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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Simulators steer LCS training

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — It's been a year since the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility at Naval Base San Diego.

The facility boasts 89 military staffers, plus 31 Department of Defense civilian and contractor employees and a wonderland of display screens so exact that they've made sailors seasick on land.

"I'll find myself doing this," said Capt. Jordy Harrison, the commodore of the San Diego-based Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One. "I'm rocking on my toes because you feel like you're standing aboard a ship, even if it's not really moving."

Relying on automation, the radically reduced crew sizes aboard the LCS vessels promised deep savings to the Navy by shaving the dollars spent on personnel and their families. But to make the ships work, crews selected for the littoral combat fleet needed to perform multiple jobs, putting a premium on training.

Navy leaders hoped that the facility would train individual shipmates and whole crews ashore, eliminating much of the on-the-job instruction taken for granted aboard destroyers and cruisers.

On a video screen stretching across a darkened room built to resemble exactly an LCS bridge, trainers brought up a nearly perfect digital replica of San Diego Bay, including the carrier Carl Vinson, but with snow flurries whipping into the face of the ship.

"OK, you'd never likely see that in San Diego, but it shows you how we can change it up to fit any scenario," said Cmdr. Will Chambers, a career surface warfare officer, ticking off where his instructors can put a crew virtually, like an anti-piracy mission near the Middle East or the bustling sea lanes trafficked by the Japan-based 7th Fleet's warships.

By late 2019 or early 2020, the campus will be fully built, gobbling a large portion of what used to be the Fleet Industrial Supply Warehouse, but Harrison and other top Navy leaders told *The San Diego Union-Tribune* that they're already starting to see the fruits of the training complex and its teachers.

"We're even learning things about the LCS ships on the simulators before we see it at sea," said Capt. Ronald Toland Jr., commander of the Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center that sponsors the LCS complex.

1 dead, 23 hurt in incidents at Texas, N.C., Calif. bases

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — One soldier died and 23 servicemembers were injured in three days during training exercises at three bases in the U.S., defense officials said.

One day after 15 Marines were injured in a sudden fire during training at Camp Pendleton in California, an explosion during training Thursday morning at Fort Bragg in North Carolina injured eight soldiers, officials said. The incidents followed the death Tuesday of Army Staff Sgt. Sean Devoy, who died after falling during helicopter training at Fort Hood in Texas, according to the Army.

The causes of the incidents were not clear Thursday, but authorities have launched investigations into all of them, Marine and Army officials said.

Devoy, 28, was participating in HH-60M Black Hawk medical evacuation hoist training on a range just south of Robert Gray Army Airfield, according to an Army statement. He was a medic assigned to 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley in Kansas.

Devoy had served three combat deployments to Afghanistan since joining the Army in 2010, and his awards include the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Aviation Badge and the Combat Medical Badge, according to Army records.

The Army said his death was under investigation by officials with Fort Rucker, Ala.-based U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

The soldiers injured Thursday at Fort Bragg were assigned to a unit within Army Special Operations Command, said Army Lt. Col. Robert Bockholt, a spokesman for the elite command based at the North Carolina post. He did not identify the specific unit involved in the training. The soldiers injured were transported to Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg with varying injuries, Bockholt said.

The soldiers' conditions were unknown

Thursday.

In California, six of the 15 injured Marines, each assigned to 1st Marine Division, were in critical condition after the amphibious assault vehicle ignited during training at Camp Pendleton.

All 15 Marines remained in southern California hospitals a day after the incident, which occurred about 9:30 a.m. local time, said Marine 1st Lt. Paul Gainey, a spokesman for 1st Marine Division. In addition to the Marines in critical condition, six more were in serious condition and three others suffered minor injuries.

Three of the Marines in critical condition were evacuated to the Regional Burn Center at the University of California San Diego Health. The other three in critical condition were taken to the University of California Irvine Medical Center.

The injured Marines belong to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Gainey said. Their families had been notified of the incident by Thursday, but the Marines will not release their names, he said, citing medical privacy laws.

It remained unclear Thursday what caused the amphibious assault vehicle to ignite on land during a routine combat-readiness-evaluation operation, Gainey said. He said investigators were in the early stages of their probe.

The latest incidents follow a series of deadly aircraft and warship crashes that have killed 42 servicemembers since July and have raised questions among Pentagon officials and lawmakers about the state of the military.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Wednesday that many of the problems plaguing the military, including training mishaps, are "self-inflicted." The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said four times as many servicemembers have been killed in training incidents during the past three years than in combat and pushed fellow lawmakers to pass the annual defense spending bill to provide the Pentagon some budget stability.

At nuke base, Mattis checks N. Korea with subtle stance

Associated Press

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — He inspected a mock-up nuclear warhead, but there was no Kim Jong Un-like posing for photos. He chatted with nuclear missile launch officers in their command post, but there was no talk of unleashing nuclear hell on North Korea.

A subtle, unspoken message of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' visit to this nuclear weapons base Wednesday was that America is a mature nuclear power not intimidated by threats from an upstart North Korean leader.

Mattis was quietly reminding North Korea that it has no match for a U.S. nuclear arsenal that, while old, is still capable of sudden and swift destruction.

