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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy, National Guard prep for hurricane

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy prepared five warships and the National Guard readied nearly 20,000 servicemembers to respond to areas in Hurricane Irma's path as the storm reached Cuba on Friday en route to Florida, defense officials said.

Despite its downgrade to a Category 4 storm, the National Hurricane Center said Friday that the storm remained "extremely dangerous" with sustained winds of 150 mph and was expected to hit the Florida mainland early Sunday as a "major" and "life-threatening" hurricane. Already, Irma has killed at least 19 people, authorities said.

Friday morning, a Navy amphibious ship was conducting operations in the eastern Caribbean in areas struck earlier by the storm, and about 5,800 Guard members in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were responding in those U.S. territories to areas struck while Irma was still a Category 5 hurricane.

The USS Wasp was in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where aircraft aboard the amphibious assault ship were evacuating critically injured patients from St. Thomas to St. Croix, according to a U.S. Northern Command statement. The Wasp has medium- and heavy-lift helicopters aboard to transport people and supplies.

Meanwhile, the USS Kearsarge, another amphibious assault ship, and the USS Oak Hill, an amphibious dock landing ship, steamed toward that area carrying Marines with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to aid islands already struck by the storm including the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hispaniola, St. Thomas, Barbuda, St. Martin and St. Barthélemy, com-

Irma bears down on Fla.

Associated Press

MIAMI — Irma weakened slightly Friday but remained a dangerous and deadly hurricane taking direct aim at Florida, threatening to march along the peninsula's spine and deliver a blow the state hasn't seen in more than a decade.

Irma was a Category 4 storm with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph and is forecast to remain at that strength when it comes ashore someplace south of Miami on Sunday. The storm killed at least 20 people in the Caribbean and left thousands homeless as it devastated small islands in its path.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott urged people in coastal and low-lying areas to heed evacuation orders. Across the state, some 850,000 people were ordered to leave their homes, clogging interstates as far north as Atlanta.

Scott said people fleeing could use the shoulder lane on highways, but he hasn't reversed the southbound lanes. Several small communities around Lake Okeechobee in the south-central part of Florida were added to the evacuation list because the

lake could overflow, the governor said.

"You don't have to go a long way. You can go to a shelter in your county," Scott said. "This storm is powerful and deadly. We are running out of time."

The latest forecast shifted the most powerful part of the storm to the west of the Miami metropolitan area that is home to some 6 million people, but hurricane-force winds are still likely there.

"Irma is likely to make landfall in Florida as a dangerous, major hurricane, and will bring life-threatening wind impacts to much of the state regardless of the exact track of the center," the hurricane center said in its forecast.

The last major hurricane — a storm with winds of at least 111 mph — to hit Florida was Wilma in 2005. Its eye cut through the state's southern third as it packed winds of 120 mph. Five people died.

Forecasters predicted a storm surge of 6 to 12 feet above ground level along Florida's southwest coast and in the Keys.

monly known as St. Barts. The Kearsarge and the Oak Hill were expected to reach the area sometime Friday, a Navy official said.

Collectively, the three ships are carrying 15 Marine Corps and Navy helicopters and five tilt-rotor aircraft — three UH-1Y Venom utility helicopters, three CH-53E Super Stallion heavy-lift helicopters, nine

MH-60 Seahawk medium-lift helicopters and five MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft.

"These ships are capable of providing medical support, maritime civil affairs, maritime security, expeditionary logistic support, medium- and heavy-lift air support and bring a diverse capability including assessment, security, route clearance and water purification,"

the Northern Command statement read.

Two more Navy amphibious warships are expected to join the other three soon in the Caribbean Sea.

The Navy on Thursday loaded the USS Iwo Jima, another amphibious assault ship, and the USS New York, an amphibious transport dock ship, with food and supplies at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia in preparation to embark south toward areas impacted by Irma, Navy officials said. It was not clear Friday when they would leave port.

As the storm continued toward the U.S. mainland, military officials at installations from Key West, Fla., north into South Carolina chose to evacuate their servicemembers.

Commanders ordered evacuations of nonessential military personnel from Florida installations Naval Air Stations Key West and Jacksonville; U.S. Southern Command headquarters near Miami; MacDill Air Force Base near Tampa; the Army's Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield near Savannah, Ga.; and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina.

Additionally, Naval Station Kings Bay, a submarine base on Georgia's coast near the Florida border, issued a voluntary evacuation.

The Air Force on Friday was moving aircraft out of the storm's path. Officials said 50 F-16 fighter jets from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., were being evacuated. Eleven KC-135 Stratotankers were being evacuated from MacDill Air Force Base, 13 F-15 fighter jets were being moved from Jacksonville International Airport, and 21 A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog" attack jets were being evacuated from Moody Air Force Base near Valdosta, Ga.

Navy officer stayed in post despite warning

USA Today

WASHINGTON — A Navy commander accused of sexual misconduct while dressed as Santa Claus at a boozy party inside the Pentagon was allowed to stay on as spokesman for the Navy's top admiral despite written warnings that the commander was a sexual predator, USA Today has learned.

Cmdr. Chris Servello, 41, was accused by fellow officers and a civilian of making unwanted sexual passes and slapping a woman on the buttocks while dressed as Santa at the 2016 office Christmas party for Navy public affairs officials, documents obtained by USA Today show.

