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Navy blames CO in Antietam grounding

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The former commanding officer of the USS Antietam was “ultimately responsible” for the cruiser running aground and spilling roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay in January, a Navy investigation concluded.

The command investigation report, endorsed in April and obtained this week by Stars and Stripes through a Freedom of Information Act request, primarily blamed Joseph Carrigan’s “judgment and decision making, including his actions that distracted or rushed the bridge team.”

Carrigan was relieved from command on March 1.

The report describes a series of errors and incorrect judgments leading to the grounding, starting with a delayed ship departure caused by system errors and trash left on the pier. Crewmembers said the delay left Carrigan in a foul mood.

“The CO was angry, I didn’t know why, and told me to get to the bridge and ‘fix it,’” said the ship’s acting combat systems offi-

cer, a lieutenant whose name was redacted. “There was a fog on the bridge, a sort of zero-defect mentality that conveyed don’t say anything or the CO would get upset. The CO liked to get underway on time, and things would get inflated in the moment.” Incorrect navigational planning and execution failed to account for sustained winds of 23-31 mph and gusts of 35 mph, the investigation said. A series of mishaps also led to the anchor dragging. The ship ran aground on shoals just outside Yokosuka Naval Base.

The lieutenant junior grade who served as the ship’s navigator was familiar with the ship but wasn’t a qualified officer of the deck. The officer had previously handled a cruiser only in simulations and on a temporary assignment, the report said.

The crew’s briefing on anchoring was also substandard, according to the report.

The Antietam still might have avoided the shoals had Carrigan not removed himself and key watchstanders from the bridge while the crew struggled with the anchor, the report concluded. In addition, crewmembers failed to provide Carrigan with adequate maneuvering recommendations.

Engines on the ship were stopped while

attempting to recover the anchor.

Fearing damage to the ship’s sonar dome, Carrigan waited until the anchor was in sight before restarting the engines. The ship ran aground roughly 90 seconds after the order was given to restart the engines.

Meanwhile, communications between the bridge and the combat information center were “almost nonexistent” after Carrigan ordered the radio volume lowered, according to another officer’s testimony.

The ship’s executive officer shared some blame for failing to prevent the grounding, but the investigation also credited him for preventing harm to fishing vessels in the area. “The XO prevented the ship from running into breakwater by ordering the bridge team to execute a hard right rudder after I stated we had good water to both sides,” the ship navigator said. “This prevented [the Antietam] from hitting the seawall and greater damage to the ship.”

The report recommended that Carrigan be removed for cause and that several crewmembers, including the executive officer, officer of the deck and the navigator, receive written reprimands.

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‘It’s game on’ for Nimitz in ISIS fight

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

The USS Nimitz officially joined the fight against Islamic State on Monday when it launched its first round of strikes against targets from the Arabian Gulf.

The strikes were conducted by aircraft assigned to the strike group’s Carrier Air Wing 11, a Navy statement said. An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 147, known as the Argonauts, was the first aircraft launched for the operations.

The air wing will be at the “tip of the spear” during the anti-ISIS operations, said Rear Adm. Bill Byrne, the strike

group’s commander.

“For the Nimitz Strike Group, today is game day,” he said in the statement. “When you hear the roar of the jets today it is for real; it’s game on. Our pilots and aircrew are demonstrating our continued commitment to this region and all of our partner nations.”

The USS Nimitz, one of four strike groups assigned to the Navy’s 3rd Fleet, is replacing the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group, which conducted strikes against ISIS targets before the Nimitz’s arrival.

Naval forces in the 5th Fleet’s area of operations have been involved in a nearly three-year air campaign against ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Re-

solve. Naval forces in the region began the campaign in August 2014 when the Bush launched airstrikes against ISIS targets in Iraq.

The Nimitz arrived in the area about a week and a half ago after participating in Malabar 2017, a joint exercise with Indian and Japanese naval forces that focused on anti-submarine warfare.

Operation Inherent Resolve and Malabar 2017 are among a number of prominent exercises and operations the 3rd Fleet has participated in since the 3rd Fleet Forward initiative began last year. Spearheaded by Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift, the initiative gives the fleet more autonomy operating

outside its operations area.

In addition to anti-ISIS missions, the Nimitz carrier group will conduct “maritime security operations to preserve freedom of navigation,” the Navy statement said.

The group arrives in the region at a time of heightened tensions with Iran, whose Revolutionary Guard said the Nimitz fired a warning shot Friday in an “unprofessional” confrontation with Iranian vessels, the official IRNA news agency reported. The Navy said flares were fired after Iranian vessels were spotted approaching the Nimitz and an accompanying ship at a high rate of speed.

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Vietnam medic awarded Medal of Honor

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As a 23-year-old Army medic, James C. McCloughan ran through fields of flying bullets repeatedly to retrieve and treat wounded comrades in the midst of a deadly two-day battle. More than 48 years later, at 71, McCloughan was presented Monday with the top U.S. military honor.

The white-haired McCloughan stood stoic, dressed in the navy blue modern-day Army Service Uniform, as President Donald Trump placed the Medal of Honor around his neck before a large crowd gathered in the East Room of the White House. The former soldier offered a smile as he looked toward a row in the crowd where 10 of the men with whom he served in that 1969 battle stood clapping.

