

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Picking up the pieces

As Irma pushes north, some Floridians able to return home to survey damage

Associated Press

MIAMI — Residents were allowed to return Tuesday to some islands in the hurricane-slammed Florida Keys as officials sought to piece together the scope of Irma's destruction and rush aid into the drenched and debris-strewn state.

Two days after the storm roared into the Keys with 130 mph winds, the full extent of the damage there was still a question mark because communications and access were cut off in many cases. At the northern end of the Keys, residents and business owners from Key Largo, Tavernier and Islamorada were allowed back for their first look.

The Lower Keys — including the chain's most distant and most populous island, Key West, with 27,000 people — were still off-limits, with a roadblock in place where the single high-

way to the farther islands was washed out. Road repairs were promised in the coming days.

Corey Smith, a UPS driver who rode out the hurricane in Key Largo, said that power was out on the island, there was very limited gas and supermarkets were closed. Branches and other brush blocked some roads.

"They're shoving people back to a place with no resources," he said by telephone. "It's just going to get crazy pretty quick."

Still, he said people coming back to Key Largo should be relieved that many buildings escaped major damage.

On Tuesday morning, the rainy remnants of Irma pushed through Alabama and Mississippi after drenching Georgia. Flash flood watches and warnings were issued around the Southeast.

Seven deaths in Florida have been blamed on Irma, along with two in Georgia and two in South Carolina. At least 35 people were killed in the Caribbean.

As many as 13 million Florida residents — two-thirds of the state's population — were without electricity as sweltering heat returned across the peninsula in the storm's wake, and officials warned it could take weeks for power to be fully restored. About 110,000 people remained in shelters statewide.

"I know for our entire state, especially the Keys, it's going to be a long road," Gov. Rick Scott said.

Authorities were stopping people to check documentation such as proof of residency or business ownership before allowing them back into the Upper Keys. All three hospitals on the island chain were

still closed.

After flying over the Keys on Monday, the governor described overturned mobile homes, washed-ashore boats and other damage.

Crews were working to reopen U.S. 1 through the Keys. Officials said there was no immediate sign of serious damage to the 42 bridges that link the islands, but they were still checking.

Lower Keys resident Leyla Nedin said she doesn't plan to return anytime soon to her home near where Irma came ashore on Cudjoe Key.

"There are still nine bridges that need final inspections. Plus, we are still without water, power, sewer, gas and cell service," she said. "My concern is that even if we get to go in to the Lower Keys, our fragile infrastructure could be even more compromised."

## Houston students start classes after hurricane delay

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The first day of classes for students in Houston on Monday was filled with the excitement of meeting new teachers and making new friends, while also allowing the nation's fourth-largest city to bring normalcy to an area still wending its way through the healing process following massive flooding from Harvey.

Students "are excited to be back. Parents are excited to get students out of the house, to get them back to something normal, to be with their friends," said Codwell Elementary School secretary Demitra Cain as she greeted students and parents outside.

The longtime school district

employee said she had probably given out at least 200 hugs on the first day of the new school year, which was delayed by two weeks due to Harvey.

Superintendent Richard Carranza said the new school year was "going to be a year of not only incredible academic achievement but it's going to be a year of healing."

None of the district's more than 300 schools and facilities escaped without some impact from the tropical storm, Carranza said. The district estimates Harvey caused at least \$700 million in damage to schools and other buildings and racked up other costs.

Students at 268 of the Houston school district's 284 campuses started classes on Monday.

Houston has the nation's seventh-largest school system, with about 215,000 students.

Some of the students who returned to school on Monday included many of the fewer than 1,500 students who remain at shelters because their homes and apartments were flooded. The district bused those students from shelters to their campuses.

The remaining campuses will start classes next Tuesday and on Sept. 25 due to ongoing cleanup and repairs from Harvey, which dumped more than 50 inches of rain in some areas around Houston.

Nine campuses were so severely damaged that their students will have to be temporarily relocated to vacant dis-

trict buildings or transferred to nearby schools, and three of these campuses likely will be closed for repairs the entire school year.

"We are working hard to make sure that we're going to be as normal as normal can be, given the circumstance," Carranza said after visiting with students at Codwell Elementary. We know the quicker we can get students into a routine, it allows mom and dad to get into a routine. It allows the healing to begin.

"So we've burned the midnight oil for the last two weeks to make sure we can get as many schools up and running today," he said.

## N. Korea warns US of 'pain' for latest sanctions

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned the United States it will face the “greatest pain” after the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted new sanctions to punish it for conducting a sixth nuclear test.

The resolution approved Monday caps crude oil imports and bans textile exports but fell short of Washington’s hopes for a complete oil embargo due to resistance by veto-holders China and Russia.

Even the watered-down measures were expected to hurt Pyongyang’s sources of foreign revenue and fuel.

Speaking at a disarmament conference in Geneva, North Korean Ambassador Han Tae Song said his delegation “categorically rejects the latest illegal and unlawful U.N. Security Council resolution,” according to Reuters.

Han was quoted as accusing the U.S. administration of being “fired up for political, economic, and military confrontation,” and of being “obsessed with the wild game of reversing (North Korea’s) development of nuclear force which has already reached the completion phase.”

