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N. Korea may test-fire another missile soon

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea may test-fire another intercontinental ballistic missile to mark key anniversaries on Saturday and early next month, South Korean officials said.

The warning came as international condemnation mounted a day after the North conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

South Korea's military conducted a mock attack on a North Korean nuclear test site in a fiery show of force. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis also warned that the United States would answer any threat from the communist state with a "massive military response."

South Korea's Defense Ministry and other officials said Monday that the blast had a strength of 50 kilotons, which would make it about five times as powerful as the bomb that devastated Hiroshima during World War II.

Underscoring the threat, South Korea's spy agency said the North may fire an intercontinental ballistic missile toward the northern Pacific Ocean around the 69th anniversary of the communist state's foundation on Saturday.

National Intelligence Service officials also told lawmakers in a closed session that the North may launch the missile around the Oct. 10 anniversary of the establishment of the ruling Workers' Party, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, planned a flurry of late-night calls with President Donald Trump and other world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The North said Sunday it tested a hydrogen bomb that could be fitted onto an ICBM, although the nature of the blast had yet to be confirmed.

The communist state fired two ICBMs in July and sent a

missile over Japan last month. Leader Kim Jong Un said the missile test over Japan was a "meaningful prelude" to a military plan to fire projectiles into the waters near the U.S. territory of Guam.

The spy agency in Seoul told lawmakers during a briefing that the second and northern tunnel at the test site presumably collapsed. That may have been the cause of a smaller earthquake detected by China about eight minutes after the first one.

The escalation in North Korea's testing activity and rhetoric has caused tensions to spike and raised fears that a full-fledged conflict could break out on the divided peninsula.

Trump was asked by a reporter as he left church services on Sunday if he would attack the North. "We'll see," he responded.

Mattis had tough words for the North after meeting with Trump and other national security officials on Sunday.

He said the U.S. was prepared to defend its own territory as well as its allies South Korea and Japan from any attack.

"We have many military options, and the president wanted to be briefed on each one of them," he told reporters in Washington.

"Any threat to the United States, or its territories, including Guam, or our allies will be met with a massive military response — a response both effective and overwhelming," he said, calling on Kim to heed U.N. Security Council resolutions banning the North from using ballistic missile and nuclear technology.

"We are not looking to the total annihilation of a country — namely, North Korea," he said. "But, as I said, we have many options to do so."

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting for later Monday in what would be its second such session in under a week to discuss the growing threat from the North.

Navy mulls unmanned vehicles to add power

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — President Donald Trump and Navy leaders say the nation needs about 350 ships, roughly 75 more than the fleet has today. But there isn't money in the defense budget to buy a lot of new ships at once, and they take years to build.

Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, says they could get closer to the target faster by counting unmanned vessels with capabilities similar to those of a manned ship — a new twist on the definition of a ship.

Unmanned undersea vehicles currently used by the Navy aren't at the point now where they could replace manned platforms. While they can complete a task to support a mission, they can't complete an entire mission on their own, and none is

weaponized, according to the Navy.

Richardson brought senior officers to Newport, R.I., in August to talk about accelerating their development. The future Navy is going to be very different from today's fleet, he said. "I can guarantee that it's not going to be building more of the same thing we have right now," he said. "Because that will not be the Navy that the nation needs to secure itself and promote its prosperity."

Richardson said he's trying to figure out how to increase naval power as quickly as he can because the Navy is being challenged at sea by very capable foreign naval forces. He said he's looking at vehicles that can do a range of things, including acting as sensors and carrying weapons, and can be networked in with the rest of the fleet.

At Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport, researchers are adapting

commercial, off-the-shelf unmanned undersea vehicles for use by the military.

Dozens of unmanned undersea vehicles are being used by the Navy to sense oceanographic conditions and look for mines, with supervision by Navy personnel, said Jenny Roberts, the deputy for undersea influence at the Navy's Undersea Warfare Division.

Technological advancements in autonomy, endurance, command and control and other areas are needed before the Navy could assign anything more complex, like surveillance, she added.

The Navy could potentially get by with fewer ships if some of the larger, more capable unmanned vehicles could someday reliably do some of the easier missions ships do, but it's not a one-for-one replacement, said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

Defense bill could change way feds buy everyday items

The Washington Post

New legislation working its way through Congress could significantly alter the way commercial companies sell everyday products and services to the U.S. military and federal agencies, opening the door for online retailers to reach a massive new customer.

The defense bill passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year contains language that would allow the Pentagon and other government agencies to buy directly from commercially run online marketplaces, bypassing a highly regulated purchasing process managed by the General Services Administration.

High-tech weaponry such as jets, guns and missiles would still be developed and sold through traditional government contracts. But the effort would allow companies such as Amazon.com, OfficeMax and Home Depot to set up marketplaces for agencies to buy basic supplies.

Currently, agencies buy commercial goods through GSA schedules — essentially prenegotiated agreements to provide products and services to the government at volume discount pricing.

The bill's supporters see commercially run marketplaces as a way to reduce bureaucracy and drive down prices for the government. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, initiated the effort as a stand-alone bill called the Defense Acquisition Streamlining and Transparency Act, which later was merged into the House-passed defense spending bill. The Senate is slated to take up the legislation when it returns from recess.