McCloughan saluted.

Some of those men would not have been there Monday had McCloughan — known as “Doc” to them — not been alongside them through that battle at the base of Nui Yon Hill along the coast of central Vietnam, said Trump, who was overseeing his first Medal of Honor presentation as commander in chief.

“He would not yield. He would not rest. He would not stop. And he would not flinch in the face of sure death and definite danger,” Trump said. “In those 48

hours, Jim rescued 10 American soldiers and tended to countless others. ... I know I speak for every person here when I say that we are in awe of your actions and of your bravery.”

Following a North Vietnamese attack the previous day on their fire support base where four men were killed and two dozen more injured, McCloughan and his unit known as Charlie Tiger were ordered May 13 to assault an enemy position and seize Nui Yon Hill, according to Army records.

That battle, which would last into the early-morning hours of May 15, was intense from its outset.

“The minute that we got there, we were fired upon,” McCloughan said in an Army interview, recalling the helicopter insertion of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Unbeknownst to them, or their commanders who did not surveil the enemy force, they were 89 soldiers facing some 2,000 troops.

Two helicopters were quickly shot down as the battle began. McCloughan and other members of his unit were tasked with finding one of the downed crews. The unit began taking casualties.

McCloughan — for the first of at least nine times over the next 48 hours — located a wounded

soldier and darted forward through enemy fire.

“I jumped up, I weaved and sprinted through the fire and just slid in next to him like I was sliding into second base,” he recalled. “I threw him up fireman style and weaved my way through the crossfire, and just as I get through them, I heard this ungodly explosion.”

It was a rocket-propelled grenade, which sprayed McCloughan with shrapnel. He was bleeding heavily but he remained focused on his mission — getting the wounded soldier to the medical evacuation helicopter.

At the sight of McCloughan’s injuries, his platoon leader commanded him to evacuate with the wounded soldier. But the medic refused.

“You’re going to need me,” McCloughan, then a private first class, told his lieutenant. He would be wounded twice more by shrapnel and bullets during the battle.

The next day, the unit’s only other medic, Pfc. Daniel Shea, was killed carrying an injured soldier away from enemy fire. Shea would posthumously be awarded the Medal of Honor, which was presented to his family in December 1969, for his actions in the battle.

Before dawn the next morning, as McCloughan continued to treat two critically wounded soldiers, he spotted an enemy

fighter closing in with a rocket-propelled grenade. McCloughan said he managed to toss his own grenade, killing the enemy fighter just before he could fire at them. His unit was evacuated from the fight just after dawn.

Despite his injuries, McCloughan served another 10 months in Vietnam. He remained with Charlie Company conducting “search and destroy” operations for another five months before completing his tour working in a hospital clinic, he said.

He attained the rank of specialist 5 before returning to the United States, leaving the Army and returning to his original goal — teaching and coaching in his hometown of South Haven, Mich. He spent the next four decades teaching sociology and psychology and coaching football, baseball and wrestling at South Haven High School.

Days after the savage battle at Nui Yon Hill, McCloughan was awarded the Bronze Star with “V” device for valor. In 2015, some of the men who served alongside McCloughan petitioned the White House to consider upgrading his award to the Medal of Honor.

The Army, Pentagon and White House agreed to the upgrade, and lawmakers passed legislation waiving the long-expired time limit for the award to be changed.

Afghan refugee charged in 2014 murder of US soldier

By MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A 20-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker has been charged with the murder of a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan, Germany’s federal prosecutor’s office said.

The man, identified only as Abdol Moghada S., was also charged with the attempted murder of two more American soldiers who were wounded in the same ambush in early 2014, the prosecutor’s office said Friday.

It charged that the accused joined the Taliban, “a “foreign terrorist group,” in

2013 in the Baraki Barak district of eastern Logar province. At the time, he was issued a Kalashnikov automatic rifle, a Russian Tokarev pistol and several hand grenades.

He allegedly used those weapons in attacks on foreign military convoys in 2013 and 2014. A U.S. soldier was killed and two were wounded during the latter ambush, the prosecutor’s office said.

The prosecutor’s office didn’t identify the soldiers, but the only U.S. servicemember killed about that time in Baraki Barak was Pfc. Christian J. Chandler, 20, of Trenton, Texas. He was killed April 28, 2014, when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-

arms fire, according to a Pentagon statement. He was assigned to the Fort Drum, N.Y.-based 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light).

Abdol Moghada S. was arrested in February and is being held in detention awaiting trial. It was not clear whether he could be tried under German law as an adult. The incidents occurred while he was still a juvenile.

The prosecutor’s office did not immediately return a call for comment on Tuesday.

Trump directed memo on son's meeting

The Washington Post

On the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany last month, President Donald Trump's advisers discussed how to respond to a new revelation that Trump's oldest son had met with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign — a disclosure the advisers knew carried political and potentially legal peril.

The strategy, the advisers agreed, should be for Donald Trump Jr. to release a statement to get ahead of the story. They wanted to be truthful, so their account couldn't be repudiated later if the full details emerged.

But within hours, at the president's direction, the plan changed. Flying home from Germany on July 8 aboard Air Force One, Trump personally dictated a statement in which Trump Jr. said he and the Russian lawyer had "primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children" when they met in June 2016, according to multiple people with knowledge of the deliberations. The statement, issued to *The New York Times* as it prepared a story, emphasized that the subject of the meeting was "not a campaign issue at the time."