Servello was not reassigned as spokesman for Adm. John Richardson, the Chief of Naval Operations, until mid-August, just weeks after USA Today sought documents regarding the incidents and the investigation. Capt. Peter Hudson, who completed his initial inquiry on Dec. 21, made plain that Servello should be shipped out.

"I recommend that CDR Servello be immediately reassigned to a billet with no supervisory responsibilities and with dedicated oversight," Hudson wrote in his report.

Servello, in a statement to USA Today, said that naval investigators did not recommend that criminal charges be issued against him. He added that his career likely will be killed by the incidents.

"I have cooperated fully with all investigations conducted by the Navy," Servello said. "Ultimately, the allegations were unproven and charges were not filed. I should have never put myself into a situation where my judgment or my military bearing could be called into question. I deeply regret this and have been held to account for my decision making. Indeed, the overall effect of the administrative counseling makes it highly unlikely that my career will recover."

Hudson's report was sent to Vice Adm. James Foggo, director of the Navy Staff, and a

full-blown Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation into the matter was completed in the spring.

The incident is the latest in a string of embarrassing and deadly incidents for the Navy. It has been rocked by the Fat Leonard bribery scandal, which saw officers exchange classified information to a defense contractor in exchange for booze, lavish dinners and accommodations, and prostitutes. At sea, two of the Navy's premier combat ships, the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain, collided with commercial vessels in separate incidents in June and August, killing 17 sailors.

Richardson, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a statement that he waited until the legal process played out to protect Servello and his reputed victims. Then, he fired Servello.

"I followed the prosecutor's recommendations to the letter, imposing several adverse measures including dismissing Cdr. Servello from the staff and reassigning him to a nonsupervisory position," Richardson said. "I was advised by legal counsel throughout, and due process was strictly followed to safeguard both the dignity and safety of the complainants and the rights of Cdr. Servello."

Viewed as a star

As spokesman for the Chief of Naval Operations, Servello was viewed as a star in his field who had the ear of the service's top officer. He also had acted as spokesman for Adm. Bill Moran, now the No. 2 officer, when Moran held a different post.

The case also highlights the ongoing struggle the military has had in policing sexual harassment and misconduct among the ranks, especially by the military's most senior officers. It was Richardson in March who authored a message to commanders across the Navy to be on the lookout — and to act — to stamp out sexual harassment and assault.

"Make it clear that individu-

als who can't live up to our professional standards in competence and character are not welcome in our Navy," Richardson wrote.

Ire drawn

The failure of the Navy and Richardson to act on the initial findings of investigators drew the ire of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., a member of the Armed Services Committee. Gillibrand, who has advocated for changes to the way military justice system handles sexual assault, called for an independent investigation of Richardson's actions by the Pentagon Inspector General.

"This is an example of a commander who is aware of the allegations, aware of findings of predatory behavior, and does nothing," Gillibrand said. "I certainly think this individual, Servello, should be fired, and he should not be allowed to continue to serve. I do not believe that Adm. Richardson handled this case appropriately. There should be an I.G. investigation to see how he actually made his decisions."

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., a member of the Armed Services Committee, said she was outraged by the Navy's handling of the case and called Richardson about it.

"After talking to Adm. Richardson, I am not confident that the appropriate punishment has been meted out," Speier said. "I find it reprehensible that this officer would still be the face and voice of the Navy on any level."

Bad Santa

The office Christmas party on Dec. 16 triggered the investigation, and Servello's ultimate reassignment, nine months later. Excessive drinking inside the Navy's public affairs headquarters spurred a series of incidents. The bar was open for six hours, starting at 11 a.m. Parties with alcohol inside the Pentagon require a waiver.

This account of the events that day and night are drawn from Hudson's memo, NCIS

reports and sworn statements of witnesses that were obtained by USA Today. The Navy has denied USA Today's request under the Freedom of Information Act to expedite the release of reports related to the incident. The Navy denied that request, and on Thursday said it could take 12 weeks until they are released.

Servello told investigators he'd had four drinks, including a shot of Fireball cinnamon whiskey, according to a statement. He wore a Santa suit because "I thought it would be fun." Not everybody in the office shared his sense of mirth. A senior civilian woman in the office told investigators that she wanted them to know how he treated her but did not want the issue pursued further.

2 behavioral examples

"Servello, who was dressed as Santa Claus, slapped her on the buttocks without her consent," according an NCIS document. She "did not feel she was a sexual assault victim, but felt humiliated and disrespected by (Servello's) actions."

Another woman, an officer junior to Servello, told investigators that he had given her unwelcome, "uncomfortable" hugs in which she had to push him away. She also told investigators that two years prior to that, Servello had propositioned her at a dinner at which she had sought professional advice from him. She rebuffed him at the time.

She also told investigators, according to the report, that Servello told her at the Christmas party that "he didn't know how to act with her, since the last time he was alone with her 'he was practically humping (her) leg.'"

Servello is married, and adultery is a violation of military law.

"This is an obvious case where he is not leading by example," Gillibrand said.

Fallen sailor's mom attends hearing on Navy

Rachel Eckels seeks answers after deadly USS John S. McCain collision

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Even as Rachel Eckels sat poised and smiling Thursday afternoon in a crowded, tense congressional hearing room, a long list of urgent and painful questions haunted her.