The idea has drawn mixed views from industry. Opening up the government to e-commerce firms could increase competition by bringing in new players, but established firms might be worried about how the shift will play out.

ISIS fighters from convoy may have escaped to Iraq

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — An Islamic State convoy stranded in the Syrian desert for five days has split up, and some fighters may have found their way into Iraq despite the U.S. military's determination to stop them from reaching militant-controlled territory, according to reports from Syrian activists, Iraqi officials and the U.S. military on Sunday.

Conflicting reports and claims put the 17 buses that made up the original convoy in a variety of locations.

The buses set out in a convoy from western Syria on Aug. 29 under the terms of a deal brokered by the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah movement to relocate the fighters to the ISIS-controlled town of Bukamal on the Iraqi border, in return for the bodies of Lebanese army, Hezbollah and Iranian soldiers.

The convoy has since become the center of a region-wide controversy over whether such deals are acceptable, with the United States and its allies trading accusations with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies over who is doing more to fight terrorism.

Iraq's government expressed outrage at the relocation, which would have enabled the 300 ISIS fighters on board the convoy to reinforce militant positions in Iraq. The U.S. military vowed to prevent them from doing so and on Wednesday blocked the convoy's path by bombing the desert road ahead of it.

At least some of the buses have since been stranded in the desert between Syrian government and ISIS lines, with U.S. warplanes circling overhead to deter any further attempts to reach ISIS territory.

On Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry slammed the U.S.

military's surveillance of the buses as "illogical" and said the lives of pregnant women are at risk, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

On Sunday, the U.S. military said six of the buses had crossed back into government-held territory and headed toward the Syrian government-controlled town of Palmyra, leaving 11 buses stuck in the desert.

Hezbollah, meanwhile, said that four of the buses reached territory controlled by ISIS in fulfillment of the Hezbollah deal and that six were stuck in the desert.

According to Syrians in the area and Iraqi officials, however, all or most of the original fighters who set out on the convoy have gotten off the buses and made their way to Iraq, using back roads to bypass the path bombed by U.S. warplanes.

Assad's forces close to breaking ISIS' 3-year siege in oil-rich Deir el-Zour

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces and their allies are on the verge of breaking a nearly three-year siege imposed by Islamic State on parts of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, opposition activists and state media said Monday.

Breaking the siege on Deir el-Zour would mark another victory for President Bashar Assad, whose forces have been advancing on several fronts against ISIS and other insurgent groups over the past year.

Syrian troops and allied militiamen have for months been advancing toward Deir el-Zour, the provincial capital of the oil-rich province of the same

name. Government forces are besieged in a handful of neighborhoods as well as a nearby airport.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday that the advancing forces are a few hundred yards from a besieged, government-held air base known as Brigade 137. If they reach the base, they will be able to lift the siege.

State TV reported that government forces are only 2 miles away from breaking the siege. State news agency SANA reported the "collapse" of ISIS defenses in the area.

"The morale is very high," Deir el-Zour's governor, Mohammed Ibrahim al-Samra, told state TV, speaking from

inside the besieged area.

"Assad's forces are a few kilometers from breaking the siege," said opposition activist Omar Abu Laila, who currently lives in Europe but is from Deir el-Zour. He is with DeirEzzor 24, an activist group that has reporters throughout the eastern province.

Also on Monday, the U.S.-led coalition said allied Syrian fighters have successfully cleared a centuries-old mosque in Raqqa after seizing the Syrian city's ancient quarters from ISIS.

The SDF, aided by the U.S.-led coalition, launched their offensive to capture Raqqa on June 6 and have since taken more than half the city.

With brutal to-do list, GOP lawmakers clash on storm relief, debt limit

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans return to work this week facing enormous pressure to achieve major policy victories and to carry out such basic acts of governance as providing disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, avoiding a default on the nation's debt and keeping federal agencies open.

So far, there is little evidence of progress.

On Sunday, a proposal from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to attach recovery aid to legislation raising the nation's borrowing limit quickly drew objections from conservative lawmakers seeking spending cuts.

And Trump and the White House only recently have engaged with congressional leaders, who must navigate the demands of conservatives but also those of Democrats, who have the votes to derail most legislation in the Senate.

Republicans are scheduled to discuss tax cuts at the White House on Tuesday, Trump's first direct engagement with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell since early August, when the president criticized the Kentucky Republican on Twitter and in an expletive-laden phone call. On Wednesday, Trump will meet with leaders of both parties — his first face-to-face meeting with top Democrats since January.

Even before Hurricane Harvey swept across southeastern Texas, the White House and lawmakers faced a series of dire deadlines likely to establish September as the busiest and most challenging month so far in the Trump presidency.

Among the most pivotal decisions is how to avoid a federal default when the government reaches its borrowing limit at the end of the month. Failure to raise the debt ceiling could plunge financial markets and the economy into turmoil.

Lawmakers and the White

House also must extend government spending beyond September to avert a federal shutdown. And deadlines to reauthorize a flood insurance program and to extend health insurance for low-income children also loom before the end of the month.