The claims were later shown

to be misleading.

Over the next three days, multiple accounts of the meeting were provided to the media as public pressure mounted, with Trump Jr. ultimately acknowledging that he had accepted the meeting after receiving an email promising damaging information about Hillary Clinton as part of a Russian government effort to help his father's campaign.

The extent of the president's personal intervention in his son's response, the details of which have not previously been reported, adds to a series of actions that Trump has taken that some advisers fear could place him and some of his inner circle in legal jeopardy. As special counsel Robert Mueller investigates potential obstruction of justice as part of his broader probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election, these advisers worry that the president's direct involvement leaves him needlessly vulnerable to allegations of a cover-up.

"This was ... unnecessary," said one of the president's advisers, who like most other people interviewed for this story spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive internal deliberations. "Now someone can claim he's the one who attempted to mislead.

Somebody can argue the president is saying he doesn't want you to say the whole truth."

Trump has already come under criticism for steps he has taken to challenge and undercut the Russia probe. He fired FBI Director James Comey on May 9 after a private meeting in which Comey said the president asked him if he could end the investigation of ousted national security adviser Michael Flynn. Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats told associates that Trump asked him in March if he could intervene with Comey to get the bureau to back off its focus on Flynn. In addition, Trump has repeatedly criticized Attorney General Jeff Sessions for recusing himself from overseeing the FBI's Russian investigation — a decision that was one factor leading to the appointment of Mueller. And he has privately discussed his power to issue pardons, including for himself.

Although misleading the public or the press is not a crime, advisers to Trump and his family told *The Washington Post* that they fear any indication that Trump was seeking to hide information about contacts between his campaign and Russians would draw additional scrutiny from Mueller. Trump, they say, is increasingly acting

as his own lawyer, strategist and publicist, often disregarding the recommendations of the professionals he has hired.

"He refuses to sit still," the presidential adviser said. "He doesn't think he's in any legal jeopardy, so he really views this as a political problem he is going to solve by himself."

Trump has said that the Russia probe is "the greatest witch hunt in political history," calling it an elaborate hoax created by Democrats to explain Clinton losing an election she should have won.

Because Trump believes he is innocent, some advisers explained, he therefore does not think he is at any legal risk for a cover-up. In his mind, they said, there is nothing to conceal.

The White House directed all questions for this story to the president's legal team.

One of Trump's attorneys, Jay Sekulow, declined to discuss the specifics of the president's actions and his role in crafting his son's statement about the Russian contact. Sekulow issued a one-sentence statement in response to a list of detailed questions from *The Post*.

"Apart from being of no consequence, the characterizations are misinformed, inaccurate, and not pertinent," Sekulow's statement read.

N. Korean ICBM seemed to break up during re-entry

BY AARON KIDD

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Video captured of North Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test casts doubt on the regime's ability to field a reliable ICBM re-entry vehicle, a Washington-based think tank said Monday.

The footage — caught by a weather camera owned by Japanese broadcaster NHK not far from where the ICBM splashed down off Hokkaido — shows the re-entry vehicle "shedding small radiant objects" before dimming and disappearing at an altitude of 2.5 to 3 miles, said North Korean monitoring website 38 North.

"Had the [re-entry vehicle] survived the rigors of re-entry, it would have continued to glow," said the report written by Michael Elleman, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Based on the video evidence, he said, a "reasonable conclusion" is that the ICBM's re-entry vehicle did not survive the test.

"If this assessment accurately reflects reality, North Korea's engineers have yet to master re-entry technologies and more work remains before [North Korean leader Kim Jong Un] has an ICBM capable of striking the American main-

land," Elleman said.

Kim expressed "great satisfaction" after the Hwasong-14 missile — the second ICBM North Korea had tested in July — reached its maximum altitude of 2,314 miles after being fired late Friday, said a statement released Saturday by the Korean Central News Agency. He also boasted that the test demonstrated Pyongyang's ability to conduct a surprise ICBM attack from any place and at any time and proved that the regime's missiles can now reach "all across the continental U.S."

However, the missile's reliability remains an "outstanding

question," said the 38 North report, which added that Pyongyang must show in future tests that its missiles are more likely to reach the U.S. mainland than they are to fail.

38 North also said it is "reasonable to assume North Korea can construct a bomb that weighs less than one metric ton, with a diameter of less than one meter."

"This could be easily carried by the Hwasong-14, though to reach the U.S. mainland, a lighter-weight bomb may be required," the report said.

38 North is run by Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Storm lessens as it crosses Fla. to ocean

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tropical Storm Emily weakened to a tropical depression Monday afternoon as it slogged eastward across the Florida peninsula, spreading drenching rains, causing power outages and leaving two fishermen to be rescued from Tampa Bay.

The National Hurricane Center said Emily made landfall late Monday on Florida's Gulf Coast south of Tampa Bay and then began moving east toward the Atlantic coast. Emily spent only a few hours as a tropical storm, losing strength as it marched inland across the central Florida peninsula toward the Atlantic coast.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said at an afternoon news briefing in Tallahassee that about 18,000 homes and businesses lost power, mostly in Manatee County. He said the storm was a reminder that severe weather can strike at any time.