Nearly three weeks ago, Eckels lost her son, Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Thomas Eckels Jr., one of 10 sailors who died when the USS John S. McCain collided with an oil tanker in the Pacific Ocean.

The incident marked the fourth Navy ship to crash this year.

"We just want answers," Eckels said Friday. "How could this have occurred for the fourth time? We need to know these answers as parents, as mothers, fathers, as citizens."

The crashes of the last two Navy ships — the McCain's on Aug. 21 and the USS Fitzgerald's in June — proved deadly. Seven sailors perished when the Fitzgerald collided with a cargo freighter off the coast of Japan.

Days after the McCain collision, Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, who led the Navy's 7th Fleet, was relieved of his command. In addition, Navy officials ordered a pause of fleets worldwide and directed a review of surface fleet operations.

Eckels said despite those actions, she is still left wondering whether hacking played a role in the McCain's crash. Or was it inadequate Navy funding and training? Or was the operational pause ordered too late?

During a hearing of a House Armed Services subcommittee hearing Thursday, lawmakers pressed Navy Vice Adm. Bill Moran and Navy Rear Adm. Ronald Boxall for more than two hours on many of these questions.

"Each and every one of them promised they would get us answers," Eckels said of

the committee members.

Though there were few answers Thursday, the hearing set the stage for what could be a long, arduous process to get to the bottom of the Navy crashes. For now, the service is conducting multiple probes into the incidents, which could produce results in the coming months.

"You have my promise we will get to the bottom of these mishaps," Moran told committee members. "We will leave no stone unturned. We will be accountable to you, to our sailors and to the American public."

A new report presented during Thursday's hearing found the Navy has been woefully behind on addressing a long list of outstanding and urgent safety and readiness issues.

John Pendleton, director of Defense Capabilities and Management for the Government Accountability Office, told committee members at the hearing that the Navy has seen an increase in the number of ships based overseas, crew-size reductions that have contributed to overworked sailors, and an inability to complete maintenance on time.

For example, the agency said it found more than one-third of needed warfare certifications for Japan-based cruiser and destroyer crews had expired by this summer. The statistics updated previous findings from a May 2015 report.

"As of June 2017, 37 percent of the warfare certifications for cruiser and destroyer crews homeported in Japan had expired, and over two-thirds of the expired certifications — including mobility-seamanship and air warfare — had been expired for 5 months or more," the report states. "This represents more than a five-fold increase in the percentage of the expired warfare certifications for these ships since our May 2015 report."

The Navy has 277 ships, a 17 percent decline from its 333 ships nearly two decades

ago, the report noted. Yet efforts to maintain a robust presence abroad continues despite the growing strains, Pendleton and others noted.

As Thursday's hearing was taking place, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., issued a statement expressing deep concern over the report's findings.

"Years of budget cuts have forced our military to try to do too much with too little," McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in the statement. "We must all do better — Navy leaders must hold our ships to higher readiness standards and request the necessary resources, and Congress must provide the resources required to ensure the safety of our men and women in uniform."

Previous GAO findings also highlighted the Navy's longer deployments for sailors, shortened training and reduced or delayed maintenance to meet high operational demands. It also found the Navy has doubled the number of ships based overseas, which has resulted in curtailed training periods.

In addition, it found during a recent 5-year period, maintenance overruns on more than 60 percent of surface ships have resulted in more than 6,000 lost operational days. And in some cases, the agency said, sailors are working more than 100 hours per week, boosting overworking and safety concerns.

"The notion they are working 100-hour work weeks is very terrifying for them and for us," Rep. Elizabeth Esty, D-Conn., told the Navy officials at the hearing.

For her part, Eckels said she's staying in touch with other families of the lost McCain sailors. And every two weeks, she will look for answers explaining why their lives were lost.

"I'm staying abreast," she said. "Two weeks from now, I'm checking in."

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White House brushes off calls for updated force authority

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Despite calls from members of both parties, President Donald Trump will not propose an updated authorization for the use of military force measure to cover ongoing U.S. operations against groups like al-Qaida, Islamic State and others, a

White House National Security Council official said Thursday.

White House officials have concluded they have ample legal authority to continue conducting such military missions.

"The administration is not seeking a new AUMF, as the U.S. has sufficient legal authority to prosecute the campaign against the Taliban, al-Qaida,

and associated forces, including against ISIS," the NSC official said.

The news that the administration would not propose a new AUMF came less than hour after House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said there should be a new one and the administration should take the lead on it.

"I think it's in our interest to have a new one; I just want to make sure we have one that works for our warfighters," Ryan said at his weekly news conference Thursday.

Pressed on what that would entail, Ryan said, "I think the administration should take the lead on what the AUMF looks like."

Quake shakes much of Mexico

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — One of the most powerful earthquakes ever to strike Mexico has hit off its southern Pacific coast, killing at least 32 people, toppling houses, government offices and businesses while sending panicked people into the streets more than 650 miles away.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake hit off Chiapas state near the Guatemalan border with a magnitude of 8.1 — slightly stronger than the magnitude-8 quake of 1985 that killed thousands and devastated large parts of Mexico City.

Oaxaca state Gov. Alejandro Murat told local news media that at least 23 people had died in his coastal state. Civil defense officials said at least seven died in Chiapas and two in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco.