“The forthcoming measures by (North Korea) will make the U.S. suffer the greatest pain it ever experienced in its history,” he said without elaborating.

The communist state issued a similar warning Monday before the vote was held, ratcheting up already-high tensions over its efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped weapon that could reach the U.S. mainland. North Korea has made significant progress in its missile and nuclear testing program despite eight previous rounds of sanctions that have been imposed since 2006 when it conducted its first nuclear test.

U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley said the latest resolution contained “by far the strongest measures ever imposed” and promised “this will cut deep.”

The resolution caps North Korea’s imports of crude oil at the level of the last year and limits the import of refined petroleum products to 2 million barrels a year. It also bans all textile exports and prohibits any country from authorizing new work permits for North Korean workers — hitting at two major sources of foreign currency for the isolated regime.

South Korea’s presidential office welcomed the passage of new sanctions, saying they showed international solidarity against the North’s actions.

# Pilot error cited in Osprey crash-landing off Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND KEN KUNIYOSHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps says pilot error was to blame for an MV-22 Osprey’s crash-landing off Camp Schwab late last year.

One of the helicopter-plane hybrid’s propellers clipped a thick hose on an Air Force C-130 tanker during nighttime refueling on Dec. 13, 2016. The Osprey’s pilot flew 18 miles to shore but decided to put the aircraft down into the sea rather than fly over a residential area to reach Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the Marines said at the time. Two crewmembers were injured.

“I want to again thank the Japan Coast Guard, Okinawan Police and the U.S. Air Force 33rd and 31st Rescue Squadrons for their support and assistance during this incident,” Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, said in a statement Monday. “This was a regrettable incident but one that could have been much worse without the quick reaction of the crew and the support of our Okinawan and Air Force partners.”

Nicholson delivered a report on the

crash investigation’s findings to Okinawa Vice Gov. Moritake Tomikawa on Monday at Camp Zukeran.

“It was firmly explained that it was a problem with the pilot’s skill and not a malfunction to the aircraft itself,” Tomikawa told reporters after the meeting. “As a matter of fact, we are not convinced, of course [with the explanation].”

Marine officials could not be reached for comment on the pilot’s status or whether punishment had been handed down.

According to a statement on the report released Monday by Japan’s Ministry of Defense, the Osprey made several attempts to connect to the tanker’s refueling basket but was unsuccessful. The crew then received a fuel warning and was instructed to turn around and head south toward Futenma.

As the Osprey again approached the fuel tanker, the pilot noticed it was approaching with too much power, the ministry statement said. The pilot decreased the power but could not maintain a normal distance. The refueling basket descended and then ascended, hitting the Osprey’s right propeller. The Osprey immediately ceased refueling efforts and was instructed to move away from the tanker.

## American who worked on base in Germany suspected of driving drunk against traffic

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An American assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, drove the wrong way on the autobahn near Kaiserslautern while intoxicated Monday morning, a mistake that could have been deadly if not for the heroic actions of three German drivers who stopped him and took his keys, German police alleged.

The 37-year-old U.S. civilian, whose name was not released, entered the A63 near Kirchheimbolanden the wrong way early Monday while driving a Volkswagen Golf, police alleged. After one of the German drivers flashed his lights at him, the American turned around but continued driving erratically, the autobahn police department in Gau-Bickelheim said.

The driver followed the Golf and called police, officers said. Two long-haul truck

drivers also on the road communicated with each other by radio and stopped the car. At that point, the American turned his car around, hit a guardrail and tried again to drive in the wrong direction, police said.

The German driving a car proceeded to block both lanes with his vehicle. A statement by police said the “trip was over for the American” after one of the truck drivers “jumped out of the driver’s cabin, sprinted to the Golf, ripped open the driver’s door and took” the keys from the ignition.

The man was found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.25 percent, police said. The legal limit to drive in Germany is 0.05 percent. He was arrested and turned over to military police. His car was towed.

A spokeswoman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein said Tuesday the man was a civilian who worked at Ramstein. He is no longer in police custody, said Kelly Sanders. It’s unknown whether he’ll face criminal charges.

## Retired Navy officer gets 18 months for 'Fat Leonard' conviction

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A retired U.S. Navy commander in Hawaii was sentenced Monday to 18 months in federal prison for lying about his relationship with a Malaysian defense contractor nicknamed "Fat Leonard."

David Kapaun abused his position in the Navy to help give a contractor an unfair advantage, U.S. District Judge Susan Oki Mollway said. That contractor, Leonard Francis, has admitted to bribing Navy officials with cash, prostitutes and other gifts in exchange for information to help his company. He's awaiting sentencing. Prosecutors call him the center of a corruption scandal involving 30 defendants.

Kapaun, while working in Singapore from 2002 to 2004, was one of the officials Francis plied with gifts, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Pletcher said. Kapaun was instrumental in helping Francis grow his company, Pletcher said.

Kapaun didn't disclose receiving dinners, hotel stays and prostitutes from Francis, his defense attorney, Victor Bakke, has said previously.

A "sense of entitlement" was partly to blame for his actions, Kapaun said at his sentencing.

Bakke said Kapaun was prepared to pay \$50,000 restitution on Monday and will pay a \$25,000 fine in installments.

Mollway also ordered Kapaun to serve three years of supervised release and 200 hours of community service.

