

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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More Democrats receive mail bombs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The mail-bomb scare widened Thursday as law enforcement officials seized three more suspicious packages — two addressed to former Vice President Joe Biden and one to actor Robert De Niro — and said they were similar to crude pipe bombs sent to former President Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and CNN.

None of the devices exploded, and no one was injured. But the packages, sent to prominent Democrats critical of President Donald Trump, heightened nationwide tensions and fears two weeks before major congressional midterm elections.

Even as everyone condemned the unknown sender and Trump decried political violence, blame flew for the corrosive nature of America's political conversation.

"A very big part of the Anger we see today in our society is caused by the purposely false

and inaccurate reporting of the Mainstream Media that I refer to as Fake News," Trump said in a morning Tweet. "It has gotten so bad and hateful that it is beyond description. Mainstream Media must clean up its act, FAST!"

Former CIA Director John Brennan, the target of one package sent to CNN, fired back.

"Stop blaming others. Look in the mirror," Brennan tweeted. "Your inflammatory rhetoric, insults, lies, & encouragement of physical violence are disgraceful. Clean up your act. ... try to act Presidential."

The politics belied the life-and-death nature of the growing list of bombing targets in New York; Delaware; Washington, D.C.; Florida and California.

The FBI said Thursday that the packages sent to De Niro and Biden were similar to those discovered earlier.

De Niro dropped an expletive insult at Trump at this year's Tony Awards and also apolo-

gized to Canadians for the "idiotic behavior of my president."

Biden criticized Trump as recently as last week, saying the president might not "know what he's doing" and coddles dictators.

Recovery of the packages to Biden and De Niro came after others were received by prominent Democrats and CNN.

The first crude bomb to be discovered had been delivered Monday to the suburban New York compound of George Soros, a liberal billionaire and major contributor to Democratic causes. Soros has called Trump's presidency "dangerous."

Similar packages addressed to Hillary Clinton and former President Barack Obama were intercepted on their way to Chappaqua, N.Y., where Clinton lives with former President Bill Clinton and to Washington, where Obama lives with his wife, Michelle. The Secret Service said neither package

reached its intended recipient.

More were sent to frequent Trump critics Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., and former Attorney General Eric Holder. His ended up at the Florida office of Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was listed as the return address.

A police bomb squad removed the package addressed to Brennan from CNN's New York office, which was evacuated.

The bombs seized Wednesday, each with a small battery, were about six inches long and packed with powder and broken glass, said a law enforcement official who viewed X-ray images and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

The official said the devices were made from PVC pipe and covered with black tape.

The devices all were sent to an FBI lab in Virginia to be studied. Officials provided no details on a possible suspect or motive.

Additional US troops heading to border

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will send several hundred troops, including active-duty soldiers, to the U.S.-Mexico border, defense officials said Thursday after President Donald Trump vowed he was "bringing out the military" to curb illegal immigration.

The troops could deploy in the coming days, a defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Pentagon had yet to make an announcement. It was not clear which Army units would deploy or whether the entire deploy-

ment would consist of active-duty troops.

Defense officials declined to confirm how many troops would be deployed, though CNN and The Associated Press on Thursday reported 800 troops would be sent to the southern border, citing unnamed officials.

The deployment, which was expected to be approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis this week, comes at Trump's request via the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. officials said. It was expected to include troops who specialize in engineering and construction capabilities. It likely would

also include medical and legal specialists, according to the official.

The deployment would not include front-line combat troops, such as infantrymen, one defense official said.

The deploying forces would join the roughly 2,100 National Guard troops already operating along the U.S.-Mexico border, where they are tasked predominately with aiding U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Those troops, ordered by Trump to the border in April, have been barred from interacting with migrants. Most of them are also barred from carrying weapons, however, of-

ficials said all troops retain the right to defend themselves.

Instead, the National Guard troops have conducted some surveillance operations, but they largely have worked in administrative or vehicle maintenance roles behind the scenes, freeing Border Patrol agents to conduct law enforcement operations, according to the Pentagon.

The original Trump order in April authorized up to 4,000 National Guard troops to serve the border mission. They are operating under the control of state governors from Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

Marianas brace for slow recovery

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands were bracing for months without electricity or running water in the aftermath of one of the strongest storms to hit any part of the U.S. this year.

Super Typhoon Yutu crossed over the U.S. territory early Thursday local time.

Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan, the commonwealth's delegate to Congress, said the territory will need significant help to recover from the storm, which he said injured several people.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Saipan, Sablan said he has heard reports of injuries and that people are waiting at the island's hospital to be treated.

"There's a lot of damage and destruction," Sablan said. "It's like a small war just passed through."

He has not been able to reach officials on the territory's neighbor islands of Tinian and Rota because phones and electricity are out.

Sablan said colleagues in Congress have reached out to offer help. He expects there will be a presidential disaster declaration put in place.

