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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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North Korea tests hydrogen bomb

BY KIM GAMEL AND YOO
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Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test Sunday, drawing condemnation from President Donald Trump who warned the communist state is “very hostile and dangerous to the United States.”

The blast was the first since Trump took office, dramatically raising the stakes in the standoff over North Korea’s stated goal of developing a nuclear weapon that could reach the U.S. mainland.

“North Korea has conducted a major Nuclear Test,” Trump wrote in a series of tweets. “Their words and actions continue to be very hostile and dangerous to the United States.”

He also called the North “a rogue nation” and “a great threat and embarrassment to China,” referring to efforts to get Beijing to do more to rein in its communist ally.

China, he said, “is trying to help but with little success.”

Trump also signaled a rift with staunch ally South Korea, whose president took office on May 10 and promised to pursue a peaceful approach with the North, only to see his efforts consistently stymied.

“South Korea is finding, as I have told them, that their talk of appeasement with North Korea will not work, they only understand one thing!” he wrote.

Trump has bounced between warning he would meet the North’s threats with “fire and fury” and urging a diplomatic solution as the growing threat

from Pyongyang has emerged as one of his top security challenges.

His statements came after South Korean President Moon Jae-in vowed to seek stronger sanctions and to discuss with Washington the deployment of “the strongest strategic assets,” according to his office.

North Korea has conducted five other nuclear tests since 2006, including two last year, and researchers had warned it was poised to carry out a sixth at any time. The most recent was nearly a year ago and was timed to coincide with the Sept. 9 anniversary of the founding of the communist state.

Japanese and South Korean officials also confirmed the test, which took place nearly a year after the last one was conducted. The date hands Kim a propagan-

da victory ahead of the 69th anniversary of the Sept. 9 founding of the nation by his grandfather.

Claims about the type of weapon and lack of leakage could not be independently verified. Earlier Sunday, KCNA released photos of Kim inspecting a silver device it said was a homemade thermonuclear weapon with “super explosive power.”

The blast had a magnitude of 5.7, according to South Korea’s weather agency and military officials. The Korea Meteorological Administration estimated that the blast yield was between 50 and 60 kilotons, which would be about five times stronger than the Sept. 9, 2016, test.

Tremors from the test, which was conducted in the mountainous Punggye-ri site, were felt as far away as China, local media reported.

Texas on long road to recovery after Harvey

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A city that lost its drinking water system is struggling to restore service, and a crippled chemical plant that twice has been the scene of explosions remains a concern nine days after Harvey ripped across Texas.

Officials in Beaumont, population almost 120,000, worked to repair their water treatment plant, which failed after the swollen Neches River inundated the main intake system and backup pumps failed. The Army Corps of Engineers sent pumps, and an ExxonMobil team built and installed a temporary intake pipe in an effort to refill a city reservoir.

In Crosby, outside Houston, authorities continued to monitor the Arkema plant where three trailers of highly unstable compounds ignited in recent days, sending thick, black smoke and tall flames into the air. A Harris County fire marshal spokeswoman said there were no active fires at the facility, but six more trailers were

being watched.

The soggy, battered city of Houston began burying its dead and taking steps toward the long recovery ahead. Friends and family gathered Saturday in Tyler to remember a former Texas high school football and track coach whose body was found Monday.

The storm is blamed for at least 44 deaths. Also, fire officials in the community of New Waverly, about 55 miles north of Houston, said a 6-month-old baby was missing and presumed dead after being ripped out of its parents’ arms and swept away by floodwaters, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Houston’s school district said up to 12,000 students would be sent to different schools because of flood-damage. Harvey flooding is believed to have damaged at least 156,000 dwellings in Harris County, which includes the nation’s fourth-largest city.

Kim Martinez, 28, waited Saturday for insurance adjusters to come to her Southbelt/Ellington neighborhood.

“You can be prepared for anything, but

not a monster storm like Harvey,” said her mother, Maria Martinez, 63.

Some were able to count their blessings even as they faced a daunting recovery.

“I’m just praying on some help right now so I can get this over, behind me and try not to think about it,” said Georgia Calhoun, whose family is sleeping on air mattresses inside her damaged home after taking ruined furniture to the curb.

Not everyone was able to think about rebuilding yet.

About 200 people waved signs and shouted as they rallied Saturday outside a still-flooded subdivision in the west Houston suburb of Katy, demanding answers about when they will be able to return home. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has warned residents that their homes could remain flooded for up to 15 days because of ongoing releases of water from two reservoirs protecting downtown. Turner on Saturday ordered mandatory evacuations for an area that’s been inundated by water from the reservoirs.

USS Shiloh sailor develops studying app

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For sailors looking for an easier way to study for advancement exams, a USS Shiloh sailor has an app for that.

Officials from the Yokosuka-based guided-missile cruiser announced last month that the Shiloh had outperformed other 7th Fleet cruisers on a recent exam, resulting in the selection of 49 sailors for promotion. Officials attributed that to several factors, including a smartphone-based study aid developed by Petty Officer 1st Class Marquise Hubbard, a sonar technician aboard the ship.

Hubbard developed the free application, called the Sailors Mobile and Readily-Accessible Trainer, over a two-year period. It functions like flashcards, allowing sailors to study for exams and to take practice exams in preparation for their advancement exams.