State emergency management officials also said that the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay, which was closed for a few hours Monday because of high winds, had reopened. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph as it crawled ashore but was down to top winds of 30 mph hours later.

No injuries have been reported along the Gulf Coast, although two fishermen were rescued from Tampa Bay while clinging to a channel marker light after their boat sank. Coast Guard officials said they were called Monday morning about the two brothers, who had been out fishing when their boat engine died. While the brothers worked on the inoperable pump, the boat drifted and struck the range light, according to a Coast Guard statement. The brothers tied their boat off to the light and were forced to cling to the navigation aid and call for help when the vessel sank. A Coast Guard boat rescued the men.

Earlier Monday, Scott declared a state of emergency for 31 counties as a precaution.

Kelly asserts authority on first day; Scaramucci fired

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump fired communications director Anthony Scaramucci on Monday at the urging of new White House chief of staff John Kelly, a clear sign that the retired Marine general is being empowered to manage what has been an unwieldy West Wing operation.

Kelly demanded Scaramucci's departure after he attacked former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus in a profanity-laced interview last week that quickly became a public symbol of the vicious infighting that has helped define the first months of the administration.

Trump's willingness to dismiss Scaramucci — whom he hired July 21 — was viewed by many in the West Wing as an indication that he is eager to impose order and is giving Kelly the tools to do so.

"General Kelly has the full authority to operate within the White House, and all staff will report to him," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Left unclear is whether Kelly will be able to curb the president's inclination to subvert pecking orders, his tendency to encourage rivalries among his staff and his insistence on managing his own message through social media in ways that have often undermined his aides' strategic planning.

"This is a president that loves feedback and information, and he doesn't like getting it through a chain of command," said Trump friend Christopher Ruddy, the chief executive of Newsmax Media. "I don't think that's going to change."

But Kelly's arrival signals that Trump is putting his confidence in someone he perceives to have the stature and experience to be a forceful leader in a White House characterized by competing power centers.

After swearing in Kelly to

his role during an Oval Office ceremony, Trump treated him to the formalities typically reserved for visiting heads of state. As the two sat shoulder to shoulder in armchairs for the benefit of cameras, Trump leaned in and effusively praised Kelly, who previously served as Trump's homeland security secretary. He later lavished more praise on him during a Cabinet meeting.

"I predict that General Kelly will go down, in terms of the position of chief of staff, one of the greatest ever," the president said. "We all know him, we respect him, admire what he's done."

Priebus was viewed inside the White House as being ineffective and having little control over other top aides, and the president had mused for months about replacing him.

In one of the strongest indications that Kelly will have greater authority than his predecessor, Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner — both of whom advocated for Kelly to be hired — have expressed their willingness to support any structural changes Kelly might make, according to a White House official. Sanders confirmed that they, too, will report to Kelly, as will all other officials.

A Kelly-led senior staff meeting Monday morning was well received, said people close to the White House who described aides as feeling optimistic that he might create stability in the West Wing.

"He's an adult and a disciplinarian," said Barry Bennett, who was a Trump campaign adviser. "He walks in with respect. I don't think people will go to war with him."

No other post in the White House has experienced as much upheaval as the communications director job. It was first given to Jason Miller, a Trump

campaign aide who stepped down during the transition. It was then given to Republican operative Michael Dubke, who resigned in May. In the intervening weeks, Sean Spicer had taken on those responsibilities in addition to his role as press secretary until Scaramucci was named to the position. His official start date was scheduled to be Aug. 15.

Ivanka Trump and Kushner were instrumental in bringing Scaramucci into the White House in large part to oust Priebus, who led the establishment wing. After Scaramucci's explosive interview with the *New Yorker*, in which he angrily accused Priebus in vulgar terms of leaking to the media, they soured on him and were supportive of Kelly's efforts to oust him.

Scaramucci's tenure led to upheaval in the West Wing from the start, with Spicer resigning rather than working with the New York financier. Within days of entering the White House, Scaramucci threatened to stop White House leaks by firing "everyone" in the press office until the unauthorized disclosures ended.

Quickly, however, his feud with Priebus became his main focus.

When the *New Yorker* published Scaramucci's profane tirade against Priebus and vulgar criticism of chief strategist Steve Bannon, he found himself on the defensive. But it was Priebus who was let go Friday, making it look as though Scaramucci had won their power struggle. It was a short-lived victory.

On Monday, Sanders said Trump thinks Scaramucci's comments last week went too far.

"The president certainly felt that Anthony's comments were inappropriate for a person in that position," she said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman snorts heroin with chief's calling card

OH CANAL FULTON — This wasn't the intent when an Ohio police chief left his business card for a resident: The officer discovered that a woman later used the rolled-up card to snort heroin.

Canal Fulton police Chief Douglas Swartz shared the story on Facebook with a plea for people to call emergency responders if they come across drugs rather than touching potentially dangerous substances themselves.

Swartz said someone found the woman passed out on Sunday and took her to the police station seeking help, along with spilled powder that the well-intentioned observer had scooped up with his bare hands.

Swartz said the woman must seek drug treatment and will face charges if she doesn't.