In his only public comments, Mattis cast his visit as part of an effort to ensure that the U.S. maintains the kind of nuclear firepower that convinces any potential nuclear opponent that

attacking would be suicidal.

"You can leave no doubt at all," he told reporters traveling with him. "Don't try it. It won't work. You can't take us out."

Mattis was taking such a restrained approach that he barred reporters from his "town hall-style" exchange with airmen on this base that hosts nuclear-capable B-52 bombers as well as the 91st Missile Wing, which has nearly 150 nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles standing ready for launch at a moment's notice.

On Thursday, Mattis was getting classified briefings at Strategic Command, just outside Omaha, Neb. Air Force Gen. John E. Hyton, the head of Strategic Command, would be in command of nuclear forces in the event President Donald Trump ordered them into combat.

Mattis said his visits to Minot and Strategic Command are intended to inform his "nuclear

posture review," a top-to-bottom reassessment of U.S. nuclear weapons policy. He said the review is nearly complete but he would not cite a target date. A major question posed in the review is how big the U.S. nuclear force needs to be to remain a deterrent to nuclear war.

Mattis said Wednesday he has become convinced that the United States must keep all three parts of its nuclear force rather than eliminate one, as he once suggested. In congressional testimony in January 2015, while he was a private citizen, Mattis said eliminating the ground-based component — intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs — would "reduce the false alarm danger." He was referring to the argument made by some nuclear policy experts that because ICBMs are postured to be launched on warning of incoming missiles, a false warning might trigger nuclear war.

Super Stallion crews enjoying Japan rotation

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion may look like "a school bus with a rotor on top," but it's got enough power to land on top of Mount Fuji.

A pair of the 15,000-horsepower beasts have been training at the foot of Japan's tallest mountain this week and will be at Yokota's annual Friendship Festival that's expected to attract more than 100,000 locals looking for a taste of American culture this weekend.

Marine Maj. Jayson Welihan, 39, of Jackson, Mich., leading a detachment from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 at Yokota's east side Wednesday, said the aviators are enjoying the challenge of working in an unfamiliar environment.

Two hundred and fifty Marines from the squadron out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, are midway through a six-month Unit Deployment Program rotation to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, he said.

One of their first tasks during the deployment was to collect four Super Stallions from South Korea, where they were undergoing maintenance, to add to four already on Okinawa, he said.

The Super Stallions just finished training on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido during the Northern Viper drills, Welihan said.

A Super Stallion can lift up to 36,000 pounds — three times as much as an Osprey — and can carry 50 combat troops — twice as many as its helicopter-plane rival, said CH-53E pilot Capt. Patrick Kelly, 30, of Burke, Va.

"It looks like a school bus with a rotor on top but it's surprisingly nimble," he said. "Our primary mission is supporting the Marine Air Ground Task Force commander moving heavy equipment, troops and supplies, day or night, under all weather conditions."

Okinawa governor proposes changes to US status of forces agreement in Japan

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEN KUNIYOSHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Officials on the southern island prefecture of Okinawa have requested sweeping changes to the status of forces agreement governing U.S. personnel in Japan.

A proposal by anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga seeks, among other things, to grant Japanese officials greater authority to investigate SOFA-related crimes, allow more local input for on-base decision-making, require advance and public reporting on U.S. military training and allow greater access to U.S. military installations.

Onaga presented the proposal to Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera during a meeting Monday at Tokyo's Ministry of Defense. It requests dozens of changes to SOFA's 11 articles, encompassing almost every aspect of the U.S. presence in Japan.

An introduction to the petition written by the

governor cites the following reasons for the request: the excessive burden placed on Okinawa by hosting approximately half of the U.S. forces in Japan; crimes committed by U.S. personnel, including the brutal killing of a Japanese woman last year in which a civilian base worker and former Marine is accused; the crash-landing of an MV-22 Osprey off Camp Schwab in December; and other "incidents, accidents, and environmental problems derived from the bases."

Among the biggest proposed changes focus on criminal justice. The governor is seeking the ability to transfer SOFA personnel suspected of a crime to Japanese custody before charges are levied, the ability to seize the property of off-base SOFA personnel during investigations and Japanese control of off-base crash investigations. He also wants the U.S. and Japanese governments to foot the bill for any unpaid damages left by the perpetrators of illegal acts, even if that means seizing a SOFA members benefits or pay.

Jolly Roger a tradition but significance secret

The Washington Post

An image posted to a Pentagon media site and tweeted by Scottish journalist Ian Keddie shows the USS Jimmy Carter, a Seawolf-class nuclear-powered submarine, returning to her home port in Washington on Tuesday flying the American flag alongside the unmistakable pirate skull and crossed bones known as the Jolly Roger.

The 450-foot-long boat is one of three in its class and is specially modified to conduct some of America's most covert underwater operations. That fact alone — as Keddie points out — makes the appearance of the black-and-white flag significant.

