 for 170 yards.

"We don't care about what anyone else

thinks about J.T. because we know what we think about J.T. and what he brings to the table," said Terry McLaurin, who caught Barrett's

first TD pass of the game, which gave the quarterback 91 in his career to break Drew Brees' Big Ten record.

Penn State led 38-27 with 5:42 left and it looked as if the Nittany Lions (7-1, 4-1) were going to knock the Buckeyes out of the College Football Playoff race.

"What was going through my head was Coach Meyer saying go win the game. He says that all the time, go win the game," Barrett said.

Saquon Barkley scored two long touchdowns for Penn State, but it was Barrett who surged into the Heisman race in what was billed as the Big Ten game of the year and lived up to the hype.

"I think the H-word is appropriate after today's game," Meyer said.

Barrett and the Buckeyes got the ball back down five with 3:20 left. They quickly marched to the 16 and then Barrett found his big tight end Baugh for the lead.

"I didn't manage the game well," Penn State coach James Franklin said. "There's enough blame to spread around."

The blackout crowd at the Horseshoe poured onto the field to celebrate after Barrett took a final knee. He calmly wandered through the mayhem.

Barrett had been the target for much criticism after the Buckeyes' offense struggled in a September loss to Oklahoma. He said he just tried to get better. Barrett went 19 of 35 with no TDs and an interception against the Sooners. He looked like a different player Saturday, but he wasn't buying that.

"When you say like I'm different I feel like I would have to be thinking different in order to feel different, but I really don't feel any different because I'm thinking the same," he said. "It's not like I'm telling myself anything new."

Receiver K.J. Hill said Barrett's calmness keeps the Buckeyes cool, and, yes, he does cut loose sometimes.

"We definitely got a smile out of him. A little dance moves in the locker room," Hill said.

Stopping Saquon: Barkley was held to 44 yards on 21 carries, and that included a 36-yard touchdown run in the first half. And the Nittany Lions had trouble pass blocking Ohio State's talented defensive line, with Nick Bosa and Tyquan Lewis, especially after tackle Ryan Bates went out with an injury. On their final drive, quarterback Trace McSorley got pressured on each play, was sacked one and threw three incomplete passes.

The takeaway

Penn State: The Nittany Lions will need some upsets to get back in the playoff and Big Ten race.

"We played a hell of a football game," tight end Mike Gesicki said. "In no way, shape or form should anybody on our team have their head down, be disappointed."

Ohio State: The Buckeyes' now control the Big Ten East and they paid back the Nittany Lions for the loss last year in Happy Valley that kept Ohio State out of the conference title game. The Buckeyes' path to the playoff might still be muddled by that loss to Oklahoma, but right now they are the Big Ten's best shot.

Surprising No. 25 Iowa State knocks off No. 4 TCU

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — TCU is no longer unbeaten.

The Horned Frogs have only themselves — and a resurgent Iowa State defense — to blame.

Kyle Kempt threw for 202 yards and two touchdowns and 25th-ranked Iowa State upset fourth-ranked TCU 14-7 on Saturday, leaving the Big 12 without an undefeated team heading into November.

Iowa State's win might have seriously hampered the league's ability to get a team into the playoff after missing

out a year ago. But TCU coach Gary Patterson believes the Horned Frogs still control their own destiny.

TCU (7-1, 4-1 Big 12), Oklahoma State (7-1, 4-1) and Iowa State (6-2, 4-1) are tied atop the league — and the Cowboys play in Ames in two weeks.

Oklahoma (6-1, 3-1) played Texas Tech on Saturday night.

"We've still got a chance to play for a Big 12 title. Does it hurt our chances for the playoff? Probably. We still played good enough defense to win," TCU coach Gary Patterson said.

Marcel Spears intercepted a

Kenny Hill pass with 1:16 left to seal it for the Cyclones.

They forced a pair of turnovers in the red zone in the second half in winning their fourth straight game, two of them over teams ranked in the top five on game day.

"We go into games thinking we're going to try to shut teams out," Iowa State linebacker Joel Lanning said of a defense that held the Horned Frogs scoreless.

Kempt put Iowa State ahead 14-0 at the break with touchdown passes to Matt Eaton (17 yards) and Hakeem Butler (4

yards).