Hundreds of buildings collapsed or were damaged, power was cut at least briefly to more than 1.8 million people, and authorities closed schools Friday in at least 11 states to check them for safety.

The USGS recorded at least 20 aftershocks of magnitude 4.0 or greater within about five hours after the main shake, and the president warned that a major aftershock as large as magnitude 7.2 could occur.

The USGS said the quake struck at 11:49 p.m. Thursday and its epicenter was 102 miles west of Tapachula in Chiapas. It had a depth of 43.3 miles.

The quake caused buildings to sway violently in Mexico's capital, more than 650 miles away. As beds banged against walls, people still wearing pajamas fled into the streets, gathering in frightened groups.

Chiapas Gov. Manuel Velasco said that three people were killed in San Cristobal, including two women who died when a house and a wall collapsed. He called on people living near the coast to leave their houses as a protective measure.

Tabasco Gov. Arturo Nunez said one child died in his state when a wall collapsed, and the other was an infant who died in a children's hospital that lost elec-

tricity, cutting off its ventilator.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said waves of 3.3 feet above the tide level were measured off Salina Cruz, Mexico. Smaller tsunami waves were observed on the coast or were measured by ocean gauges in several other places. The center's forecast said Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala could see waves of 3.3 feet or less. No threat was posed to Hawaii and the western and South Pacific.

Mexican authorities said they were evacuating some residents of coastal Tonalá and Puerto Madero because of the warning.

In neighboring Guatemala, President Jimmy Morales spoke on national television to call for calm while emergency crews checked for damage.

"We have reports of some damage and the death of one person, even though we still don't have details," Morales said. He said the unconfirmed death occurred in San Marcos state near the border with Mexico.

S. Korea braces for another missile test

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is watching North Korea over the possibility it may launch another intercontinental ballistic missile as soon as Saturday when it celebrates its founding anniversary.

North Korea has previously marked key dates with displays of military power, but now its tests appear to be driven by the need to improve missile capabilities.

South Korean officials say the next launches could be conducted at angles close to operational as the North would seek to test whether the warheads survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry and detonate properly.

In Washington, President Donald Trump reiterated Thursday that military action is "certainly" an option against North Korea, as his administration tentatively concurred with the North's claim to have tested a hydrogen bomb. A senior administration official said the U.S. was assessing last weekend's underground explosion but so far noted nothing inconsistent with Pyongyang's claim.

North Korea broke from its pattern of lofted launches last month when it fired a new intermediate range missile over northern Japan. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un then called the launch a "meaningful prelude" to containing the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam.

In accelerating his pursuit of nuclear weapons targeting the United States, and South Korea and Japan, Kim is seen as seeking a nuclear deterrent to help ensure the survival of his government and also its bargaining power.

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo have been pushing for stronger sanctions to punish Pyongyang over its nuclear activities, such as denying the country oil supplies. China and Russia have been calling for talks, saying sanctions aren't working.

House approves aid bill, debt hike

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House voted Friday to send a \$15.3 billion disaster aid package to President Donald Trump, overcoming conservative objections to linking the emergency legislation to a temporary increase in America's borrowing authority. The legislation also keeps the government funded into December.

The 316-90 vote would refill depleted emergency accounts as Florida braces for Hurricane Irma this weekend and Texas picks up the pieces after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

It's just the first installment of a federal aid package; future installments are likely to be more difficult to pass. It also kicks budget decisions into December and forces another politically difficult debt limit vote next year.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman who took a hard line against debt increases during his years in the House, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pitched the measure to House Republicans at a closed-door meeting just before the vote.

They were given a hard time from some Republicans upset with being forced to choose be-

tween voting for disaster aid and the debt limit increase.

Rep. Ryan Costello, R-Pa., described a surreal scene with Mnuchin, a former Democratic donor, and Mulvaney pressing Republicans to rally around the disaster aid package.

Trump stunned Republicans by cutting a deal with Democratic leaders Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi to increase the debt limit for three months, rather than the long-term approach preferred by the GOP leaders that would have gotten the issue fixed through next year's midterms.

Fiscal conservatives have clamored for deep cuts in spending in exchange for any increase in the government's borrowing authority.

Democratic votes are needed to increase the debt limit — and avert a default on government obligations — and Schumer and Pelosi successfully pressed to waive the debt limit through Dec. 8.

Late Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., added \$7.4 billion in rebuilding funding to Trump's \$7.9 billion request to deal with the immediate emergency in Texas and parts of Louisiana.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman lends wedding dress to budget brides

NE OMAHA — A Nebraska woman is lending her wedding dress to brides on tight budgets instead of letting it gather dust in her closet.

The Omaha World-Herald reported Dawnetta Heinz started sharing her dress a month ago with brides who can't afford to buy one.

The strapless dress with a beaded bodice already has been borrowed by two other brides, and at least eight others have expressed interest.

Heinz said she's faced financial hardships, so she's glad to help any woman who can't fit a dress into her wedding budget.

One of the women who got married in the dress, Valarie Fitzgerald, said she "can't wait to see how far this dress goes."

Sheep get loose and dodge traffic in city

AK ANCHORAGE — Bears and moose are a common sight on Alaska roadways, but drivers in the state's largest city had a whole different animal problem Wednesday.