The app comes preloaded with tests but also allows sailors to develop tests of their own. It also grades practice exams and shows sailors which questions they got wrong.

The app, which was available for IOS and Android, requires internet access to be downloaded but doesn't need a connection to be used.

"The whole purpose is to allow [sailors] to use it both in port or underway without any Wi-Fi connection," he said.

Hubbard, who developed the app based on his experiences taking exams and teaching advancement training to sailors, said it allows sailors to study whenever they have a free moment and keeps them from carrying around hundreds of notecards.

"I've taken the advancement exam a lot," he said. "There's times I've had 900 notecards, and going through 900 notecards every single day is a lot. So, having something on hand that you can just flip through and read helps a lot."

The app's popularity spread throughout the Shiloh by word of mouth, and Hubbard has had sailors stationed on Navy ships throughout the world contact him on social media to ask about it, he said.

The app is primarily geared toward those stationed aboard cruisers, but covers some baseline knowledge that most sailors are required to know.

Sailors in Hubbard's advancement class used the app, and most of them did well on the exams, he said.

"The advancement percentage came out about how Shiloh did previously and compared to the other cruisers, and there was an increase ... any increase is great, even

by 0.01 percent," he said.

Hubbard — who said he learned the skills to make the app by reading and watching videos online and asking friends for help — said he recently pulled the app from stores because he is working on expanding it and adding more capabilities. He also has plans for it to serve as an aid for sailors while deployed and making port-call visits.

Hubbard's vision for the app includes giving it the capabilities to pass messages about bad weather, to submit or receive electronically approved liberty plans, to show sailors maps of off-limits liberty areas, to pass command messages to sailors while they are on liberty during port visits and to allow them to carry around a contact roster electronically. He expects to begin beta testing in a few weeks.

Hubbard said the Navy is in a "digital age" and that sailors often respond better to digital learning than reading a book or a manual.

"I've been in [the Navy] for 12 years," he said. "When I came in, it was books ... but in this day and age, these sailors are using digital to help themselves out."

"I think if you talk to a sailor about how much time they spend with their phone, they would tell you all day."

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Sailors killed on USS McCain promoted posthumously

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has posthumously promoted the 10 USS John S. McCain sailors who were killed Aug. 21 when the guided-missile destroyer collided with a merchant ship just east of Singapore.

The Navy announced the following promotions Thursday:

■ Charles Nathan Findley, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was advanced to chief petty officer.

■ Abraham Lopez, 39, of El Paso, Texas, was advanced to chief petty officer.

■ Kevin Sayer Bushell, 26, of Gaithersburg, Md., was advanced to petty officer first

class.

■ Corey George Ingram, 28, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., was advanced to petty officer first class.

■ Jacob Daniel Drake, 21, of Cable, Ohio, was advanced to petty officer second class. Drake had been selected for promotion and authorized to wear the rank of a second class petty officer but had not yet been advanced.

■ Timothy Thomas Eckels Jr., 23, of Manchester, Md., was advanced to petty officer second class. Eckels had been selected for promotion and authorized to wear the rank of a second class petty officer but had not yet been advanced.

■ Dustin Louis Doyon, 26, of

Suffield, Conn., was advanced to petty officer second class.

■ John Henry Hoagland III, 20, of Killeen, Texas, was advanced to petty officer second class.

■ Logan Stephen Palmer, 23, of Decatur, Ill., was advanced to petty officer second class.

■ Kenneth Aaron Smith, 22, from Cherry Hill, N.J., was advanced to petty officer second class.

The Yokosuka-based guided-missile destroyer was traveling to Singapore for a routine port visit when it collided with a Liberian-flagged oil tanker, injuring five sailors and leaving 10 missing.

The Navy announced Aug. 28 it had recovered the bodies of

all 10 sailors.

Four of the injured sailors, who had been flown from the ship to a Singapore hospital to be treated for injuries that were not life-threatening, have returned to their units, the service said. The fifth injured sailor did not require further medical treatment after the collision.

Fallout from the collision resulted in the dismissal of 7th Fleet commander Vice. Adm. Joseph Aucoin and a one-day safety stand-down observed by units across the Navy on an individual basis.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

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DOJ says it has no evidence Trump Tower was wiretapped

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has no evidence to support President Donald Trump's statement in March that phones in Trump Tower were wiretapped on the order of his predecessor, Barack Obama, before last year's election, according to a court filing.

The assertion came in a motion filed in a Freedom of Information request from a government transparency watchdog, American Oversight, which sought information about any surveillance involving Trump, his tower in New York City or his presidential campaign from the FBI and the Justice Department's national security division.

"Both FBI and NSD confirm that they have no records related to wiretaps as described by the March 4, 2017 tweets," the Justice Department filing said.

Trump posted the claim on Twitter. It appeared to come from Breitbart, the media outlet now run by Steve Bannon, the former White House strategist, on a weekend he spent at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla.

"Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!"

"Is it legal for a sitting President to be 'wire

tapping' a race for president prior to an election? Turned down by court earlier. A NEW LOW!" one post said. "How low has President Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!"

The claims were issued two days after Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he would recuse himself from any investigations into possible ties between the Trump campaign and the Russian government.

