

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Kin ID 2 Marines missing in Osprey crash

By COREY DICKSTEIN, MATTHEW M. BURKE AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A pilot and a crew chief are among three Marines presumed dead after their MV-22 Osprey crashed Saturday off the coast of Australia during a training exercise, according to family members of the Marines, whose bodies are still missing.

Family members of 1st Lt. Benjamin Robert Cross and Cpl. Nathan Ordway identified them as two of the missing Marines in social media posts and news interviews as an Australian Navy dive team began efforts Monday to recover the tilt-rotor aircraft that crashed into Shoalwater Bay along Australia's northeastern coast.

Rescue operations for the missing Marines were called off early Sunday morning, but the Marines as of Monday remain listed as "Duty Status — Whereabouts Unknown," said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman.

The duty status indicated the Marines'

deaths had not officially been verified.

The families of all three missing Marines had been notified by Monday, according to the Marine Corps, but the Pentagon had yet to publicly identify them.

Monday evening local time, the Australian dive team from the HMAS Melville hydrographic survey ship, which located the MV-22 wreckage Sunday, was preparing to use a remotely operated vehicle to begin recovery of the aircraft, Davis said. Those operations could last several months.

Cross, 26, was a native of Maine who commissioned as a Marine aviator in 2013 after graduating from the Virginia Military Institute, his older brother, Ryan Cross, told the Portland Press Herald in Maine. He had been stationed on Okinawa, Japan, for about a year and had been in Australia for the past three months participating in the joint Australia-U.S. military training exercise, Talisman Saber.

Ordway, of Wichita, Kan., was identified as one of the other missing Marines by his sister, Taylor Ordway, in a brief comment requesting prayers on the public Facebook

page of his unit, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

It was unclear Monday what led to the crash, which was under investigation, Davis said. The aircraft had taken off earlier Saturday from the USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault ship.

The Osprey was approaching the USS Green Bay, an amphibious transport dock ship, about 4 p.m. local time when it hit the water with 26 aboard, according to the Marine Corps.

The Brisbane, Australia-based Courier-Mail newspaper reported the Osprey had smashed into the ship's deck and slid into the ocean. Pentagon officials declined to verify that report Monday.

Twenty-three of the Marines on the Osprey were recovered Saturday.

The Marine Corps on Monday was considering a request from the Japanese government to ground its fleet of MV-22s based in that country, according to two U.S. defense officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Report: DOD care for troops at risk of suicide inadequate

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Defense Department health care providers do a good job of screening for suicide risk, but they fail to provide critical and effective follow-up treatment to servicemembers identified as suicidal, according to a Rand Corp. report released Monday.

Rand researchers found appropriate follow-up care was given to only 30 percent of servicemembers with depression and 54 percent of servicemembers with post-traumatic stress disorder who were at risk of suicide. The rest did not receive follow-up care or got medication and psychotherapy that have not been proven to help.

The report is based on observations of nearly 39,000 servicemembers with diagnosed PTSD or depression over a one-year period. It's one of the largest evaluations of military mental health care, said behavioral scientist Kimberly Hepner, the lead researcher.

"The military health system did quite well in screening for suicide risk," Hepner said. "Where we found they could do better was how the providers responded to servicemembers with suicide risk identified."

The Pentagon asked Rand for an independent report on the care it provides to servicemembers with PTSD and depression.

It's difficult to know how many active-duty servicemembers suffer from PTSD or depression, Hepner said. The report cites between 4 and 20 percent of the more than 2.6 million people who deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Department of Veterans Affairs analyzed millions of veterans' records and reported last year an average of 20 veterans died from suicide each day in 2014. While veterans made up about 8.5 percent of the U.S. population in 2014, they accounted for 18 percent of suicides.

Rand researchers made several recommendations for the Pentagon to improve

how they treat veterans with PTSD and depression who are at risk of suicide, including better therapy. Because of the number and types of medications, researchers also suggested the Pentagon more closely monitor what's prescribed.

Fewer than half of servicemembers — 45 percent — who had PTSD and went through psychotherapy received evidence-based therapy proven to work. A third of the PTSD patients at risk of suicide filled prescriptions for benzodiazepines, which also are not proven effective, Hepner said.

One study published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Practice* in 2015 found the class of drugs, which includes Xanax and Valium, could prolong or worsen PTSD.

"Those are meds used to treat sleep apnea and anxiety, but actually have not been helpful in treatment of PTSD," Hepner said. "The clinical practice guidelines suggest benzos could be potentially harmful for patients with PTSD."

# Ex-war crimes prosecutor to quit panel on Syria

*Associated Press*

GENEVA — Former war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte says she is resigning from the U.N.'s independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, decrying Security Council inaction to hold criminals accountable in the war-battered country where “everyone is bad.”

In comments published Sunday by the Swiss magazine *Blick*, Del Ponte expressed frustration about the commission and criticized President Bashar Assad's government, the Syrian opposition and the international community overall.

“We have had absolutely no success,” she told *Blick* on the sidelines of the Locarno film festival Sunday. “For five years, we've been running up against walls.”

Del Ponte, who gained fame as the prosecutor for the international war crimes tribunals that investigated atrocities in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, repeatedly has decried the Security Council's refusal to appoint a similar court for Syria's 6½-year-old civil war. Permanent member Russia, which can veto council actions, is a key backer of Assad's government.