As the storm continues to move away from the Mariana Islands, Sablan said in a tweet Thursday evening that the ty-

phoon warning for Saipan and Tinian was canceled.

The electricity on Saipan, the largest island in the commonwealth about 3,800 miles west of Hawaii, went out at 4 p.m. Wednesday, resident Glen Hunter said.

"We probably won't have power for months," he said, recalling how it took four months to restore electricity after Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

Maximum sustained winds of 180 mph were recorded around the eye of the storm, which passed over Tinian and Saipan early Thursday local time, said Brandon Aydlett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"At its peak, it felt like many trains running constant," Hunter wrote in a Facebook message to The Associated Press. Hunter lives on Saipan.

There were no immediate reports of deaths.

Tinian suffered a direct hit. Saipan and Tinian will be unrecognizable, Aydlett said, adding that the weather service received reports that Yutu's catastrophic winds ripped roofs from homes and blew out windows.

"Any debris becomes shrapnel and deadly," he said.

Fallen trees could isolate residents, and power and water outages could last weeks, the weather service warned.

UNC, Koreas pull firearms, posts from truce village

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Less than a year ago, North Korean soldiers fired at a defector fleeing to the South across the border in the truce village of Panmunjom.

On Thursday, the two Koreas and the U.S.-led United Nations Command announced the completion of the withdrawal of firearms and military posts from the area as part of an inter-Korean agreement aimed at reducing hostilities.

The disarmament of Panmunjom underscored the fast pace at which the Koreas are moving to improve relations despite slow progress in nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang. It was the first step in fulfilling the far-reaching agreement, which also calls for a no-fly zone and a halt to military drills near the heavily fortified border that has bisected the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Military officials from all sides finished their work at 1 p.m. Thursday, according to a statement by the defense ministry in Seoul. It said they'll spend the next two days verifying the disarmament measures.

Meanwhile, North and South Korea will each station 35 unarmed guards in the area, in line with the military pact reached last month as part of the third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The UNC — which is led by Gen. Vincent Brooks, who is also commander of U.S. Forces Korea — signed off on the decision during trilateral talks Monday.

Panmunjom, also known as the Joint Security Area, is marked by the blue conference buildings that straddle the border and was the site of the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended the war instead of a peace treaty. It's the only part where troops from each side face each other in the Demilitarized Zone, a 2½-mile-wide, 155-mile-long buffer zone that divides the peninsula.

The JSA is also a popular tourist destination, and the agreement called for visitors to be allowed in the area with "freedom of movement" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

US bases hit by Yutu, but functioning

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Military installations in the Northern Marianas remain "mission capable," the Navy said Thursday as crews cleared debris from a storm that tied for the strongest so far this year.

Super Typhoon Yutu hit the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the early morning with sustained winds of 180 mph, enveloping much of the island of Saipan and all of Tinian.

"There have been reports of major damage to structures and property, but all U.S. military personnel are currently accounted for," Lt. Cmdr. Karl Lettow, a Joint Region Marianas spokesman, told Stars and Stripes via email.

Yutu was as severe as last month's Typhoon Mangkhut, which damaged the Northern Marianas before slamming into the Philippines, killing 127 people.

Assessment of conditions on the bases is ongoing, but all are fully capable of their mission and leaders are expecting Friday to be a normal workday, Lettow said.

Military personnel were standing by to

coordinate support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency-led recovery effort, he added.

A statement Thursday from the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands said a typhoon watch was still in place on Tinian and Saipan and residents should stay indoors.

"Downed power poles as well as fallen debris are blocking roadways. In addition, the islands of Tinian and Saipan are continuing to experience damaging winds making it dangerous for motorists to be on public roadways," the statement said.

Weather conditions remained hazardous, officials said.

"Our focus is on deploying resources to clear our roadways so first responders can begin assisting residents who have lost their homes and for those who need transport to seek medical attention or transportation to the nearest shelter," the statement said.

Tropical storm force winds extended up to 240 miles from the center of the typhoon, meaning Tinian and Saipan would continue to experience damaging winds well into early evening, the statement said.

Rough seas damage USS Gunston Hall

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

Rough seas near Iceland damaged a section of the USS Gunston Hall and injured some sailors, forcing the ship and the USS New York to dock in Reykjavik earlier this week.

The sailors were treated for minor injuries and returned to duty following the incident Monday, according to a 6th Fleet statement.

The Gunston Hall and New York pulled into Reykjavik both as a precautionary measure and to allow crews to assess damage to the Gunston Hall's

well deck and landing crafts, the Navy said.

The Gunston Hall, New York and USS Iwo Jima — all dock-landing vessels — stopped in Iceland on the way to the NATO exercise Trident Juncture in the North Atlantic. The Iwo Jima continued to the mainly Norway-based exercise, which was scheduled to begin Thursday with an estimated 50,000 servicemembers from all 29 NATO countries taking part.