Kevin Lewis, a spokesman for Obama, said in March in response to Trump's claims that "neither President Obama nor any White House official ever ordered surveillance on any U.S. citizen. Any suggestion otherwise is simply false."

The Justice Department on Friday filed a motion to dismiss the case brought by American Oversight, in which it also said that the agencies "do not confirm or deny the existence" of any other records covered under the group's request. Disclosure of such records "would cause harm to national security," the department said.

James Comey, who then was FBI director, told a congressional committee in March that the bureau was investigating potential ties between Trump's associates and Russia during the 2016 campaign but there were no signs that the Obama administration was spying on Trump Tower.

Heat bakes Calif. amid wildfires

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Vineyards moved their wine harvest to the cool of night and transit trains slowed for fear that some of the hottest weather in San Francisco Bay Area history would warp rails Saturday as stifling temperatures and the smoky pall of wildfires marked an unofficial end to summer across the U.S. West.

In Los Angeles, a wildfire just north of downtown had grown to the largest in city history, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. Three structures had burned, at least two of them homes, but fire officials said they were confident they could tame the blaze unless winds picked up.

Wildfires also entered a 2,700-year-old grove of giant sequoia trees near Yosemite National Park and have driven people from their homes in Washington state, Oregon, Montana and other areas struggling with a weeklong heat wave that's gripped the region.

The temperature in San Francisco hit 101 on Saturday. With an all-time high of 106 on Friday, it became just the third time since the 1870s that San Francisco had back-to-back triple-digit days.

The region was so hot that officials with the Bay Area Rapid Transit system ordered trains to slow down on rails that were exposed to sun, expecting the heat would expand and possibly shift the metal track slightly, spokeswoman Alicia Trost said.

The weekend also broke heat records in wine counties north of San Francisco, where Labor Day for some vineyards marks the start of the busy grape harvest.

"We had been hoping for a mellow season," Kat Doescher, senior winemaker at Madrone Estate Winery outside Sonoma, said shortly after sunrise. She inspected the chardonnay grapes that workers had harvested overnight under lights.

Other vineyard managers fretted over how best to soothe and when to pick their own heat-stressed grapes.

Record-breaking US astronaut back on Earth

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Astronaut Peggy Whitson returned to Earth late Saturday, wrapping up a record-breaking flight that catapulted her to first place for U.S. space endurance.

Whitson's 665 days off the planet — 288 days on this mission alone — exceeds that of any other American and any other woman worldwide.

She checked out of the International Space Station just hours earlier, along with another American and a Russian. Their Soyuz capsule landed in Kazakhstan shortly after sunrise Sunday — Saturday night back in the U.S.

Whitson was the last one carried from the Soyuz. She immediately received a pair of sunglasses to put on as she rested in a chair on the barren, wind-swept Kazak steppes.

Besides duration, Whitson set multiple other records while in orbit: world's oldest spacewoman, at age 57, and most experienced female spacewalker, with 10. She also became the first woman to command the space station twice after her launch in November.

Returning cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin logged even more time in space: 673 days over five missions. NASA astronaut Jack Fischer returned after 136 days aloft. The men flew up in April.

It was an emotional farewell to the space station for Whitson, Yurchikhin and Fischer. Before retreating into their Soyuz, they embraced the three colleagues they were leaving behind at the 250-mile-high complex. Yurchikhin patted the inside of the station before floating into his Soyuz for the final time.

Yurchikhin is now No. 7 on the world's all-time endurance list, followed by Whitson at No. 8. The top spot belongs to Russian Gennady Padalka, with 879 days in space over five flights.

Whitson, a biochemist, set a breakneck pace on all three of her space station expeditions, continually asking for more scientific research to do. She even experimented on food, trying to add some pizzazz to the standard freeze-dried meals. Tortillas transformed into apple pies on her watch.

Whitson was supposed to fly back in June after a half-year in space. But when a seat opened up on this Soyuz, she jumped at the chance to stay in orbit an extra three months. Only one other American — yearlong spaceman Scott Kelly — has spent longer in space on a single mission.

Russia lashes out over closing of diplomatic outposts in the US

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia accused the U.S. on Friday of a “gross violation of international law” after the Trump administration gave Moscow two days to shutter diplomatic outposts in San Francisco and other American cities.

As Russian diplomats rushed to meet the Saturday deadline, black smoke was seen billowing out of the chimney at the San Francisco consulate, one of three Russian facilities being forcibly closed. Firefighters, who were turned away by Russian officials when they responded to the scene, said the Russians were burning something in their fireplace.

In Moscow, the Russian government claimed that U.S. officials were planning to search both the consulate and apartments used by their diplomats on Saturday, though there were no indications from the U.S. suggesting that was the case. The State Department said merely that it planned to “secure and maintain” the properties and that Russia wouldn’t be allowed to use them for “diplomatic, consular, or residential purposes” any longer.

Still, the Kremlin appeared to be wrestling with how force-

fully to react to the U.S. order, the latest in a series of escalating retaliatory measures between the former Cold War foes. President Vladimir Putin’s foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Russia needs to “think carefully about how we could respond” to one of the thorniest diplomatic confrontations between Washington and Moscow in decades.

