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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Damage-control training has new urgency

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — There's been a sense of gravity about training at the 7th Fleet's damage-control school since a pair of deadly warship collisions that claimed 17 sailors' lives last year.

The school — officially known as Surface Warfare Officers School Command Engineering Learning Site Yokosuka — keeps sailors proficient on firefighting and flood-control skills learned at basic training.

Recent accidents involving 7th Fleet ships — the USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald — are still raw in the minds of instructors and students who are paying serious attention to damage control these days, according to instructors.

"Students that come through our classes here after [the collisions], their attention is a lot better, the motivation is there," said Chief Petty Officer Reginald Pridgen, a damage controlman who teaches at the school. "A lot of students here had friends that may have been on those ships and were able to get some feedback on what it was like."

An inquiry into the Fitzgerald accident detailed efforts to save the ship from flooding after it struck a container ship off the coast of Japan last June. The crew "fought hard in the dark of night to save their ship. Ultimately, those damage control efforts and restoration processes succeeded in safely bringing Fitzgerald into port under her own power," Rear Adm. C.F. Williams said in a report released in August.

The Fitzgerald sailors used training they got at Yokosuka to save their ship, Pridgen said.

"You can't call the fire department when you're out at sea floating in the middle of the ocean," said Petty Officer 1st Class Chad Marney, a boatswain's mate who participated in firefighting training at the school last month. "Everyone aboard ship has got to be knowledgeable in damage control."

Marney has firsthand experience with the things the school teaches sailors to deal with.

"I was on board the John S. McCain and went through all of that," he said of the destroyer's collision with an oil tanker near Singapore in August. "Everyone across the board has to be on the same page, and [damage control] has got to be No. 1."

The school puts sailors in the

sort of scenarios they could face during an emergency at sea with an emphasis on teamwork, organization and communication, Pridgen said.

"If they have those three things they should be able to work together to get the best of any damage-control situation," he said.

During the training, groups of more than 20 sailors gear up and practice fighting fires and dealing with hull ruptures — the sort of things sailors could face in combat or after accidents at sea.

Sailors learn to deal with challenges unique to warships that can make damage control more difficult. For example, Navy ships carry hazardous materials such as jet fuel, oil, paint and grease that make fires deadlier.

Coast Guard officer faces \$31K fee to transport dog

BY LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The owner of a 221-pound English mastiff may have to pay \$31,000 to fly the dog back to the U.S. after United Airlines' recent decision to suspend its pet travel program.

The plus-sized pooch — named George Jefferson — travels in a carrier that weighs an additional 100 pounds. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer McKay, a liaison to U.S. Forces Japan at Yokota in western Tokyo, paid \$3,200 to bring George to Japan two years ago using United's air cargo service.

McKay assumed she would be able to take George home the same way at the end of her assignment. However, United suspended its pet transportation service last week after three

dogs were sent to incorrect destinations — including one dog that was sent to Japan instead of Kansas. A fourth dog died after its owner was ordered by a flight attendant to place it into an overhead bin during a flight from Houston to New York.

In a statement on its website, United said the service pause will allow a systematic review of pet shipments that is expected to be completed by May 1.

"I am a single-parent service-member just trying to get home to the U.S. with my dog and my son," said McKay, who's headed for a new assignment in Washington in June, but wants to fly to Texas to pick up a car she stored there. "The alternative options to do this are financially unreasonable — but my dog is my family and I won't leave him behind."

The suspension also has stranded military-owned pets on Guam, as United was the only airline operating in the U.S. territory that permitted pet transportation to and from the mainland.

Other options exist for shipping pets from Japan — but when it comes to large animals, they can be expensive and inconvenient. Only United and All Nippon Airways offer direct flights from Tokyo to Houston, McKay said.

"[ANA] said they could carry him, but his carrier was too big and would take up more than one pallet space, so they'd have to charge extra," she said.

ANA's fee for transporting George would be about \$31,000 — nearly 10 times more than it cost to bring him to Japan, she said.

An Air Mobility Command flight — the usual way for military pet owners to transport their animals to and from Japan — isn't an option. The command sets a maximum weight of 150 pounds, including the pet's carrier, and travels only to Seattle.

Many airlines, such as Japan Airlines, Delta, American, Alaskan, Cathay Pacific, EVA Air, Singapore Air and Air Canada, refuse to carry English mastiffs outright, McKay said.

McKay also checked with United Parcel Service and Federal Express. UPS doesn't ship mammals, and FedEx ships only live animals between businesses, she said.

Several Asian, Mideast and European carriers could transport George, but only with multiple transfers and long flight times that McKay said she can't consider.

Pentagon identifies soldier killed by IED

BY LAUREN KING
AND CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A special operations soldier has been identified as the American killed by an improvised explosive device in Manbij, Syria.

Master Sgt. Jonathan J. Dunbar, 36, died Friday after the IED detonated near his patrol, according to a news release from the Defense Department.

Dunbar was assigned to U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C. That designation has historically been used for members of the Army's secretive special operations unit known as Delta Force.

A second soldier killed in the

attack has been identified as Sgt. Matt Tonroe, of the U.K.

Five others with the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State coalition were also wounded in the explosion.