Navy leaders were still determining on Thursday whether the ships could eventually participate in the exercise. They were also reviewing how they

would carry out simulated amphibious assaults and ashore drills with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit while using fewer ships, said Cmdr. Kyle Raines, 6th Fleet spokesman.

Reacting to unexpected weather-related problems adds an element of realism, Raines said, because these situations can arise during a combat mission.

"It's all part of our learning," Raines said. "These are factors that stress planners, but stress them in a good way."

Amphibious assaults can't be launched from the damaged Gunston Hall, but some per-

sonnel and equipment might be transported to shore to participate in the land-based part of the drill, Raines said.

The three vessels were among the 65 ships scheduled to participate in the naval portion of Trident Juncture, the largest NATO exercise since the Cold War. The USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group has been operating in the Norwegian Sea in advance of the exercise.

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Retired General: War with China coming

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The former commander of the U.S. Army in Europe warned Wednesday that it's very likely the United States will be at war with China in 15 years.

Retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said that European allies will have to do more to ensure their own defenses in face of a resurgent Russia because America will need to focus more attention on defending its interests in the Pacific.

"The United States needs a very strong European pillar. I think in 15 years — it's not inevitable — but it is a very strong likelihood that we will be at war with China," Hodges told a packed room at the Warsaw Security Forum, a two-day gathering of

leaders and military and political experts from central Europe.

"The United States does not have the capacity to do everything it has to do in Europe and in the Pacific to deal with the Chinese threat," Hodges said.

Hodges was U.S. Army commander in Europe from 2014 until last year.

He now is a strategic expert with the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Washington-based research institute.

Despite shifting geopolitical priorities, Hodges said the U.S. commitment to NATO remains "unshakable." He said he is certain the Trump administration views Europe's security as a key U.S. interest even though President Donald Trump has sometimes questioned the Western military alliance's usefulness.

"So you're going to see us continue to invest here in Europe, continue to train, to practice rotational forces, as well as permanently assign forces for the eventuality that in 10 or 15 years we're going to be having to fight in the Pacific," Hodges said.

Hodges told The Associated Press that a recent near-miss between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a Chinese warship in the disputed South China Sea was only one of the signs pointing to "an increasingly tense relationship and increasing competition in all the different domains."

Others, he said, are China's "constant stealing of technology" and how China is gaining control of infrastructure by funding projects in Africa and Europe.

He said that in Europe, China owns more than 10 percent of the ports.

3 sailors remain hospitalized after carrier helo crash

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Three sailors injured when a Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed aboard the USS Ronald Reagan remain hospitalized nearly a week after the accident.

The sailors — whose names

were not released — were among 12 hurt during an emergency landing on the flight deck shortly after takeoff on Oct. 19, the Navy said in a statement last week. The injuries "ranged from minor abrasions and lacerations to fractures."

"The most seriously injured were medically evacuated off the ship to a hospital in the

Philippines, while remaining injured are under evaluation by Ronald Reagan medical staff," the statement said.

The conditions of the three who remain in the hospital were not released, per privacy laws. However, the Navy said all injured sailors were in "stable condition" after the crash.

The Yokosuka-based Ronald

Reagan was conducting "routine operations" in the Philippine Sea with its strike group when the incident occurred.

The crash remains under investigation, according to Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight.

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Saudis: Evidence shows planned killing

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi prosecutors said Thursday that Turkish evidence shows the slaying of journalist Jamal Khashoggi was premeditated, another change in the shifting Saudi Arabian narrative of what happened to the writer who was killed in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

A statement from Saudi Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb attributed the conclusion about a calculated killing, one of the initial findings of a joint Turkish-Saudi investigation, to information from Turkish counterparts.

The evidence of Turkish investigators “indicates that the suspects in the incident had

committed their act with a premeditated intention,” al-Mojeb said.

While the Saudi prosecutor’s office did not say specifically that its investigators reached the same conclusion, the statement seemed designed to acknowledge the legitimacy of evidence and allegations from Turkey that Khashoggi’s killing was planned.

After the journalist disappeared, Saudi Arabia initially insisted Khashoggi had walked out of the consulate after visiting the building on Oct. 2. It later dropped that account for a new one, saying it had detained 18 people for what it described as an accidental killing during a “fistfight.”

The kingdom has faced intensifying international pressure to be transparent about the death of Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who was a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Many countries responded with skepticism to the version of a brawl involving Khashoggi and rogue officials, putting Saudi Arabia on the defensive.

Turkey is pushing the Saudi government to reveal exactly who ordered the killing, fueling suspicions that Mohammed was involved even though he condemned it as “heinous” at the Riyadh forum.

Also Thursday, Mohammed attended the first meeting of a

committee aiming to restructure the kingdom’s intelligence services after the killing of Khashoggi, the state-run Saudi Press Agency said.

The seemingly clumsy cover-up of the killing was revealed to the world by Turkish leaks of information, security camera footage and, eventually, Saudi acknowledgements that Khashoggi died in the consulate. But Turkey wants more answers from Saudi Arabia, a regional rival that is also a source of investment.