“One does not want to go into a frenzy, because someone has to be reasonable and stop,” Ushakov said.

The diplomatic machinations came the day after the Trump administration ordered three Russian facilities to close: the San Francisco consulate and trade missions in New York and Washington. The Russian Embassy in Washington is not affected, nor are three other Russian consulates in the U.S., including in New York.

The Trump administration said the order was retaliation for the Kremlin’s “unwarranted and detrimental” demand last month that the U.S. substantially reduce the size of its diplomatic staff in Russia. But Russia, for its part, justified its call for cuts to U.S. embassy and consular personnel as a reaction to new sanctions the U.S.

Congress approved in July.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Friday that Moscow would reply with firmness to the forced closure of the diplomatic posts but needed time to study Washington’s directive and to decide on a response.

“We will have a tough response to the things that come totally out of the blue to hurt us and are driven solely by the desire to spoil our relations with the United States,” Lavrov said in a televised meeting with students at Russia’s top diplomacy school.

Despite Russia’s claim the U.S. is violating international law, the Trump administration has defended the closures by citing the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The U.S. has said the 1960s-era pact gives host countries the right to consent to foreign countries establishing consular posts — or not.

The closures on both U.S. coasts marked perhaps the most drastic diplomatic measure by the U.S. against Russia since 1986, near the end of the Cold War, when the nuclear-armed powers expelled dozens of each other’s diplomats.

60K people in Germany evacuated for defusing

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — German authorities are making final preparations in Frankfurt before experts defuse a huge World War II-era bomb Sunday in an operation that includes evacuating more than 60,000 residents.

Hospital patients and the elderly are among those affected in what will be Germany’s biggest evacuation in recent history.

Construction workers found the 4,000-pound British bomb Tuesday.

Officials have ordered residents to evacuate homes within a nearly 1-mile radius of the site in Germany’s financial capital.

Dozens of ambulances lined up before driving to pick up anyone unable to leave the danger zone independently.

Similar operations are still common 72 years after the war ended.

About 20,000 people were evacuated from the western city of Koblenz before specialists disarmed a more-than-1,000-pound U.S. bomb on Saturday.

CEO shoots wife to show off bulletproof shirt

Miami Herald

BOGOTA, Colombia — Miguel Caballero aimed his .38-caliber pistol, took a deep breath and shot his wife — as gently as possible.

He wasn’t happy about shooting the mother of his children for the second time in nine years. But when you’re a purveyor of high-fashion bulletproof clothing trying to break into the U.S. market, you have to take a few risks.

Caballero’s clothing line is based in Colombia, marketed under the name MC Armor in

the U.S. and newly available in Miami. It’s stylish and effective enough to stop a bullet. But it’s Caballero’s showmanship — he has shot more than 230 volunteers to prove how effective his clothing is — that has made him something of a CEO celebrity in Latin America.

Three months ago, the company set up a distribution center in Miami to provide its bulletproof sports coats, safari jackets and T-shirts to the United States. After the smoke had cleared, Caballero dug the bullet out from vest’s multiple layers. As

always, it had mushroomed into a harmless lead curio.

The company’s flagship product is a patented lightweight and flexible bulletproof tank top that can be worn discreetly under regular clothes. The shirt comes with different levels of protection, but the most basic model weighs about 2.4 pounds and is rated to stop .38-caliber, .22-caliber and 9 mm bullets.

Like all ballistic vests, the item loses its warranty once it has been put to the test, but anybody unlucky enough to have that problem gets a free replace-

ment and inclusion in Miguel Caballero’s “survivors club.”

When Caballero started the enterprise in the 1990s, Colombia was one of the most murderous countries in the hemisphere, and almost everyone seemed to be a potential target.

But as Colombia has grown safer, Caballero has been forced to look abroad. Now, violence-plagued Mexico and Central America are his top markets, but he also has distributors throughout Africa and the Middle East. The company recently opened two stores in Iraq.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Runaway cow rams police car in suburb

NY MEDFORD — A runaway cow rammed a police car in suburban New York before being tranquilized and returned to its owner.

Newsday reported the cow was seen trotting through the streets of Medford on Long Island about 11:30 a.m. Friday.

Police said the cow lives in a residential area and the animal's owner had reported it missing Thursday.

A patrol officer pulled alongside the brown-and-white bovine Friday and the animal rammed the car, leaving a large dent.

Additional officers arrived and used their vehicles to corral the cow in an abandoned property. The cow then was subdued with a tranquilizer dart and was returned to its owner.

Man uses false name at jail to avoid prison

OH ZANESVILLE — Authorities say Robert Mason was a trusted, model prisoner the six times he was booked into Ohio's Zanesville City Jail starting in 2014.

But it wasn't Robert Mason who served those 150-plus days for various misdemeanors. It was Troy Mason, a homeless man who used his brother's name to avoid returning to prison for a parole violation on a felony burglary conviction.

A Muskingum County jury on Wednesday found Troy Mason, 50, guilty of forgery and tampering with records, felony convictions that could result in more prison time.

Prosecutors said the Zanesville jail's fingerprint machine was broken the first time he was booked as Robert Mason,

and he became a familiar figure afterward. He continued the charade until his parole officer unmasked him last year.