Additional details of the incident were being withheld pending an investigation, according to the coalition.

Manbij is an Arab-Kurdish town not far from the border with Turkey, where U.S. troops patrol alongside their allies in a Kurdish-Arab militia.

The fatalities are the coalition's first combat deaths of 2018, and come as President Donald Trump has reportedly been mulling a withdrawal of American troops from Syria, where U.S. allies — Turkey and a Kurdish militia — are

fighting each other and where the U.S.-backed Kurds are in a tense standoff with the Syrian government and its Russian and Iranian backers in the country's seven-year civil war.

Dunbar joined the Army as an infantryman in 2005. Following training at Fort Benning, Ga., his first assignment was with the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg. He served as a machine gunner, a fire team leader and a squad leader.

In 2009, he moved to the 38th Cavalry Regiment (long-range surveillance) at Fort Hood, Texas. While assigned to Fort Bragg and Fort Hood, he deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq, according to a biography

provided by the Army Special Operations Command.

In 2013, Dunbar was assigned to Special Operations Command, and he deployed three times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to his biography.

The British army's Tonroe, 33, enlisted in 2004 and had deployed numerous times to Afghanistan and the Middle East, according to a statement from the Ministry of Defence. He served in the 3rd Battalion of Britain's elite Parachute Regiment.

Tonroe's was the U.K.'s first combat death in the anti-ISIS fight.

US, S. Korea kick off joint drills after delay

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea quietly kicked off annual war games involving hundreds of thousands of troops Sunday in the first major test of a new push for peace with the North.

The military exercises began as President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, are gearing up for back-to-back summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un aimed at resolving the crisis over the communist state's nuclear weapons program.

About 11,500 U.S. and 290,000 South Korean troops will participate in the annual field-training drill known as Foal Eagle, which began Sunday and is expected to last about a month, according to U.S. and South Korean officials.

A two-week, computer-simulated exercise known as Key Resolve is due to start on April 23 with some 12,200 Americans and 10,000 South Korean

military personnel.

The allies are holding the drills later than usual this year after postponing them to help pave the way for the North's participation in the Olympics and Paralympics, which were held in the alpine town of Pyeongchang.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his South Korean counterpart, Song Young-moo, said in a statement last month that the exercises would be held "at a scale similar to that of previous years."

But the messaging is as important as the size, and officials have said privately that the allies are keeping it low-key this year.

In announcing the dates last month, Pentagon spokesman Marine Lt. Col. Christopher Logan insisted the exercises are "defense-oriented and there is no reason for North Korea to view them as a provocation."

Foal Eagle is due to last four weeks, half the duration of the drills last year. The U.S. military also is expected to deploy

fewer strategic weapons such as U.S. aircraft carriers and supersonic bombers, South Korean officials have been quoted as saying.

By contrast, the USS Carl Vinson and other warships made port calls to the South Korean city of Busan and the North fired four missiles into the sea off Japan during last year's games.

Pyongyang's reaction to the annual exercises will be closely watched as they are usually a touchstone for tensions. The North has fiercely objected to the drills in the past, calling them a rehearsal for an invasion.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reportedly told visiting South Korean envoys that he understood the drills would be held as planned this year.

The state-run media also have been relatively quiet on the issue in recent weeks as diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis over the country's nuclear weapons program gained momentum.

The detente followed months

of heightened tensions as Trump traded threats and personal insults with Kim, calling him "little rocket man" and threatening to unleash "fire and fury" and to "totally destroy North Korea" if needed to defend the United States and its allies.

Kim, meanwhile, called Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" as his country demonstrated rapid progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear weapon that could target the U.S. mainland.

Both sides have toned down the rhetoric, and Kim told Chinese President Xi Jinping during a surprise visit to Beijing last week that he is committed to denuclearization, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The two Koreas also set a date for a summit between their leaders on April 27, the first such meeting between the rival nations in more than a decade. Trump also agreed to meet with Kim by May in what would be the first U.S.-North Korean summit.

Shulkin denies that he resigned

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former veterans affairs secretary David Shulkin said Sunday that he did not voluntarily leave his office, clashing with the White House's description of his exit and adding to questions about who will run the department until a new secretary is confirmed.

"I would not resign, because I'm committed to making sure this job was seen through to the very end," Shulkin said in an interview on CNN's "State of the Union" with Jake Tapper. "I did not resign."

Whether Shulkin resigned or was fired would have bearing on who leads the Department of Veterans Affairs until the president's nominee, Ronny L. Jackson, is confirmed by the Senate. According to federal statutes, the departure of a Senate-confirmed secretary elevates the department's deputy secretary to that position until a permanent replacement arrives.

But the VA's deputy secretary, Tom Bowman, has already been passed over by a White House that has wanted to overhaul the

department's leadership. Robert Wilkie, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, is now running the VA.

The Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 empowers the president to bypass a deputy and install anyone who has been confirmed by the Senate for any position "to perform the functions and duties of the vacant office temporarily in an acting capacity."

The White House previously used that power to install Mick Mulvaney, the Senate-confirmed OMB director, to lead the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, a move that is still being litigated by CFPB Deputy Director Leandra English. But Mulvaney's predecessor, Richard Cordray, had resigned to run for governor of Ohio. Shulkin told *The Washington Post* on Friday, as he told CNN on Sunday, that he did not resign and was instead fired after being undermined by political appointees.