TCU answered to open the second half on a 94-yard kick-off return by KaVontae Turpin. But Brian Peavy intercepted Hill in the end zone in the third quarter and brought it back 70 yards, and Willie Harvey caused Hill to fumble a ball recovered by Iowa State at its own 15-yard line with 7:11 to go.

Hill had his worst game of the season, finishing 12 of 25 passing for 135 yards and those two very costly interceptions.

The Horned Frogs also committed 11 penalties for 104 yards.

Bellinger helps rally LA to tie series

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Cody Bellinger pulled into second base with his first World Series hit and said: “It’s a miracle!”

With the Dodgers three innings from falling into a deep deficit, the rookie slugger sparked a late comeback that stopped the Houston Astros’ surge.

Hitless in 13 at-bats, Bellinger doubled and scored the tying run in the seventh inning, then doubled home the go-ahead run off struggling closer Ken Giles in a five-run ninth that lifted Los Angeles to a 6-2 win Saturday night and tied the Series at two games apiece.

“Sometimes you see in the postseason you want to try to do too much, and that’s what I was doing,” Bellinger said. “Today I tried to make an effort of not doing too much, and when you do that you get two hits sometimes. It’s a crazy game.”

George Springer put the Astros ahead with a two-out homer in the sixth, the first hit off Los Angeles starter Alex Wood. The crowd at Minute Maid Park, where Houston had been 7-0 this postseason, was revved up in anticipation of the Astros having a chance to win the first title in their 56-season

history on Sunday.

Instead, the Series will go back to Los Angeles no matter what. Clayton Kershaw starts Game 5 for the Dodgers on Sunday night and Dallas Keuchel for the Astros in a rematch of the opener, when Kershaw pitched Los Angeles to a 3-1 win.

Bellinger, a 22-year-old bopper who set a National League rookie record with 39 home runs this season, struck out four times in Game 3 and once more in the fifth inning — his eighth whiff of the Series.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts expressed faith Friday night in Bellinger and again Saturday afternoon.

“He’s got that calmness about him,” Roberts said. “And when things speed up, he has a way of sort of resetting and not letting it spiral.”

During batting practice, Bellinger tried to emulate teammates Andre Ethier and Logan Forsythe by hitting the ball to the opposite field.

“I was always told these really good hitters hit the ball the other way in BP and I had never done it, and I wanted to try it,” he said. “I hit every ball in BP today to the left side of the infield. I’ve never done

that before in my life. Usually I try to lift. I needed to make an adjustment.”

Bellinger lined a fastball to the opposite field over Marwin Gonzalez into the quirky corner next to the left-field scoreboard, chasing starter Charlie Morton. He came home on Forsythe’s two-out single off Will Harris.

Giles entered to start the ninth and got into immediate trouble, allowing a leadoff single to Corey Seager and a walk to Justin Turner. Bellinger took a low slider, then lined a fastball at the letters to left-center. He raised a hand rounding first and clapped his hands half a dozen times in excitement after sliding into second.

“Every day you see him grow a little bit more,” Wood said. “I think everybody kind of had the same message with him: ‘We believe in you. You’re our guy. You’re special. Remember that.’”

Joe Musgrove relieved and allowed Austin Barnes’ sacrifice fly and Joc Pederson’s three-run homer, his second home run of the Series.

“You like that! You like that!” Pederson yelled to teammates, a la Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins, as

he came back to dugout.

Wood, Brandon Morrow, winner Tony Watson and Kenley Jansen combined on a two-hitter — the first-ever in the Series in which both hits were home runs. Jansen allowed Alex Bregman’s two-out long ball in the ninth, the 15th home run of the Series, most ever through four games, before retiring Jose Altuve on a flyout.

Giles, the loser, was charged with three runs.

“They were all crappy pitches, not where I wanted them,” he said. “I need to do better. I need to pick up this team. I need to carry my weight.”

He has an 11.75 postseason ERA, allowing runs in six of seven appearances.

“When you’re a back-end reliever,” Astros manager A.J. Hinch said, “unless you’re extraordinarily dominant, you’re only talked about when you suffer, when you struggle. So for him, he can handle it mentally. He can handle it physically.”

Houston was nine outs from winning for the 18th time in 20 home games since returning to Minute Maid Park after Hurricane Harvey, and from becoming the first major league team to start a postseason 8-0 at home.