“I give up. The states in the Security

Council don't want justice,” Del Ponte said, adding that she planned to take part in the last meeting in September. “I can't any longer be part of this commission, which simply doesn't do anything.”

Appointed in September 2012, Del Ponte was quoted by *Blick* as saying she now thinks she was put into the role “as an alibi.”

“I've written my letter of resignation already and will post it in the coming days,” she said.

She did not immediately respond to a text message from *The Associated Press* seeking comment.

In her comments to *Blick*, Del Ponte described Syria as a land without a future.

“Believe me, the terrible crimes committed in Syria I neither saw in Rwanda nor ex-Yugoslavia,” she said. “We thought the international community had learned from Rwanda. But no, it learned nothing.”

At first in Syria, “the opposition (members) were the good ones; the government were the bad ones,” she was quoted as saying.

But after six years, Del Ponte concluded: “In Syria, everyone is bad. The Assad government is committing terrible

crimes against humanity and using chemical weapons. And the opposition, that is made up only of extremists and terrorists anymore.”

The commission issued a statement saying it was aware since mid-June of Del Ponte's plans to leave and insisted that its work “must continue” to help bring perpetrators in Syria to justice.

Del Ponte's resignation shrinks the commission to two members after Thai professor and former human rights investigator Vitit Muntarbhorn left last year to become the first-ever U.N. independent expert investigating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The commission was set up in August 2011 by the Human Rights Council to investigate crimes in Syria, no matter who committed them. Since then, it has compiled thousands of interviews and keeps a list of suspected war criminals under lock and key at the offices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

But Del Ponte said that as long as the Security Council didn't put into place a special tribunal for war crimes in Syria, all commission reports were pointless.

## Civilians in ISIS prison in Syria slain in likely airstrike

*Los Angeles Times*

MANSOURA, Syria — The stench grew unbearable as Abdul Aziz Ali walked closer to the heap of shattered concrete and twisted, metal beams that once constituted a prison. Pulling his scarf over his nose, he pointed out a decomposing leg protruding from the rubble. Perhaps an inmate, or a guard.

“No one recognized him,” said Aziz, 40, an unemployed driver who lives in the neighborhood. “Maybe there are more under here.”

The prison was run by Islamic State militants who controlled this city of 12,000 in eastern Syria. Then on May 27, the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, witnesses said, warplanes destroyed it.

People in the town said they didn't know most of the prisoners, who often were brought from other parts of the country for crimes that included smok-

ing, using God's name in vain and wearing beards, pants or abaya gowns too short. Beatings and other forms of torture are common in ISIS prisons.

“I think 100 percent those people were innocent,” said Abdul Sameh, 53, a sheik.

It is unclear who is responsible for destroying the prison. The U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS reported one strike in Mansoura that day, on what it classified as an ISIS headquarters building, coalition spokesman Col. Joe Scrocca said. It was possible that was the prison strike, he said, but — based on GPS data — unlikely.

He also said that the Syrian government or its Russian allies — also fighting ISIS — might be to blame, or that the building could have been damaged by something other than an airstrike, such as artillery or an explosion.

Chris Woods, director of the

London-based monitoring group Airwars, said circumstantial evidence points to the coalition, including the precision of the attack and reports from witnesses who have been under bombardment for years and have learned to identify aircraft.

Since its campaign to remove ISIS from Syria and Iraq began in 2014, the coalition has struggled to balance targeting militants and shielding civilians. Prisons, like schools, hospitals and places of worship, are protected sites under the Geneva Convention laying out humanitarian law during wartime. That makes them potential cover for ISIS.

Airwars has evaluated reports of 12 airstrikes on prisons during the course of the war in which the coalition is suspected — and in eight cases, including Mansoura, determined there is at least “fair” evidence that it was responsible. The group

estimates that the 12 strikes killed at least 66 militants — but also at least 164 civilians, many likely held for violating the strict religious codes enforced by ISIS.

Scrocca dismissed those tallies as “unsubstantiated allegations.”

The coalition makes “extraordinary efforts to protect noncombatants,” he said, and “does not target prisons.”

In some cases cited by Airwars, the buildings targeted were former prisons that no longer held inmates, Scrocca said.

“When a formerly protected site is no longer used for its original purpose and is instead used for a military purpose, it loses its protected status (and) may become a legitimate military target,” he said. “If a former prison building is used as an intelligence headquarters or weapons storage facility, it is no longer a protected site.”



# ICE deports worker at Calif. USAF base

(San Jose, Calif.) Mercury News

Rodrigo Nunez, one of two construction workers detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement while reporting to a new job on Travis Air Force Base, Calif., has been deported, according to activists and his union. The father of three American-born children had been in the U.S. for more than a decade.

"This injustice is the bitter fruit of the administration's cruel and abusive policies," the California Immigrant Youth

Justice Alliance and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades said in a brief statement Friday announcing Nunez's deportation.

Meanwhile, activists are ramping up efforts to free Hugo Mejia, the San Rafael man who was detained with Nunez on the base in May and who remains in custody at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center in Elk Grove.