Approving a Harvey aid package and beginning talks toward the GOP's top legislative priority — an overhaul of the tax system — add to the pressure.

Mnuchin's revelation Sunday on Fox News that Trump hopes to include disaster aid in debt-ceiling legislation provoked conservative lawmakers who have pushed for spending cuts in exchange for their support for raising the debt limit. These lawmakers already were signaling plans for a rebellion over the entire September agenda if leaders don't agree to major cuts and changes to expensive federal programs such as Medicaid.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., chairman of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, who previously had warned against attaching a debt-limit increase to Harvey aid, accused Mnuchin on Sunday of reneging on his prior rhetoric.

"I find it interesting that the secretary has long called for a clean debt ceiling and now suggests that we attach something to the debt ceiling vote," Meadows said. "There should be a clean bill; it's called the Hurricane Harvey relief bill."

The leader of the Republican Study Committee, another group of House conservatives, also raised pointed objections Sunday. Rep. Mark Walker, N.C., said in a statement that any debt ceiling increase "should be paired with significant fiscal and structural reforms" and that the need for Harvey aid did not remove that imperative.

"Our obligation is to assist those impacted by this great flood but it's past time the swamp waters in D.C. begin receding as well," Walker said.

Mayor: Houston 'open for business' in spite of Harvey

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's mayor insists that America's fourth-largest city is "open for business," but with areas under water, people not yet in their homes and billions in damage to repair, major disasters that Harvey created are by no means resolved.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said much of the city was hoping to get back on track after Labor Day.

"Anyone who was planning on a conference or a convention or a sporting event or a concert coming to this city, you can still come," he told CBS. "We can do multiple things at the same time."

One worry, of further explosions at a damaged chemical plant, eased after officials carried out a controlled burn Sunday evening of highly unstable compounds at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Three trailers previously had caught fire after Harvey's floodwaters knocked out generators.

Authorities said Monday it is now safe for residents of a 1.5-mile evacuation zone around the Arkema plant to return. They were forced to leave Tuesday.

Floodwaters also have inundated at least five toxic waste Superfund sites near Houston and some may be damaged, though Environmental Protection Agency officials have yet to assess the full extent of what occurred.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott told CNN the EPA is "working on some of them already," but "they have restraints on their ability to check out some of them just simply because of the water."

Turner said Houston's drinking water hadn't been affected by the storm, but told CBS, "We would hope that the EPA would

be on the ground now to take a look at those Superfund sites, to make sure that contamination is contained and limited."

Other issues across the region include too much water still in houses but no water to drink.

Utility crews went door-to-door Sunday shutting off power and warning those still in some waterlogged homes in western parts of the city that more flooding was possible — not from rain, but from releases of water from overtaxed reservoirs. Thousands of Houston dwellings were under mandatory evacuation orders, though about 300 people were thought to be refusing to leave.

People briefly returned Sunday to some homes in the area, which included brick two-story and ranch homes bordering Buffalo Bayou, to try to salvage valuables.

More than a week since the storm hit, the 4 feet of water in her parents' home had receded just a foot, said Karen Mace. She was trying to retrieve family photos from the one-story ranch house her parents built and have lived in for 56 years, which backs up to Buffalo Bayou.

"It came up fast. They had to get out by canoe," Mace said, adding they thought the home would have to be demolished.

Harvey slammed into Texas on Aug. 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, but brought the worst flooding to Houston and other areas as a tropical storm. The rain totaled nearly 52 inches in some spots, and the storm is blamed for at least 44 deaths.

In other storm-ravaged neighborhoods, people worried about thefts.

In the suburb of Dickinson, one homeowner used orange spray paint on a sheet of dirty plywood for a warning: "Looters Will B Shot."

President expected to end young immigrant program

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is expected to announce that he will end protections for young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children, but with a six-month delay, people familiar with the plans said.

The delay in the formal dismantling of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program would be intended to give Congress time to decide whether to address the status of the so-called Dreamers legislation, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking. It was not immediately clear how the six-month delay would work in practice.

It also was unclear exactly what would happen if Congress failed to pass a measure by the considered deadline, they said. The two spoke on condition of anonymity.

The president has been known to change his mind in the past and still could shift course. The plan was first reported by Politico.

Trump has been wrestling for months with what to do with the Obama-era DACA program, which has given nearly 800,000 young immigrants a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the form of two-year, renewable work permits.

The expected move would come as the White

House faces a Tuesday deadline set by Republican state officials threatening to sue the Trump administration if the president did not end the program. It also would come as Trump digs in on appeals to his base as he finds himself increasingly under fire, with his poll numbers at near-record lows.

Trump had been personally torn as late as last week over how to deal with what are undoubtedly the most sympathetic immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Many came to the U.S. as young children and have no memories of the countries they were born in.

During his campaign, Trump vowed to eliminate the program the day he took office. But since his election, he has wavered on the issue, at one point telling The Associated Press that those covered could “rest easy.”

It would be up to members of Congress to pass a measure to protect those who have been covered under the program. While there is considerable support for that among Democrats and moderate Republicans, Congress is already facing a packed fall agenda and has had a poor track record in recent years for passing immigration-related bills.