'Suspect apprehended!' 6-foot python nabbed

FL MIAMI BEACH — A 6-foot-long Burmese python slithered near a popular Miami Beach pedestrian mall, scaring the crowd outside a convenience store.

Customers leaving Exprezo noticed the snake beneath a royal palm tree on Wednesday. Someone called Miami Beach police and the python was captured.

Police Chief Daniel J. Oates tweeted "suspect apprehended!" along with photos of the capture.

Police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said the snake will be turned over to a wildlife refuge.

Man held after assaults at medical office

CA SANTA ROSA — Police in Northern California said officers arrested a man who allegedly assaulted at least five people at a medical center, then stripped off his clothes and fled naked down the street.

The Press Democrat reported police arrested Joshua Fajardo, 21, on Tuesday on suspicion of assaulting patients and office staff at Santa Rosa's St. Joseph Health pulmonary medical office.

Authorities said that after crashing his car nearby, Fajardo entered the clinic and punched a 56-year old man sitting in the waiting room. He also punched a doctor who tried to calm him, threw a 61-year-old patient to the ground and punched other people. He then took off all his clothes and fled out the back

door when officers arrived.

Santa Rosa police suspect Fajardo was under the influence of drugs.

Man gets to 10 to 20 years in sword slaying

PA INDIANA — A Pennsylvania man was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in the sword slaying of a man during what prosecutors say was a dispute over drug money.

The Indiana Gazette reported that Kevin King, 34, of Altoona was sentenced Aug. 28 after pleading guilty to third-degree murder in an agreement with Indiana County prosecutors just days after testifying against one of his co-defendants.

Authorities said King and three other men drove to the Blairsville home of Tyron Howard in September 2014 intending to rob and kill him.

Michael Eades, 45, who testified that he remained outside, was convicted in June of the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter. Deandre Jones Jr., 32, of Baltimore, was convicted in August of second-degree murder and faces a mandatory life term.

Animal clinic frees raccoon in sewer grate

RI SAUNDERSTOWN — Officials said a raccoon that got its head stuck in a sewer grate in Rhode Island had to be taken to an animal clinic — grate and all — after efforts to free the animal on site failed.

The Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island said Tuesday on Facebook the animal is recovering after being successfully freed by a veterinarian. The organization said four people had to help move the grate into the surgery room so the veterinarian could work on the raccoon.

They said the animal had been trapped since the night before and its head and neck had swollen too much to be squeezed back out. The clinic used ice and anti-inflammatory medications to reduce the swelling before applying "major elbow grease" to free the animal.

Girls burning sweater may have caused fire

WY GILLETTE — Investigators say two children may have started a grass fire that threatened several structures in northeast Wyoming.

The fire Aug. 28 burned two-thirds of a square mile in the Gillette area. No homes or other buildings burned.

Police Lt. Chuck Deaton told the Gillette News-Record two girls ages 11 and 12 told investigators they used hair spray and a cigarette lighter to burn a sweater. The girls said they poured water and stomped on the flames before leaving the sweater outside.

Delivery man hit by police car is arrested

FL MIAMI — A Miami sandwich shop bicycle delivery man was struck by an unmarked police car — and then was jailed for 12 hours.

The Miami Herald reported that Jimmy John's delivery man Mason Morales, 19, was on his bicycle and in a crosswalk when Miami police officer Kenia Falat struck his bike Thursday and knocked him to the pavement.

Morales responded by throwing his bike at the car, denting the passenger door.

He was cuffed and taken to jail until his mother bailed him out at 3 a.m. Friday. He was charged with criminal mischief.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Top-ranked 'Bama smothers No. 3 FSU

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Sparkling confetti rained on Alabama during a celebration in the middle of Atlanta's glitzy new stadium.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide hope to return in January for an even bigger party.

Dominating on defense and taking advantage of an awful special teams showing by No. 3 Florida State, the Crimson Tide got started on what has become its annual quest for the national title with a 24-7 beat-down of the Seminoles on Saturday night at \$1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

"It's good to get a win, but we have a lot of work to do," Alabama coach Nick Saban said, before adding ominously for the rest of the nation:

"We'll get better."

The new stadium, filled to the rafters with 76,330 fans split almost evenly between the schools, hosted one of the most anticipated opening games in college football history.

At the end of the season, it will be the site of the national championship game.

Don't bet against Alabama making a return appearance.

"It's one game. We have a long season," Saban said. "The focus that we have right now is what's ahead, not what's behind."

Damien Harris ran for a touchdown and blocked a punt, while Jalen Hurts chipped in with a scoring pass in a game that basically required the sophomore quarterback to make no major mistakes.

This one was all about that dynamic Bama D.

And Florida State's not-so-special teams.

"We work 30 to 35 minutes a day on special teams," coach Jimbo Fisher moaned. "We had breakdowns. Those were critical plays in the game."

Coming off a last-second loss in last sea-

son's title game, Alabama picked off two passes by Deondre Francois in the second half, snuffing out any hopes of a Florida State comeback. Throw in a blocked punt, a blocked field goal and a fumble recovery on a kickoff return, and there was really no path to victory for the Seminoles in the first opener between two teams in the top three of The Associated Press preseason rankings.