The Jolly Roger's presence on the conning towers of submarines goes back to 1914, at the beginning of World War I, when a British submarine, HMS E-9, commanded by Lt. Cdr. Max Horton, sank the German Battle Cruiser Hela, according to Richard Compton-Hall in his book "Submarines at War 1939-45." Upon his return to port, Horton struck up the iconic pirate flag, signaling he successfully had sunk an enemy warship. As Horton's kills accumulated, he began denoting them by affixing bars to the flag.

Ali Kefford, in an article for the *Mirror*, said that Horton's decision to fly the black flag stemmed from insults made roughly 14 years before by British Adm. Arthur Wilson, the then-controller of the Navy. Wilson said submarines were an "underhand form of attack" and that their crews would

be "treated as pirates in wartime." Wilson went on to say that the undersea boats were "weapons of a weaker power and can be no possible use to the Mistress of the Seas."

At least one other submarine took up Horton's tradition during the Great War, according to Compton-Hall, but it didn't catch on in the Royal Navy until World War II.

In 1940, the submarine HMS Osiris infiltrated the Adriatic Sea, a body of water that then-Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini said could not be penetrated. Once inside, the Osiris sank the Italian destroyer Palestro. Upon its return to one of the British flotillas in the Mediterranean, the flotilla's commander signaled to the Osiris that the submarine would fly a special recognition following its successful mission and that the Osiris was "not to come alongside until the identity signal is showing," Compton-Hall wrote.

A launch from the flotilla then delivered a package marked "JR" to the Osiris. Inside was the black-and-white pirate flag, which the Osiris then proudly ran up its tower before reuniting with the flotilla. From then on, flotilla commanders awarded the Jolly Roger to submarines following their first successes. It was up to the signalmen aboard the underwater boats to ensure their flags were updated with the symbols that denoted their sinkings and patrols, according to Compton-Hall.

For the British subs operating out of Malta, flags were supplied by Carmela Cas-

sar, a business executive who maintained a lace shop supplied by the city's surrounding convents, according to Compton-Hall. Her flags were 12 by 18 inches and "beautifully embroidered." When the submarines failed to return, her flags were sometimes all that remained.

While the tradition stayed mostly with the British submarine fleets, Compton-Hall writes that Allied submarines also occasionally flew the Jolly Roger. After World War II, the flag popped up sporadically, appearing on the Churchill-class HMS Conqueror upon its return from the Falkland Islands in 1982. During its deployment, the Conqueror sank an Argentine cruiser with two torpedoes.

So why did it a U.S. submarine return home flying an undoubtedly British tradition? Much is unclear. U.S. submarine activity is rarely discussed by the Pentagon, and the vessels operate in almost complete secrecy. While it's unlikely the Carter torpedoed an enemy ship or fired one of its cruise missiles, the flag could represent the success of a more covert mission. The Carter can insert commandos, deploy unmanned submersible vehicles, and likely splice undersea cables all while using specially outfitted thrusters to almost hover off the seafloor.

One of the Seawolf class's namesakes participated in the Cold War-era operation Ivy Bells that saw U.S. submarines tapping Soviet underwater communication lines.

Study: Navy's public shipyards need major upgrades

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy's four public shipyards, including Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, are in such bad shape that they are not fully meeting the Navy's operational needs, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a sharply critical report released Tuesday.

"Navy data show that the cost of backlogged restoration and maintenance projects at the shipyards has grown by 41 percent over five years, to a Navy-estimated \$4.86 billion, and will take at least 19 years (through fiscal year 2036) to clear," the GAO stated.

While the Navy committed

to more capital investment and developed an improvement plan in 2013 to turn the situation around, "the shipyards' facilities and equipment remain in poor condition," according to the GAO, Congress' watchdog agency.

In response to a July 27 draft of the report, the Defense Department concurred "with the overall findings of the report, but we also note that the Navy is well aware of the need to improve the conditions at our shipyards and supplemented the 2013 facilities plan with a proactive analysis of dry-dock utilization, vulnerabilities, and projected future capacity to support new platforms."

While the Navy over the years has operated 13 shipyards, today it has four: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Wash.; Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Hawaii; and Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

All built at least a century ago, the yards were designed to deal with vessels from other eras — reducing their efficiency in handling modern, nuclear-powered vessels, the report states.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard, which turns 250 this year, is

the oldest.

Though the four yards are capable of repairing and modernizing surface combatant vessels such as cruisers and destroyers, they focus primarily on the 10 aircraft carriers and 70 submarines that as of June were part of the Navy's 276-ship fleet.

A video posted along with the GAO's report showed an array of images depicting aging, deteriorating facilities, including rags stuffed into a hydraulic press to catch leaking fluids and bullet holes from the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941, still peppered across a wall on a structure at the Pearl Harbor yard.

Trump visits Florida, lauds rapid response to hurricane

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — President Donald Trump met with federal and state leaders in Florida on Thursday as he surveyed damage from Hurricane Irma and praised the rapid response of the recovery effort.

“We have been very, very fast and we had to be,” Trump said at an airport hangar where he was joined by Vice President Mike Pence, Gov. Rick Scott and other leaders.

The president said his administration is “trying to keep them as happy as we can under the circumstances. In many cases they’ve lost their homes, and it’s a tough situation.”

Trump quickly injected politics into the visit, telling reporters that he was hopeful that Scott, a two-term GOP governor, will challenge a Democratic senator next year.