KTUU reported police received a call about loose sheep and a ram wandering through traffic in south Anchorage.

A dispatch from police said a nearby resident was able to corral the animals into a fenced area. The owner was located and will be united with the livestock.

Army vet sentenced for faking blindness

KS WICHITA — An Army veteran from Reno County was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay \$70,000 in restitution for benefits he received by pretending to be blind.

U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said Billy Alumbaugh, 62, of Turon, was sentenced Wednesday for conspiracy to defraud the government.

His ex-wife, Debra Alumbaugh, 52, also of Turon, was sentenced to a year on probation for helping with the scheme.

While pleading guilty in June, Alumbaugh admitted he told the Veterans Affairs Department that he was blind and homebound in order to receive monthly pension benefits. In fact, he was able to drive and engage in other routine activities without assistance.

His wife accompanied him to medical visits, where they pretended he was blind and depended on her for help.

Police officer delivers his son in parking lot

IL ROCKFORD — An Illinois police officer delivered his son in a hotel parking lot.

The Rockford Register Star reported Rockford officer James Nachampassack was on duty early Sunday morning when his girlfriend called to say she was going to give birth. Nachampassack rushed home to find Phenh Thammavong screaming. He said her water had broken and she was going into labor.

According to Nachampassack, during the 20-minute drive to the hospital, Thammavong told him the baby wouldn't wait. He pulled into a hotel parking lot and told police dispatch he needed an ambulance. Nachampassack delivered the baby moments before a group of fellow officers showed up. An ambulance arrived soon after.

While he wasn't trained to deliver babies, Nachampassack said police have to perform under pressure.

The couple named the healthy 7-pound, 12-ounce boy Leo.

Teen takes credit for red 'It' balloons

PA LITITZ — A girl said she and her friends are behind the red balloons found tied to sewer grates in a small Pennsylvania town, not a homicidal clown.

Peyton Reiff, 17, told PennLive.com the girls were just trying to scare their friends in Lititz after seeing a trailer for the movie "It."

A red balloon is the calling card of Pennywise, the sewer-dwelling, child-eating clown in Stephen King's novel-turned-movie.

Reiff said the teens were surprised at how much attention the prank got after the local police made a playful post on Facebook saying they were "completely terrified" to remove the balloons.

Reiff said they will meet with the department for a "funny follow up," but said they are not being punished.

Bones found at construction site

MI BYRON TOWNSHIP — Paleontology experts are investigating the discovery of prehistoric mastodon bones at a Michigan construction site.

The Grand Rapids Press reported that workers found the bones Aug. 31 while excavating a road at a housing development in Byron Center, south of Grand Rapids. It wasn't until Tuesday that a University of Michigan researcher said the bones were the remains of a mastodon skeleton estimated to be about 10,000 years old.

Officials with developer Eagle Creek Homes said the company currently possesses five large pieces of bone and some smaller pieces. Researchers believe the pieces belonged to a male

American mastodon that lived for two or three decades.

Eagle Creek said the company is talking to the university about potentially donating the bones and working together at the site.

Frat party cited for waterfall, drinking

MA CAMBRIDGE — Authorities said underage drinking and a waterfall pouring down a staircase led police to break up a party at a Massachusetts Institute of Technology fraternity house.

Boston police said the first floor of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house was being "operated as a nightclub" with low light, strobe lights and a DJ Sunday night without the approval of the City of Boston License Division.

According to police, the occupants also had installed a waterfall on the upper floor.

The fraternity's president was issued a violation for hazardous conditions inside the building and other offenses.

Lizzie Borden-linked house up for sale

MA FALL RIVER — The mansion where the notorious 19th century suspect Lizzie Borden lived out her days after she was acquitted of the ax murders of her father and stepmother is on the market.

The Dallas woman who bought the Fall River, Mass., home in 2014 told The Herald News she's selling because plans to turn the home, called Maplecroft, into a bed-and-breakfast fell through.

The house is not the same one where Andrew and Abby Borden were killed in August 1892. Lizzie Borden lived at Maplecroft from 1894 until her death in 1927.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Chiefs roll to 42-27 win over Patriots

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Winning at New England when the Patriots are coming off an historic Super Bowl victory is worth getting a little wild over.

That's not the Kansas City Chiefs' style. Not even when a rookie is setting records.

Kareem Hunt, after fumbling on his first NFL carry, scored three times and set an NFL mark in a 42-27 stunner Thursday night to open the NFL season. Hunt's 246 yards in his pro debut were a record since the 1970 merger.

"We're going to enjoy the heck out of it," coach Andy Reid said after a superb second half carried his team. "It's one of 16 and something to build on."

Judging by how they won, it certainly is.

There were big plays all over the field. The Chiefs, not the Patriots, were making them. Particularly Hunt.

"It started out just a little bit shaky, but it was all heart," Reid said of the third-round draft pick. "He was trying too hard."

Alex Smith threw two long touchdown passes and became the first quarterback with 300-plus yards, four TDs and no interceptions against coach Bill Belichick. The 42 points were the most the Patriots have allowed in Belichick's 17-plus seasons.

Coming off their sensational Super Bowl rally to a fifth Lombardi Trophy, the Patriots faded badly in the second half. A raucous sold-out crowd of 65,878 celebrated

the unveiling of yet another championship banner, and there was plenty of talk about Tom Brady leading them to a 19-0 record.