The Tide led 10-7 at halftime, catching a huge break in the closing seconds when the officials didn't call a pass interference penalty.

Tony Brown never looked for the ball, running into Nyqwan Murray as he tried to go for a scoring catch that would have given the Seminoles a lead. When Florida State was forced to settle for a 37-yard field goal attempt, Minkah Fitzpatrick leaped up to make the block on the final play of the half, preserving the lead and prompting a round of boos from the FSU faithful as the officials trotted off the field.

Appearing deflated, the Seminoles never got anything going over the final two quarters. Levi Wallace and Mack Wilson both had interceptions, and Francois' night ended with him being helped off the field — putting no weight on his left knee — after being sacked from behind by blitzing safety Ronnie Harrison.

Francois grabbed at his knee even as he was going down.

It was a potentially crushing blow on a night that already went bad enough for the Seminoles.

"I hugged him," Fisher said. "We'll get the diagnosis and figure out what we've got to do from here."

With the Tide still clinging to that three-point lead, the game was essentially decided by a seven-play sequence toward the end of the third quarter.

Logan Tyler's punt was smothered by Harris, racing in from the left side, and Dylan Moses fell on it at the Florida State 6. The Seminoles made an impressive stand, forcing Alabama to settle for Andy Panastos' 25-yard field goal.

It was all for naught when, on the ensuing kickoff, Keith Gavin muffed the ball in the end zone, picked it up, ran into one of his own men, and then fumbled on a hit by Moses. Keith Holcombe recovered at the 11, and Harris ran up the middle for a touchdown on the very next play, splitting two would-be tacklers at the 5.

Florida State managed only 65 yards in the second half and finished with 250 in the game. Alabama had just 269 yards but it didn't really matter with all the chances created by the defense and special teams.

"This game tells us where we are," Saban said, "and where we need to go."

The takeaway

Alabama: The Tide looked very much like a team worthy of its No. 1 ranking. While the no-call on the potential pass interference penalty was a huge break, there was no doubt about the better team in this game. The offense still needs a bit of work, especially the passing game. Saban grumbled that his team "didn't make a lot of explosive plays."

Florida State: The Seminoles were looking to regain a bit of their swagger after back-to-back 10-3 seasons, which would be a cause for celebration at most schools but not in Tallahassee. Florida State thought it had the squad to contend again for a national title, but the offense was no match for the Crimson Tide. Throw in Francois' injury, and the outlook is suddenly a whole lot bleaker.

45-point underdog Howard stuns UNLV

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Caylin Newton accounted for 330 total offensive yards and three touchdowns to lead 45-point underdog and FCS-member Howard to a stunning 43-40 win Saturday night in the season opener and debut for new Bison coach Mike London.

Howard spoiled the start of UNLV's 50th season of play with the biggest upset in college football history based on point spread. Stanford held the previous record when it was declared a 40-point underdog against USC in 2007 and beat the Trojans.

The Rebels started the game flagged for offside on the opening kickoff, and at one point, the officials stopped a play because UNLV's cheerleaders were still on the field.

As for the former Virginia coach, he inherited a team that was 3-19 in the last two seasons that included losses last year of 52-13 to Maryland, 52-14 against Rutgers, and in 2015, suffered a 49-0 loss to Appalachian State and a 76-0 defeat against Boston College.

Howard raced to a 21-9 lead when Devin Rollins returned a fumble for a 75-yard score. The Rebels responded by reeling off

24 consecutive points and led 33-21 when Charles Williams plunged in from a yard out with 6:45 left in the third.

Anthony Philyaw posted touchdown runs of 3 and 11 yards respectively to put the Bison back up 36-33. Lexington Thomas scored for UNLV for a 40-36 lead, and Newton concluded the scoring with a 4-yard run with 7:34 left to play.

Newton had 21 carries for 190 yards and two scores and passed for 140 and a score.

Thomas had 21 carries for 151 yards and two touchdowns, and Armani Rogers passed for 220 yards and a touchdown for UNLV.

No. 3 Federer sharp in win over Lopez

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This was Roger Federer at his hard-to-beat best, so unlike the pair of uncomfortable five-setters he labored through to begin the U.S. Open.

Federer's back looked just fine, his movement precise, his strokes absolutely on-point. It all added up to a straightforward 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 victory over 31st-seeded Feliciano Lopez in the third round at Flushing Meadows that lasted all of 106 minutes under the roof in Arthur Ashe Stadium on a rainy Saturday night.

"I think," Lopez said, "he's OK."

The most telling statistic was that the No. 3-seeded Federer was guilty of 16 unforced errors, which is not merely a remarkably low total on its own merits but also significant when viewed through the prism provided by his matches earlier in the week. He averaged 62 errors in each of those outings, against 19-year-old American Frances Tiafoe and 35-year-old Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

That was the first time in the 36-year-old Federer's career that he opened a Grand Slam

tournament with two consecutive matches lasting five sets.

More relevant numbers: Federer was broken eight times total in those matches, but only once against Lopez.

"I'm really pleased with the performance," Federer declared. "It's exactly, I guess, maybe what I needed going into the next round."