"I don't think that this was the president," Shulkin told Tapper. "The president is committed to improving the care for vet-

erans. These appointees had a belief that there was a different way to do that than I did ... these individuals, when they didn't see that their way was being adopted, used subversive techniques to change the leadership at VA."

Shulkin's description of what happened clashes with the Trump administration's. On Friday, Shulkin told *The Post* that he was told by White House Chief of Staff John Kelly that he was being pushed out. But Saturday, deputy White House press secretary Lindsay Walters told Politico that "Secretary Shulkin resigned from his position as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

The questions about Shulkin's removal may well end up in court.

Democrats, who, like Shulkin, believe that the Trump administration is attempting to elevate people who favor privatizing VA's services, could sue over any major decisions made by Wilkie, arguing that the 1998 law on vacancies does not apply when appointees are fired.

Trump says no to deal on 'Dreamers'

The Washington Post

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump said Sunday that there would be no deal to legalize the status of millions of "Dreamers," undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, stating that the U.S. border with Mexico was "getting more dangerous" and directing congressional Republicans to pass tough new anti-immigration legislation.

Trump also assailed Mexican authorities for being too lax in securing the border and threatened to "stop" the North American Free Trade Agreement if Mexico does not "stop the big drug and people flows."

In a fiery Sunday morning tweet, sent an hour after he wished Americans a "HAPPY EASTER," Trump vowed, "NO MORE DACA DEAL." The tweet came shortly before he was expected to attend a church service.

The president wrote, "Border Patrol Agents are not allowed to properly do their job at the Border because of ridiculous liberal (Democrat) laws like Catch & Release. Getting more dangerous. 'Caravans' coming. Republicans must go to Nuclear Option to pass tough laws NOW. NO MORE DACA DEAL!"

Trump was referring to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, begun during the Obama administration to provide temporary protection to "dreamers."

Trump canceled the DACA program last fall but has said that he would like to reach a deal with Congress to protect the "dreamers" from deportation in exchange for funding to build his long-promised wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

But there is no clear path for immigration legislation, as he has rejected proposals from congressional Democrats.

Trump may have been reacting Sunday to commentary on Fox News Channel, which he is known to watch regularly. Fox aired a segment earlier in the morning with the headline: "CARAVAN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HEADED TO U.S."

Trump hits Amazon over USPS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is again attacking online retailer Amazon.com, calling its business deal with the U.S. Postal Service to deliver packages a money-losing agreement that hurts U.S. taxpayers. Federal regulators, however, have found the contract with Amazon to be profitable.

In tweets Saturday, Trump said "the U.S. Post Office will lose \$1.50 on average for each package it delivers for Amazon. That amounts to Billions of Dollars."

He added: "If the P.O. 'increased its parcel rates, Amazon's shipping costs would rise by \$2.6 Billion.' This Post Office scam must stop. Amazon must pay real costs (and taxes) now!"

Amazon has been a consistent recipient of Trump's ire. He is

sore because its founder, Jeff Bezos, owns *The Washington Post*, which Trump has labeled "fake news" after the newspaper reported unfavorable developments during his campaign and presidency.

Trump made the link himself in Saturday's tweets, accusing Amazon of using the "Fake Washington Post" as a lobbyist. The Post and Bezos have responded to Trump's lobbyist claims in the past by declaring that Bezos is not involved in any journalistic decisions at the paper.

Amazon lives and dies by shipping, and an increase in the rates it pays could certainly do some damage. Amazon sends packages via the post office, FedEx, UPS and other services.

But while the U.S. Postal Service has lost money for 11 years,

package delivery — which has been a bright spot for the service — is not the reason.

Boosted by e-commerce, the Postal Service has enjoyed double-digit increases in revenue from delivering packages, but that hasn't been enough to offset pension and health care costs as well as declines in first-class letters and marketing mail. Together, letters and marketing mail make up more than two-thirds of postal revenue.

In arguing that the Postal Service is losing money on delivering packages for Amazon, Trump appears to be citing some Wall Street analyses that argue the Postal Service's formula for calculating its costs is outdated. Federal regulators have reviewed the Amazon contract with the Postal Service each year and determined it to be profitable.

US sides with Palestinians in court challenge

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite its bumpy relationship with the Palestinians, the Trump administration is siding with the Palestine Liberation Organization in urging the Supreme Court to reject an appeal from American victims of terrorist attacks in the Middle East more than a decade ago.

The victims are asking the high court to reinstate a \$654 million verdict against the PLO and Palestinian Authority in connection with attacks in Israel in 2002 and 2004 that killed 33 people and wounded hundreds more.

The case was scheduled to be considered at the justices' private conference Thursday. A decision to reject the appeal could come as early as Monday. If the

court decides to hear the case, it could say so by the middle of this month.

The federal appeals court in New York tossed out the verdict in 2016. It said U.S. courts can't consider lawsuits against foreign-based groups over random attacks that were not aimed at the U.S.