The men's cases — which reached members of Congress and rallied union workers across the country to campaign

for their release — drew sympathy and support from friends, neighbors and immigrant rights activists who say the men were swept up in an illegal immigration crackdown that was supposed to focus on felons, not people whose only offense was entering the country illegally.

The men were denied immigration hearings in May. ICE did not immediately respond to a phone call and emails for comment Friday. Nunez's family did not comment.

Nunez and Mejia were detained May 3 after a military

official discovered during a routine identification screening that they did not have valid Social Security numbers and reported them to ICE.

ICE officials placed both men in expedited deportation proceedings without a court hearing because they each had old removal orders issued more than a decade ago. Neither had a criminal record, according to their attorneys.

Meanwhile, Nunez, originally from Jalisco, Mexico, leaves behind his wife and three children, ages 12, 10 and 6.

## Retired Army colonel awarded 3rd Bronze Star

Ventura County (Calif.) Star

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Martin Spann is a decorated veteran, having been awarded two Bronze Stars for meritorious service and a Purple Heart for wounds while deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 and 2008.

On Friday, the Simi Valley resident became even more decorated. Spann, 61, was awarded his third Bronze Star in a ceremony at the Museum of Military History in Simi Valley, Calif. Unlike the first two, which were for merit, this one was for the higher honor of valor.

"In Iraq, if you look at the time period from 2003 all

the way to when we left eight years later, there were about 99,000 Bronze Stars awarded for merit. There were only about 2,400 awarded for valor," Spann said in an interview at the ceremony.

"So a very small percentage are awarded for valor," which he said is the fourth-highest military award behind the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service or Navy Cross and the Silver Star.

Spann received his Bronze Star for valor for heroism in Iraq on March 11, 2005.

Serving as a combat adviser to Iraqi commandos in Samarra, Spann rushed to the aid of

a seriously wounded member of the Iraqi security forces despite being under fire from enemy combatants, according to his Bronze Star certificate. After rendering first aid, he continued advancing alone, still under intense fire.

Maneuvering to within feet of the insurgents' position, Spann shot and wounded one of them and forced the surrender of a second, thus eliminating the threat to the Iraqi security forces, the certificate says.

"Lieutenant Colonel Spann's heroic actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the

Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the United States Army," the certificate states.

Spann, dressed in uniform, said he was "very proud" to receive his latest Bronze Star.

"This is an important day for me," he said. "It's an important day for my family also. You know, for all the time I spent over there, you got to have that support system, and that's your wife and kids, so I'm happy to have them here today."

Besides his spouse, Alexa, daughter, Franchesca, 19, and son, Ryan, 16, the ceremony was also attended by about 100 others.

## Burning of weeds caused Ramstein Burger King fire

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

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The Easter fire that destroyed the Burger King on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in April was started by an employee using a blow torch to kill weeds outside the building, German authorities said Monday.

The investigation into the fire's cause determined that a 36-year-old German accidentally sparked the blaze, said Thomas

Lissmann, senior public prosecutor with the Zweibruecken prosecutor's office.

The blaze quickly consumed the building and burned for hours, gutting the restaurant. Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials estimated the structural loss at \$1.6 million.

Lissmann said it's not certain whether the employee will face charges for "negligent arson." At minimum, the man could be required to pay a fine or receive a written warning without any further penalty.

Blow torches for lawn care are popular in Germany, where the use of potentially harmful chemicals is generally frowned upon. The typical device consists of a hose and nozzle attached to a propane tank and releases a small but powerful flame.

Lissmann said people often underestimate how quickly a fire can start when using the burners — "especially when it is dry and someone is using an open fire, something can happen very quickly," he said. De-

spite Burger King's location on a U.S. military facility, German authorities had jurisdiction over the investigation because no U.S. military member was involved, Lissmann said.

Military officials "did not pursue an independent investigation because the incident was not an on-duty accident or mishap and it was not connected to the duties of Air Force personnel," Capt. Kay Nissen, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa spokeswoman, said in a statement.

# N. Korea threatens retaliation over sanctions

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea lashed out Monday against tough new U.N. economic sanctions, threatening to retaliate against the U.S. and insisting its nuclear weapons program is not up for negotiation.

The statement, published by the North's state-run news agency, came hours after President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, agreed on the need to exert "maximum pressure" against the North after it test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month.

The 15-member U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution with measures aimed at punishing North Korea for violating a ban on using ballistic-missile technology. It includes an export ban on coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood worth more than \$1 billion, about a third of its total exports last year.

The U.S.-drafted resolution also prohibits countries from increasing the number of North Korean laborers working abroad and bans new joint ventures with the North as well as any new investments in current joint ventures.

It came amid rising fears of military conflict as Washington and its allies scramble to deal with the growing threat from the communist state.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson opened the window to a possible return to long-stalled negotiations if North Korea ceased

its provocations.

"The best signal that North Korea could give us that they're prepared to talk would be to stop these missile launches," Tillerson said Sunday while in the Philippines for a regional security forum.

North Korea rejected that idea, reiterating its insistence that it won't put its nuclear weapons program on the negotiation table "as long as the U.S. nuclear threats and machinations continue."

"We will never back off even an inch in the way we chose for strengthening our national nuclear power," said a lengthy governmental statement carried on the Korean Central News Agency.

It also warned the U.S. that it would be a mistake to believe "that its land is safe across the ocean."