Federer improved to 13-0 against Lopez and 33-1 in night matches at Flushing Meadows, so perhaps the lopsided nature of this shouldn't be all that surprising. Still, Federer had acknowledged after edging a cramping Youzhny that a lack of proper practice leading up to the U.S. Open on account of tweaking his back in August meant that his timing was off.

"I needed to get over the fear of the back issue, especially in that first match, the first set. Then I think the wobble I had in the second round was due to my preparation. I think now I'm just trusting my movement better. My serve is there. My mind is there. I can finally focus on playing tennis and not so much about the past," Federer said. "So it's nice to be in the present in my mind, looking ahead, thinking tactics."

In other words: Consider Federer back on track.

"The fact that he won two long matches, best-of-five, fighting, struggling a little bit more than normal in the early rounds — I think it was good preparation for him coming into this third round," Lopez said. "He seems to be fit and fast and serving well."

Next for Federer is a match against 33rd-seeded Philipp Kohlschreiber, who beat John Millman 7-5, 6-2, 6-4. Federer's head-to-head record against Kohlschreiber is 11-0.

Looming further down the road is a possible semifinal matchup against No. 1 Rafael Nadal, Federer's long-time rival. They have never met at the U.S. Open.

Nadal won earlier Saturday, although for the second match in a row, he needed to shake off a poor opening set that he dropped. Nadal advanced, though, once again figuring things out in the second set and strolling the rest of the way to defeat Leonardo Mayer of Argentina 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 and get to the fourth round.

The woman who is currently trying to hold onto her No. 1 ranking has never won a major

trophy, but she is still in the running for one — just barely. Karolina Pliskova saved a match point in the second set and came all the way back to get past No. 27 Zhang Shuai of China 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 and get to the fourth round.

"I don't feel like I'm playing that good again," said Pliskova, last year's runner-up in New York, "but I'm still in the draw, actually, so I'm not going to be that sad."

No. 4 seed Elina Svitolina has a chance to overtake Pliskova in the rankings and stayed in the draw with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Shelby Rogers of the U.S. Another American advanced when 20th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe outlasted 2012 Wimbledon finalist Agnieszka Radwanska 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

No. 15 seed Madison Keys gave the host country a total of five women in the round of 16 when she came back to beat No. 17 Elena Vesnina of Russia 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a match that began shortly before midnight and ended at 1:45 a.m.

That's the second-latest finish for a U.S. Open women's singles match. The record of 1:48 a.m. was set by a match won by Keys a year ago.

Broncos bring back Osweiler on 1-year deal

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Brock Osweiler is returning to Denver 18 months after jilting the Broncos in free agency.

The Broncos agreed to terms with Peyton Manning's former apprentice Saturday on a one-year deal after the quarterback was cut by the Cleveland Browns. Provided he passes his physical Monday, Osweiler will serve as Trevor Siemian's understudy in his second stint in Denver.

The Broncos needed another QB because Paxton Lynch, their 2016 first-round draft pick, will miss a month or more with a sprained throwing shoulder.

General manager John Elway said Osweiler will be the backup "until Lynch gets healthy," and the Broncos will re-evaluate their quarterback situation at that time.

Among the cuts as Denver trimmed its roster Saturday was three-time Pro Bowl

strong safety T.J. Ward, a move made possible by Denver's depth in the secondary, which was known as the "No Fly Zone" ever since Ward's arrival in 2014.

Osweiler went 5-2 in relief of an injured Manning during the Broncos' Super Bowl-winning season two years ago before bolting to Houston in free agency for a four-year, \$72 million deal, about \$8 million more than the Broncos offered.

After just one season, the Texans traded Osweiler in March to the Browns, who will pay Osweiler his \$16 million guaranteed salary this season minus the offset from the Broncos. The minimum for a sixth-year pro is \$775,000.

No matter how long Osweiler's return to Denver lasts, his weekly salary of \$941,000 dwarfs the \$36,136 Siemian will make every week.

Osweiler started the final seven games

of the 2015 season while Manning was sidelined with a foot injury. When the Broncos' offense sputtered in their final game, Manning replaced Osweiler and led Denver to a 27-20 comeback win against San Diego that secured the AFC's top seed. Manning then took every snap in the playoffs.

"Without Brock that year, we don't win the Super Bowl," Elway said Saturday. "He had a lot to do with that year. But I'm sure it's probably been a long 18 months for him. He's been through a lot. ... I'm sure with everything he went through in Houston and then going to Cleveland, I'm sure he's going to need a little football rehab. We know that. We'll welcome him with open arms and give him some love."

Elway said there are no hard feelings from their previous split.

Astros sweep Mets in Houston return

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros entered Saturday hoping to provide some cheer to a city ravaged by Hurricane Harvey in their first games at home since the storm.

They left the ballpark feeling encouraged after sweeping a day-night doubleheader over the New York Mets in front of a combined crowd of more than 60,000 fans in the first professional sporting event in the city since the storm.

“It was a long day but a productive day for us,” manager A.J. Hinch said. “We played pretty well with high energy and a lot of emotion ... couldn’t have really scripted a better day.”

The Astros won the first game 12-8 behind George Springer’s career-high 30th home run. Springer had three hits and Josh Reddick and Marwin Gonzalez added RBI singles in a four-run sixth inning as Houston got a 4-1 win in the second game.