“I don’t know what he’s going to do. But I know at a certain point it ends for you and we can’t let it end. So I hope he runs for the Senate” against incumbent Bill Nelson, Trump said.

For Trump, the visit to Fort Myers and Naples along Florida’s battered southwestern coast offered him the chance to see how people were coping and how the Federal Emergen-

cy Management Agency was responding.

But as his comments about Scott suggested, politics was not far from the surface in Florida, which has been the largest and most pivotal state in recent presidential elections. Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton in Florida last year by about 1 percentage point.

“We’re with you today. We’re going to be with you tomorrow and we’re going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before,” Pence said.

After Harvey struck Texas, Trump drew criticism for having minimal interaction with residents during his first trip in late August. He saw little damage and offered few expressions of concern. On his second visit, to Texas and Louisiana, he was more hands-on. He toured a Houston shelter housing hundreds of displaced people and walking streets lined with soggy, discarded possessions.

The president had monitored Irma during the weekend from Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland.

Nearly half of Florida was engulfed by Irma, which left flooded streets, damaged homes and displaced residents in its wake.

Trump: Deal on DACA ‘fairly close’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday said he was “fairly close” to a deal with congressional leaders to preserve protections for young immigrants living illegally in America and is insisting on “massive border security” as part of any agreement.

Trump pushed back against Democratic leaders who claimed there was a deal on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative. He also said his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border would “come later.”

“We’re working on a plan subject to getting massive border controls. We’re working on a plan for DACA. People want to see that happen,” Trump said. He added, “I think we’re fairly close but we have to get massive border security.”

Trump, in early morning tweets, had contradicted the characterization of a private White House dinner on Wednesday night by his guests, Sen. Chuck Schumer, of New York, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, of California, the top Democrats

on Capitol Hill. Trump denied there was a deal.

Schumer and Pelosi said in a statement after that get-together that they had agreed to “enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly” and to work out a package on border security, excluding Trump’s planned border wall. Not so, shot back White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who said that “while DACA and border security were both discussed, excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to.”

Trump’s tweets prompted a fresh response from Schumer and Pelosi, who said his words were “not inconsistent with the agreement reached last night,” and that while there was “no final deal,” the president had said he would “support enshrining DACA protections into law, and encourage the House and Senate to act.” They said in a statement that both sides agreed “the wall would not be any part of this agreement” and that Trump said he would pursue the wall later.

Soon after, Trump appeared to confirm that approach.

Senate rejects bipartisan push for war authorization

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday rejected a bipartisan push for a new war authorization against Islamic State and other terrorist groups, electing to let the White House rely on a 16-year-old law passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as the legal basis to send U.S. troops into combat.

Senators voted 61-36 to scuttle an amendment to the annual defense policy bill by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., that would have allowed war authorizations, created in the wake of al-Qaida’s 9/11 strikes, to lapse after six months. Paul, a leader of the GOP’s noninterventionist wing,

said Congress would use the time to debate an updated war authority for operations in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere before the old ones expired.

Paul criticized his colleagues ahead of the vote, urging them to embrace their war-making responsibility instead of surrendering their power to the White House. He and senators who backed his amendment said former President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump have used the war authorizations from 2001 and 2002 for military operations in countries Congress never voted to support.

“We are supposed to be a voice that debates and says,

‘Should we go to war?’ It’s part of doing our job,” Paul said. “It’s about grabbing power back and saying this is a Senate prerogative.”

Opponents of Paul’s amendment agreed on the need for a new authorization but warned his plan would backfire.

Voting to rescind existing war authorities without a replacement risks leaving U.S. troops and commanders without the necessary legal authority they need to carry out military operations. Opponents said they worried Congress would not approve a new law in the six-month window.

“You can’t replace something with nothing. And we

have nothing,” said Sen. Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee.

White House legislative director Marc Short said Tuesday that the Trump administration has adequate legal authority to combat terrorist groups and did not support a new war authorization.

Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he agreed that the White House has proper authority but said his committee intends to take up legislation for a new war authority soon. He opposed Paul’s amendment.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man, 83, pushes suspect off roof to end standoff

CA LA PUENTE — An 83-year-old man ended a police standoff that lasted for hours when he pushed a suspected burglar off his roof in La Puente.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials said the male suspect was jumping from rooftop to rooftop Tuesday, prompting crisis negotiators to respond. The suspect refused to come down after negotiators and deputies issued commands.

Sgt. Joseph Morales told the Los Angeles Times that the elderly resident became tired of the situation that lasted about five hours. The man climbed onto the roof and pushed the suspect off.

Authorities told KABC-TV that the suspect was taken into custody and was admitted to a hospital for a mental evaluation. It's unclear if the suspect was injured.

Theft suspect wearing panda costume sought

VT WILLISTON — A Vermont police department is asking for help identifying a suspect wearing a panda costume believed to have stolen an airsoft rifle from a sporting goods store.

Williston police said the costumed suspect walked into Dick's Sporting Goods about 8:20 p.m. Monday, picked up the airsoft rifle and ran out of the store without paying for it.