North Korea vowed "thousands-fold" retaliation "to make the U.S. pay a price for its brutal crime against our country and people," KCNA said.

Diplomatic efforts have intensified following the most recent missile test on July 28. North Korea also conducted two underground nuclear tests last year.

Experts say it has shown surprising progress toward its stated goal of developing a missile that could reach the U.S. mainland but has yet to master the necessary re-entry technology or to miniaturize a nuclear warhead to fit on the tip.

In an hourlong telephone conversation, Trump and Moon "agreed that their countries must put maximum pressure and sanctions on North Korea in cooperation

with the international community to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile programs and choose the right path," presidential spokesman Park Soohyun said.

Moon also said he expects the new resolution will "give momentum to making North Korea change its attitude," Park said. The South Korean leader also reiterated hopes that the North would accept his recent proposal for rare military talks and the resumption of reunions for families split by the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The latest U.N. resolution was notable because it won support from North Korean allies and major trading partners China and Russia.

Beijing has said it is fully committed to enforcing sanctions, but it is urging all sides to return to long-stalled negotiations.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the North not to violate the sanctions decision and to "maintain calm," during a meeting Sunday with his North Korean counterpart, Ri Yong Ho, on the sidelines of a regional security forum in the Philippines.

Tensions also were likely to rise as the U.S. and South Korean militaries gear up for annual joint war games due to begin Aug. 21. North Korea considers the military exercises known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian to be a rehearsal for an invasion despite the allies' insistence that they're defensive in nature.

## Tillerson, Philippine leader to discuss terrorism, rights

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte voiced solidarity with the U.S. as it works to address global concerns about North Korea's nuclear program as the polarizing leader met Monday with the top American diplomat.

Duterte and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson sat down for a meeting while the American was in Manila for a regional Asia gathering. It was the highest-level interaction to date between a member of President Donald Trump's administration and Duterte, accused by human rights groups of flagrant abuses in his bloody war against illegal drugs.

If the two leaders discussed those or other U.S. concerns about Duterte's government, they didn't do so in public. Instead, the two focused on the alliance between the two countries and on the North Korea issue as reporters were allowed in briefly for the start of their meeting.

Duterte's presidential spokesman, Ernesto Bella, said ahead of the meeting that the topic of human rights would indeed come up, along with other pressing matters such as global terrorism threats, economic cooperation and security in Marawi, the city that has been under siege by pro-Islamic State militants for more than two months.

"We also welcome the opportunity to address concerns such as human rights if and when raised," Bella said in a statement. "We have always included this issue in our discussions and engagements with foreign governments, particularly Western democracies."

Human rights groups have questioned the Trump administration's willingness to engage with Duterte. But Tillerson argued there's no contradiction presented by the U.S. decision to help his country fight the militants, whose insurgency in the Philippines has stoked global fears about ISIS exporting violence into Southeast Asia and beyond.

"I see no conflict — no con-

flict at all in our helping them with that situation and our views of the human rights concerns we have with respect to how they carry out their counter-narcotics activities," Tillerson told reporters before the meeting.

To that end, Tillerson said the U.S. has been providing the Philippines with surveillance capabilities, training, information and aircraft to help it fight the militants. He said the equipment includes a few Cessna aircraft and a few drones.

"The real challenge is going to come with once they have the fighting brought to an end how to deal with the conditions on the ground to ensure it does not re-emerge," he said.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man says police raid, charges are wrong

**NM** PORTALES — A New Mexico man facing charges in connection with a breakup of an alleged cockfighting ring in West Texas says the busted event was just a private “poultry show.”

The Eastern New Mexico News reported Kenny Grubbs, of Portales, said Hockley County sheriff’s deputies got it wrong when they raided a house near Levelland, Texas.

Hockley County Sheriff Ray Scifres said evidence and statements made by witnesses refute those claims.

Authorities arrested Grubbs and another man July 28 after deputies raided the home in connection with a suspected illegal cockfighting ring. Officers seized 107 birds, plus sharp blades that can be attached to the legs of roosters.

### Rescued animals are taken to a new home

**RI** TIVERTON — Dozens of animals that authorities say were among about 1,400 found in overcrowded, overheated and dangerous living conditions at a Massachusetts farm have found a new home in Rhode Island.

West Place Animal Sanctuary in Tiverton says some of the animals rescued from Westport Tenant Farm last year have been taken there. The nonprofit organization on Saturday allowed visitors to see the animals.

### Teacher won’t return after anti-Trump tweet

**CA** FRESNO — Fresno State University in California says an American history professor who tweeted that President Donald Trump

“must hang” will not be returning to teach in the fall.

University President Joseph Castro said in a statement Friday that professor Lars Maischak wouldn’t be teaching when classes resume. He said two of his courses would be converted to an online format to fulfill a contractual obligation.

Maischak had taken a voluntary leave of absence after apologizing for the tweet he wrote in April.

It said: “To save American democracy, Trump must hang. The sooner and the higher, the better.”

### Iguana wrangler sought for patrols

**FL** KEY LARGO — Wanted: An iguana wrangler to go on patrol in the Florida Keys.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff posted an opening for a biologist to take the lead on dealing with Keys iguanas.

Iguanas are not considered aggressive but they do have teeth, claws and a whip-like tail that can inflict injury in a tangle with people or pets.