Kapaun pleaded guilty in June, saying he lied when he didn't disclose on a security clearance form his connection to Francis. Kapaun retired and was honorably discharged in 2008 after a 25-year career, Bakke said. The allegations prompted Kapaun to resign earlier this year from his civilian position as deputy chief of staff for U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific.

# White House: No new law is needed for Islamic State fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has adequate legal authority to combat terrorist groups and doesn't support a push in Congress for a new law permitting military action against Islamic State and other militants, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

The comments Tuesday by White House legislative director Marc Short came as Republican Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky, ramped up pressure on his colleagues to reassert their power to decide whether to send American troops into harm's way. Paul, a leader of the GOP's noninterventionist wing, wants a vote on his amendment to the annual defense policy bill that would let the authorizations after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks lapse after six months.

He says Congress would use the time to pass a new war authority.

Many congressional Republicans and Democrats have been clamoring for Congress to approve a new authorization

for the use of military force. But they're moving too slowly for Paul, who's demanding the deadline to ensure faster action. Paul said on Monday evening he would use his senatorial power to block amendments from other lawmakers to the \$700 billion defense policy bill unless his measure was considered.

"Where is the anti-war left demanding the wars end? Where is the constitutional conservative right demanding Congress reclaim its war powers?" Paul declared on his Twitter account. He later said unidentified Senate leaders had "agreed to four hours of debate under my control to debate these wars." It was unclear, however, if that would culminate with a vote on his amendment.

To fight ISIS, the Trump administration, as did the Obama administration, relies on an authorization for the use of military force that was approved by Congress in 2001, shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks.

But the White House's use of

an authorization from a decade and half ago is a legal stretch at best, according to critics who have argued for years that Congress needs to pass a new one to account for how the dynamics of the battlefield have changed. For example, U.S. troops are battling an enemy — ISIS — that didn't exist 16 years ago in a country — Syria — that the U.S. didn't expect to be fighting in.

A separate authorization for the war in Iraq approved in 2002 also remains in force.

The War Powers Resolution, enacted in 1973, requires the president to tell Congress he is sending U.S. troops into combat and prohibits those forces from remaining for more than 90 days unless Congress has approved an authorization for military force.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis informed lawmakers last month that the 2001 authorization provides sufficient authority to wage war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

## West Point passes Annapolis in rankings

The Washington Post

UCLA moved up to a tie with its sister University of California campus in Berkeley for bragging rights among top public schools. New York University cracked the top 30 on the national university list. And West Point leapfrogged Annapolis on the liberal arts college ranking.

Those were a few of the take-aways Tuesday as U.S. News & World Report released its new college and university rankings, an annual sorting exercise that draws scrutiny from students, parents and alumni but scorn from critics who say it's a pointless game of prestige.

Two schools have a lock on No. 1. Princeton University topped the U.S. News national

university list for the seventh straight year, and Williams College led the liberal arts list for the 15th straight year.

Factors in the rankings include graduation and retention rates, surveys of college officials and high school counselors, spending on faculty and selectivity in admissions. Many educators complain that the formula is tilted in favor of the wealthiest and most exclusive schools, especially private ones, and does not adequately reflect the diversity of students served, the quality of teaching or the career paths open to alumni after graduation.

Among national liberal arts colleges, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, which had been 19th, jumped to 12th. The U.S. Naval Academy in An-

napolis, which had been 12th, fell to 21st.

That gave Army a fresh talking point in its rivalry with Navy. It was the first time since 2009-10 that West Point had led Annapolis on the list.

Annapolis took the news in stride.

"Nothing that we do here is in pursuit of a ranking," Cmdr. David McKinney, a Naval Academy spokesman, said. "We're here to train midshipmen — morally, mentally and physically."

But McKinney took note of an upcoming date of reckoning between the academies, a football game to be held in Philadelphia. "On Dec. 9, we hope that we are at least one more point successful than they are," he said.

# Backlog led to criminals getting security clearance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A government backlog of 700,000 security clearance reviews has led agencies such as the Defense Department to inadvertently issue interim passes to criminals — even rapists and killers — prompting calls for better and faster vetting of people with access to the nation's secrets.

The pileup, which is governmentwide, is causing work delays for federal and private intelligence efforts. It takes about four months to acquire a clearance to gain access to “secret” information on a need-to-know basis, and nine to 10 months for “top-secret” clearance.

Efforts to reduce the backlog coincide with pressure to tighten the reins on classified material. In recent years, intelligence agencies have suffered some of the worst leaks of classified information in U.S. history. Still, calls for a faster clearance process are getting louder.

“If we don’t do interim clearances, nothing gets done,” Dan Payne, director of the U.S. Defense Security Service, said last week at an intelligence conference.

Yet Payne described handing out interim clearances as risky

business. On the basis of partial background checks, people are being given access to secret and top-secret information sometimes for long periods of time, he said.

“I’ve got murderers who have access to classified information,” he said. “I have rapists. I have pedophiles. I have people involved in child porn. I have all these things at the interim clearance level and I’m pulling their clearances on a weekly basis.”

Payne didn’t say how many criminals his agency has discovered, if their offenses were new or old or if any of them had mishandled classified material. Efforts to reach him for this story were unsuccessful.