“Jamal Khashoggi’s body still hasn’t been found. Where is it?” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Thursday at a news conference with his Palestinian counterpart.

US military scales back Afghan contacts

The Washington Post

KABUL — American military officials said Wednesday that they had halted most face-to-face contacts with members of the Afghan security forces, and have temporarily withdrawn from Afghan security facilities after two “insider” shootings in the past week that killed a top Afghan regional police commander and a Czech soldier.

A spokesman for Resolute Support, the U.S.-led military mission in Afghanistan, described the move as “standard” practice after insider attacks — or assaults by Afghan security personnel against foreign forces. He said “regular contacts” were continuing by telephone and email between U.S. and Afghan security officials, with some meetings also taking place in

U.S. facilities.

A senior Afghan military officer, stationed at a joint base with foreign forces, said that American troops “have been ordered not to visit the Afghan side of our base for a few days, but we can visit them on their side.” The officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive issue, also said the “joint control and command center is active.”

The Resolute Support spokesman, Army Col. David Butler, said the precautionary measures were taken after the shooting in western Herat province on Monday that left a Czech soldier dead and two wounded.

But the steps also reflected rising concerns about the safety of American and other foreign forces here following the

assassination in Kandahar province of Lt. Gen. Abdul Raziq four days before the Herat killing. That slaying created a dangerous security vacuum in the south and fueled rumors that the United States had been behind the plot to kill Raziq — a charge American officials dismissed as absurd.

The Kandahar attack, which also killed the province’s intelligence chief and left its governor severely wounded, came shortly after a meeting that was attended by the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Austin “Scott” Miller. He escaped unharmed and quickly returned by helicopter to Kabul, but another U.S. general and two other Americans were wounded.

Russia claims US led drones to military base in Syria

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia’s deputy defense minister claimed Thursday that a U.S. military aircraft took control of 13 drones over Syria and attempted to have them attack a Russian military base there, but the drones were downed before they could reach their target.

Alexander Fomin said the drones were heading toward Hemeimeem air base in Latakia province when a U.S. Boeing P-8 Poseidon flying over the Mediterranean “took control” of them. He didn’t say who the drones belonged to or when the alleged incident happened.

Fomin, speaking at a secu-

rity conference in Beijing in remarks carried by Russian news agencies, said the drones were destroyed before they could reach the base. There was no U.S. comment on the claim.

It is the first time Moscow has directly accused the United States of coordinating an attack on Russian assets in Syria.

Asked about Fomin’s statement, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the information was “very troubling.” He added that he “doesn’t exclude” that Putin could raise the issue when he meets with President Donald Trump in Paris on Nov. 11.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Winter's in full swing atop Mount Washington

NH PINKHAM NOTCH — The calendar says winter's about two months away, but it's in full swing atop Mount Washington, the highest peak in northeastern United States.

The Mount Washington Observatory posted Wednesday morning on Facebook that it got 18 inches of snow, with drifts as high as 6 feet.

Night observer Ryan Knapp found snow depths ranging from knee- to waist-deep. He dug a path to get to some of the observatory's instruments.

After getting off to a slow start for October snowfall, the summit has surpassed the 17.6 inches of average snowfall for the month.

Call to wrong number delivers rescue ride

NE COLUMBUS — A freaky phone call to a wrong number in eastern Nebraska delivered just what a man in pain needed: a ride to a hospital.

Lisa Nagengast said the Jimmy John's driver rescued her brother, Greg Holeman, on Saturday night after he called her just as she arrived at the Tampa, Fla., airport. She'd been in Columbus to help Holeman after spinal fusion surgery.

She tried to call his Department of Veterans Affairs social worker but misdialed and reached the Jimmy John's night manager in Columbus, Jason Voss. Nagengast said she apologized, but Voss said he could help and soon talked to his driver, Zach Hillmer, who went to Holeman's residence and then took him to Columbus Community Hospital.

City reverses course on clown costume ban

MI OAK PARK — A Detroit suburb has reversed course after its plan to ban clown costumes from an annual Halloween event to avoid potentially scaring children drew criticism.

The city of Oak Park posted a press release on its Facebook page Tuesday saying the city won't ban clown costumes or other costumes from the Oct. 31 "Halloween Boo Bash."

Officials instead are "encouraging parents to use their best judgment" about costumes for the family-friendly event, which includes trick-or-treating, music and a magic show.

Bonsai tree raised for decades stolen

HI PAHOA — Hawaii police are trying to find a rare bonsai tree that was stolen from a nursery owner who says he spent nearly 60 years caring for it.

The tree was taken in September from a nursery owned by David Fukumoto in the Big Island community of Mountain View.

Fukumoto, 78, said it was his first bonsai tree.

Police asked the public for help Tuesday because they've exhausted their leads. They said the person who took the tree must have been familiar with it and known its value.