Store employees told police the suspect had been in the store earlier Monday — sans panda outfit — and looked at the same rifle, but left without buying it.

He told employees he'd be back to buy it.

Cops: Man's GPS led him to drive into river

PA EASTON — Police said a driver's global positioning system device caused him to drive into a Pennsylvania river.

The (Easton) Express-Times said the motorist wound up in the Lehigh River in Easton shortly after 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

They said the man's GPS led him to drive along a bicycle path in a park. When the man realized he couldn't drive on the path, he reversed course but found he couldn't go that way either because of a tunnel under a low bridge.

Police said the man was unable to stay on the bike path because it narrowed, and his car rolled off the path sideways into the river.

Police said the driver wasn't hurt, but he was issued several traffic citations.

2 babies born within 2 days in same parking lot

NJ DENVILLE — Two women delivered healthy babies on back-to-back days in the parking lot of the same Burger King restaurant in New Jersey.

Denville police said they were called to the restaurant around 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8 for a woman going into labor. They say the parents were on the way to the hospital but had to pull over after getting stuck in traffic.

Officers and emergency responders then helped the woman deliver a healthy baby boy.

The same patrol officers went back to the restaurant the next night for a report of another woman going into labor. Authorities said the couple was heading to the hospital when the woman started going through

severe contractions. Officers helped deliver another baby boy in the couple's vehicle.

Police nab 4-foot-long lizard in neighborhood

VA LAKESIDE — Authorities captured a 4-foot-long monitor lizard that was wandering around a neighborhood in Lakeside on Saturday.

Henrico Animal Protection Police Lt. Shawn Sears said the lizard was captured after authorities received a call. Authorities said the lizard is at a facility that can accommodate its unique needs.

Police posted pictures of the lizard on the department's Facebook page Tuesday, including one image of the lizard under a bush near the foundation of a home.

Authorities believe the reptile was someone's pet, but no one has claimed it.

Reunited after 50 years, couple weds in hospital

NY ROCHESTER — He was an Elvis Presley-loving American sailor who spun records for the U.S. Navy radio station on the Caribbean base where he was stationed. She was a local woman whose brother worked at the base.

More than a half-century after the brother introduced Jennifer Meyerink and Stephen Walbert, the long-separated couple's love was finally sealed in Rochester, where they were married Monday in the hospital where Walbert has been undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Walbert was stationed in 1965 in Trinidad and Tobago, where he worked nights as a disc jockey for the base's radio station. The two fell in love, but Walbert was transferred back to the states.

Both later married, and after Meyerink's spouse died, her

sister used Facebook to find Walbert, by then a widower and living in Waupaca, in central Wisconsin.

The two began corresponding via email, and reunited in 2015.

Small plane makes 2 emergency landings

WV FAIRPLAIN — A small plane in West Virginia made a second emergency landing on an interstate, less than 24 hours after its first emergency landing.

News outlets reported the Piper PA-18 Super Cub made a second landing on Interstate 77 near Fairplain on Tuesday.

Officials said the 1,400-pound aircraft was cleared for takeoff around noon after a mechanic attempted to fix the engine problems that caused the pilot to make the initial emergency landing Monday.

Jackson County 911 Director Walter Smittle said the pilot had two options Tuesday — dismantle the plane and transport it, or get approval for another takeoff.

Wounded vet names son for men who saved him

ME ROME — An Army veteran who lost all four limbs in an explosion in Afghanistan says the name of his newborn son pays tribute to two medics who helped save his life.

Travis Mills runs a retreat in Maine for combat-injured veterans. He said his son's name, Dax, is a mashup of the medics' names, Daniel and Alex. He said that without them, "We would not be where we are today."

Mill on Tuesday announced the arrival of Dax Fieldyn Mills on Facebook.

From wire reports

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Clemson's turn: Try to stop Jackson

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville's three losses to Clemson by a combined total of 15 points are just part of the frustration the Cardinals see as missed opportunities against the Tigers.

The most recent what-if was last October's thriller in Death Valley. Quarterback Lamar Jackson rallied the Cardinals from an 18-point deficit and Louisville led 36-28 with 7:50 remaining. Clemson answered with 14 consecutive points and stopped the Cardinals 1 yard shy of a first down at the 9 in a 42-36 Louisville loss that effectively ended the Cardinals' conference title quest.

Louisville's failure to close the deal against the Tigers is one of the multiple challenges the No. 14 Cardinals face in Saturday night's Atlantic Coast Conference showdown against the visiting third-ranked Tigers.

Said Louisville linebacker Jonathan Greenard, "We

haven't beaten these guys, so we definitely have some unfinished business."

This matchup between the defending national champion Tigers (2-0, 1-0 ACC) and Louisville's reigning Heisman Trophy winner Jackson can establish an early favorite in the ACC's Atlantic Division and a berth in the college football playoffs.

"We've had three really good battles with them, had our opportunities and come up short," coach Bobby Petrino said Monday. "So, this is something I think is real important to our players that first of all, we should have confidence that we're there and can play.

"But it is up to us to find a way to win the game."