After Week 1, though, they are winless. "I just think we need to have more urgency and go out there and perform a lot better," Brady said "It's a winning attitude, a championship attitude you have to bring every day. We had it handed to us on our own field."

It was the first time the Patriots lost at Gillette Stadium when leading at halftime, a span of 82 games. They were no match for the Chiefs in the last two periods.

Tyreek Hill scored on a 75-yarder and Hunt put the Chiefs in front with a 78-yarder to punctuate Kansas City's charge after trailing 17-14 at halftime. Hunt also had a 58-yard scamper and finished with 148 yards rushing and 98 receiving. Hill had 133 yards through the air, and Smith went 28-for-35 for 368 yards and four touchdowns and no interceptions.

"To start on your first carry like that and have it go like that, it would be hard to overcome for a lot of guys," Smith said of Hunt, from Toledo. "I thought it was awesome coach coming right back to him."

"There was a good chunk there where we were going as Kareem was going. He was really a big chunk of the offense tonight. For a young guy, we put a lot on him, in all facets of the offense tonight, and he was able to handle it."

Brady, the 13th quarterback to start an NFL game at age 40, didn't look too spry.

He struggled mightily in the second half and didn't throw for a touchdown, finishing 16-for-36 for 267 yards.

"Just a very poor effort and we'll have to do a lot better," Brady said. "Didn't make a lot of plays tonight, actually."

Patriots newcomer Mike Gillislee scored on three short runs, becoming the first player since Terrell Owens of Philadelphia in 2004 to score three touchdowns in his debut with a new team.

Short yardage: New England failed twice in the first quarter on short-yardage runs, by Gillislee and Super Bowl hero James White, and again in the fourth period, by Gillislee. If anyone proclaimed the Patriots were missing RB LeGarrette Blount, who scored 18 TDs last season and was a beast in such situations, well, Gillislee, who came from Buffalo as a restricted free agent, ran in for a pair of 2-yard touchdowns and a 1-yarder.

Injuries: Kansas City's star safety Eric Berry was carted off with 4:56 remaining with an Achilles tendon injury that Reid feared was a tear that would sideline Berry for the season.

The Patriots lost perhaps their best defensive player, linebacker Dont'a Hightower, in the third quarter with a knee injury. His absence showed on Hunt's long TD reception. ... WR Danny Amendola left in the fourth quarter with a head injury.

Mistakes doom Patriots defense in opener

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts — Seven months after shutting down the Atlanta Falcons late in a dramatic Super Bowl comeback win, the New England Patriots defense couldn't find the brakes Thursday night, giving up 28 second-half points in a stunning 42-27 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

It was the most points allowed by New England under coach Bill Belichick, with Kansas City piling up 537 yards on offense.

So much for another stab at 19-0.

The Patriots also lost starting linebacker Dont'a Hightower to a knee injury. The defense was already weaker up front

following the retirement of veteran linebacker Rob Ninkovich and the departure of defensive end Chris Long in free agency, so Hightower's absence could be an especially destabilizing blow.

Long strikes proved the biggest problem, including a 75-yard touchdown catch by Tyreek Hill to give Kansas City its first lead early in the third quarter, and a 78-yard touchdown catch by Kareem Hunt in the fourth quarter that put the Chiefs back in front for good.

The secondary blundered throughout. Cornerback Malcolm Butler's pass interference in the end zone set up Hunt's 3-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter. Stephen

Gilmore also badly blew a coverage on Hill's long touchdown. And with Hightower sidelined, linebacker Kyle Van Noy and defensive end Cassius Marsh allowed Hunt to get behind the defense on his 78-yard romp.

"It was different things on each one," safety Devin McCourty said. "I gave up one where I could have definitely played better. But we've got to watch it and see."

It was a particularly humbling debut for Gilmore, who signed a five-year, \$65 million contract as a free agent this offseason. The Patriots hoped he and Butler would make a formidable duo.

Instead, they both looked pedestrian Thursday, with both caught at times seeking help

over the top that didn't come.

"You've got to play with a hungry attitude, and I don't think we did that as a team," Gilmore said.

The Patriots offense looked as expected at times, scoring two early touchdowns and taking a 17-7 lead with quick-strike drives and Brady spreading the ball around the field.

Other times they were stagnant, including getting stopped twice on fourth-down runs.

But tight end Rob Gronkowski said the shortcomings were hardly just a defensive problem. He said everything about the loss was "a wakeup call."

They were left with nothing to do but look forward to their Week 2 trip to New Orleans.

Stephens, Keys to meet in women's final

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sloane Stephens was two points from defeat against Venus Williams in one U.S. Open semifinal before pulling out the victory.

Madison Keys faced no such test, overwhelming CoCo Vandeweghe in the other semifinal.

Now Stephens and Keys, a pair of pals in their early 20s, will meet in the first Grand Slam title match for each — and the first all-American women's final at Flushing Meadows since 2002.

Stephens summoned some of her best strokes when she needed them the most, steeling herself when so close to defeat and taking the last three games of a back-and-forth thriller, edging seven-time major champion Williams 6-1, 0-6, 7-5 on Thursday night.