Hunt for rogue rodent continues on island

AK ANCHORAGE — Conservation officials are on high alert after a rodent has continued to evade capture on a small previously rat-free island off the coast of western Alaska.

Alaska's Energy Desk reported the Ecosystem Conservation Office for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island has changed tactics and brought in a team of rat eradication experts after the rodent has been on the loose since early September.

Lauren Divine, of the conservation office, said they have added traps, changed bait and installed game cameras to bolster prevention measures.

Divine said rats threaten the island's sensitive habitat. She said the rodents "would devastate the seabirds and would change wildlife life."

Officers free deer trapped by hammock

NY YONKERS — Yonkers police officers gave a helping hand to a deer that somehow became entangled in a makeshift hammock.

Video posted by the Yonkers Police Department shows the large deer caught up in the hammock behind a local residence — desperately trying to free itself from the ropes that entangled its antlers. The video shows Yonkers Emergency Service Unit officers Matt Donaldson and Dave MacDonald tranquilizing the animal and cutting it free from the hammock.

Video shows woman confronting family

VA LOVETTSVILLE — A woman was captured on video yelling obscenities and "Show me your passports" to a family speaking Spanish at a Virginia restaurant.

The Washington Post reported that the incident happened on Oct. 17 at Andy's, a restaurant in the small northern Virginia town of Lovettsville.

The woman, who is white, can be heard saying, "Go back to your (expletive) country," and "Don't freeload on America."

A Loudoun County Sheriff's Office spokesman said the woman left at the request of the restaurant manager. He said no charges are pending.

Recovered stolen car swiped from cop station

IL CHICAGO — A stolen auto was recovered by Chicago police and parked near a district police station, where it was stolen again.

The 1999 Toyota Camry belonging to Brien Jackson remained missing, and now Jackson and his father say they want to know what happened.

The Chicago Tribune reported the car was stolen Oct. 3.

A police officer spotted the car Oct. 7. The driver, Alfredo Viramontes, was arrested for a false registration tag and driving without insurance.

Officer Laura Amezaga confirmed the car disappeared after it was parked outside the Englewood Police Station to await a tow.

Hurricane Michael unearths shipwrecks

FL DOG ISLAND — Hurricane Michael's deadly storm surge unearthed shipwrecks caused by another hurricane — in 1899.

The Tallahassee Democrat reported it's unclear which of the 15 ships, or how many, that grounded on the Franklin County barrier island during the storm 119 years ago were exposed by Michael.

Facing the Gulf of Mexico, the wooden ships now rest in plain view near the west end of Dog Island.

The 1899 hurricane crossed over the Florida Keys into the Gulf of Mexico where it strengthened into what would be classified today as a Category 2 storm.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Price pitches Red Sox to Game 2 win

Associated Press

BOSTON — From playoff flop to World Series ace in one legacy-changing October, David Price earned his second postseason victory in a row Wednesday night and moved the Boston Red Sox two wins from another title.

The left-hander pitched six innings of three-hit ball, and major league RBI leader J.D. Martinez broke a fifth-inning tie with a two-run single during another two-out rally that sent Boston to a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers and a 2-0 Series lead.

Game 3 is Friday in Los Angeles. The Dodgers need a win to avoid an 0-3 deficit that no World Series team has ever recovered from.

The Red Sox have won 14 of their last 16 World Series games, dating to a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2004.

Not bad for a team that went 86 years without a championship before then.

And Price had battled a curse of his own.

The one-time Dodgers draft pick had been 0-9 in his first 10 postseason starts and his team had never won a playoff game he started before this

year. Boston has now won his last three starts, including the ALCS Game 5 clincher against the defending champion Astros in which he pitched six shutout innings.

So what changed for Price, who said he found something while warming up in the bullpen late in Game 4 at Houston?

“I have,” he said Wednesday night. “I take a lot of pride in being able to evolve from pitch to pitch or day to day or game to game. Being able to make adjustments on the fly, it’s paid off.”

On a frigid night at Fenway Park, Price held the highest-scoring team in the NL hitless through three innings and retired the last seven batters he faced. He struggled only in the fourth, loading the bases with nobody out on two singles and a walk as the Dodgers took a 2-1 lead — their first of the Series.

“He was amazing,” Boston manager Alex Cora said. “I get it, the numbers. But this guy has been one of the best pitchers in the big leagues for a long time.”

And once again, the 108-win Red Sox waited until there were two outs to break through.

In an uncanny stretch of clutch hitting that has been

their hallmark throughout the season, the Red Sox scored all four of their runs in Game 2 with two outs, including a three-run rally in the fifth that only started after Hyun-Jin Ryu set down Ian Kinsler and Jackie Bradley Jr.

Christian Vazquez singled, Mookie Betts did the same and Andrew Benintendi worked the count full before walking to load the bases, chasing Ryu. Ryan Madson walked Steve Pearce to tie the game before Martinez, who had 130 RBIs in the regular season, dropped a soft line drive in front of right fielder Yasiel Puig to score two more and give Boston a 4-2 lead.