House Speaker Paul Ryan and a number of other legislators urged Trump last week to hold off on scrapping DACA to give them time to come up with a legislative fix.

Western wildfires force many to flee

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wildfires forced thousands to flee their homes across the U.S. West during a sweltering, smoke-shrouded holiday weekend of record heat.

The fires Sunday caused evacuations in Glacier National Park in Montana and other Western areas; compelled crews to rescue 140 hikers who had spent the night in the woods after fire broke out along the popular Columbia River Gorge Trail in Oregon; and led firefighters to step up efforts to protect a 2,700-year-old grove of giant sequoia encroached by flames near Yosemite National Park in California.

A sudden gusty series of rainstorms allowed Los Angeles to cancel evacuation orders for a wildfire that the mayor called the largest in the city's history and sent beach umbrellas and toy shovels bouncing down Southern California beaches late Sunday. By evening, the day's record heat in Los Angeles had eased and a spate of brief storms even brought a bit of rain to the burning slopes, slowing the fire's progress.

California authorities ordered evacuations for a third small town Sunday in one of the wildfires, a blaze that has burned 9 square miles near Yosemite. Firefighters battling that blaze were making it a priority to safeguard the ancient grove of giant sequoia and a pair of historic cabins at the foot of the trees, fire spokeswoman Anne Grandy said.

In Washington state, Gov. Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency across all counties as three major fires closed recreation areas and prompted evacuations.

Flames in Montana's Glacier National Park prompted officials to evacuate all residents, campers and tourists from one of the most popular areas of the park.

Eastern Caribbean braces for Hurricane Irma

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Government workers on the islands of the eastern Caribbean are clearing drains and pruning trees as authorities urge residents to prepare for Hurricane Irma, a Category 3 storm likely to begin buffeting that area Tuesday.

The Antigua and Barbuda weather service said Irma was expected to bring heavy rains, rough surf and high winds. Hurricane watches were posted for Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, Guadeloupe and the British Virgin Islands.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said islands farther north, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, should monitor the progress of the

storm and be prepared for Irma possibly to head their direction.

Long-range forecasts indicated Irma likely would curve to the northwest beginning late Monday and would skirt to the north of the islands in the eastern Caribbean on a path that potentially could take it to the U.S. East Coast, but it was too early to make a definitive prediction.

Antigua's prime minister, Gaston Browne, urged people to take preventive measures in case the storm should keep on its current arc, saying that should include cleaning drains and removing objects that could be sent flying by high winds. Workers began pruning trees and shrubs to reduce chances for branches to tear down power and phone lines.

The U.S. hurricane center said Irma had maximum

sustained winds of 115 mph Monday morning and some strengthening was expected through Tuesday night. The storm was centered about 625 miles east of the Leeward Islands and moving west-southwest at 14 mph.

Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rossello, said government agencies in the U.S. territory were prepared to deal with any emergencies caused by the storm.

“We have established protocols for the safety of all,” he said at a news conference, while he also urged islanders to take precautions.

In the Dominican Republic, Public Works Minister Gonzalo Castillo said workers there were clearing away road works and also were cleaning out blockages of sewer drains.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Driver loses trailer and continues for 7 miles

IN GARY — Indiana State Police said a semitrailer driver lost one of his trailers and didn't realize it until more than 7 miles later.

Police said Jeffrey R. Olgetree, of Haughton, La., was pulling two trailers on Interstate 80/94 in Gary on Aug. 29 when another semitrailer veered into his lane, prompting Ogletree to swerve onto a shoulder, then overcorrect back onto the highway.

Police said that caused the rear trailer to fishtail and become unattached. It rolled onto its side before coming to rest across two lanes. Police said Ogletree was unaware he had lost the trailer until he pulled over farther down the road.

Police said two lanes were closed about two hours to upright and tow the trailer.

Whale gets entangled in cruise ship anchor

AK JUNEAU — A humpback whale became entangled in an anchor line on a small cruise ship in southeast Alaska, getting stuck for roughly 12 hours while federal authorities and the boat's crew worked to free it.

NOAA Fisheries said the anchor chain was cut in hopes the whale could wriggle loose. The chain was wrapped around the whale's lower jaw.

The agency said the team saw a whale, believed to be the one that had been entangled, swimming away.

Man trapped in sinkhole on street in Brooklyn

NY NEW YORK — New York City firefighters were called to rescue a man whose leg became trapped in

a sinkhole that formed in a crosswalk.

The incident happened in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn on Aug. 29. Stephen Suarez said he was returning to work after finishing a delivery when his right leg plunged into the small sinkhole.

Suarez, 28, was trapped up to his hip and experienced severe pain. Firefighters first considered using tools to make the hole bigger but decided to carefully pull Suarez out. He was treated at a hospital and released. City officials had the hole repaired later that day.

Coast Guard: Ferry jumper to be fined

ME PORTLAND — The U.S. Coast Guard said it's issuing a notice of violation to a person who jumped off of a Casco Bay Lines ferry in the Fore River last month.

Coast Guard Sector Northern New England said the vessel Bay Mist was heading back to the State Pier in Portland with about 90 passengers on July 2 when the captain and crew realized someone who was aboard had jumped into the water.