The reptiles are essentially vegetarian, but scientists fear voracious iguanas can devour endangered Keys plants and other plants needed by native species.

### Gun case dismissed over ‘racist’ T-shirt

**DC** WASHINGTON — A judge has dismissed a gun case after prosecutors said an arresting officer may have designed a T-shirt that an advocacy group says has a racist symbol.

The Washington Post reported the dismissal last week in D.C. Superior Court is the first since members of the 7th Police District “Powershift” unit

have come under scrutiny for the shirts.

The black shirt shows the Grim Reaper holding a rifle. Above the image is the word “Powershift” with a cross embedded in the letter “o.” That image is a “sun cross,” which advocacy groups say is used by white supremacist groups.

An internal police investigation of the shirts is underway.

### Lobster boat crew rescues an eagle

**ME** BIRCH HARBOR — A Maine lobster boat crew used some Yankee ingenuity to rescue a waterlogged eagle that it spotted struggling offshore in the North Atlantic.

Lobsterman John Chipman, of Birch Harbor, said July 31 that the struggling bird seemed to be relieved to see his boat and even tried to hop aboard after Chipman found eagle flopping around about a quarter-mile offshore near Schoodic Island.

Two retired police officers aboard the boat with Chipman fashioned a makeshift raft from a life preserver, a piece of plywood and rope to save the eagle.

The eagle hopped aboard the raft and eventually was hauled onto the stern of the boat, where it dried off and then flew away.

### Wheel crashes into windshield, kills driver

**LA** SHREVEPORT — A woman died after a tire and wheel crashed through her vehicle’s windshield on Interstate 20 just across the Louisiana state line from Texas.

Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator said the fatality occurred just after midnight July 29.

A 2017 GMC Yukon traveling east was hit by a tire off of a westbound truck and trailer. The tire went through the wind-

shield, striking Afshin Riaz, 38, of Oklahoma, who was traveling to Florida with her husband and four children.

Riaz was pronounced dead at the scene. Her children and husband were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

### Flamingo shirt gives away shooting suspect

**FL** ORMOND BEACH — Authorities in Florida said a man was arrested in the shooting of a woman last month at a nightclub party after he was identified by his distinctive flamingo-print shirt.

Shantonio Kemp is facing a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The Volusia County Sheriff’s Office said the woman was shot last month at an Ormond Beach, Fla., nightclub. She had a non-life-threatening wound.

Detectives learned that a video of the party had been posted on YouTube and the suspect was in it wearing the telltale shirt.

### Audit checking if city has too many judges

**MD** BALTIMORE — Auditors are looking to see if Baltimore has too many District Court judges.

WBAL-TV reported that the audit is looking at caseloads statewide. Baltimore in particular has seen a significant reduction in cases for judges to hear.

There are 28 judges assigned to Baltimore’s district courts. But caseloads have dropped dramatically since 2005, when a zero-tolerance policy was in effect. In 2005, Baltimore district courts handled more than 6,500 criminal cases each month. Now they handle fewer than 2,300 criminal cases, a 66 percent drop.

From wire reports

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# Jackson chasing second Heisman Trophy

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For 10 games, Lamar Jackson's arm and feet offered regular examples of why the Louisville quarterback won last year's Heisman Trophy.

Then came three straight losses in the midst of collecting all those trophies, a frustrating slide that featured sacks, turnovers and signs the Cardinals junior still had work to do.

Jackson spent the offseason addressing those flaws and has returned bigger, stronger and wiser, all necessary things as he finds new targets to throw to.

"I feel like I've matured," Jackson said Thursday. "I feel like I'm growing on a collegiate level, and hopefully I'll keep going."

That's a scary prospect, considering the 6-foot-3, 212-pound Jackson broke multiple records and compiled a boatload of highlights while amassing 5,114 offensive yards and 51 touchdowns in 2016.

Louisville quarterbacks coach Nick Petrino said Jackson has shown his maturity while learning to work under center this season. While the shotgun remains an

obvious option to use his talents, the goal is broadening his game from a different perspective.

"There was never a problem with him taking snaps. He was always able to do that," said Petrino, the son of Cardinals head coach Bobby Petrino. "It was more the footwork, the timing, all the little techniques and aspects of it. Now, he's really good at it and we can do anything we want under center."

One emphasis is improved ball security, which hurt Jackson down the stretch. The Pompano Beach, Florida, native fumbled once in each of the final three games, a stretch in which he was also sacked 22 times.

Petrino is stressing the importance of tucking the ball when Jackson runs, something the added strength could help.

Jackson's mission this month is bonding with a bunch of targets.

The Cardinals lost their top three receivers in James Quick, tight end Cole Hikutini and Jamari Staples. Sophomore Jaylen Smith (599 yards, six touchdowns) is Louisville's top returning pass-catcher.

Redshirt freshman Dez Fitzpatrick, Seth Dawkins and tight end Charles Standberry are seeking increased roles.

Co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach Lonnie Galloway believes catching passes from college football's top player should provide plenty of motivation.

"There are some guys that have shown through the weight room, spring ball and summer workouts that it's time for them to grow up and go," Galloway said last week.

Eagerly helping that process is Jackson, who has a chance to become only the second repeat Heisman winner and first since Ohio State's Archie Griffin (1974, '75).