The Cardinals (2-0, 1-0) have had success in marquee games. Louisville's 63-20 pummeling of the Seminoles at home — a game that established Jackson as the Heisman favorite with a 372-yard, five-touchdown performance — was something of

a breakthrough after two losses to FSU.

Now they need to solve the Clemson puzzle.

Petrino stressed the importance of moving on from the painful loss last season to the Tigers and thinking about what they could do the next time around.

"It's not going to be the first time you feel that way," Petrino said coaches told the team. "The important thing is what do we do about it: sit around and cry or come out and practice and get better.

"We just tried to build on the fact that we came together as a team and competed extremely hard against a great football team."

Petrino believes nothing has changed at Clemson, even with the departure of quarterback Deshaun Watson and receiver Mike Williams to the NFL.

Strong defense has carried the Tigers so far, though Petrino noted the toughness of first-year starting QB Kelly Bryant.

He returned from a scary hit to lead Clemson's 14-6 victory over No. 13 Auburn, which the coach said showed a lot about his resilience.

Then again, Clemson comes in knowing some things remain the same at Louisville — particularly Jackson.

"He's so dynamic with what he does," Clemson defensive end Clelin Ferrell said of Jackson. "People said he's not a good passer. You're crazy because I don't know too many guys who can put zip on the ball like he can. ... Obviously, we know he can do it with his feet. He's as dynamic a runner as they come."

Jackson has accounted for 1,010 yards of offense through two games and is coming off a 525-yard, five-TD performance that beat North Carolina 47-35. That has the Tigers prepared for another battle against a Louisville team out to prove it can finish what it starts.

After Mayfield, Oklahoma largely a cast of unknowns

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Baker Mayfield is one of the most visible players in college football.

Oklahoma's energetic quarterback has finished in the top four of the Heisman Trophy race the past two years. He garnered more attention last Saturday by planting the OU flag in the middle of the field at Ohio State after rallying the Sooners to a 31-16 win over the Buckeyes.

His supporting cast is relatively unknown. Last year's stars — running backs Samaje Perine and Joe Mixon and Biletnikoff winner Dede Westbrook — are in the NFL. Now surrounded by a group of freshmen, transfers, walk-ons and players with expanded roles, Mayfield has been just as good, if not better, than last year. His six touchdown passes this season have gone to six different players.

Nine of second-ranked Oklahoma's 12 touchdowns have been scored by players who never scored for the Sooners before this season, and three have come from freshmen.

"I just think I'm surrounded by a bunch of great athletes, and we have a lot of depth," Mayfield said. "I have a lot of trust in these guys and I believe in them. When I'm throwing to one guy it feels like I'm throwing to the same guy as somebody else."

The team's receiving yardage leader is Jeff Badet, a graduate transfer from Kentucky. He has nine catches for 173 yards, and already has shown he can be trusted to make difficult catches. His leaping 51-yard grab against UTEP gave Mayfield more confidence in him.

"Knowing he can stop and make a play like that when you make a terrible throw like I did — it makes me feel I'm able to

be bailed out," Mayfield said.

Receiver Lee Morris, a sophomore walk-on, leads the team with two touchdown receptions — on two catches. His 18-yard scoring grab in the third quarter against Ohio State gave the Sooners the lead for good.

Receiver Jordan Smallwood, a senior, reached the end zone for the first time in his career against Ohio State. Tight end Grant Calcaterra and receiver Cee-Dee Lamb are freshmen who scored for the first time against UTEP. Lamb, who had five catches for 61 yards against Ohio State, starts as a true freshman.

The backs are in unfamiliar positions, too. Senior fullback Dimitri Flowers had career highs of seven catches and 98 yards against Ohio State. He has seen an expanded role after spending most of his career making others look good.

"He's an unsung hero,"

Mayfield said. "Along with the linemen, they don't get a lot of credit, but it's good to have him. He's such a utility guy. He can be in the blocking schemes. We can slip him out because he can catch like a receiver and he runs well. It makes it very dangerous to have that kind of guy who can do that."

The team's leading rusher is Trey Sermon, a true freshman who has 136 yards from scrimmage. He had a 10-yard touchdown reception from Mayfield in the fourth quarter against Ohio State.

Abdul Adams, the No. 2 rusher, backed up Perine and Mixon last season. Marcelias Sutton, a junior college transfer, and Rodney Anderson, a redshirt sophomore, scored their first career touchdowns for Oklahoma in the opener against UTEP. Senior fullback Jaxon Uhles also scored his first career touchdown against UTEP.

Dallas' Elliott to test Denver's defense

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — After allowing Melvin Gordon to scamper for 21 yards on his first carry, the Denver Broncos held the Chargers running back to just 33 yards on his final 17 hand-offs.

Next up, Cowboys star Ezekiel Elliott.

In Elliott, whose six-game suspension in a domestic violence case is on hold, the Broncos get a litmus test for their offseason makeover of their defensive line featuring the additions of nose tackles Domata Peko and Zach Kerr.

"Great running backs like that can take a little bit of daylight and go all the way with it," Von Miller said. "And it's hard to keep it dark on the defensive line because they have a great offensive line. So, any bit of daylight he can take it the distance."

Just like Gordon, who was taken down by safety Justin Simmons with a touchdown-saving open-field tackle Mon-

day night in Denver's 24-21 win over the Chargers.