The Coast Guard said the jumper swam to the other side of the channel and was apprehended by police. The jumper will be fined \$2,500.

Police: Woman drove school bus while drunk

SC JEFFERSON — Authorities said a South Carolina school bus driver with high school students on board had a blood-alcohol level nearly four times the legal limit after being stopped for driving erratically.

State Transport Police Cpl. Lee Catoe said Angela Caldwell, 53, was stopped on state Highway 265 about 7:30 a.m. Aug. 28 after someone flagged down

an officer and reported the bus was swerving.

Chesterfield County school district officials said the five high school students on the bus were not injured.

Catoe said Caldwell had a blood-alcohol level of 0.31 percent when she took a breath test at the Chesterfield County jail. The state's legal limit is 0.08 percent. Caldwell is charged with driving under the influence and child endangerment.

City facing fine after 1M-gallon sewage spill

VT RUTLAND — A Vermont city could be facing a significant state fine after an operator error led to the release of more than 1 million gallons of raw sewage into the Otter and East creeks in August.

Rutland Public Works Commissioner Jeff Wennberg said a city employee failed to restart a pump in the city's sewage treatment plant after a fuse blew. Wennberg said the employee has been disciplined.

Wennberg told the Rutland Herald the sewage discharge began at 1 a.m. Aug. 5 and was not corrected until other employees showed up more than nine hours later.

4 volunteer firefighters charged with arson

KY CROFTON — A fire chief and three other volunteer firefighters are facing arson charges in Kentucky.

Kentucky State Police said in a news release Friday that the arson charges stem from a fire in an empty building in Crofton on Aug. 20.

The state police agency said Crofton Fire Chief Jeremy P. Marlar, 27, was arrested on charges of arson and official misconduct. Firemen Glen Mcgee, 23; Dakota Oglesby, 18;

and Dylan Hodge, 18, also were arrested on arson charges.

Con man stole jewels in scheme while in prison

FL MIAMI — A con man who once racked up a \$174,000 Miami Beach hotel bill while posing as a music executive is in trouble again, this time for stealing millions of dollars in jewelry in a scheme he ran from prison.

James Sabatino pleaded guilty Friday in federal court in Miami to a scheme in which he used cellphones he bought from prison guards to contact jewelry stores and persuaded them to agree to loan expensive jewels for use in rap videos.

But the Miami Herald reported he instead had people outside of prison collect the jewels and pawn them.

Sabatino has run scams most of his adult life, including staying at a Miami Beach hotel for weeks while saying he was a Sony music executive. The unpaid bill included more than \$100,000 in champagne.

Woman killed, man hurt trying to hop a train

PA PITTSBURGH — Authorities said a woman was killed and a man injured while hopping a train in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh public safety officials said emergency responders were called to the Norfolk Southern train tracks on the city's South Side about 2:30 a.m. Sunday. They found that a man and woman had been hopping a train when the woman fell and was dragged under the train.

She was pronounced dead at the scene and later identified by the Allegheny County coroner's office as Lindsey Marie Michaels, 21. The man also fell and injured his ankle.

From wire reports

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Florida St. QB Francois to miss rest of season

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State quarterback Deondre Francois will miss the rest of the season after tearing the patellar tendon in his left knee in the fourth quarter Saturday night in a 24-7 loss to No. 1 Alabama in Atlanta.

People familiar with the situation confirmed the injury to The Associated Press on Sunday night. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the school's medical information policy.

The Tallahassee Democrat first reported the injury.

Coach Jimbo Fisher said after Saturday's game that if Francois was out, James Blackman would likely be the starter.

If Blackman starts for third-ranked Florida State on Saturday against Louisiana-Monroe, it would be only the second time in school history a quarterback has started as a true freshman. The last time it happened was in 1985 when Chip Ferguson started against Miami.

The Louisiana-Monroe game should give Fisher a good chance to evaluate all of his options before a Sept. 16 matchup against No. 18 Miami.

Francois was hurt when he was sacked from behind by Ronnie Harrison. Francois was helped off the field and could not put any weight on his left knee before being carted off.

Last season the Seminoles lost safety Derwin James after he injured his knee in the second game against Charleston Southern. Florida State proceeded to lose two of its next three games, including a 63-20 drubbing at Louisville.

"We're not going to quit as a team and lay down," James said. "It's not just a one-game season."

The quarterbacks find themselves in the same situation as last season's secondary — light on depth and experience. Francois started 13 games last season and threw for the fifth-most yards in school history (3,350).

UCLA rallies past Texas A&M

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — UCLA practiced a fake spike last week, never imagining that it would cap off the biggest comeback in school history.

Josh Rosen faked the spike and threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Lasley with 43 seconds remaining and UCLA overcame a 34-point deficit to stun Texas A&M 45-44 on Sunday night.

"How many seconds were left when we did it? 40? That's when we thought of it. Not before then," UCLA offensive coordinator Jedd Fisch said.

Rosen was 35-for-59 for 491 yards and four fourth-quarter touchdowns, and Jalen Starks and Soso Jamabo had scoring runs for the Bruins in the opener for both teams.