Price and three relievers retired the last 16 Los Angeles batters, with Craig Kimbrel closing out the Dodgers in a perfect ninth for his sixth save this postseason. Not since Don Larsen’s 1956 perfect game for the Yankees had an AL team retired so many consecutive hitters to finish a World Series game, according to STATS.

“We had him. We had him on the ropes,” Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. “The difference is they got the big hit when they needed and we didn’t.”

Boston’s other run came on Kinsler’s two-out single in the second. The Red Sox, who led the majors in two-out runs in the regular season, have scored 36 of their 68 runs this postseason — and nine of their 12 in the Series — with two outs.

And now it’s the Dodgers in a hole.

The last 10 teams to win the first two games of the World Series — and 16 of the last 17 — have gone on to win it all. And the NL West champions will need to do it against a team that has won six straight postseason games and five in a row on the road.

Great catch: One night after getting four hits, Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi made a leaping, spread-eagle catch to rob Brian Dozier of an extra-base hit leading off the fifth. With the ball tailing away from him toward the corner, Benintendi jumped, kicked and pulled it in a few feet in front of the Green Monster scoreboard.

Up next: The teams head to the West Coast for Game 3 at Dodger Stadium on Friday. Rookie right-hander Walker Buehler is scheduled to pitch for Los Angeles against Boston starter Rick Porcello.

Rams rolling behind Donald’s dominance

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Although Sean McVay was standing on the sideline to watch it, the head coach still had to check the video before he truly realized the scope of Aaron Donald’s dominance in the Los Angeles Rams’ latest win.

The All-Pro defensive lineman was in vintage form against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, leading a stellar defensive effort as the Rams (7-0) extended their longest perfect start to a season since 1985 with a 39-10 victory.

McVay saw Donald’s four sacks, and he knew Donald had forced a fumble that led to a score. Turns out, there was much more.

“I knew he had a really productive day, but then you go back and you just tally up all the plays that he made,” McVay said.

“How he’s getting there and affecting and influencing the game in a variety of ways from his position was really impressive. That’s why he’s the man.”

Donald is back at the peak of his disruptive powers after a self-described slow start to the season possibly caused by missing the Rams’ entire offseason program and preseason during his contract holdout. With the \$135 million man causing regular misery for opponents’ offenses, the rest of the Rams’ defense is backing him up with big plays — particularly against offenses that are still works in progress, such as the Niners’ injury-plagued unit.

All told in Santa Clara, Donald had nine tackles, five quarterback hits, six tackles for loss, that forced fumble from Matt Breida and a fumble recovery.

Los Angeles will need Donald’s leader-

ship during its upcoming four-game stretch against four of the NFL’s best quarterbacks. The Rams are the NFL’s only unbeaten team as they begin the gauntlet with a visit from Aaron Rodgers and the Packers (3-2-1) on Sunday.

McVay and Wade Phillips, his veteran defensive coordinator, haven’t said much to their players about the Rams’ unbeaten record yet. They’re aware of the length and difficulty of a full NFL season, and they don’t want the Rams to get ahead of their next challenge — particularly not before their bye week next month.

“The narrative is written every single week, and we want to continue to try to do a good job,” McVay said. “We don’t have to do anything other than try to be the best that we can one day at a time, and hopefully that leads to a good performance.”

Curry scores 51 points in 3 quarters

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry pulled one from Michael Jordan's old celebratory playbook and shrugged like no big deal whatsoever.

Nah, not at all. Just another three-pointer from way downtown.

Curry grinned as he kept lighting up the floor, scoring 51 points and finishing with 11 three-pointers in only three quarters of the Golden State Warriors' 144-122 victory over the Washington Wizards on

Wednesday night.

"The last three in the first quarter was probably the funniest thing I've experienced on the court. Two guys on our team are yelling at the time from the time I was at the free throw line: 'Don't pass it! Don't pass it! You better shoot it! All that type of stuff,' Curry said. "That's going through my head while I'm dribbling down. That's kind of all the motivation you need just to launch it. Thankfully it went in."

Coach Steve Kerr couldn't even be upset when his super-

star let it fly from any distance he desired: "You got a guy taking 40-footers and you're on the sideline going, 'Yeah, that's a good shot,'" Kerr said.

Kevin Durant added 30 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Draymond Green had 11 of his 12 assists in the first half to help two-time defending champions finish with 37 after dishing out 35 assists in a 20-point victory against Phoenix on Monday.

But this was all Curry's show. No. 30 knocked down his 11th three of the night late in the

third from 32 feet back.

"It's just one of those nights you just have so much fun playing the game," Curry said. "Taking some dare shots and trying to sustain that for as long as I'm out there on the floor."

He scored 31 in the first half, finished with his sixth career 50-point game and made 10 or more threes for the 10th time. The 51 points matched his most at Oracle Arena.

The two-time winner of the award had the ninth 30-point half of his career and fourth at home.