The victims sued under the Anti-Terrorism Act, signed into law in 1992. The law was passed to open U.S. courts to victims of international terrorism, spurred by the killing of American Leon Klinghoffer during a 1985 terrorist attack aboard the Achille Lauro cruise ship.

The victims argued that offices the Palestinians maintain in the nation's capital to promote their cause in speeches and media appearances and to retain lobbyists were sufficient

to allow the lawsuit in an American court. The appeals court disagreed.

In late June, the justices asked the administration to weigh in on the case, as they often do in cases with foreign policy implications. The Justice Department filed its brief eight months later, saying there was nothing in the appeals court ruling to "warrant this court's intervention at this time."

In unusually strong language for a Supreme Court filing, Theodore Olson, the lawyer for the victims, wrote, "The government is not being square with the court." Olson said the administration was being cagey about its view of the law, even after the lower court cut back on its use by attack victims to try to hold groups financially liable.

If the appeals court decision

is left in place, it would close the courthouse door to U.S. victims of "many acts of terrorism overseas in which terrorists maim and kill indiscriminately, without regard to nationality," Olson said.

The administration said it is "far from clear" that so many claims would be kept out of court.

Democrats and Republicans in both houses of Congress are calling on the court to take up the victims' case. "The Trump administration had the opportunity to stand with American victims of terrorism by defending and restoring the law. But it failed to do so. The Supreme Court should not," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a sponsor of the law, wrote in an essay on medium.com.

Victim's family calls for reform

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The family of Stephon Clark joined hundreds of people at a rally urging California's capital city not to let his memory or calls for police reform fade nearly two weeks after the 22-year-old unarmed black man was killed by Sacramento officers.

Clark's fiancée, Salena Manni, stood on stage with his two young sons, grandmother and uncle for the gathering Saturday organized by Sacramento native and former NBA player Matt Barnes, who pledged to create a scholarship fund for the children of black men killed by police.

"All he wanted to do was go see his sons again and, unfortunately, he can't," Curtis Gordon, Clark's uncle, said as he recalled seeing his nephew hours before the shooting. "So remember that — while we mourn, while we shout, while we cry — because it ain't just our pain, it's their pain."

Barnes amplified calls for charges against the two officers who are on administrative leave.

"It's more than color — it comes down to right and wrong," he said. "You're trying to tell me I can kill someone and get a paid vacation?"

The peaceful demonstration that drew between 200 and 300 people to a downtown park came a day after a private autopsy released by the family showed Clark was shot from behind.

Clark was killed March 18 by two police officers responding to a call of someone breaking into car windows. They yelled that he had a gun before shooting, but it was only a cellphone. The police department says it has not received an official autopsy report from the county coroner's office.

Activists and faith leaders called for justice not just for Clark, but for all black men killed by police. Family members of Joseph Mann, who was killed by Sacramento police in 2016, also spoke. The chairman of a police oversight commission urged attendees to continue their activism by showing up to meetings and pushing for systemic change.

About 150 people attended another vigil and protest Saturday night outside a sheriff's department office. It was the latest disruptive but mostly peaceful demonstration since Clark was killed.

Protesters have twice blocked fans from entering games involving the NBA's Sacramento Kings at a downtown arena, but there were no signs of trouble amid a big police presence at a game Saturday night against the Golden State Warriors.

The Friday release of the private autopsy commissioned by Clark's family has prompted fresh outrage. Pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu announced that Clark was hit by eight bullets — six in the back, one in the neck and one in the thigh — and took three to 10 minutes to die. Police waited about five minutes before rendering medical aid.

Tesla confirms driver in crash was inattentive

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The vehicle in a fatal crash last week in California was operating on Autopilot, making it the latest accident to involve a semi-autonomous vehicle, Tesla confirmed.

The electric car maker said the driver, who was killed in the accident, did not have his hands on the steering wheel for six seconds before the crash, despite several warnings from the vehicle.

Tesla Inc. tells drivers that its Autopilot system, which can keep speed, change lanes and self-park, requires drivers to keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel to take control of the vehicle to avoid accidents.

Tesla said its vehicle logs show the driver took no action to stop the Model X SUV from crashing into a concrete lane divider.

The company said the crash was made worse by a missing or damaged safety shield on the end of the freeway barrier that is supposed to reduce the impact into the concrete lane divider.

The crash happened in Mountain View, in California's Silicon Valley. The driver was Walter Huang, 38, a software engineer for Apple.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officials: 'Bobcat' is just a big house cat

NJ EWING TOWNSHIP — New Jersey environmental officials said reports of a bobcat or mountain lion roaming Mercer County are unfounded.

They said the animal recently spotted in Ewing appears to be a big house cat.

Township officials issued a warning Thursday following a sighting near Interstate 295, urging residents to remain vigilant and call 911 to report any sightings. That spurred the state Department of Environmental Protection to look into the concerns and review surveillance images of the animal.

Restaurant bans pot smoking in drive-thru

MS GULFPORT — A Mississippi fast-food restaurant said people smoking marijuana in its drive-thru will not be served after a patron blew smoke in an employee's face.

The Sun Herald of Biloxi, Miss., reported Friday that a sign in the window of a Sonic in Gulfport said, "If you are smoking weed in the drive thru you will not be served! Please show some common courtesy and smoke and air out before pulling up to order."