UCLA overcame a deficit of more than 20 points for the first time since overcoming a 22-0 hole in the first quarter of the 2005 Sun Bowl against Northwestern.

Rosen threw for 292 yards and the four scoring passes in the final 15 minutes to overcome a 27-point margin.

"My career at UCLA, we've had a lot of times where the chips didn't fall in our favor, and I

think it's time that finally it did," Rosen said.

UCLA scored touchdowns on five straight possessions after trailing 44-10 with 4:08 to play in the third quarter. Rosen threw touchdown passes of 9 and 42 yards to Darren Andrews before finding Theo Howard for a 16-yard score on a broken play with 3:08 remaining.

UCLA got the ball back with 2:39 to go and drove 66 yards in 10 plays, including an 11-yard throw and catch to tight end Caleb Wilson. Rosen capped the remarkable comeback with a fade to the far corner of the end zone after faking the spike to freeze the defense. JJ Molson kicked the winning extra point.

Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond was stopped short of the first-down marker on a scramble with 20 seconds left to close out the biggest FBS comeback since 2006.

"We were an inch away from losing that game probably 10 times," said Rosen, who threw for the third-most yards in a game in school history. "I mean, for God's sakes, I mean, that field goal would have put us out, and we just had an incredible surge and effort just to put probably a centimeter of a finger on the ball. I mean, the things that had to go right to win this game were incredible."

No. 21 Virginia Tech beats No. 22 WVU

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Virginia Tech made FedEx Field feel like Lane Stadium Northeast and got to bring that Black Diamond Trophy back to Blacksburg for the first time in more than a decade.

Oh, and the Hokies' new quarterback looks like a keeper, too.

Josh Jackson passed for 235 yards, ran for 101 and accounted for two touchdowns in his first start for Virginia Tech, and the No. 21 Hokies made a last-second stand to beat No. 22 West Virginia 31-24 on Sunday.

The 52nd meeting between the Appalachian region rivals was the first since 2005. It ended up being a classic. The Hokies rushed the field after their defense held the Mountaineers out of the end zone on two last plays from the 15, and their fans screamed along to Metallica's "Enter Sandman" to celebrate.

"This was a fantastic win," Virginia Tech safety Terrell

Edmunds said with a huge grin.

Jackson, the redshirt freshman who won a three-way competition for the job, was up and down with his passing, but showed off some nifty moves running in the opener for both teams.

"I felt calm," said Jackson, the son of former longtime Michigan assistant coach Fred Jackson.

Josh Jackson's 46-yard keeper up the middle — which ended with him taking a hard low hit — set up Travon McMillian's 3-yard touchdown run that put Virginia Tech up 31-24 with 6:30 left.

"I felt that one pretty good," Jackson said about the hit. Jackson said he read a blitz on that play and the Mountaineers gave him all kinds of room inside.

"That was a bad, bad call by me," West Virginia defensive coordinator Tony Gibson said.

West Virginia's new quarterback was just as impressive. Florida transfer Will Grier, who

left Gainesville after being suspended by the NCAA for failing a test for performance-enhancing drugs in 2015, pass for 371 yards and three touchdowns.

He got one more chance to tie after usually reliable Virginia Tech kicker Joey Slye missed a 32-yard field-goal attempt with 1:55 left.

Grier slinged and scrambled West Virginia down to the Virginia Tech 15. Hokies coach Justin Fuente used a timeout before the last two plays because he was worried his defense was getting gassed chasing the shaggy-haired quarterback.

"You just want them to hold on for one more," Fuente said.

Grier's second-to-last pass into the end zone under pressure was a little behind David Sills and it went through the falling receiver's arms.

"I thought I had him," Grier said. "I got hit and I couldn't see. I thought he caught it. That's the one I'd like to have back to get it up more for him."

Sharapova's run ends

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maybe this was just one three-setter too many for Maria Sharapova.

Sharapova tried a bit of everything, even resorting to switching over her racket to hit a few lefty shots. Still, the five-time major champion could not quite keep her Grand Slam comeback from a doping suspension going, losing in the fourth round of the U.S. Open to 16th-seeded Anastasiya Sevastova of Latvia 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday.

"Look, three-set matches are challenging," Sharapova said. "I love being part of them. There's an element of concentration, focus, physicality that goes into all of it. And you have to put it all together.

"Yeah, you just have to get through it. There's no doubt that not playing those matches certainly cost me today. I did feel like I was thinking a little bit too much and not playing by instinct."

This was the third time in her four matches that Sharapova went the distance and she faded down the stretch, while also dealing with a blister on her right hand that was treated and taped by a trainer in the final set. Sharapova's miscues kept closing exchanges, and she dropped 13 of the first 14 points in that set.

The 30-year-old Russian finished with 51 unforced errors, compared with 14 for Sevastova.

"It's been a really great ride," Sharapova said. "Ultimately, I can take a lot from this week. It's great to get that major out of the way. It was an incredible opportunity. I'm very thankful for the opportunity."