Vikings stretch winning streak to four

Associated Press

LONDON — The Minnesota Vikings will return home feeling good about a four-game winning streak. The Cleveland Browns will regret a potential missed opportunity.

Case Keenum threw for two touchdowns and Kai Forbath made four field goals as the Minnesota Vikings defeated the Cleveland Browns 33-16 at Twickenham Stadium on Sunday in the last of four games held this season in Britain.

Adam Thielen had five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown for the NFC North-leading Vikings (6-2), who trailed 13-12 at halftime — the first time the Browns, 0-8 for the second consecutive year, claimed a mid-game lead this season.

Cleveland, without starting left tackle Joe Thomas for the first time since 2006,

scored first, taking a 6-0 lead on its second play from scrimmage before kicker Zane Gonzalez’s missed extra point. Middle linebacker Joe Schobert’s interception return to the Vikings’ 37-yard line led to an 11-yard reception by David Njoku and a 26-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Crowell.

A 1-yard run by rookie QB DeShone Kizer with 40 seconds remaining in the half helped overcome Forbath’s first field goal and an 18-yard touchdown reception by Thielen to push Cleveland’s lead to 13-9.

Forbath ended the half with a 34-yard attempt to make it 13-12, then scored first in the third quarter when a fumble by Crowell set up a 43-yarder.

Although Gonzalez’s 23-yard field goal restored the Browns’ lead at 16-15, the Vikings scored 18 unanswered points: a 1-yard touchdown run by Jerick McKin-

non — and McKinnon’s 2-point conversion — as well as a 5-yard touchdown reception by tight end Kyle Rudolph and, with 1:14 remaining, Forbath’s final field goal.

Keenum, the first player to appear in two games at Twickenham, finished 27-for-43 for 288 yards.

Crowell, who scored his first touchdown of the year, had 64 rushing yards to lead a ground attack that gained 115 against Minnesota’s fourth-ranked rushing defense.

Starters injured: Vikings right tackle Mike Remmers left after sustaining a concussion on the second drive and was replaced by Rashod Hill, who had previously appeared in four games this season.

Browns cornerback Briean Boddy-Calhoun left in the fourth quarter with a hamstring injury, and running back Duke Johnson was evaluated for a concussion.

NHL roundup

Kings edge Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Tyler Toffoli scored off a faceoff — his second goal of the game — just before time expired in overtime to give the Los Angeles Kings a 2-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Saturday night.

Jonathan Quick made 29 saves for the Kings, who are off to their best start in franchise history at 9-1-1.

Wild 2, Penguins 1: Mikko Koivu scored midway through the third period to lift host Minnesota over Pittsburgh.

Daniel Winnik also scored for Minnesota and Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves. The Wild, winless in their first four one-goal games this season, have won three of four overall.

Devils 4, Coyotes 3: Jesper Bratt's tiebreaking goal on a power play with 4:13 left sent New Jersey past visiting Arizona, which became the second NHL team to start a season with 11 consecutive losses.

The Coyotes fell to 0-10-1 and joined the 1943-44 New York Rangers (0-11) as the only clubs in NHL history to open a season with 11 straight defeats.

Blues 4, Blue Jackets 1: Jake Allen made 36 saves and Scottie Upshall had a goal and two assists as host St. Louis beat Columbus.

The Blues (9-2-1) earned at least one point for the sixth straight game and improved to 4-0 at home. They are the only NHL team that hasn't lost at home this season.

Islanders 6, Predators 2: John Tavares scored a natural hat trick in the third period, leading visiting New York over Nashville.

Filip Forsberg and Craig Smith scored for the Predators, who have lost three of four.

Avalanche 6, Blackhawks 3: Nathan MacKinnon and Mikko Rantanen each had two goals and an assist as host Colorado beat Chicago.

The Blackhawks have lost three in a row and are 1-4-1 in their last six games. They got goals from Ryan Hartman,

Nick Schmaltz and Artem Anisimov, and Corey Crawford had seven saves in relief of Anton Forsberg.

Capitals 5, Oilers 2: Evgeny Kuznetsov scored two goals, Alex Ovechkin added three assists and visiting Washington snapped a two-game skid with a victory over Edmonton.