"I have a lot of grit," said Stephens, who is ranked 83rd after having surgery on her left foot in January and is the fourth unseeded finalist at the tournament in the Open era, which dates to 1968. "I don't give up. Like, I'm not just going to give

it to someone. I'm not just going to let them take it from me."

The 15th-seeded Keys, who dominated No. 20 Vandeweghe 6-1, 6-2, had her own recent health issue to deal with: She missed the first two months of this year after an offseason operation on her left wrist, then needed another procedure in June because of pain in that arm.

"It was kind of one of those days where I came out and I was kind of in a zone," Keys said of her play Thursday, "and I just kind of forced myself to stay there."

She had 25 winners to only nine unforced errors, never faced a break point and needed barely more than an hour to win.

"Madison played an unbelievable match," said Vandeweghe, who wiped away tears during her news conference. "I didn't really have much to do with anything out there."

It would have been even shorter, except play was delayed for more than five minutes when Keys left the court to have her upper right leg taped at 4-1 in the second set. She said she

first felt something in that leg in her previous match but made it sound as if the treatment was simply a precaution.

"I just didn't want it to become something that would be bad," Keys said. "So as soon as I kind of felt it get the tiniest bit worse, I just had it wrapped to try and prevent anything from happening."

This was the first time in 36 years that all four women's semifinalists at the U.S. Open represented the host country, so it was understandable if spectators in Arthur Ashe Stadium were conflicted about which players to pull for.

At 37, Williams was attempting to become the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era. She was trying to reach her third major final of this season, something she last did 15 years ago. Here's how long and successful her career has been: Williams' first final in New York came in her U.S. Open debut in 1997. Stephens, now 24, was 4 at the time.

"Venus knows it's an opportunity lost," said her coach, David Witt, "because she had it. She had it on her racket."

Williams was ahead 5-4 with Stephens serving at 30-all. Two points away. That's when they engaged in a 25-stroke point, until Stephens conjured up a backhand passing winner down the line, then wheeled and pumped her fists.

"That was good, huh?" Stephens said later.

At 5-all, Stephens broke with the help of a rainbow of a winner — "That lob-thingy," she'd call it — that drew a standing ovation from the crowd, and a full-sprint get of a short ball that she turned into a "How did she do that?!" point-ender at an impossible angle.

"There was nothing I could do about those shots," Williams said.

Soon enough, Stephens was serving out the biggest win of her career — and of this comeback. She returned to the tour at Wimbledon in July, losing in the first round, and lost her next match, too. Her ranking, which reached a high of No. 11 in 2013, dropped out of the top 900.

But since then, Stephens has won 14 of 16 matches.

No. 9 Wisconsin offers helping hand to Florida Atlantic

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — No. 9 Wisconsin is extending a helping hand to its next nonconference opponent.

Florida Atlantic plans to arrive in Madison in time for the game Saturday against the Badgers, though the return trip is in question with Hurricane Irma potentially making landfall in South Florida this weekend.

The stakes of what should be a rather easy victory for Wisconsin have become a secondary concern. The schools have discussed contingencies to accommodate Florida Atlantic if the team can't return to its Boca Raton campus because of the storm, including extra nights in hotel rooms and the

use of the Badgers' athletic and training facilities.

"Whatever we need to do to accommodate that," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said. "Those are real things to the players and obviously to any of the teams down there."

It might be tough enough for the Owls (0-1) to focus on a game in which they will be decided underdogs. They may have a new high-profile coach in Lane Kiffin, but the talent level doesn't match the team that they'll have to face on the road at Camp Randall Stadium.

Last week, Florida Atlantic got dented for 416 yards and five touchdowns on 48 carries by Navy's triple-option attack in a 42-19 loss at home. Now the Owls have to face the Badgers' no-gimmick run game.

Starting running back Bradrick Shaw was questionable with a right leg injury, though Wisconsin still has plenty of options. Freshman Jonathan Taylor had a terrific debut last week with 87 yards on nine carries. Chris James, a transfer from Pittsburgh, is eager to get over a slow start after playing in his first game since the 2015 season.

Other notes and things to watch in the first meeting between the schools:

Not on Parr?: Statistically, Florida Atlantic starting quarterback Daniel Parr had a respectable outing against Navy, going 19-for-30 for 281 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. The scores went for 95 and 62 yards, respectively, though the latter touchdown

came with the game well in hand in the fourth quarter.

But Kiffin said this week that he would evaluate his quarterbacks. Parr is a sophomore who made his second career start. He was listed atop the depth chart with junior Jason Driskel, who has made 13 career starts.

Taylor made: Taylor emerged through camp as a candidate for carries after junior Taiwan Deal went down with a right leg injury. The freshman has burst into a conversation about the top of the backfield depth chart that had been dominated by Shaw and James. Chryst said he likes Taylor's tempo.

"Everything is prep," Taylor said. "You just work (on) getting that rhythm in sync, so when the game time comes it needs to be executed."

Cleveland wins club-record 15th straight

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Cleveland Indians didn't need much help to match last season's team-record 14-game winning streak, batting .317 and pitching to a 1.86 ERA over the last two weeks.

No. 15 was over almost before it started.