Newlyweds take the plunge on roller coaster

MA AGAWAM — A thrill-seeking Rhode Island couple took the plunge at a Massachusetts amusement park, screaming "I do!" as they plummeted 20 stories on a roller coaster.

Ashley Schiller and Thom Marchetti, of North Kingstown, were married last month on a Superman-themed roller coaster at Six Flags New England in Agawam. Immediately after the ride was over, they got back on and did it again, with a second batch of wedding guests in tow. Marchetti's queasiness prevented a third trip.

Schiller is a lifelong amusement park enthusiast who once had her parents buy thick-soled shoes to meet height requirements. She told The Providence (R.I.) Journal she had dreamed of the moment since she was 8

years old.

For their honeymoon, the couple visited another Six Flags, near Washington.

Gator roaming around fairgrounds is captured

NY WHITNEY POINT — Authorities in upstate New York have captured an alligator that got loose.

According to Animal Adventure Park, New York state Department of Environmental Conservation crews captured the renegade reptile Saturday behind the fairgrounds in rural Whitney Point. Sightings of the alligator were first reported July 22.

Officials said the alligator is 3 feet, 3 inches long. They believe it's someone's pet.

The alligator will be quarantined and then permanently placed in an exhibit at Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville.

Dog finds help for 2 girls struck by lightning

UT BEAVER — Two girls are recovering from a lightning strike after their dog brought help to the mountain-side scene in Utah.

Authorities said the girls, ages 8 and 16, were crossing a meadow during a family camping trip when the lightning hit Friday morning.

The Beaver County Sheriff's Office said the dog ran back to the campsite and alerted family members. They followed the dog back to the unconscious girls.

The Deseret News reported that a Utah Department of Public Safety helicopter that happened to be in the area for a biological study flew the girls to a hospital.

The younger girl suffered critical injuries, and the teenager suffered serious injuries.

Boy, 4, reunited with teddy bear at airport

TX DALLAS — A young North Texas boy was reunited with his beloved teddy bear nearly a week after the furry friend was forgotten at Dallas Love Field airport.

Luke Swofford, 4, of Rockwall got his favorite stuffed toy, named Teddy Bear, back on July 26 after extensive efforts that included an airport search and online pleas for assistance.

Family members said Luke and some relatives flew home to Texas on July 20 after a visit to Colorado, and the boy forgot his bear on a bench outside baggage claim.

Love Field officials turned to Twitter to help in the search. An airport security guard checked surveillance video and on July 25 found Teddy Bear in a break room.

Woman burned in her hospital room dies

PA ALLENTOWN — Authorities said a woman critically burned in her Pennsylvania hospital room died of her injuries.

The Lehigh County Coroner's Office said Val Cooper, 66, of Williamsport, was pronounced dead shortly after 5 p.m. Thursday at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest. The death was ruled accidental.

Chief Deputy Coroner Andrew Kehm said Cooper died of complications of injuries after her clothing caught fire July 25 while she was on supplemental oxygen in a Williamsport hospital.

Nursing staff at UPMC Susquehanna Williamsport Regional Medical Center found her gown ablaze, and a chair she had been sitting also was burning.

Fire officials said the blaze was started accidentally by a

cigarette lighter. Smoking is prohibited in the hospital.

Couple die after jump from 9th-floor window

NY NEW YORK — Police said a Manhattan couple apparently distraught over their finances jumped from the man's ninth-floor Madison Avenue office window and died.

Chiropractor Glenn Scarpelli, 53, and his wife, Patricia Colant, 50, were found Friday morning. Police said they each had suicide notes that referenced financial problems.

Chief of detectives Robert Boyce said the source of their money problems wasn't clear, and police were looking into it.

According to state and federal records, Scarpelli owed tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid state and federal taxes.

Remodeling of store yields old documents

VA LADYSMITH — The remodeling of a Virginia corner store turned up documents that offer a peek into the past.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star reported that a collection of "cash on delivery" records from the 1930s were found during the remodeling of the Ladysmith Citgo, which used to house the community's post office.

The receipts detail how much people paid at the post office when they picked up items they ordered in catalogs.

They show that one woman paid \$1.28 for parts she ordered for her Studebaker automobile while another bought \$7.05 worth of goods from a nearby dress shop.

From wire reports

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World, National
and Military News

Pitchers change teams at trade deadline

Associated Press

Yu Darvish and Sonny Gray headed a parade of prized arms on the move Monday, leaving little doubt on trade deadline day: Top teams made a big pitch for the playoffs.

All-Star Brandon Kintzler, Addison Reed and Justin Wilson were among the many relievers swapped before the cutoff. There were 14 deals involving major leaguers — all six division leaders got someone new.

“We’re trying to go from good to great,” New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The Yankees bolstered their rotation by getting Gray from Oakland for three minor leaguers. That swap came a day after the AL East leaders acquired starter Jaime Garcia from Minnesota.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, owners of the best record in the majors and the top payroll, gave up three minor leaguers for Darvish. The Texas ace will join three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Ker-

shaw, currently on the disabled list, as the Dodgers try to reach the World Series for the first time since their 1988 title.

“We’re not going to be lining up our playoff rotation quite yet,” general manager Farhan Zaidi said.

Los Angeles also added relievers Tony Watson from Pittsburgh and Tony Cingrani from Cincinnati.