Sharapova's exit leaves Venus Williams as the only past U.S. Open champion in the women's field. The 37-year-old Williams, who won the title in 2000 and 2001, got to the quarterfinals by beating Carla Suarez Navarro 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Next for Williams will be a showdown against No. 13 Petra Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon winner, who eliminated reigning Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza 7-6 (3), 6-3 on Sunday night.

Also Sunday night, No. 17

Sam Querrey gave the U.S. its first male quarterfinalist in New York since 2011 by compiling 55 winners and only eight unforced errors while easily beating No. 23 Mischa Zverev 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. He'll play No. 28 Kevin Anderson of South Africa in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova hadn't played in a major tournament since the Australian Open in January 2016, when she tested positive for the newly banned drug meldonium. She served a 15-month ban for that, returning to the tour this April with a ranking too low to get into Grand Slam events.

The French Open denied her a wild-card invitation, then she planned to try to qualify for Wimbledon before pulling out because of an injured left leg.

But she was able to enter the U.S. Open thanks to a wild card from the U.S. Tennis Association, which then proceeded to put its 2006 champion in Arthur Ashe Stadium every time she played in the past week, drawing strong support from spectators — and criticism from another former No. 1-ranked woman, Caroline Wozniacki.

On Day 1 of the tournament, Sharapova won a three-set thriller under the lights against No. 2 seed Simona Halep.

This time, Sevastova made Sharapova run a lot by pulling her forward with drop shots or tight angles, then would often deposit follow-up strokes into open spaces. On one point won by Sharapova in the second set, she twice tracked down lobs that she got back over the net by hitting the ball left-handed.

But she could not sustain enough strong play, and Sevastova reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the second consecutive year.

"I allowed the match to become physical," Sharapova said about the late going. "I don't think I played as aggressive or was stepping in as much as I did in the first set."

Sevastova will face unseeded American Sloane Stephens, who reached her first quarterfinal in New York by eliminating No. 30 Julia Goerges 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Stephens has won 12 of her past 14 matches.

Hamlin wins both Darlington races

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Denny Hamlin has run for championships before without success. He's worked hard this season to make sure his latest try for a title the way he and his team want.

Hamlin won for the second time this season and established himself a strong contender for his first NASCAR crown when he overcame a bad mistake to take the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway.

Hamlin reeled in Martin Truex Jr. with three laps left, erasing a deficit of some 20 seconds to sweep Darlington's throwback weekend.

After a regular-season finish at Richmond International Raceway next week, the playoffs get going and Hamlin again plans to be hot on the heels of regular-season points champion Truex.

"We've been at this point before where we had wins going into the playoffs," Hamlin said. "Luck has kept us from championships in the past and mistakes have kept us from championships in the past. Not many times has it been performance."

Hamlin said he's taken a less from team owner — and three-time Super Bowl winner — Joe Gibbs.

"Coach is all about having a game plan," Hamlin said. "And it's something I've really worked hard on this year is studying notes and coming up with a game plan when I get to the track.

"Hopefully," he said, "it pays off 11, 12 races from now."

Gibbs said Hamlin quickly took to Darlington when the team brought him here for a test before bringing on board at Joe Gibbs Racing. "Denny had never seen the place and he came over here and finished ninth" in an Xfinity race, Gibbs recalled. "Kind of the rest is history."

Hamlin and Gibbs hope to

make more NASCAR history together the next few months.

Things we learned at Darlington Raceway:

Truex out front: Truex took advantage of NASCAR's revamped playoff system in clinching the regular-season title and No. 1 spot two weeks before the 16-team postseason begins at Chicagoland. Truex is glad that he's got a cushion to advance even if he has some problems in the early playoff segments. "Definitely can go to Richmond (next week) with no pressure, which is awesome," Truex said.

Truex was a favorite after winning four races including two of the first three in the championship chase last season. However, he faltered in the round of 12.

Darlington sweep: Hamlin knows how to sweep races at the track "Too Tough To Tame," accomplishing the Darlington double in 2010 and this weekend. Hamlin won his first Cup race here seven year ago after winning the Xfinity even. This time, Hamlin survived two dramatic endings to earn his trophies. He drove around Joey Logano in the final turn on Saturday for that win, then overcame his miss of pit road and falling 20 seconds behind Truex to take the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series title.

Not easy: Kyle Busch, who finished second to teammate Hamlin, said Darlington's pit road entrance is one of the trickiest and most difficult to manage in NASCAR. "This one is probably one of the hardest, especially because of the tire falloff is just so great here," Busch said.

On the bubble: Logano needs to get a lot faster at Richmond next week if he hopes to make the playoffs. Logano was 18th at Darlington. He won at Richmond in the spring, however, a failed inspection cost him his playoff eligibility.

D-backs extend winning streak to 10

Associated Press

DENVER — The numbers pretty much go hand in hand: 79 straight innings the Arizona Diamondbacks have either led or been tied. Ten straight wins.

“It’s an impressive run and it says a lot about what we’re doing day by day,” manager Torey Lovullo said. “You don’t just win 10 games by accident.”

Ketel Marte and Brandon Drury homered in a three-run sixth to bolster a strong outing by Zack Godley and the Diamondbacks swept the Colorado Rockies with a 5-1 victory on Sunday.

This is the Diamondbacks’ longest winning streak since they captured a franchise-best 12 straight in 2003.