Manager Yasman Freeman said the sign was posted after the employee had smoke blown in their face.

Dinosaur fossil may be rare young T. rex

MT GREAT FALLS — University of Kansas researchers said they may have unearthed a rare fossil of a young Tyrannosaurus rex.

David Burnham, of the university's Biodiversity Institute,

said the teeth suggest it's a T. rex, but there is still more work to be done before the species is confirmed.

The fossil could be that of a smaller species of another meat-eating dinosaur.

Researchers are working to distinguish whether differences compared with the bones of other dinosaurs are due to growth or because they're from a different species.

Preservationists race to save shipwreck

FL SOUTH PONTE VEDRA BEACH — Preservationists said they are racing against time as they try to save a 19th-century shipwreck that washed up on a Florida beach.

The Florida Times-Union reported the wreck appeared Tuesday on a St. Johns County beach.

The state has given the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum permission to move the wreckage away from waves that have been battering it. But that has proven to be a difficult job.

Two pieces of heavy equipment arrived at the site Thursday to try to lift the wreck, but they each got stuck in the thick sand.

Man wins lawsuit over calling town stinky

IA DES MOINES — An Iowa man threatened by city officials with legal action for saying on a website that his hometown smelled like "rancid dog food" has won a free speech lawsuit.

Josh Harms, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, filed suit in U.S. District Court last month asking a judge to block Sibley officials from suing him. City

officials said they'd sue if he didn't stop criticizing the odor problem from an animal food processing plant and talking with reporters about it.

On Thursday a judge approved a permanent injunction prohibiting city threats. The city agreed to pay Harms \$6,500 in damages and \$20,000 in legal fees.

Cops: Cuffed woman stole a police car

OK TULSA — Police in Oklahoma said a woman managed to slip out of handcuffs and steal a police car after she was arrested for allegedly driving a stolen vehicle.

The Tulsa World reported Angie Lynn Frost, 36, was arrested following a traffic stop Friday. A Tulsa police officer detained Frost in his vehicle while he investigated the vehicle she was driving.

A police affidavit said the officer heard the electric door locks in the police car activate and saw that Frost had slipped out of the handcuffs and was climbing over the driver's seat.

The affidavit said Frost put the patrol vehicle into drive and sped away. The vehicle was later found abandoned and police apprehended Frost on the stairs of an apartment building.

Efforts underway to restore monument

IL PEORIA — Efforts are underway to restore one of the oldest Civil War monuments in Illinois in a new location.

The memorial was dedicated in October 1866 before a crowd of 30,000 on the current Peoria County courthouse grounds. It was dismantled in the 1960s.

The (Peoria) Journal Star reported that a group of history buffs spent the past few years

looking for the pieces of the memorial and found many discarded at a marina. A Peoria County committee has unanimously recommended that the group receive permission to transport pieces of the memorial to Springdale Cemetery to be reassembled and restored.

Penguin chick at zoo gets a name — Felix

NY SYRACUSE — The Humboldt penguin chick that hatched a month ago at Syracuse's Rosamond Gifford Zoo has a name — it's Felix.

The choice of Felix, which means "lucky," received 264 votes, or 34 percent, of the 769 ballots cast online.

The new chick is the 55th Humboldt penguin to hatch at the zoo since it began taking part in a survival plan for the species in 2006. The animal is native to the Humboldt Current along the west coast of South America.

Abuse hotline delays lead to many hang-ups

TX AUSTIN — As wait times have gotten lengthy, more than 100,000 callers each year to Texas' abuse hotline are hanging up before reaching an operator.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is on track this year to exceed 180,000 abandoned calls to the agency's abuse hotline, the most in at least a decade.

As of Tuesday, there had been 23 days this year in which a caller had been on hold for more than an hour. In the past, the agency has had one or two such days per year.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Villanova sets record for threes in win

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — To sum things up, Villanova was feelin' it Saturday night.

Like every night that ends in "Y" for the Wildcats.

Like all these games where they walk away with a "W" and leave their opponents shaking their heads.

Villanova moved within a win of another title, sinking a Final Four-record 18 three-pointers, while cementing itself as the most-prolific three-point-shooting team in college history in a 95-79 runaway over Kansas.

"Well, that was just one of those nights," Villanova coach Jay Wright said.

Normally the third or fourth option on a team full of shooters, junior wingman Eric Paschall led the barrage, going 4-for-5 from three, 10-for-11 overall, and finishing with a career-high 24 points.

But the hoop was as wide as the Alamodome for pretty much everyone in a Wildcats jersey.

Seven 'Nova players hit from downtown. Villanova tied the Final Four record for threes in game with 3:45 left in the first half. The Wildcats shot 45 percent from three — 5 points higher than their season average, which ranked 15th in the nation this season.

Next up is Michigan, which will try to guard the perimeter Monday night when Villanova (35-5) goes for its second title in three seasons.

Good luck with that.

Nobody has had much success this season, and in what turned out to be an unexpectedly lopsided matchup between top seeds, Kansas (31-8) certainly didn't Saturday night. AP Player of the Year Jalen Brunson made three threes and finished with 18 points. Omari Spellman made three, as well, in a 15-point, 13-rebound monster game.