Ninety-five percent of all background investigations are conducted by the National Background Investigations Bureau, which does some of the work itself and contracts the rest to private firms.

The backlog grew significantly after the government stopped doing business with a contractor that suffered a data breach in 2014. That depleted the government’s capacity to do investigations by 60 percent, said Charles Phalen, director of the investigations bureau.

# Russia: Syria seized most land from ISIS

Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria — Russia’s military said Tuesday that Syrian troops have liberated about 85 percent of the war-torn country’s territory from militants, a major turn-around two years after Moscow intervened to lend a hand to its longtime ally.

Russia has been providing air cover for President Bashar Assad’s troops since 2015, changing the tide of the war and giving Syrian and allied troops an advantage over opposition fighters and Islamic State militants.

Speaking to reporters at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria’s province of Latakia, Lt. Gen. Alexander Lapin said the Syrian government still must clear the militants who hold approximately 10,425 square miles, the remaining 15 percent.

The reporters were later flown to Aleppo, which opposition fighters lost to the Syrian government in late 2016 and where Russian military police patrol parts of the city.

Syrian troops, along with strong support from Iranian-backed ground fighters, have in recent weeks pushed ISIS militants out of central Homs province, near the border with Lebanon, and are now fighting

them in the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province in the east.

Deir el-Zour is the last major ISIS holdout in Syria. The Syrian campaign, backed by Russian air power, broke a nearly 3-year-old siege on the provincial capital where troops had been encircled by ISIS militants.

But activists said civilians are bearing the brunt of the offensive amid intensive airstrikes and ISIS taking them as human shields. An overnight airstrike hit recently displaced Syrians from Deir el-Zour on the western side of the Euphrates River, killing at least eight civilians.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Omar Abu Laila, who runs a group that monitors developments in Deir el-Zour, said the airstrikes were suspected to be from Russian aircraft.

At the height of its strength, ISIS controlled nearly half of Syria, seizing mostly territories in the east and north of Syria.

Around Syria, there are still pockets of other insurgents, some backed by Turkey and others by the U.S., in the northwest and north as well as in the south and near the capital. Militants affiliated with al-Qaida control Idlib province, near the border with Turkey.

# Park Service plans to thin bison herd in Grand Canyon

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The National Park Service plans to thin a herd of bison in the Grand Canyon through roundups and by seeking volunteers who are physically fit and proficient with a gun to kill the animals that increasingly are damaging park resources.

Some bison would be shipped out of the area and others legally hunted in the adjacent forest. Within the Grand Canyon, shooters would be selected through a lottery to help bring the number of bison roaming the far north-

ern reaches of the park to no more than 200 within three to five years.

About 600 of the animals now live in the region, and biologists say the bison numbers could hit 1,500 within 10 years if left uncontrolled.

The Grand Canyon is still working out details of the volunteer effort, but it’s taking cues from other national parks that have used shooters to cut overabundant or diseased elk populations. The Park Service gave final approval to the bison reduction plan this month.

The bison have been moving in recent years within the Grand Canyon boundaries where open hunting is prohibited. Park officials say they’re trampling on vegetation and spoiling water resources.

Grand Canyon is working with state wildlife officials and the Intertribal Buffalo Council to craft guidelines for roundups and volunteer shooters, said Park Service spokesman Jeff Olson.

Much of the work would be done on foot in elevations of 8,000 feet or higher between October and May when the road leading

to the Grand Canyon’s North Rim is closed. Snowmobiles and sleds would be used to remove the bison meat, and helicopters would be used in rare instances, park officials said.

Carl Lutch, the terrestrial wildlife manager for Game and Fish in Flagstaff, said some models require volunteers to be capable of hiking eight miles a day, carrying a 60-pound pack and hitting a paper plate 200 yards away five times.

The head and hide of the bison would be given to tribes or federal and state agencies.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Residents shamed for unkempt yards get help

**OH NILES** — An Ohio couple has stepped forward to help families shamed online for their unkempt yards.

The Warren Tribune Chronicle reported that Adam Jenyk and his wife, Chaelsie Adkins, saw an opportunity to help their neighbors in Niles after viewing hurtful posts on community pages. Volunteers have joined the couple's small-town mission.

Adkins cautioned cyberbullies who are unaware of the personal lives of people they try to shame. She said she and her husband have helped a disabled veteran, a stroke victim and a family caring for a special-needs child.

## Man accused of setting pregnant woman on fire

**MD CAPITOL HEIGHTS** — A man arrested after a pregnant woman was set on fire in her Maryland apartment has been charged with arson and attempted murder.

Prince George's County police said Laquinn Phillips, 34, was charged Friday. Police said Phillips and the victim had been in a romantic relationship.

Both the woman and the baby, who was delivered early, are in critical condition. Police said the woman had suffered burns across large portions of her body.

## Body found in golf course pond identified

**PA CORAOPOLIS** — Authorities have identified the body of a man found in a golf course pond at a country club in western Pennsylvania, and they say his death may be related to a crash reported earlier that damaged a utility pole.

Officials said Roy Sanders, 50, of Coraopolis, had been reported missing a day before his body was found Friday by a groundskeeper at Montour Heights Country Club in Allegheny County. Moon Township police said a car also found in the pond matched parts found near a crash reported Sept. 5 near a church that damaged a utility pole. Sanders was last seen Sept. 4. Capt. Gregory Seamon said investigators believe the car went into the church parking lot, through the woods and into the pond.