Godley (7-7) allowed three hits, walked six and struck out seven over six innings to

help the Diamondbacks increase their lead over Colorado for the top NL wild-card spot to 6½ games.

“It’s not the time for us to take our foot off the gas pedal,” Lovullo said.

For the slumping Rockies, another frustrating loss as they saw their lead over Milwaukee for the second wild card trimmed to just a half-game.

“It’s tough, but this is a resilient group,” said Colorado manager Bud Black, whose team was 2-for-30 in the three-game series with runners in scoring position. “We’ll see how we bounce back. But I’ve got all the faith in the world in these guys.”

Tied at 1 in the sixth, Marte lined a slider from German Marquez (10-6) over the fence in left for his first homer since July 29. Drury later followed with a two-run shot off Marquez, who allowed four runs

over six innings and struck out nine.

Both teams rolled out unconventional lineups.

The Rockies didn’t start third baseman Nolan Arenado, first baseman Mark Reynolds and outfielder Ian Desmond. They also switched around the batting order, with usual leadoff hitter Charlie Blackmon dropping to the No. 3 spot. Blackmon had a tying single in the fifth.

Arizona gave NL MVP candidate Paul Goldschmidt the day off, along with outfielders A.J. Pollock and J.D. Martinez.

“We’re going to enjoy this day. We’re going to enjoy what we did in Colorado, and then get on that airplane and get ready for a really, really rugged series down in LA,” Lovullo said. “We’re going to turn the page as quick as possible.”

Roundup

Yankees wear out Sale, trim Boston’s lead

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After beating Chris Sale for the third time this season, the New York Yankees are within shouting distance of first place with four weeks to go.

Matt Holliday and Todd Frazier hit back-to-back home runs as the Yankees wore out Sale early and routed the Boston Red Sox 9-2 on Sunday night, taking three of four games in their final series of the year to make up ground on the AL East leaders.

“I don’t think we proved anything,” Holliday said. “They’re still in first place and we’re trying to catch ‘em.”

Chase Headley also went deep against Sale, and slumping Aaron Judge capped a six-run sixth with a two-run homer that snapped his longest drought of the season. Starlin Castro laced a three-run double and overpowering Luis Severino (12-6) struck out nine in six innings of two-hit ball to win a marquee matchup on the mound.

The second-place Yankees won the season series 11-8 and sliced Boston’s cushion in the

division to 3½ games with 26 to play.

“Now’s definitely not the time to panic,” said Sale, who is 1-3 with a 6.88 ERA in his last four starts. “We know what we need to do.”

Sale (15-7) has been one of baseball’s best pitchers all year, but he came up empty against the Yankees during his first season in Boston.

The ace left-hander was chased in the fifth and dropped to 0-3 in five starts vs. New York this year — though he entered with a 2.12 ERA and 44 strikeouts against them.

“Makes us feel good,” Castro said. “That means we’ve got a good team. We’ve got all nine guys who go out there and fight.”

Indians 11, Tigers 1: Jose Ramirez tied a major league record with five extra-base hits, including a pair of home runs that deflected off Detroit outfielders, as visiting Cleveland earned 11th straight victory.

Ramirez had three doubles in becoming the 13th player with five extra-base hits in a game.

Astros 8, Mets 6: Cameron Maybin hit a three-run homer,

George Springer connected for the second straight day and the host Astros swept their weekend series with the Mets.

Braves 5, Cubs 1: Max Fried combined with four relievers on a five-hitter in his first major league start, and the Braves ended the host Cubs’ six-game winning streak.

Brewers 7, Nationals 2: Domingo Santana homered twice, and host Milwaukee pulled within a half-game of Colorado for the NL’s second wild card.

Rangers 7, Angels 6: Elvis Andrus hit two of host Texas’ four homers and the Rangers took the rubber game of a series with wild-card implications for both teams.

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 4 (12): Wellington Castillo homered twice for host Baltimore, including a game-tying shot in the ninth inning, and Mark Trumbo won it in the 12th with an RBI single.

Padres 6, Dodgers 4: Erick Aybar hit a two-run homer and Jose Pirela also went deep to help the host Padres hand the major league-leading Dodgers their eighth loss in nine games.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1 (12):

Nick Williams hit a two-run single with two out in the 12th inning, and five Phillies pitchers held the host Marlins to four hits.

White Sox 6, Rays 2: White Sox rookie Lucas Giolito struck out 10 in seven sharp innings at home, and Jose Abreu homered in his return to the lineup.

Royals 5, Twins 4: Kansas City’s Lorenzo Cain hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the seventh inning for the visitors after a checked-swing call went his way on a close two-strike pitch.

Cardinals 7, Giants 3: Harrison Bader hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning after Madison Bumgarner homered in the bottom of the fifth, and the visiting Cardinals gained ground in the wild-card race.

Pirates 3, Reds 1: Trevor Williams pitched seven scoreless innings and Jordy Mercer hit his career-best 13th homer, leading host Pittsburgh.

Mariners 10, Athletics 2: Robinson Cano homered and drove in four runs, Andrew Albers took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, and the host Mariners completed a three-game series sweep.