Like last year, Jackson is determined to take the next step and help Louisville win an Atlantic Coast Conference championship. Better decision-making and mechanics will help, along with blending with players he hopes will allow him to spread the wealth again.

"They know their plays, they run their routes very good, they've got great hands," Jackson said. "It hasn't been hard at all."

# Montgomery, QB Sirk join forces at ECU

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Thomas Sirk's best season at Duke came when Scottie Montgomery was calling his plays.

Now the quarterback and coach are together again — at East Carolina.

After leaving Duke following a pair of injuries to his Achilles tendon, Sirk is back on the field — this time as a graduate transfer at East Carolina for Montgomery, his former offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach who's in his second year as the Pirates' head man.

"I'm blessed just to go out there every day and play the game I love so much again," Sirk said Saturday. "I didn't want to look back and say, 'What if?' I love to play football, I love to be out there practicing with the guys, I love being around the environment of the locker room — just everything about it, to me, it's a blessing to be back here and

to have another opportunity to get to do it."

When Sirk left Duke and sought someplace to play his final college season, East Carolina immediately emerged as the obvious landing spot because of that relationship with Montgomery.

"If I hadn't worked with him before," Montgomery said, "he wouldn't be here."

Yet it isn't quite as easy as simply handing the job to Sirk.

He's got to earn it during preseason camp, where he's battling with Gardner Minshew, who started the final two games of 2016. Montgomery says he wants to sort the position out later this month after a couple of scrimmages.

"I'd like to know where we're headed and the direction that we're going ... so that it's clear, and our team is not wondering what's going on," Montgomery said.

He certainly knows what Sirk can do when he's fully healthy.

Sirk — the only quarterback to win a bowl game at Duke since 1961 — was the Blue Devils' leading rusher in 2015 with 809 yards and eight touchdowns to go with 2,624 yards passing and 16 more scores while executing the plays called by Montgomery — Duke's offensive coordinator that year.

He was hired by East Carolina after the regular season ended, but both schools agreed to let him coach the Pinstripe Bowl as a farewell.

That final game was one to remember: A 44-41 victory over Indiana at Yankee Stadium in which Sirk threw for two touchdowns, rushed for two more, rolled up 318 total yards and earned co-MVP honors.

That wound up being Sirk's final game at Duke, too. He ruptured his Achilles tendon in February 2016, then worked his way back to full health before reinjuring the tendon during preseason practice last year and missing the season.

Meanwhile, redshirt fresh-

man Daniel Jones took over as the Blue Devils' QB. And when it became clear that Jones had established himself as Duke's quarterback in 2017 and beyond, Sirk opted to transfer.

And now that nearly a full year has passed since his last Achilles tendon injury, Sirk says he feels fully healthy and during practice is running zone-read keepers and other staples of the Montgomery playbook he's understood for years.

"That's the biggest fear that you have coming into camp — am I really ready?" Sirk said. "Because going into last year's camp, I asked myself the same question."

"Last year, I was preparing to get back on the field on a set date. Now I've had more time, I've really listened to my body, I've had time to focus on my health and I'm going out there with the confidence that I'm ready to go."



# Severino dominates, Yanks rock Indians

BY TOM WITHERS

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Their offense sputtering for nearly a week, the Yankees needed a break.

A fly ball, the sun and Abraham Almonte combined to give them one.

Almonte misplayed Jacoby Ellsbury's shot to right field in the sixth inning into a three-run triple, Luis Severino overpowered Cleveland's lineup into the seventh inning and Aaron Judge hammered a three-run homer as New York rolled to a 8-1 win over the Indians on Sunday.

With the score tied 1-1 in the sixth, Ellsbury sent a deep drive off Carlos Carrasco (10-5) that Almonte seemed to track

while fighting a tough sky. But as he neared the wall, Almonte, who returned from the minors on Saturday, didn't extend his glove and braced for impact well shy of the wall as the ball bounced off its base, allowing three runs to score.

Ball game.

"You hope it goes over the wall," said Ellsbury. "But I'll take a triple any day, especially with three runners on. I'm happy it found some turf."

Almonte didn't make any excuses and accepted blame for not making the play.

"It's a ball that should have been caught," said Almonte, who sat at his locker and reviewed the play on a tablet with Indians bench coach Brad Mills following the game. "It was not

an easy fly ball, but it should have been caught."

The Yankees scored five runs in the sixth — matching their total in the past four games — and bounced back from two sloppy losses to split the series with the defending AL champs.

Severino (9-4) gave up Michael Brantley's homer in the first and then toyed with the Indians, striking out nine and allowing just three runners to reach. He didn't give up his second hit until there were two outs in the seventh and was pulled by manager Joe Girardi before getting a roaring ovation from several thousand New York fans.

The All-Star right-hander is 4-0 with a 0.71 ERA in his last four starts.

"He has continued to improve

all year long," Yankees manager Joe Girardi. "I'm seeing him do things now that he didn't do early on."

Other than allowing Brantley's homer, Severino was rarely in any trouble. He put himself in a bind in the fourth with a leadoff walk and wild pitch, but locked down and retired Cleveland's 3-4-5 hitters to keep it 1-0.

Brantley touched Severino for a homer in the first, but the Indians didn't make much hard contact off the 23-year-old.