"As good a team as I've played against that I can remember," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We got spread out on defense. The game plan went to crap. You get caught in between on defense, and it's the worst thing you can do."

About a minute into the second half, Paschall drained a three for Villanova's 14th of the game, breaking a Final Four record first set by UNLV in 1987.

Much earlier, at about the 13-minute mark of the first half, Collin Gillespie spotted up and swished for 'Nova's sixth three of the game, which gave it the NCAA record for threes in a season, with 442.

VMI set that record in 2007. Very few remember that team, though, because even though the importance of the long shot has grown as the decades have passed, it's never been thought of as a guaranteed way to win consistently.

Wright's team is laying waste to that theory and, at times, making other teams look bad while doing it.

On Saturday, the typical Villanova possession involved working the ball down low

on the wing, then a skip pass across the bottom of the paint, followed by one, two or three passes around the arc until somebody got open. It usually worked. Against both the Jayhawks' man defense and their zone. Most of 'Nova's 18 makes barely skimmed the net.

"We knew they'd have to miss some pretty decent looks, but they got anything they wanted early, and they knocked everything down," Self said.

Villanova attempted 40 shots from three, while only taking 25 from inside the arc.

Gillespie's record-setter gave Villanova a 22-4 lead, and at that point, Kansas had as many turnovers as points and had taken as many timeouts as it had field goals.

Self did what he could, urging his 7-foot center, Udoka Azubuike, out of the paint and into the faces of this group of hybrid forward-guards, all of whom can shoot. The big fella couldn't get there.

The Jayhawks, back in the dome where they cut down the nets 10 years ago after their last title, made mini runs. But the deficit never got below double digits.

About the only drama in the second half was whether the Wildcats would top Loyola Marymount's NCAA Tournament record of 21 three-pointers in a game (against Michigan in 1990). Didn't happen, mainly because they didn't need it too.

But there's still Monday.

"They'll be hard for anyone to deal with," Self said, "if they shoot the ball like that."

Michigan ends Loyola's Cinderella run

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Staring down a 10-point, second-half deficit against an underdog that seemed nothing short of blessed during the madness of March, Moe Wagner and Michigan clamped down on Loyola-Chicago and ended one of the most memorable NCAA Tournament runs ever.

Wagner scored 24 points, Charles Matthews added 17 and the Wolverines rallied to beat the Ramblers 69-57 Saturday night in the Final Four.

The third-seeded Wolverines (33-7) take a 14-game winning streak, the longest in the nation, into their first national championship game appearance since 2013, and second under coach

Jon Beilein.

"We're not done yet," Michigan senior Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman said.

Michigan will play Villanova, for its first NCAA title since 1989 on Monday night at the Alamodome.

Lovable Loyola (32-6), with superfan Sister Jean courtside and their fans behind the bench standing for pretty much the entire game, could not conjure another upset. The Ramblers were the fourth 11th-seeded team to make it this far and like the previous three, the semifinals were the end of the road.

Coach Porter Moser said he was proud of players Ben Richardson, Aundre Jackson and Donte Ingram for holding it together during a postgame

news conference, answering questions with red eyes and long faces.

"But it was as tough a locker room as I've seen because they believed they belonged and they believed like they wanted to advance," Moser said.

Loyola had no answers for the 6-foot-11 Wagner, and its offense, so smooth and efficient on the way to San Antonio, broke down in the second half and finished with 17 turnovers.

Wagner, playing in front of his parents who made the trip from Germany, had 15 rebounds and was 10-for-16 from the field. Matthews, the Kentucky transfer and Chicago native, had a run-out dunk with 1:33 left that made it 63-53.

And that was that.

Wagner became the third player in the last 40 years with a 20 and 15 game in a Final Four game, joining Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston in 1983 (then known as Akeem) and Larry Bird of Indiana State in 1979.

"Wow. If you put it like that, it's probably cool," Wagner said. "But to be honest, I kept looking possession by possession. We had trouble scoring the first half. We scored 22 points and that was kind of the only way we found our way to the basket, grab offensive rebounds and get second-shot opportunities.

"And I honestly just tried to do my job."

Dodgers get first runs — and win — of season

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The rap music boomed in the clubhouse, and Dave Roberts succinctly summed up the collective relief.

“We won a game,” the Dodgers manager said, smiling.

Kenta Maeda struck out 10 over five scoreless innings, and Los Angeles finally found its offense to beat the San Francisco Giants 5-0 on Saturday night for the team’s first win of the season.

The Dodgers got their loudest cheers in the first inning for a sacrifice fly by Yasiel Puig that scored their first run of the season, snapping an 18-inning scoreless streak that was the second-longest in franchise history.

After striking out 18 times in a pair of 1-0 defeats to open the season, the Dodgers led 2-0 when Matt Kemp followed Puig with an RBI single off Derek Holland (0-1). It was Kemp’s first RBI with the team since Sept. 28, 2014.

Kike Hernandez added a run with another sacrifice fly in the third.

Maeda (1-0) allowed five hits and walked one. He faced baserunners in every inning except the fifth.

“My four-seam fastball was pretty good,” the Japanese said through a translator.