By double- and triple-teaming Miller, the Chargers extended his career-long sackless streak to five games. But they did so at the expense of limiting their route options and Philip Rivers had just 60 yards passing through three quarters.

The Cowboys (1-0) feature the best offensive line in football, but the Broncos expect them to also key on Miller so he doesn't get to Dak Prescott on Sunday.

"To block Von Miller 1-on-1 on third down or on passing downs wouldn't be smart for anyone," said Broncos coach Vance Joseph.

Not even with an O-line that features three All-Pros in Tyron Smith, Travis Frederick and Zack Martin blocking for Elliot, a fellow first-team All-Pro.

"He's just an amazing back," said Broncos running back C.J. Anderson. "From pass protection to catching the ball out of the backfield to picking the

right spots and breaking tackles and having the long-end speed, he's a really, really good back and our defense has got a tough matchup this week."

The 22-year-old Elliott was suspended by Commissioner Roger Goodell last month over a domestic violence case in Ohio, but that penalty is on hold as it works its way through the courts.

Cleared to play, Elliott rushed for 104 yards in the Cowboys' 19-3 season-opening win over the New York Giants on Sunday night despite the Giants' focus on stopping the run.

"That's what we expect every week," Elliott said. "We're going to run the football. We're going to show you different looks, but it's going to be the same four plays. It's going to be you versus us. You've got to stop us. You've got to be better than us."

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said Elliott's legal issues aren't adversely affecting the team.

"I think the biggest thing we

try to instill in our players and really try to live as coaches is just the importance of focusing," Garrett said. "Focus on us, focus on today and focus on the task at hand, the things that are most important, which is our work, our preparation and getting better and obviously the things we can control."

"So, that's a big emphasis for all of us, again players and coaches alike. And we try to instill that in our team and certainly in situations like this it's doubly important." Should Elliott ultimately have to serve his suspension this season, Garrett's goal is to make sure the Cowboys aren't a one-man show that will stagger without him.

"He's obviously a really good player and he's been very productive for us in the short time that he's been with us. But you like to think you can build a team where you're not solely reliant on any one guy," Garrett said.

After Irma, Dolphins back to football in California

Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — The Miami Dolphins hit the practice fields Wednesday for the first time in a week, working out under cloudless blue skies in humidity-free California weather.

Hurricane Irma and its devastation to South Florida seem a world away, but the Dolphins are still thinking about home while they make an unexpected road trip.

The Dolphins are spending the week up the Southern California coast from Los Angeles after leaving Miami several days early to avoid the hurricane. Their home opener against Tampa Bay was postponed by the storm, so they will begin their regular season Sunday against the Chargers.

"I've been watching film the last couple of days, and we've had our first couple of meet-

ings already," defensive end Ndamukong Suh said. "So really, it's just having an opportunity to take my mind off a little bit of what's going on back home in Florida and focus on what's important out here, and then obviously we're not worried about football and taking care of that stuff. Obviously the real world hits hard, but it is part of life."

The Dolphins' rapid relocation came together quickly when Irma presented a clear threat to the Miami area. Dolphins owner Stephen Ross chartered a jet to fly players, team personnel and their families across the country last Friday night.

Receiver Jarvis Landry was on the plane with his daughter, Joy.

"It was a loud flight," he said with a laugh. "But it was good to have an opportunity for everybody to get their families out and get to safety."

Other players and coaches have arrived in California over the past three days, with the final players getting into town Tuesday in time for a full week of practice. The Dolphins are headquartered at the hotel and practice fields used by the Dallas Cowboys for training camp.

Dolphins coach Adam Gase left South Florida last week when it became clear the hurricane was coming. He said he doesn't know whether his home was damaged: "I haven't asked."

"I'm not really worried about this group," added Gase, who arrived in Los Angeles on Saturday. "They've been through a lot over the last year and a half with some of the challenges they met. And going into this year, everything hasn't always been smooth. But these guys, they battle and they fight, and they handle adversity as good as anybody I've been around."

Indeed, the Dolphins have done long trips before: They spent a week north of San Diego last season in between games against the Rams and the Chargers. The Rams helped out with the Dolphins' relocation this week, sending over IT experts and other personnel to help the Dolphins get settled.

Center Mike Pouncey went to Pittsburgh to visit his twin brother, Steelers center Maurice Pouncey, while the hurricane bore down on Miami. The Pro Bowl center got out to California in plenty of time to prepare for his first game since early last season, which lasted just five games due to a hip injury.

The Dolphins won't get a true bye week this season. Their home opener was swiftly rescheduled for November, but the delay means Miami hasn't played a game since its pre-season finale Aug. 31.

Indians stretch streak to 21 games

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Just a little more than a month ago, Jay Bruce was in New York sinking with the Mets as a season that began with promise and a richness of pitching was undermined by injuries.

The plunge was dramatic. So was the rise.

A trade rescued Bruce and dropped him in Cleveland, where he made history on Wednesday.

“I pretty much went from the least fun situation in baseball to the most fun,” he said.