## Suspect drowns in river while fleeing officers

**CA RANCHO CORDOVA** — Authorities said an auto theft suspect drowned in a Northern California river while trying to flee from police officers.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department said the chase began Saturday morning when Rancho Cordova police officers tried to pull over a reported stolen car and two men inside the vehicle refused to stop. The driver led officers on a high-speed chase to an access way to American River, where he ran into the riverside park. The passenger stayed in the car and was detained.

Authorities said the officers saw the suspect trying to swim across the river and that he appeared to struggle in the frigid water. The officers requested a rescue boat and lost sight of the man. He was unconscious by the time rescuers pulled him from the water.

## Man claims to have shot trooper, is charged

**NY CONSTANTIA** — Authorities said a central New York man was joking when he showed up at a neighbor's house with handcuffs attached

to his wrist and claimed to have just shot a state trooper.

The neighbor fell for the joke and called 911. Now, Leonard Graumenz, 59, faces charges of reckless endangerment and falsely reporting a crime.

Police said the incident occurred Saturday when Graumenz, of Constantia, attached handcuffs to one of his wrists and told his neighbor he had crashed his truck and shot a trooper trying to arrest him. Police determined Graumenz had made the story up.

## Suit: Police publicized arrest as retaliation

**CT MERIDEN** — A lawsuit filed against the city of Meriden and police officials alleges the department publicized the arrest of a critic's son as retaliation.

The Record-Journal reported that Christopher Dingwell Sr. filed the lawsuit last month.

He says he obtained an email from the police union president to the police chief requesting a news release be issued about the March 2016 arrest of his son, Christopher Dingwell Jr.

The email says the younger Dingwell was charged with throwing a facsimile gun out of a car during a traffic stop, but "more importantly," his father is among the department's "most outspoken critics."

## Police arrest resident in shooting of man walking

**LA TERRYTOWN** — A Louisiana man was arrested after authorities say he shot another man who he believed was taking photos of his home.

News outlets reported that Shawn Henderson, 47, called 911 on Saturday when a neighbor said a man had been taking photos of his house. Henderson then took his gun and got in his

truck to look for the man.

Jefferson Parish Interim Sheriff Joseph Lopinto said Henderson confronted the man and a struggle ensued. Henderson fired his gun twice, with one shot going through the man's right leg. Lopinto said the man had been walking through the neighborhood and was not taking pictures. He is in stable condition at a hospital.

Henderson was charged with aggravated battery.

## Bobcat escapes at zoo, disrupts beer festival

**PA NORTH WHITE-HALL TOWNSHIP** — Visitors to a Pennsylvania zoo and its beer festival took refuge in buildings after a bobcat escaped from its enclosure.

Shiska, an 18-year-old female bobcat at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, escaped Saturday through a hole she made between a fence and a tree. Zoo President and CEO Melissa Borland told WFMZ-TV that the bobcat got 25 to 50 feet from its enclosure before being captured by handlers about an hour later. No injuries were reported.

## Motorcyclist killed by truck after hitting deer

**TN CHURCH HILL** — A motorcyclist died after police say he was knocked off his bike when a deer ran in front of him and then struck by a tractor-trailer.

The Kingsport Times-News reported that Jeremy Clark, 35, was killed in the accident about 7:30 a.m. Monday.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol said witnesses saw the deer run out in front of the motorcycle and knock Clark off the bike. Clark fell into the path of the rear portion of an 18-wheeler. The driver of the truck was not injured.

From wire reports

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# Toy Story: McCaffrey delights Panthers

*The Associated Press*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Ron Rivera felt like a kid on Christmas morning again when the Panthers took the field to play the San Francisco 49ers in the regular-season opener.

After months of waiting, he was finally getting a chance to play with his new toy: rookie running back Christian McCaffrey.

“You open up the box and there is what you hoped for,” Rivera said at a press conference Monday. “You also have to be wise and smart about when you play with it, and when you don’t, because you don’t want to wear the batteries out and you don’t want to break it. You want to utilize it and have fun with it.”

The Panthers had plenty of fun all day, dominating the 49ers 23-3 and earning their first win with the help of the team’s first-round draft pick.

It became pretty apparent early on Sunday the Panthers plan to lean heavily on McCaffrey this season.

He started alongside veteran running back Jonathan Stewart and played 70 percent (47 of 67) of the offensive snaps. He carried 13 times for 47 yards, caught five passes for 38 yards and returned three punts for 2 yards in Carolina’s 23-3 win.

Those numbers aren’t gaudy by any means, but it doesn’t completely tell the story.

McCaffrey’s mere presence on the field not only gave quarterback Cam Newton a much-needed safety valve, but also opened things up for others players.

That was never more evident than in the third quarter when McCaffrey drew two defenders to his side of the field on a pass play, allowing Stewart to work underneath the coverage and score on a 9-yard TD reception from Newton.

“He’s an explosive type player and he has great quicks and football savvy,” Rivera said. “You also see sometimes where even when you don’t give him the ball you see the benefits of having him on the field. ... Those are the things he helps create for his teammates and I think as [opponents] recognize it and see there are things they have to do to handle him I think it will open up more things for his teammates.”