A few stars mentioned in trade speculation stayed put — Orioles closer Zach Britton, Detroit starter Justin Verlander and San Diego reliever Brad Hand, among them.

“We just didn’t line up at this time,” Padres GM A.J. Preller said, adding there was “no rush” to make a move right now.

Teams had until 4 p.m. EDT to make trades without waivers. For the rest of the season, players can be dealt only if every other club passes on a chance to claim them.

A year after the champion Chicago Cubs and Cleveland used deep bullpens to reach the World Series, several teams

boosted their relief corps. As did the Cubs and Indians.

Chicago got Wilson, a valuable lefty, along with backup catcher Alex Avila from Detroit. Avila was traded away by his dad, Tigers general manager Al Avila.

“Obviously, you think, well, he’s your son so you probably feel even worse. Not really. Nobody likes to go through trades,” the Detroit GM said.

“Actually, the person that’s going to be really worse off, it’s not so much my wife, it’s my mom — Alex’s grandmother. She’s the one that might be the most angry,” he said.

Joe Smith, who relieved for Cleveland from 2009 to 2013, was sent from Toronto to the Indians.

“A lot of fans of Smitty in this organization, so getting him back will be a lot of fun,” Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

NL East-leading Washington got Kintzler from Minnesota — the Nationals recently acquired relievers Ryan Madson and Sean Doolittle from Oakland.

The Houston Astros, already running away with the AL West, plucked lefty Francisco Liriano from Toronto. He’ll help patch a rotation that’s dealt with injuries to Dallas Keuchel, Lance McCullers and Collin McHugh this year.

The contending Boston Red Sox added Reed, who had been serving as the New York Mets’ closer. Reed is 1-2 with a 2.57 ERA and 19 saves in 21 chances, and he joins a bullpen that includes dominant closer Craig Kimbrel.

Like a lot of other executives, Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski was on the prowl for pitching.

“We liked a lot of the guys. We were inquiring about a lot of the guys,” he said at Fenway Park, adding, “My list is long.”

How long?

Dombrowski reached into the left pocket of his suit jacket and pulled out an 8x11-inch piece of paper. He then counted — by ones — “20 right-handed relievers that were on our list at one time or another, and a lot of lefties, too.”

Royals go all in for 1 more deep postseason run

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — One month into the season, the thought among baseball insiders was that the Kansas City Royals would be among the most active teams in the American League at the July 31 trade deadline.

Their line of thinking has proven correct.

Their line of reasoning turned out to be backward.

The Royals got off to a 7-16 start in April, and the assumption was a core group of players that delivered back-to-back AL pennants and a World Series title would be sold off before hitting free agency this offseason. Stars such as first baseman Eric Hosmer, third baseman Mike Moustakas and outfielder Lorenzo Cain would be contending for a title somewhere

else in August and September.

But the plucky, small-market club managed to turn things around. The Royals finished a game over .500 in May, then went 32-18 in June and July to climb into the playoff hunt.

Suddenly, the sellers had become buyers.

“Early on, everybody was talking about getting rid of all these players and whatnot, and then we just kind of took it upon ourselves to play better and hopefully keep this team together,” outfielder Alex Gordon said. “It’s been a heck of a year and we like where we’re at right now. It couldn’t be more exciting, buying these guys and going for it all. We believe that we can do it again. Hopefully, we can.”

The spending spree began July 24, when the Royals shipped promising left-hander

Matt Strahm, pitcher Travis Wood, infield prospect Esteury Ruiz and cash to the San Diego Padres. They got in return starting pitcher Trevor Cahill and relievers Brandon Maurer and Ryan Buchter, filling two of their most pressing needs with one eyebrow-raising trade.

Cahill was 4-3 with a 3.69 ERA when he was dealt, though his first start for Kansas City was a struggle. Buchter sported a tidy 3.05 ERA in 42 appearances for the Padres. Maurer saved them 20 games.

General manager Dayton Moore wasn’t done working the phones, either.

Less than an hour before the Royals beat the Red Sox on Sunday, the club acquired outfielder Melky Cabrera from the Chicago White Sox for pitching prospects A.J. Puckett and Andre Davis. The switch-

hitting veteran would be an upgrade in right field, could spell the struggling Gordon in left field and can provide help at designated hitter, where nobody has managed to produce this season.

Cabrera was hitting .295 with 13 homers for the White Sox.

Starting pitching, relief pitching and a veteran bat that provides lineup flexibility.

Check, check and check.

“Obviously, we’re not a team that quits,” pitcher Jason Hammel said. “With the way that we started this year, nothing to write home about for sure, it’s a long season. We’ve got guys here that are experienced. We’re proud of the work that we put in and we believe in the process, the idea of, ‘Just go out and play tonight and see what happens.’”

LA reaches deal to host 2028 Games

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles has reached an agreement with International Olympic leaders that will open the way for the city to host the 2028 Summer Games, while ceding the 2024 Games to rival Paris, officials announced Monday.

The deal would make L.A. a three-time Olympic city, after hosting the 1932 and 1984 Games.

With the agreement, the city is taking “a major step toward bringing the Games back to our city for the first time in a generation,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement.

He called it a “historic day for Los Angeles, for the United States” and the Olympic movement.