He pitched out of a jam in the second. Maeda gave up two-out singles to Hunter Pence and Gregor Blanco, putting the tying runs on first and second before Holland struck out looking to end the inning.

“Kenta was on the attack from the beginning,” Roberts said. “His fastball velocity was really good and he kept these guys off-balance and was in control all night long.”

Relievers Ross Stripling, Pedro Baez and Scott Alexander combined to toss four scoreless innings.

The Dodgers extended their lead to 5-0 in the fourth on a two-run error by center fielder Blanco. Kyle Farmer was safe at second after Blanco and right fielder Andrew McCutchen miscommunicated on a fly ball and Blanco dropped it, allowing Cody Bellinger and Austin Barnes to score. Holland walked both Bellinger and Barnes.

“I don’t think we heard each other because we were both screaming,” McCutchen said. “I backed off at the last minute when I saw him going after it. It is just one of those crazy plays that happens. They

scored two runs off it, you hate that.”

Holland gave up five runs — three earned — and three hits in five innings of his Giants debut. The left-hander struck out four and walked three.

The Giants collected nine hits and left 10 runners on base while failing to advance anyone past second.

Joe Panik, whose solo homers beat the Dodgers in the first two games, hit into a game-ending double play in the ninth.

McCutchen and Evan Longoria — two big offseason acquisitions for the Giants — continued to struggle. McCutchen is 1-for-12 with two strikeouts and Longoria is 0-for-11 with four strikeouts in their first three games.

“I’m getting the pitches to hit, I’m just not hitting them,” Longoria said. “I’m chasing and probably a little too hard, trying to do too much. It gets magnified when you lose for sure, when you don’t get hits.”

The Giants have scored two runs on 19 hits in three games. “We are going to get going, get moving, things will start turning,” McCutchen said. “We are too good of a team for it not to. No one is stressing on it over here.”

MLB roundup

Brewers’ Yelich ties career high with five hits

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Milwaukee’s bold offseason moves for Christian Yelich and Lorenzo Cain are working quite well so far.

Yelich tied his career high with five hits to lead a dominating performance by the Nos. 2-3-4 hitters for the Brewers, who swept the San Diego Padres with a 7-3 victory Saturday night.

Yelich scored three times and drove in two runs as Milwaukee improved to 3-0 for the first time since it won its first five games in 2006. Cain had three hits and two RBIs, and Travis Shaw drove in three runs.

The Brewers bolstered their outfield when they acquired Yelich in a January trade with Miami and signed Cain to an \$80 million, five-year contract during free agency.

Yelich matched the career

high he set with the Marlins against Philadelphia on Oct. 3, 2015.

Nationals 13, Reds 7: At Cincinnati, Adam Eaton had solo homer among his career-high five hits and Brian Goodwin hit his first career grand slam, powering Washington to the victory.

The Nationals have won their first two games under new manager Dave Martinez. The last time they opened a season 3-0 was 2013, when they swept the Marlins.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 3: Yangervis Solarte hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning of host Toronto’s first win of the season, and Kevin Pillar added an insurance run by stealing second, third and home.

Cubs 10, Marlins 6 (10): Ben Zobrist hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 10th inning and Kris Bryant followed with

a three-run double, sending the Cubs to the win after Yu Darvish struggled in his first start for visiting Chicago.

Rockies 2, Diamondbacks 1: Charlie Blackmon homered twice, helping Colorado salvage the finale of its season-opening series in Arizona.

Twins 6, Orioles 2: At Baltimore, Minnesota right-hander Kyle Gibson pitched six hitless innings before being replaced by Ryan Pressly, who kept the no-hitter intact until the eighth.

Braves 15, Phillies 2: Ender Inciarte drove in four runs with three hits, Ryan Flaherty had four hits and scored four times, and host Atlanta roughed up Vince Velasquez.

White Sox 4, Royals 3: Wellington Castillo hit a two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning, lifting visiting Chicago to the victory.

Astros 9, Rangers 3: At Arlington, Tex., Lance McCullers

Jr. struck out 10 in 5¹/₃ innings and Carlos Correa hit a two-run homer, leading Houston to the victory.

Red Sox 3, Rays 2: Xander Bogaerts homered for visiting Boston, and Rick Porcello carried a shutout into the sixth inning.

Mets 6, Cardinals 2: Yoenis Cespedes and Travis d’Arnaud homered, Todd Frazier drove in three runs and host New York opened at 2-0 for the first time since 2013.

Angels 8, Athletics 3: Mike Trout had three hits and two RBIs, Zack Cozart also drove in two runs and visiting Los Angeles finished with 12 hits.

Indians 6, Mariners 5: Yonder Alonso hit his third career grand slam in the first inning, Yan Gomes added a two-run shot and Cleveland held on for the road win.

NBA roundup

McCaw hurt in Warriors' win

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In a silenced arena, two teams gathered together under the basket to pray for Patrick McCaw as Golden State's second-year guard was rushed away on a stretcher.

Basketball suddenly came second.

McCaw left late in the third quarter of the Warriors' 112-96 win over the Sacramento Kings on Saturday after a scary landing following an undercut by Vince Carter that appeared unintentional.