Bruce hit a three-run homer in the first inning as the Indians set the AL record with their 21st straight win, a 5-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers that pushed Cleveland closer to another division title and within reach of a 101-year mark that has come under scrutiny because of a peculiarity.

Unbeaten and nearly unchallenged for three weeks, the

Indians surpassed the “Moneyball” 2002 Oakland Athletics for the league record and tied the 1935 Chicago Cubs for the second-longest streak since 1900.

The only team to win more consecutive games was the 1916 New York Giants, who won 12 in a row, played a tie that was ended by rain and replayed, and then won 14 more.

Despite the tie, the Giants’ streak is acknowledged as the record by Elias Sports Bureau, Major League’s Baseball’s statistical watchdog. The flaw in the record has perturbed some fans. Not the Indians.

“I’ve given that zero thought,” manager Terry Francona said when asked if he regarded 21 or 26 as the record. “I promise you I’ve given it no thought.”

That’s been the attitude of his players, who have gone 21-0 with minimal celebrating. When closer Cody Allen got the final out, retiring Ian Kinsler

on a sinking liner to left field, the 29,000 fans who hung on every pitch inside Progressive Field as if it was Game 7 of the World Series, erupted as flames shot from over the center-field wall and fireworks exploded overhead.

The Indians didn’t mob each other or carry on as if it was a big deal. They’ve got more important games — and, hopefully, victories — ahead of them.

Cleveland’s first World Series title since 1948 remains the only goal for a team built to win.

“We don’t have time to worry about what happened in the past and we definitely don’t have any time to worry about what’s going to happen in the future,” Bruce said. “We have a group of guys here, coaching staff and just a whole organization that kind of echoes that sentiment. It’s something that we haven’t had to deal with and there’s been no pulling the reins back

on people or hey, let’s not get ahead of ourselves.

“Everyone comes here and gets ready to play and I think that’s something that speaks volumes.”

After the Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the first off Mike Clevinger (10-5), Bruce put Cleveland back on top for good with his three-run shot into the left-field bleachers. It was his 34th homer this season and fifth with the Indians, who acquired him on Aug. 9.

After the Indians matched Oakland’s 15-year-old record with their 20th straight win Tuesday night, Bruce texted with Scott Hatteberg, a member of that celebrated A’s team that flopped in the postseason but gained fame in film. They were briefly teammates in Cincinnati.

“I just said, ‘Who would’ve thought?’” Bruce recalled. “And he said, ‘Good luck, win another one and win a ring.’”

MLB roundup

Goldschmidt gets 1,000th hit in Diamondbacks’ victory

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Paul Goldschmidt is a leading MVP contender who would rather not talk about his own accomplishments. But 1,000 career hits wasn’t something that could be ignored.

The star slugger from the Arizona Diamondbacks downplayed his milestone that came in an 8-2 win over the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday night. He said his mind is on the team’s success, and he might reflect on personal achievements after this season or at the end of his career.

Yankees 3, Rays 2: A disappointed Jaime Garcia didn’t even look at manager Joe Girardi when the pitcher was removed one out shy of qualifying for his first win with his new team, and New York edged

Tampa Bay to take two of three games in a series moved from Florida to Citi Field because of Hurricane Irma.

White Sox 5, Royals 3: Jose Abreu hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, and Chicago won a series in Kansas City for the first time since 2015.

Dodgers 4, Giants 1: Yu Darvish and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, Cody Bellinger hit his 37th home run and Los Angeles won back-to-back games for the first time in nearly three weeks, beating host San Francisco.

Angels 9, Astros 1: Los Angeles scored five runs in the first inning and rode Tyler Skaggs’ finest start of the season to beat visiting Houston.

Reds 6, Cardinals 0: Reds rookie Tyler Mahle threw five innings for his first major league win, Eugenio Suarez hit

a grand slam and Cincinnati blanked host St. Louis.

Twins 3, Padres 1 (10): Eddie Rosario hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning, lifting host Minnesota to maintain its two-game cushion for the second AL wild-card spot.

Brewers 8, Pirates 2: Eric Thames hit his team-high 30th homer, Chase Anderson pitched effectively on three days’ rest for host Milwaukee.

Cubs 17, Mets 5: Javier Baez homered and had four hits, Albert Almora Jr. also went deep and drove in six runs after coming off the bench in the seventh, and host Chicago routed New York.

Mariners 8, Rangers 1: Mike Zunino homered twice, Jean Segura also went deep and Seattle jumped over host Texas in the AL wild-card chase while handing Martin Perez his first loss in

eight starts.

Athletics 7, Red Sox 3: Matt Olson hit a two-run homer, Jed Lowrie had two RBIs and Oakland topped host Boston to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1: Kevin Gausman pitched seven strong innings and Baltimore beat host Toronto to stop a six-game skid.

Braves 8, Nationals 2: Dansby Swanson smacked a two-run single off ace Max Scherzer in the seventh inning, Matt Kemp hit a grand slam off Brandon Kintzler two batters later and Atlanta pulled away from Washington.

Phillies 8, Marlins 1: Phillies rookie Rhys Hoskins kept up his record home run pace, connecting for his 17th in 33 major league games as host Philadelphia beat Miami behind Aaron Nola.