The agreement follows a vote earlier this month by the International Olympic Committee to seek an unusual deal to award the 2024 and 2028 Games simultaneously. Paris is the only city left to host the 2024 Games.

The Los Angeles City Council and U.S. Olympic Committee board of directors will consider the agreement in August. If approved, the IOC, Los Angeles and Paris could enter a three-part agreement, clearing the way for the IOC to award the 2024 Games to Paris, and the 2028 Games to LA. The IOC vote is scheduled for Septem-

ber in Lima, Peru.

In a statement, the Paris bid committee welcomed the announcement in Los Angeles but stopped short of confirming the obvious, that Paris is in line for the 2024 Games.

“Paris 2024 is proud to be working together with the IOC and our friends in Los Angeles to reach a positive solution for both cities, the Games and the whole Olympic Movement for 2024 and 2028,” committee co-chair Tony Estanguet said.

In embracing what amounted to the second-place prize and an 11-year wait, L.A. will receive a financial sweetener.

Under the terms of the deal, the IOC will advance funds to the Los Angeles organizing committee to recognize the extended planning period and to increase youth sports programs leading up to the Games. The IOC contribution could exceed \$2 billion, according to Los Angeles officials. That figure takes into account the estimated value of existing sponsor agreements that would be renewed, as well as potential new marketing deals.

The delay to 2028 opens a host of questions for Los Angeles, which is looking at the prospect of retooling its multibillion-dollar plans for more than a decade into the future. It would face challenges from maintaining public interest to

recasting deals for stadiums, arenas and housing that have been in the works for months and even years.

Speaking with reporters at a soccer stadium in Carson, just outside L.A., Garcetti said the 2028 proposal was the better of the two, promising to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in additional benefits.

The deal “was too good to pass up,” the mayor said.

He also suggested the IOC would easily ratify the 2024-2028 deal in September.

Los Angeles and Paris were the last two bids remaining after a tumultuous process that exposed the unwillingness of cities to bear the financial burden of hosting an event that has become synonymous with cost overruns.

L.A. was not even the first American entrant in the contest. Boston withdrew two years ago as public support for its bid collapsed over concerns about use of taxpayer cash. The U.S. bid switched from the east to the West Coast as L.A. entered the race.

But the same apprehensions that spooked politicians and the local population in Boston soon became evident in Europe, where three cities pulled out.

Uncomfortably for IOC President Thomas Bach, whose much-vaunted Agenda 2020 reforms were designed to make

hosting more streamlined and less costly after the lavish 2014 Sochi Games, the first withdrawal came from his homeland of Germany.

The lack of political unity for a bid in Hamburg was mirrored in Rome and Budapest as support for bids waned among local authorities and the population. It was clear they did not want to be saddled with skyrocketing bills for hosting the Olympics without reaping many of the economic benefits anticipated.

Just like in the depleted field for the 2022 Winter Games which saw Beijing defeat Almaty, the IOC was left with only two candidates again.

With two powerful cities left vying for 2024, Bach realized France or the U.S. could be deterred from going through another contest for 2028 if they lost. Bach floated the idea in December of making revisions to the bidding process to prevent it producing “too many losers,” building support that led to Los Angeles and Paris being able to figure out themselves how to share the 2024 and 2028 Games.

The dual award of the games relieves the IOC of having to test the global interest in hosting the Summer Olympics for several years until the 2032 Games are up for grabs.

No easing into this season for Buckeyes

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said opening the season on the road against a Big Ten opponent brings another level of urgency to preseason practice.

Usually there are lesser opponents scheduled for the first couple of games, which Meyer said gives the team a chance to work out the bugs. This season, the Buckeyes open on Aug. 31 against Indiana at Bloomington, then come back for the home opener nine days later against Oklahoma.

“We are not playing preseason games,” Meyer said Monday, referring to the usual

early home games against outmanned opponents. “We are in the Big Ten conference, Game One. So sometimes I’ll count those games as a chance to get guys ready. We don’t have that luxury this year. This year, you’re in it.”

Along with the NCAA rule changes that eliminated two-a-day practices, adjustments had to be made to the practice schedule to get the team ready to go. Teams were allowed to start practicing earlier this year to get as close as possible to the 29 sessions allowed. Ohio State has 28 scheduled before the opener.

Preseason camp opened last week, and the players put on the pads for the first

time on Thursday. After a scrimmage Saturday, coaches will get serious about building their depth charts, Meyer said.

“It’s all culture at this point,” he said. “That’s that whole thing, the go hard. Because there are going to plenty of mistakes. The player that [when] something good does not happen and they revert back to the fundamentals and all the training they’ve been through, those are the guys that play. That’s what I look for now.”

Ohio State was eager to get started after how the season ended last year, a 31-0 pasting at the hands of eventual national champion Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year’s Eve.

Nats' Gonzalez loses no-no bid in 9th

Associated Press

MIAMI — Gio Gonzalez took the mound Monday filled with emotion while thinking of his extremely pregnant wife and his late friend Jose Fernandez.

Soon he was thinking about a no-hitter, too.

The Washington Nationals left-hander held the Miami Marlins hitless until the ninth inning, when Dee Gordon led off with a clean single, and Sean Doolittle got the final three outs for a 1-0 victory.