For a night, the Warriors — already banged up and missing key faces such as Stephen Curry — weren't focused on their other injuries, seeding in the West or defending the NBA title.

"Basketball's cool but when it's something that affects everyday life it's tough to watch,"

Warriors forward Draymond Green said.

"Obviously everyone's worried. There's not really much we can do in that situation."

McCaw was transported to UC Davis Medical Center for further evaluation, the team said.

He drove the baseline and went down with a thud with 41.8 seconds left in the quarter, hit in the lower body by Carter. McCaw lay still and in agony for about 10 minutes as the crowd quieted.

Carter, who was given a Flagrant-1 foul, knelt nearby as medical personnel from both teams along with Warriors coach Steve Kerr rushed out.

"Vince felt awful and Pat was in extreme pain," Kerr said. "Everybody felt bad."

Wizards 107, Hornets 93: All-Star John Wall had 15 points and 14 assists in his first

game in two months, Otto Porter Jr. had 26 points and 11 rebounds, and the host Wizards clinched their fourth playoff berth in five seasons.

Celtics 110, Raptors 99: Marcus Morris had 25 points and nine rebounds before getting ejected in the closing seconds, and host Boston to beat the Eastern Conference-leading Toronto.

Nets 110, Heat 109 (OT): Caris Levert scored with about a half-minute left in overtime to put Brooklyn up for good, Dwyane Wade missed on a play where he thought he got fouled at the buzzer and the visiting Nets beat Miami.

Pistons 115, Knicks 109: Andre Drummond narrowly missed a second straight 20-20 game with 22 points and 17 rebounds, and visiting Detroit got its fourth straight victory.

Joshua unifies three titles, wants Wilder

Associated Press

CARDIFF, Wales — Anthony Joshua is a man in a hurry as he looks to unify the heavyweight division.

He needed to get through the longest fight of his career to collect the third of the big four belts, though.

The British fighter was taken the distance for the first time in his professional career against Joseph Parker on Saturday, beating the previously undefeated New Zealander in a unanimous decision in front of 78,000 fans in Cardiff.

It was Joshua's 21st straight win and he added Parker's WBO belt to his WBA and IBF titles.

Still, Joshua struggled to raise a smile.

"I'm not elated because I don't let the highs get to my head. And I always think we've got to go again soon," Joshua said.

"We are still hustling. We are on to the next one, in my eyes. It's not time to sit back and enjoy the ride."

And that only means one thing: Becoming undisputed champion by beating big-punching American Deontay Wilder, the WBC champion.

"I think 2018 was always a time to capture all the belts," Joshua said. "We are one away now."

Renowned for his destructive punching power, Joshua showed another side to his boxing repertoire against Parker, whose movement, fast hands and counter-attacking ability made him a tricky opponent.

The jab was the key for Joshua against an often-retreating opponent. He barely landed a clean shot with his big right hand but he didn't need to, despite the clamor from the crowd — and his mother watching from home who called for a knockout in the second or seventh round.

"Boxing isn't just about brute force and strength," Joshua said. "It's about seeing the punches coming too. I wasn't going to fall into his trap."

NHL roundup

Penguins clinch playoff berth

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins' quest for a three-peat is officially on.

Patric Hornqvist picked up his 200th career goal and the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions clinched their 12th straight playoff berth with a 5-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday night.

Phil Kessel, Riley Sheahan, Conor Sheary and Carl Hagelin also scored for Pittsburgh, which dominated the largely listless Canadiens to improve to 17-1-1 in their last 19 games at PPG Paints Arena.

Golden Knights 3, Sharks 2: At Las Vegas, William Karlsson scored a short-handed goal in the third period, and the expansion Golden Knights clinched the Pacific Division title.

Stars 4, Wild 1: John Klingberg scored and added to his

NHL-leading assist total for defensemen, helping host Dallas to the victory.

Bruins 5, Panthers 1: Jake DeBrusk scored twice in his first game in more than two weeks, and Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots to help host Boston move back into first place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Canucks 5, Blue Jackets 4 (OT): Alex Edler scored 1:21 into overtime to lift host Vancouver to its season high-tying fourth straight win.

Jets 3, Maple Leafs 1: Josh Morrissey and Dustin Byfuglien scored 1:10 apart in the second period as visiting Winnipeg beat Toronto in a matchup of the only two Canadian teams headed to the playoffs.

Sabres 7, Predators 4: Sam Reinhart had a hat trick with Jack Eichel adding a career-high five assists as NHL-worst

Buffalo stunned league-leading host Nashville.

Rangers 2, Hurricanes 1: Ryan Sproul scored and Kevin Hayes added a short-handed goal to help visiting New York eliminate Carolina from the playoff race.

Devils 4, Islanders 3: Taylor Hall scored twice and host New Jersey took a major step toward its first playoff berth since 2012.

Coyotes 6, Blues 0: Antti Raanta stopped 34 shots for his third shutout of the season to beat visiting St. Louis.

Red Wings 2, Senators 0: Jimmy Howard stopped 31 shots for his first shutout of the season, leading host Detroit to its third straight win.

Flames 3, Oilers 2: Mikael Backlund had a goal and an assist, helping host Calgary snap a seven-game skid.