Devante Smith-Pelly, Lars Eller and Jay Beagle also scored for the Capitals, who had lost four of five. Braden Holtby made 38 saves.

Red Wings 3, Panthers 2 (SO): Gustav Nyquist scored the tying goal in the second period then got the winner in a shootout, lifting Detroit over host Florida to snap a six-game skid.

Andreas Athanasiou also scored and Jimmy Howard stopped 44 shots for Detroit. Howard also was perfect in the shootout.

Flyers 4, Maple Leafs 2: Valtteri Filppula and Claude Giroux scored, Brian Elliott had 28 saves and visiting Philadelphia beat Toronto.

Philadelphia ended a two-game skid, while Toronto lost a second straight game for the first time this season.

Ducks 4, Lightning 1: Rickard Rakell and Brandon Montour had rare power-play goals, John Gibson made 31 saves and Anaheim rebounded from a one-sided loss by beating host Tampa Bay.

Anaheim entered with the NHL's second-worst power play, going 2-for-31 over their first nine games. The Ducks went 2-for-2 with the man advantage, while Tampa Bay's second-best unit in the NHL failed to score on four chances.

Sharks 3, Sabres 2: Logan Couture scored with 3:52 remaining in the third period, sending visiting San Jose over Buffalo.

Canadiens 5, Rangers 4: Phillip Danault scored twice and added two assists as last-place Montreal beat host New York for its third victory of the season.

NBA roundup

Cousins' triple-double powers Pelicans' win

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and the New Orleans Pelicans pulled away for a convincing 123-101 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night.

Anthony Davis added 30 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks to help New Orleans win for the third time in four games. New Orleans' All-Star frontcourt tandem had help from the backcourt, too, with Jrue Holiday scoring 29 points and E'Twaun Moore 24 as the Pelicans made better than 53 percent off their shots.

Kevin Love had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavs, who were without Derrick Rose and trailed for most of the game. LeBron James had 18 points and Dwyane Wade 15 for Cleveland, which has lost three of four.

Grizzlies 103, Rockets 89: Chandler Parsons finally gave Memphis fans what they've waited for, scoring 24 points on accurate shooting to lead the Grizzlies over visiting Houston.

Parsons, who has struggled and battled injuries since signing with the Grizzlies last season, was part of a Memphis bench effort that dominated the Rockets' reserves. By the time Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni cleared his bench with just under 4 minutes left and Memphis leading by 19, the Grizzlies held a 62-15 advantage in bench points.

Thunder 101, Bulls 69: Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points and Paul George had 20 to lead visiting Oklahoma City over Chicago.

Russell Westbrook added 12 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists for his third triple-double of the season. He has now recorded a triple-double against every league opponent in his career.

Celtics 96, Heat 90: Kyrie Irving scored nine of his 24 points in the final 2:03, and Boston extended its winning streak to four games after holding on late to beat host Miami.

Jayson Tatum scored 20 and Marcus Smart added 16 for the Celtics, who beat the Heat for the eighth consecutive time.

Goran Dragic scored 22 points for Miami. Former Boston forward Kelly Olynyk had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who were 7 for 31 from three-point range.

76ers 112, Mavericks 110: Ben Simmons had 23 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds as Philadelphia outlasted host Dallas for its second win of the season.

Joel Embiid added 23 points and nine rebounds as the 76ers won in Dallas for the first time since Jan. 29, 2005.

Jazz 96, Lakers 81: Rookie Donovan Mitchell scored a career-high 22 points and Utah beat visiting Los Angeles.

Brandon Ingram led the Lakers with 16 points and Jordan Clarkson put up 15 off the bench. Ball, the No. 2 overall draft pick, finished with nine points, two rebounds and four assists — the rebounds and assists were season lows.

Pistons 95, Clippers 87: Andre Drummond had 15 points and 17 rebounds to lead Detroit over host Los Angeles, handing the NBA's last undefeated team its first loss in five games this season.

Austin Rivers scored 20 points for the Clippers, going 6 of 8 from three-point range. Blake Griffin had 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 114, Suns 107: Damin Lillard scored 25 points, C.J. McCollum had 23 and Portland outlasted visiting Phoenix.

Phoenix (2-4) lost for the first time since Jay Triano took over as interim coach. Earl Watson was fired on Oct. 22, following an 0-3 start.