NBA roundup

James flirts with triple-double in Lakers' first victory

Associated Press

PHOENIX — In his fourth game, LeBron James finally got his first victory as a Los Angeles Laker.

James flirted with what would have been his 74th career triple-double, finishing with 19 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds before sitting out the fourth quarter of a 131-113 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

"It feels great," he said. "It is a win, period, but it feels good to know what we have been doing over training camp and these first few games to continue to get better."

Lance Stephenson had 23 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, JaVale McGee added 20 points and Kyle Kuzma had 17 for the Lakers. They had seven players in double figures.

The Suns' Devin Booker had 23 points, seven rebounds and seven assists but left the game in the third quarter with a strained left hamstring. Deandre Ayton, the No. 1 overall pick this year, had 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Los Angeles was without Rajon Rondo and Brandon Ingram for their roles in an altercation with the Houston Rockets on Saturday night.

Wednesday night was the first of a three-game suspension for Rondo and a four-game suspension for Ingram.

Jazz 100, Rockets 89: Donovan Mitchell scored 38 points to lead visiting Utah over Houston in a game James Harden left with tightness in his left hamstring.

Harden headed to the locker room midway through the third quarter and didn't return. He missed seven games last season with a Grade 2 hamstring strain and said this was not the same type of injury as that one.

Raptors 112, Timberwolves 105: Kawhi Leonard scored a season-high 35 points, Kyle Lowry had 13 points and 10 assists, and Toronto won at Minnesota to improve to 5-0 and match the best start in franchise history.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 16 points, Serge Ibaka had 15 and Norman Powell added a season-high 10. The Raptors also won five straight to start the 2015-16 season.

Nets 102, Cavaliers 86: D'Angelo Russell scored 18 points, Joe Harris added 16 and Brooklyn kept host Cleveland winless so far this season.

Trying to move on without LeBron James, the Cavaliers are 0-4 for the first time since

losing their first five games in 2003-04 when James was a rookie.

Hawks 111, Mavericks 104: Kent Bazemore scored 32 points, including a thunderous slam with just over a minute to go, and Atlanta overcame a 26-point deficit to win at Dallas.

Trae Young added 17 points on a tough shooting night, bouncing back in the fourth quarter to help the youthful Hawks complete their comeback in a rookie showdown with Luca Doncic of the Mavericks.

Bucks 123, 76ers 108: Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double with 32 points, 18 rebounds and 10 assists to lead Milwaukee to a win at Philadelphia.

The Bucks improved to 4-0 for the first time since the 2001-02 season. Khris Middleton had 25 points, and Brook Lopez added 21. Joel Embiid scored 30 points for Philadelphia.

Heat 110, Knicks 87: Hassan Whiteside had 22 points and 14 rebounds, Josh Richardson added 21 points and Miami rolled to a win at New York with a 45-point third quarter.

Rodney McGruder added 19 points on only eight shot attempts, and Goran Dragic had 13 points. Miami outscored New York 76-38 in the middle

two quarters. Damyean Dotson led New York with 20 points.

Bulls 112, Hornets 110: Zach LaVine made two free throws with 0.5 seconds left to give host Chicago its first victory of the season.

LaVine finished with 32 points for his fourth straight 30-point game to start the season. Cameron Payne scored all of his career-high 21 points in the second half, going 7-for-11 on three-pointers for Chicago in the opener of the home-and-home set with the Hornets.

Pacers 116, Spurs 96: Victor Oladipo had 21 points and Indiana led for all but the opening seconds at San Antonio.

Indiana led by 29 points at one point while handing San Antonio its first home loss.

Kings 97, Grizzlies 92: De'Aaron Fox scored 21 points, including a leaning, one-handed dunk as part of a pivotal run late in the fourth quarter, and Sacramento beat visiting Memphis.

Buddy Hield had 23 points, Willie Cauley-Stein added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Nemanja Bjelica had 11 points and 11 boards for the Kings. Mike Conley scored 27 points while Jaren Jackson had 14 points and seven rebounds for Memphis.

Purdue puts on display of perseverance

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Six weeks ago, the notion of Purdue fans swarming the field seemed about as far-fetched as beating Ohio State.

After losing to Eastern Michigan on a last-second field goal, the season appeared lost, their bowl hopes shattered and the troubling turnovers, mounting mistakes and persistent penalties continued to pile up. Then the Boilermakers dug down, fought back and turned things around.

Purdue is just one-half game out of the Big Ten West lead.

“It’s amazing how you can be sitting at 0-3 with some hard losses and find a way to do this,” coach Jeff Brohm said after Saturday’s stunning 49-20 rout over the Buckeyes set off a raucous celebration at Ross-Ade Stadium. “It is a huge moment. This goes to show you what you can do and it goes to show you what you can’t do when you lose to Eastern Michigan.”

Make no mistake: Brohm meant no offense to the Eagles; he merely wanted to illustrate how his players and coaches re-

bounded after losing that game and the next one, to Missouri, on last-second field goals.