Along with the backfield, McCaffrey also lined up in the slot and out wide as offensive coordinator Mike Shula gave teams plenty to prepare for in the coming weeks.

“He’s just so much fun to watch,” Shula said. “You can do different things with him. He’s so smart and so instinctive. He’s just scratching the surface.”

McCaffrey saw more action than Stewart in the pivotal first half in which the Panthers opened a 13-0 lead.

“We talked in the offseason a lot about teams trying to take away Greg (Olsen) or Kelvin (Benjamin),” Shula said. “So if they do that then we feel like he can be a guy who gets some matchups underneath in shorter areas or if teams are playing soft zones then you can give him the ball in space. I think with him being a factor like that it will be helpful for Cam but also those other guys.”

McCaffrey wasn’t perfect by any means. He was stripped of the ball after reversing directions and fumbled.

“It happens, but it can’t happen,” McCaffrey said after the game. “I tried to cover it up but the guy made a good play. Coming back, you’ve got to respond.”

He and Stewart helped the Panthers run nearly nine minutes off the clock to close out the game with a lengthy fourth quarter drive. Rivera said moving forward he hopes to get both backs about 14 to 18 touches per game on offense.

“There were a lot of good things we did with Christian,” he said. “We know he can be a big part of what we do offensively. There are a lot of things we can do with him.”

## Cook, Bradford spoil Peterson’s Saints debut

*Associated Press*

MINNEAPOLIS — Adrian Peterson spent more time watching from the sideline in his return to Minnesota than romping around the field, an introductory performance for New Orleans that became an afterthought once the Saints fell behind.

With Dalvin Cook patiently waiting for space and bursting around the edge, the Vikings formally turned the page in the backfield with promising results.

Sam Bradford started his second year with Minnesota in style, passing for 346 yards and three touchdowns in a 29-19 victory on Monday night by the Vikings that spoiled Peterson’s first game with the Saints.

“I really didn’t know what to expect coming in,” said Peterson, who spent 10 seasons with the Vikings while winning a league MVP award and becoming

ing their all-time leading rusher by nearly 5,000 yards. “We talked about running the ball a little more and for whatever reason got away from it. That’s how the game played out.”

Booed by the crowd upon his first couple of mentions by the public address announcer, Peterson was limited to six carries and 18 yards in equal time with Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara. The other members of the committee are more valuable in the passing game, though, so Peterson was hardly used after halftime. He was seen on camera at one point yelling at coach Sean Payton, a confrontation Peterson played down afterward.

“Listen, I’d tell you if we were in a heated exchange,” Payton said, “so why don’t you ask him?”

Peterson pinned his frustration on play calling that strayed from running inside, not at Payton for minimizing his use.

“There is no conflict. Let’s not try to spin it like there is,” Peterson said. “I’ve got a lot of respect for coach Payton and his offense. He’s a great mind. We’re going to learn from this.”

Here some other key angles that emerged from the game:

**Home Cooking:** The Vikings drafted Cook in the second round to fit their new zone-blocking scheme with a diverse skill set that could serve them well on passing downs, a snapshot of the evolution of the ideal NFL running back that Peterson was when he entered the league 10 years ago with his unique blend of power and speed. Though Cook bobbled a couple of the five passes thrown his way, he turned 25 touches into 137 total yards.

The first Vikings rookie to start at running back since Michael Bennett in 2001, Cook carried the ball 22 times for 127 yards. He had 14 attempts

for 105 yards in the second half to help the Vikings salt away the clock. His 33-yard scamper around right end on the first play of the fourth quarter would’ve been the team’s second-longest rush last season, and his total for the game bested the 2016 individual high for the Vikings by 36 yards.

“They took a chance on me, bringing me into this organization, so it’s important for me to come out here and compete for those guys,” Cook said. “You know A.P. was phenomenal for this organization, so you can’t put nothing past him, but you know I’m here now and I’m just trying to help this team win.”

The two spoke afterward, their first meeting.

“He just told me, ‘Keep ballin’ man,’ and I told him, ‘I’m just following the G.O.A.T. footsteps,’” Cook said, using acronym slang for the “greatest of all time.”

# Tipped FG preserves Broncos' victory

Associated Press

DENVER — The rookie head coach iced the rookie kicker.

Shelby Harris got a hand on Younghoe Koo's 44-yard game-tying field goal try with a second left and the Denver Broncos began the Vance Joseph era with a 24-21 win over the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday night.

"It was a little too exciting," Von Miller said after presenting Joseph with the game ball in the jubilant locker room. "But a win is a win."

Koo nailed the kick moments earlier, but Joseph had called a timeout to ice the kicker.

"I had two timeouts and I wasn't going to leave with those in my pocket," Joseph said.

Derek Wolfe had bull-rushed the first field goal and told Harris, a third-year journeyman who made the team largely because of a rash of injuries along the D-line, that he'd get a chance to slice through this time because the guard would lean his way.

Sure enough, Harris got his right hand on the ball, which frittered short of the end zone as the Chargers looked on in dismay and the Broncos dog-

piled Harris.

"It's too bad because Koo drilled the first one," Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said. "And they called timeout and I think he drilled the second one, too. At least, that's what it looked like to me because it was going right down the middle. And I think if we get to OT, we would have finished it off, but we didn't get that chance."