“The fact that they came out today to support us, it’s crazy,” Springer said. “There’s thousands of people that don’t have homes, they don’t have belongings and they’re rallying around us. It’s our job as the sports

team here to do anything we can. The goal is to provide anybody with some sense of relief.”

In the nightcap, Reddick tied it at 1 with an RBI single off Seth Lugo (5-4) with no outs in the sixth before Jose Altuve avoided Kevin Plawecki’s tag at home to score on a single by Gonzalez.

The Astros extended the lead to 3-1 when Reddick scored on a groundout by Brian McCann, and Houston added another run on a sacrifice fly by J.D. Davis.

Joe Musgrove (7-8) pitched 2¹/₃ scoreless innings for the win, and Ken Giles pitched a perfect ninth for his 28th save.

Mets third baseman Wilmer Flores fouled a ball off his face in the fourth inning and manager Terry Collins said preliminary reports are that he has a broken nose, but that they would know more on Sunday.

A crowd of 30,319 attended the doubleheader opener, and 34,904 came out for the second game. The Astros moved a home series earlier this week against rival Texas to Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. The AL West leaders, who lost two of three to the Rangers, then postponed Friday’s game by a day, allowing players time to work in the community.

It was the first doubleheader in Minute Maid Park history and the first in Houston since the Astros won both games against the Marlins on Aug. 27, 1999, at the Astrodome.

The Mets took the lead in the sixth when Juan Lagares tripled to start the inning and Asdrubal Cabrera walked before starter Brad Peacock was replaced by Francisco Liriano with one out. He was greeted with a double by Dominic Smith that scored Lagares.

The Astros wore patches on the upper left side of their jerseys with the team logo and the word “STRONG” in block letters as a tribute to those affected by the storm. As Springer approached home plate after hitting a two-run homer in the second inning, he pounded the patch three times with his right fist and pointed to the fans.

Collins was glad to be able to help the city take a break from all the problems that have come with the storm.

“If we can bring a distraction to what the town’s going through, certainly we’re up for it. We’ve been through it before obviously in our city,” Collins said, referring to Superstorm Sandy in 2012. “We know what the feeling is like. Tough atmosphere to play in when you’re a visitor.”

MLB roundup

Kluber lifts Indians to 10th straight victory

Associated Press

DETROIT — As well as the Cleveland Indians are playing, sending Corey Kluber to the mound makes them pretty close to a sure thing.

On Saturday, the combination of Cleveland’s offense and Kluber’s pitching meant that a 10th straight victory was in the bag long before the sun set.

Cleveland scored four runs in the first inning and Kluber only allowed one in eight innings as the Indians moved their winning streak to double figures with a 5-2 victory over the Tigers.

“We don’t start that well very often, but it is a good way to play, especially when Kluber is pitching,” Indians manager Terry Francona said. “We didn’t do much after that, but he made them stand up.”

The Indians are on their longest winning streak since taking a franchise-record 14 in a

row between June 17 and July 1, 2016.

Kluber (14-4) gave up one run and eight hits, striking out seven without walking a batter. Alex Presley went 4-for-4 against Kluber for his first four-hit game.

“That was huge, obviously,” Kluber said. “I’m always trying to go out there and pound the strike zone, but that’s even more true when I’ve got a big cushion like that.”

Twins 17, Royals 0: Joe Mauer went 4-for-4 for Minnesota, and Eduardo Escobar hit two home runs while driving in six runs for host Minneapolis.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 2: Patrick Corbin pitched effectively into the sixth inning, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run home run and visiting Arizona won its season-high ninth straight.

Mariners 7, Athletics 6: Jean Segura raced home from third base on a wild pitch with

two outs in the ninth inning, and host Seattle rallied from four runs down.

Padres 6, 7; Dodgers 5, 2: Carlos Asuaje homered and Erick Aybar had three singles off Yu Darvish, who failed to get an out in the fourth inning as host San Diego swept.

Yankees 5, Red Sox 1: Matt Holliday made a smashing return to the host Yankees’ lineup, hitting a three-run homer that helped Masahiro Tanaka win.

Cubs 14, Braves 12: Rene Rivera hit a grand slam, Anthony Rizzo added a three-run triple and the host Cubs held off the Braves in Jon Lester’s return from the disabled list.

Nationals 3, Brewers 2: Trea Turner’s double to the center-field wall scored Wilmer Difo from first base in the eighth inning, and host Washington rallied.

Marlins 10, Phillies 9: Giancarlo Stanton hit his major

league-leading 52nd home run, and host Miami snapped a five-game losing streak.

Angels 7, Rangers 4 (10): Kole Calhoun hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the 10th inning, and the visiting Angels rallied for the win.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 2: Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer and visiting Toronto deftly recovered from a second-inning injury to starting pitcher Marcus Stroman.

Giants 2, Cardinals 1: Nick Hundley hit a game-ending homer in the 10th inning for host San Francisco.

Pirates 5, Reds 0: Jordan Luplow picked up the first two hits of his career, including a three-run homer for host Pittsburgh in the eighth inning.

White Sox 5, Rays 4: Host Tampa Bay’s Chris Archer gave up home runs to the first two batters then departed with right lateral forearm tightness.