Since then, the Boilermakers (4-3, 3-1) have turned around their season.

They ended Boston College’s one-week run in the Top 25 with a 30-13 blowout. They won back-to-back conference road games for the first time in six years. They’re on a four-game winning streak for the first time since the start of the 2007 season, and they beat a top two ranked team for the first time since 1984 by scoring a school record 49 points against the Buckeyes (7-1, 4-1).

The reward for this sudden season to remember was getting 17 points in Top 25 voting — making them No. 33.

“It means guys are growing up,” said running back D.J. Knox, who had scoring runs of 1, 42 and 40 yards Saturday. “When you have guys locked in and everybody working for a common goal, you can’t be stopped. Especially the defense. They played lights out against a quarterback (Dwayne Haskins Jr.) who’s a Heisman candidate.”

Knox and Markell Jones have given Purdue a strong, experienced one-two punch out of the backfield. David Blough is 135-for-224 (60.3 percent) with 1,951 yards, 13 touchdowns and only two interceptions since replacing the injured Elijah Sindelar as the starting quarterback in Week 3. Freshman receiver Rondale Moore continues to be a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses, and Purdue has pulled no punches in calling plays.

“Once we decided to open this thing up and stay on the attack and be more aggressive, our guys have done a great job,” Brohm said Monday. “It’s not always going to be perfect, but I think David has played outstanding.”

The Boilermakers’ defense has done its part, too.

After allowing 91 points in the first three games, all against unranked foes, the last four opponents scored 68 points. Ohio State came up short of even half its scoring average.

And after making too many mistakes early, the Boilermakers just keep making plays.

“It’s all a part of putting your

head down and breaking it up or taking it out of the receiver’s hands,” cornerback Antonio Blackmon said after making three plays in the end zone against Ohio State.

Now comes the hard part — proving the biggest win of Brohm’s brief tenure was no fluke. By winning Saturday at Michigan State, the Boilermakers could cement their status as a surprise conference contender heading into November when they host No. 18 Iowa and No. 20 Wisconsin with visits to Minnesota and rival Indiana.

Brohm believes Purdue learned a valuable lesson from its tough start, one that should help the Boilermakers move on from Ohio State and focus on their next big challenge — sustaining success.

“These guys (the Spartans) will come in hungry and fired up for a win, and we’re going to have to respond and play a clean football game,” Brohm said. “I know our guys will be able to get back to work on the practice field and we’ll work as hard as we can to try to find a way to win this game.”

NHL roundup

Andersen stops 38 shots as Maple Leafs down Jets

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Nazem Kadri had his first goal of the season and John Tavares, Kasper Kapanen and Tyler Ennis also scored in the Toronto Maple Leafs’ 4-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday night.

Frederik Andersen stopped 38 shots to help Toronto improve to 7-3-0.

Nikolaj Ehlers and Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets, and Connor Hellebuyck made 35 saves. The Jets were 4-1-1 on a six-game homestand, leaving them 6-3-1 overall.

The teams will meet again Saturday night in Toronto.

Kapanen opened the scor-

ing with 5 ½ minutes left in the first period, threading a shot through traffic.

Ennis made it 2-0 at 2:25 of the second, redirecting a point shot from Josh Leivo. Kadri got a clean look and slipped a wrister past Hellebuyck’s glove to make it 3-0 midway through the period.

The Jets finally got on the board at 4:57 of the third period when Ehlers flipped one past Andersen from just in front of the Toronto net for his first of the season. Scheifele one-timed a shot from the point at 6:28 on a power play.

But Tavares won a duel in the crease with Winnipeg defenseman Dustin Byfuglien over a

loose puck sent in from Mitch Marner, and slipped it over the goal line at 8:28.

Lightning 1, Avalanche 0: Nikita Kucherov scored on a power play with 13:36 remaining, Andrei Vasilevskiy outperformed Semyon Varlamov in a goaltender showdown, and Tampa Bay won at Colorado.

Kucherov lined in a pass from Steven Stamkos for his 150th career goal. This after Kucherov nearly scored late in the second period, only to have the puck glance off a stick.

Vasilevskiy turned back 23 shots for his 13th NHL shutout. Varlamov made 23 saves.

Panthers 3, Islanders 2 (OT): Mike Hoffman scored

a power-play goal 33 seconds into overtime to lift Florida past visiting New York.

Frank Vatrano and Evgenii Dadonov added goals, and James Reimer made 20 saves. Brock Nelson and Jordan Eberle scored for New York.

Canucks 3, Golden Knights 2 (SO): Markus Granlund scored in the shootout, leading Vancouver to a win at Las Vegas.

Canucks goalie Jacob Markstrom stopped all four shots he faced in the shootout, and made 33 saves. Bo Horvat kept his hot streak going, scoring both of Vancouver’s goals. He now has nine points (seven goals, two assists) in the last nine games.