Harris got the start only because Jared Crick and Zach Kerr were out with injuries.

The ending was reminiscent of last year's opener in Denver, when the Broncos escaped with a 21-20 win over the Carolina Panthers in a Super Bowl 50 reunion when Graham Gano missed a 50-yard field goal with 4 seconds left.

Denver took a 24-7 lead into the fourth quarter in this opener and the Broncos were feeling pretty good. And why not? The Chargers were 1-155 in their history when trailing by 17 or more in the fourth quarter and Denver was 175-0-1 with a fourth-quarter lead of 17 or more.

Then came a nightmarish eight-minute stretch in which they had two turnovers that

were converted into touchdowns, a missed field goal and a punt.

"The game was in firm control for about three quarters and we felt good but you turn the ball over twice on the short side of the 50, it's going to be a problem with Philip Rivers," Joseph said.

Before those fourth-quarter foibles, Trevor Siemian threw two TD passes to Bennie Fowler and ran for another score.

The Broncos held Rivers to 115 yards passing through three quarters but let him engineer a comeback when Siemian threw an interception and Jamaal Charles fumbled on plays that were upheld despite video evidence that had the crowd of 76,324 convinced they should have been overturned.

Rivers threw touchdown passes to Keenan Allen and Travis Benjamin following the takeaways to make it 24-21.

Back-to-back sacks of Siemian set up a 50-yard field goal try that McManus pushed wide right, giving L.A. the ball at its 40-yard line trailing by three.

But Koo's miss loomed larger in the final seconds.

**Denver's dominance:** The

Broncos led 14-7 at halftime after Siemian threw a 5-yard scoring pass to Fowler and scored on a 1-yard keeper.

Los Angeles' only touchdown drive was aided by a 40-yard pass interference call on cornerback Bradley Roby before Rivers hit running back Melvin Gordon for an 11-yard touchdown toss. Safety Justin Simmons hit Gordon at the 2, but he just somersaulted across the goal line.

Rivers stayed away from the All-Pro tandem of Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr., instead targeting Roby and safeties Darian Stewart and Simmons.

Roby atoned for his crucial penalty with an interception in the third quarter on a pass intended for Allen. That led to Siemian's 6-yard TD toss to Fowler that made it 21-7.

McManus kicked a 20-yard field goal on the last play of the third quarter, capping a 78-yard drive that ate up 8 minutes, 16 seconds.

**Historic opener:** With Anthony Lynn also making his head coaching debut, this marked the first time two black head coaches worked their first NFL game against each other.

## Cardinals RB Johnson likely out 2-3 months

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals lost way more than a game in their season opener in Detroit.

Star running back David Johnson dislocated a wrist, Cardinals coach Bruce Arians said, and probably will require surgery.

Arians said Johnson is seeking a second opinion. If the original prognosis is confirmed, the injury is the same as the one that sidelined rookie T.J. Logan in the preseason.

While he didn't give a timetable for Johnson, Arians said Logan is expected out eight to 12 weeks.

"It's always a huge blow to lose a top player but it's not the end of the world," Arians said at his Monday news conference. "We've got quality guys on our team. It's an opportunity for somebody to step up. David Johnson became David Johnson because of somebody's injury."

Arians was referring to Johnson's rookie season, when David took over as starter when Chris Johnson went down with a knee injury.

David Johnson likely is headed for injured reserve, not necessarily for the season but maybe for most of it. NFL rules allow up to two players to be brought back from IR.

"There's some big shoes for somebody to step into," right tackle Jared Veldheer said. "We need good running backs in our system, so we need somebody to step up."

Arians said Monday the injury occurred late in the third quarter of Sunday's 35-23 loss at Detroit, when Johnson was hit hard after a catch. The next and final time Johnson touched the ball, he fumbled at the Cardinals' 10-yard line.

Kerwynn Williams and Andre Ellington are the primary running backs in Johnson's absence. Ellington said the team didn't know Johnson hurt his wrist on the

big catch.

"We thought he had the wind knocked out of him, but we could tell something was wrong because he wasn't really holding the ball the same," Ellington said. "Later I found out it was his wrist, didn't think it was that bad. Still don't really know exactly what's going on but it looks like I have to step up, Kerwynn has to step up."

David Johnson was All-Pro at the newly created "flex" position last season and was second-team All-Pro at running back.

So big things were expected of him in this, his third, NFL season. He was on the cover of Sports Illustrated's season preview after leading the league in yards from scrimmage and touchdowns last season.

He had set a goal of becoming the third player in NFL history with 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving in the same season. Johnson set an NFL record last season with 100 yards from scrimmage in each of the first 15 games of a season.

# Indians' win streak longest in 15 years

By TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — One more day. One more game. One more win.

The Cleveland Indians are ripping off victories like few teams before them.

And, they're not finished.

With their latest lopsided win, the Indians extended the majors' longest winning streak in 15 years to 19 games on Monday night by blowing out the Detroit Tigers 11-0 to move closer to a record that has stood for 101 years.

Francisco Lindor tripled home three runs off rookie Myles Jaye (0-1) in the second inning, and the Indians, who haven't lost since Aug. 23, prolonged the third-best winning

streak since 1947.