Gonzalez's wife is back in Washington and expected to deliver their second child at any time. To compound his emotions, before the game he met Fernandez's family, visiting Marlins Park for the first time since the late ace — an offseason fishing buddy of Gonzalez's — died in a boat crash last September.

Monday would have been Fernandez's 25th birthday.

"It was a heavy dose of a lot of emotion today," said Gonzalez, a native of nearby Hialeah. "I tried to calm it down. I didn't want to think about it too much."

Gonzalez (9-5) succeeded, delivering one of the best performances of his 10-year career. He walked three, hit a batter, struck out five and retired 14 in a row during one

stretch.

Gonzalez warmed up before the game using a ball bearing Fernandez's number and initials. But once he took the mound, his emotions didn't show.

"He was really focused and very calm — the best I've seen him," manager Dusty Baker said.

But he tired in the ninth. Gordon singled by sending a soft liner the opposite way to left-center field on a 1-1 pitch, the 106th pitch Gonzalez threw.

The weary lefty's attention immediately turned to Doolittle warming up.

"It was like, 'All right, I'm exhausted, let's go get the man and close this game out. I want to go home now,'" Gonzalez said. "If it would have happened, it would have been beautiful. It didn't happen, but we got the win. That's the most important thing."

Mindful of Fernandez's family, Gonzalez waved his glove toward the Marlins' dugout as he walked off the mound, and he received a standing ovation from the crowd of 18,962.

Doolittle got NL home run leader Giancarlo Stanton to ground into a double play. After Christian Yelich beat out an infield single, Marcell Ozuna popped out, giving Doolittle his fourth save since being acquired from Oakland on July 16.

Gonzalez quickly heard from his wife.

"She texted me saying, 'You almost put me in labor today,'" he said. He's on standby to fly back to Washington and said he would have abandoned his no-hit bid if he had received word she was about to deliver.

The game was the Nationals' first at Marlins Park since ace Max Scherzer took a no-hitter into the eighth but lost on June 21. There has been only one no-hitter in the majors this year — Miami's Edinson Volquez threw it at Marlins Park against Arizona.

Jose Urena (9-5) matched zeros with Gonzalez until the sixth, when Bryce Harper's RBI single put the Nationals ahead. Urena allowed just three hits in eight innings.

The closest Miami came to a hit before the ninth came when shortstop Wilmer Difo made a diving backhanded grab of Miguel Rojas' soft line drive in the sixth.

Gonzalez made the Marlins look bad at times. To end the sixth he struck out Gordon, who badly missed a breaking pitch while throwing his bat at the ball. Gonzalez scooped up the bat with his glove and handed it back to Gordon as he walked to the dugout.

"I'm just happy he didn't no-hit us," Gordon said.

Roundup

White Sox rally as Moncada, Garcia collide

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The crowd groaned as the replay was shown on the videoboard in center field. Yoan Moncada had to be helped into a cart. Willy Garcia was knocked out.

Soyes, the Chicago White Sox enjoyed their dramatic victory very much. But the encouraging prognosis for their injured teammates was even sweeter.

Matt Davidson singled in Leury Garcia for his second game-ending hit in as many days, and the White Sox rallied to beat Toronto Blue Jays 7-6 on Monday night after losing Moncada to a right knee injury.

The White Sox trailed 6-1 before they scored four times in the eighth, capped by consecutive homers for Davidson and Yolmer Sanchez. Davidson also hit a game-ending, two-run

homer in Sunday's 3-1 victory over Cleveland.

Josh Donaldson, Russell Martin and Justin Smoak homered for Toronto, which lost for the third time in four games. Darwin Barney got a three-run double on the frightening play in the sixth, and Marco Estrada pitched seven sparkling innings.

With two outs and the bases loaded, Barney hit a fly ball into shallow right field. A sprinting Moncada tried to pull up as Garcia went for the sliding catch, but he kneed the right fielder in the head and the ball trickled out of Garcia's glove.

"I got knocked out right away," Garcia said through a translator while standing in front of his locker in the clubhouse. "I didn't remember what happened until the doctor start-

ed asking me questions here, and then I saw the video."

Moncada put no pressure on his right leg while he was helped to a cart.

The team said X-rays on Moncada were negative, and the second baseman is day to day with a bruised knee. Garcia, who walked off under his own power, has a head contusion and was to be evaluated again Tuesday morning.

Yankees 7, Tigers 3: Aaron Judge broke out of a slump with his 34th home run, regaining sole possession of the major league lead, and Chase Headley sparked host New York.

Orioles 2, Royals 1: Craig Gentry singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, and host Baltimore cooled off surging Kansas City.

Red Sox 6, Indians 2: Doug Fister took a shutout into the eighth inning and rookie Rafael Devers went 4-for-4 with an RBI to lead host Boston.

Phillies 7, Braves 6: Odubel Herrera and Maikel Franco hit homers, Nick Pivetta threw six sharp innings and host Philadelphia completed a four-game sweep.

Mariners 6, Rangers 4: Robinson Cano had a two-run single in the ninth and Seattle won at host Texas.

Astros 14, Rays 7: Jake Marisnick homered twice among his three hits and had a career-high five RBIs to help host Houston.

Athletics 8, Giants 5: Marcus Semien hit a grand slam off reliever George Kontos in the sixth inning.