"That's as impressive of stuff as you're going to see," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "The fastball, everybody sees that, but he's gaining confidence in an off-speed. That's a tough guy to face."

# Wieters' slam in 8th lifts Nationals past Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — In a span of two pitches, the Washington Nationals turned what could've been a tight loss into an uplifting win.

Bryce Harper and company are one dangerous bunch on the road.

Matt Wieters hit a tiebreaking grand slam off Carl Edwards Jr. in Washington's five-run eighth inning, helping the Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 9-4 on Sunday.

"We're kind of a MASH unit out there but everybody is contributing," Washington manager Dusty Baker said. "That helps a lot when you can take two out of three without your top starters. ... That was a big game for us to win."

Harper started the go-ahead rally with a one-out infield single against Mike Montgomery. Ryan Zimmerman doubled against Edwards (3-3) and Daniel Murphy was walked intentionally to load the bases.

Edwards' next pitch hit Anthony Rendon, tying it at 4, and Wieters followed with a drive over the wall in center for his third career grand slam.

"It was a first-pitch breaking ball, but out of his hands I recognized it up and it was some-

thing that I felt like I could get in the air and it just happened to carry it out," Wieters said.

Wieters tied a career high with five RBIs and Rendon also had a run-scoring double for NL East-leading Washington, which improved to 36-22 on the road. Brian Goodwin homered, drove in two runs and robbed Jon Jay of a hit with a terrific diving catch on a sinking liner to center in the seventh.

**Dodgers 8, Mets 0:** Justin Turner's caught stealing turned into a two-out stolen base when a video review determined he reached around Amed Rosario to evade the rookie shortstop's tag, sparking a three-run first inning that started record-setting Los Angeles to its first season sweep of host New York.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (4-6), Tony Cingrani and Kenley Jansen combined on a one-hitter, and rookie Cody Bellinger hit his 32nd homer, a 447-foot, two-run drive in the eighth.

**Astros 7, Blue Jays 6:** Juan Centeno hit an RBI single with two outs that capped a four-run rally in the ninth inning, lifting host Houston over Toronto.

**Cardinals 13, Reds 4:** Jose Martinez hit his first grand slam during the Cardinals'

nine-run fourth inning, and visiting St. Louis overcame Adam Wainwright's rough return from the disabled list to beat Cincinnati.

**Rays 2, Brewers 1:** Steven Souza Jr. homered off Milwaukee reliever Jacob Barnes leading off the ninth inning to lift host Tampa Bay over the Brewers.

**Marlins 4, Braves 1:** Jose Urena pitched six strong innings, Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer and visiting Miami averted a three-game sweep by beating Atlanta.

**Pirates 5, Padres 4 (12):** Sean Rodriguez homered in the 12th inning to give host Pittsburgh a win over San Diego.

Rodriguez, acquired from Atlanta a day earlier, lifted a 1-1 pitch off Padres reliever Buddy Baumann (0-1) over the left-field wall.

**Phillies 3, Rockies 2:** At Denver, Cameron Rupp hit a two-run double in the ninth inning, and visiting Philadelphia rallied to beat Colorado.

**Giants 6, Diamondbacks 3:** Jeff Samardzija pitched into the seventh inning to win his third consecutive start and host San Francisco beat Arizona.

**Red Sox 6, White Sox 3:**

Chris Young hit two homers, including a tiebreaking three-run shot after the batter in front was walked intentionally, to lift host Boston over Chicago.

**Orioles 12, Tigers 3:** Jonathan Schoop, Chris Davis and Trey Mancini homered in succession during a four-run first inning that sent host Baltimore past Detroit.

**Twins 6, Rangers 5:** Max Kepler, Brian Dozier and Eddie Rosario homered to help host Minnesota dig out of a five-run hole and beat Texas.

**Athletics 11, Angels 10:** Bruce Maxwell's two-run single completed a dramatic five-run, two-out comeback in the eighth inning, and visiting Oakland stunned Los Angeles.

The Angels led 10-5 after the sixth but couldn't hold on against an A's team that hammered them with 18 hits, including three home runs and seven doubles.

**Mariners 8-1, Royals 7-9:** Rookie Jakob Junis pitched eight sharp innings and host Kansas City beat Seattle to split their doubleheader.

Nelson Cruz homered twice and drove in four runs as the Mariners held off the Royals 8-7 in the first game.



## Sports briefs

### Former MVP, manager of year Baylor dead

AUSTIN, Texas — Don Baylor, the 1979 AL MVP with the California Angels who went on to become manager of the year with the Colorado Rockies in 1995, has died. He was 68.

Baylor died Monday at a hospital in Austin, Texas, his son, Don Baylor Jr., told the Austin American-Statesman. His wife, Rebecca Baylor, confirmed the death in a statement posted on Major League Baseball's website. He battled multiple myeloma for more than 10 years.

Baylor played in all 162 games in 1979 and finished with career highs in homers (36), RBIs (139), hits (186) and runs (120) while helping the Angels to the American League West title before they lost to Baltimore in the AL championship series.

He was the first manager of the expansion Rockies, leading them to their first playoff appearance in the franchise's third season. He also managed the Chicago Cubs.

In other baseball news:

■ Darren Daulton, the All-Star catcher who was the leader of the Philadelphia Phillies' NL championship team in 1993, has died. He was 55.