Cleveland jumped all over emergency starter Mike Pelfrey for seven runs in the first three innings and Corey Kluber struck out 13 in seven innings of three-hit ball on Thursday night, helping the Indians win their franchise-record 15th consecutive game, 11-2 over the Chicago White Sox.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Cleveland went deep five times in becoming the first major league team to win 15 straight since the 2002 Oakland A's.

"The winning streak is enjoyable and I think it's got people's attention, which gives me a chance to maybe brag on our guys a little, which I love," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "Other than that, we just go play tomorrow.

"The Orioles are already sitting back home waiting for us. We'll have our hands full. It just makes the games a little bit more fun because people are watching and they care."

Yolmer Sanchez and Jose Abreu homered in the first for Chicago, but Kluber allowed only one more hit — a fifth-inning single for Omar Narvaez.

The right-hander retired 20 of his last 22 batters on his way to double-digit strikeouts for the 14th time this season and 38th of his career.

Erik Gonzalez hit two home runs and Francisco Lindor and Greg Allen hit one apiece for the Indians. It was the first homer of Allen's career.

The White Sox turned to Pelfrey (3-11), who threw 40 pitches in 2¹/₃ innings of relief Tuesday, when Carlos Rodon (shoulder stiffness) was scratched about 15 minutes before game time. Pelfrey allowed seven runs and eight hits in four innings.

Rodon will have his shoulder examined Friday.

"Just a little soreness when I was trying

to get it going," Rodon said. "Just precautionary stuff. We'll figure it out tomorrow with some pictures and see what happens. It just didn't feel right. I didn't want to mess anything up."

The Indians are the first team to win at least 14 in a row in consecutive seasons since the 1935-36 Chicago Cubs.

"Different years, different players," Kluber said, "but I think the one constant between both of them is good pitching, timely hitting, all that cliché stuff you say it takes to win ballgames."

Pitching in a pinch: Third-string catcher Rob Brantly pitched the ninth inning for the White Sox. He allowed Gonzalez's second homer. He was the first White Sox player whose primary position is catcher to pitch in a game, according to STATS LLC.

Counter move: Francona changed his lineup when the White Sox pitching change was announced, installing the left-handed bats of outfielders Lonnie Chisenhall and Bradley Zimmer in place of Brandon Guyer and Allen.

Roundup

Rockies knock off Kershaw, floundering Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nolan Arenado hit a three-run homer off a laboring Clayton Kershaw, sending Los Angeles to a 9-1 loss, its seventh straight defeat and 12th in 13 games.

The NL West leaders haven't lost that many since May 2013, when they dropped eight in a row. Their 92-48 record is still baseball's best, but they continue to founder with the playoffs approaching.

Coming off a three-game sweep by Arizona, the Dodgers were hopeful Kershaw (16-3) could stop the slide like he did last week when he snapped their five-game skid with a 1-0 victory at San Diego.

Instead, he got yanked early.

The Rockies pounded out 16 hits and took full advantage of the Dodgers' faltering bullpen that surrendered five runs. Fans booed Josh Ravin when he gave up back-to-back bases-loaded walks in the seventh as

the Rockies batted around.

Twins 4, Royals 2: The Twins' Jorge Polanco drove in the go-ahead runs off ailing host Kansas City closer Kelvin Herrera with two outs in the ninth inning.

The loss was especially devastating for the Royals in the crowded AL wild-card race. They began the night 2¹/₂ games back of the Twins with 24 games to play.

Yankees 9, Orioles 1: Aaron Judge and Chase Headley each hit a two-run homer, helping the Yankees to their first series win at Camden Yards in four years.

Starlin Castro and Todd Frazier also connected for New York, which closed within 3¹/₂ games of AL East-leading Boston and fortified its grip on the top AL wild card.

Padres 3, Cardinals 0: Dexter Fowler struck out against Brad Hand with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, capping San Diego's win over vis-

iting St. Louis.

Hand allowed singles by Stephen Piscotty, Randal Grichuk and Carson Kelly in the ninth inning before getting Fowler to whiff on a slider in the dirt. Hand got his 16th save.

Nationals 4, Phillies 3: Trea Turner capped host Washington's three-run sixth inning with a two-run single, and the Nationals earned their fourth straight win.

Coupled with Miami's 6-5 loss at Atlanta, the Nationals lowered their magic number for clinching the NL East title to four.

Cubs 8, Pirates 2: Albert Almora Jr. hit a two-run homer, Ian Happ had three hits and Chicago rolled to the road win.

Jon Lester (10-7) pitched six effective innings for the Cubs, yielding one run and five hits. He also doubled in Jason Heyward in the fourth.

Braves 6, Marlins 5: Kurt Suzuki capped host Atlanta's

two-run ninth with a game-ending RBI single.

Miami left-hander Brad Ziegler (1-4) gave up a lead-off double to pinch hitter Matt Adams in the ninth. Pinch runner Nick Markakis moved to third on Ender Inciarte's groundout and scored easily on Ozzie Albies' double to right-center.

Freddie Freeman was walked intentionally and moved to second on Lane Adams' grounder before Suzuki lined the winning hit past Brian Anderson at third base.

Mets 7, Reds 2: Rookie Brandon Nimmo homered twice, Juan Lagares added a solo shot and host New York won for the third time in four games.

New York's Matt Harvey allowed two runs in five innings while improving to 4-0 with a 2.63 ERA in six starts against Cincinnati.