But while they may be the talk of baseball, Cleveland's players are taking it all in stride.

To them, it's no big deal.

"Surprised? I don't want to say I'm surprised," said Lindor, who is batting .338 during the streak. "We haven't really paid attention to it. We're just enjoying the ride and trying to focus on what we have in front of our feet. Today is in the past already. We focus on what we have tomorrow and we'll see what happens."

Cleveland is the sixth team to win at least 19 straight, and the streak is the longest since the 2002 Oakland Athletics won 20 in a row — a run that was celebrated in the film "Moneyball."

The Indians can match those A's on Tuesday, and their chances of getting No. 20 are strong with AL Cy Young Award contender Corey Kluber starting.

At this point, it hardly matters who's on the mound.

The defending AL champions aren't just rolling, they're steamrolling, outscoring opponents 132-32 during a stretch that includes six shutouts.

They're making it look easy, but manager Terry Francona refuses to make more of the streak.

"I get it," Francona said. "I just don't feel like going there. I think it sends the wrong message. I think our message is always consistent, that, 'Hey, show up and try to outplay them today.' I think they're

doing a good job, that's the understatement."

Carlos Carrasco (15-6) struck out nine in six innings, Lindor had four RBIs and Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer as the Indians lowered their magic number to clinch the Central to six.

Cleveland joined the 1906 Chicago White Sox (19), the 1947 New York Yankees (19), the 2002 A's (20), the 1935 Chicago Cubs (21) and the 1916 New York Giants (26) as the only teams to reel off 19 consecutive wins. The Giants' record run is in the books as the major league mark, although it did include a tie, which does not count as an official game in baseball, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

# Dodgers lose 11-straight game for longest skid

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Dodgers rallied once, twice and then a third time. Manager Dave Roberts thought his club would snap out of its long losing streak at last.

The National League-leading Dodgers lost their 11th straight game for the longest skid since the club moved to Los Angeles, finishing their 8-6 defeat to the San Francisco Giants at 2:10 a.m. local time Tuesday morning after a pair of rain and lightning delays late Monday.

"It's disappointing because our guys played hard tonight, they really did," Roberts said. "I thought that we were going to win that game. I thought we put ourselves in a position to win but we couldn't hold the lead."

Hunter Pence hit a go-ahead single in the sixth for San Francisco against Pedro Baez (3-5).

Following a 42-minute delay ahead of first pitch, Curtis Granderson struck out against Chris Stratton, then the game immediately entered an even longer delay — this time for 2 hours, 52 minutes, before resuming at 10:50 p.m. local time.

The total delay time of 3:34 was more than the game time of 3:22. Roberts said his preference would have been a doubleheader but he understood it as a league decision, saying "it was out of our hands."

"This is obviously very uncharacteristic to start a game this late," he said.

Los Angeles, which has lost 16 of 17 over-

all, had its lead atop the NL over idle Washington trimmed to 3½ games. The Dodgers travel to play the Nationals next.

The skid topped a pair of 10-game losing streaks in L.A. from 1961 and '92. The 1944 Brooklyn team lost 16 straight games. L.A. held a season-best 21-game division lead for four days and as recently as Aug. 25, but that has dwindled to nine games over Arizona.

"It's disappointing every time you lose," shortstop Corey Seager said. "I thought tonight was better. We came back, got back in the game a couple times. Unfortunately, we didn't win. Just got to get back to winning, that's about it. Nothing else about that."

"In my mind I didn't think we were going to be playing tonight, once it started to get around 9:45," Giants center fielder Denard Span said. "... Then we came out here and tried to battle our butts off."

**Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 4:** Nolan Arenado's tie-breaking three-run home run in the eighth inning powered visiting Colorado to a win over Arizona.

The Rockies took the first game of a key four-game series between the National League wild-card leader, Arizona, and second-place Colorado. The Rockies moved four games behind the Diamondbacks.

Arenado drove in four runs with a double and his 33rd home run of the season, and the Rockies won their seventh straight road game and fifth overall.

**Yankees 5, Rays 1:** In the start of a series moved from Florida to Citi Field because of

Hurricane Irma, Todd Frazier capitalized on Trevor Plouffe's two-out error with a three-run homer in a five-run fourth inning that led New York over Tampa Bay.

**Rangers 5, Mariners 3:** Delino DeShields homered after taking a speedier trip around the bases for an earlier run as host Texas beat Seattle in the opener of a four-game series matching teams still hoping to get an AL wild card.

Cole Hamels (10-3) struck out seven in six innings to win for the first time in his last four starts.

**Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3:** Ryan Goins hit a solo home run, Marco Estrada won his third straight decision and host Toronto beat slumping Baltimore.

Darwin Barney had two hits and an RBI as the Blue Jays won their third straight and handed the Orioles their fifth consecutive defeat.

**Pirates 7, Brewers 0:** Steven Brault and four relievers combined on a three-hitter to lift Pittsburgh over host Milwaukee.

**White Sox 11, Royals 3:** Jose Abreu had four hits, Adam Engel hit a three-run homer and visiting Chicago pounded Kansas City.

Abreu, who hit for the cycle Saturday and had two home runs Sunday, drove in two and scored once while raising his average to .306. He was a homer shy of another cycle.