Daulton had battled brain cancer since 2013. He had two tumors removed during brain surgery on July 1, 2013, but nine days later was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer that also took the lives of his former teammate Tug McGraw and former coach John Vukovich.

### Former French Open finalist Errani banned

LONDON — Former French Open finalist Sara Errani must serve a two-month doping ban after testing positive for the banned substance letrozole in a test taken in February, the International Tennis Federation said Monday.

Errani blamed contamination from her mother's breast cancer medication.

An adjudication panel ruled that Errani's fault was "at the lower end of the scale," but that she should still be banned for two months from Aug. 3.

— Associated Press

# Truex earns fourth victory of season

Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Cross another track off the list for Martin Truex Jr.

Truex held off a charging Matt Kenseth on the final lap Sunday and won the NASCAR Cup race at Watkins Glen International, stretching his fuel to the triumphant end. It was his first victory at The Glen and the second road course win of his career.

"I'm a little bit lost for words at the moment just because I've been thinking about this one a long time — all weekend, all day," Truex said. "Then, at the end there, it's just so hard there to let guys pass you for the lead. You've just got to listen to your crew chief."

Crew chief Cole Pearn made the right calls and didn't flinch when the No. 78 Toyota was passed twice in the closing laps.

"It's a product of our relationship," said an emotional Pearn, mourning the sudden death of his best friend. "We don't squabble. We don't argue. He's a smart guy. He knew the situation we were in and did the right thing. Two years ago, I don't know that we win that race."

Truex gained the lead when Penske Racing's Brad Keselowski in the No. 2 Ford and Ryan Blaney in the No. 21 Ford for the Wood Brothers were forced to pit in the final three laps.

"It's excruciating to go that slow here and try to save that much fuel," Truex said. "The toughest part, really, was just watching the No. 2 pass and go on, and then watching the No. 21 pass and go on. It's like, 'All right, if they don't run out of gas, we're going to look really dumb.' Fortunately, it worked out for us."

Trailing by 3 seconds after saving fuel for several laps, Truex assumed the lead when Blaney ducked into the pits as the white flag was about to fly. Despite a bobble and locking the

brakes as Kenseth challenged on the last lap, Truex won for the fourth time this season.

"He was so fast, I still couldn't get to him," said Kenseth, who maintained his slim points lead over Clint Bowyer for the final slot in the playoffs with four races to go before the cutoff. "I was racing as hard as I could, trying to make as many passes as I could."

Daniel Suarez was third, the best finish of his rookie season, followed by Denny Hamlin and Bowyer. Pole-sitter Kyle Busch was seventh.

Truex boosted his playoff points total to a whopping 34, nearly double that of second-place Jimmie Johnson (18) as his best season shows no signs of tailing off.

"I feel like with the way we run, coupled with the bonus points, we should be a lock for (the season finale at) Home-Steak," Truex said. "But at the same time, this is racing and anything can happen."

Busch, who dominated qualifying earlier in the day, was the class of the field early and gained a big lead after the green flag dropped and led all 20 laps of the first stage. By the eighth time around the 2.45-mile circuit, Busch held a 3.4-second lead over Truex, while Keselowski in sixth was 10 seconds behind. It was Busch's ninth stage win of the season.

Busch, who overcame a pit road penalty early in Saturday's Xfinity race at The Glen and rallied to win, had to return to the pits after his first stop to check for a loose wheel and restarted 34th. By the end of the second stage, he had worked his way back through the field and was ninth at the end, in contention again.

In his final race at Watkins Glen, Dale Earnhardt Jr. had to drop out when he experienced valve train problems early in the second stage and parked his No. 88 Chevy in the garage.

## NFL briefs

### Cutler agrees to 1-year deal with Dolphins

DAVIE, Fla. — Jay Cutler has decided to postpone retirement for the chance to be Ryan Tannehill's replacement.

Cutler agreed to terms Sunday on a contract with the Miami Dolphins, a person familiar with the situation said. The person confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Dolphins weren't expected to announce the deal until Cutler signed the \$10 million, one-year deal.

Dolphins coach Adam Gase was offensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears when Cutler had a career-best quarterback rating with them in 2015. Gase joined Miami in 2016, and Cutler parted with Chicago in March after eight seasons.

### Browns' Osweiler to start exhibition opener

BEREA, Ohio — Brock Osweiler didn't appear to be in Cleveland's plans when he arrived via trade in March.

Now he's starting the Browns' exhibition opener.

Coach Hue Jackson picked Osweiler over Cody Kessler, rookie DeShone Kizer and Kevin Hogan to start Thursday's preseason home game against the New Orleans Saints. Osweiler, who started 14 games for Houston last season, has not taken snaps with the starting offense during camp, but he'll be the first one on the field, with a chance to impress Jackson and potentially win the full-time starting job.

### Falcons' Collins gets 10-game suspension

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — For the second straight year, Atlanta Falcons cornerback Jalen Collins will be suspended for the start of the season for a violation of the league's policy on performance enhancers.

This time, the suspension carries a bigger bite: 10 games.

The NFL announced Sunday that Collins has been suspended without pay for the first 10 games of the 2017 season. He was suspended for the first four games in 2016.

— Associated Press