

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy orders broad review of practices

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
AND TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top officer Monday ordered a service-wide operational pause and a broad review of naval practices in the Pacific after the latest at-sea collision of an American warship and a commercial oil tanker.

Top Navy commanders worldwide are expected to use the pause to ensure their sailors understand and practice proper safety procedures, Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said Monday. It was not immediately clear when the pause would occur or how long it would last.

Richardson asked Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, to conduct the "comprehensive review" of practices in the Pacific just hours after the USS John S. McCain collided with the Liberian-flagged Alnic MC oil tanker east of Singapore, injuring five sailors and leaving 10 missing.

The guided-missile destroyer, from Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, was traveling to Singapore for a routine port visit when the collision occurred, a Navy statement said.

The ship's hull suffered "significant damage" that resulted in flooding in the crew berthing, machinery and communications rooms.

Search-and-rescue efforts were still underway for the missing sailors, assisted by vessels and aircraft from the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Singapore navy and police coast guard, as well as MV-22 Ospreys and SH-60 helicopters from the USS America amphibious-assault ship, officials said.

This was the second devastating collision of a destroyer and a merchant ship in the Pacific in about two months, after seven sailors aboard the USS Fitzgerald were killed in June near Japan.

"This trend demands more forceful action," Richardson said in a video to sailors Monday.

Davidson's investigation would be separate from others into the Fitzgerald and McCain collisions. It will be conducted on a "tight timeline," Richardson said, and it will include a diverse team of Navy officers and enlisted men, with input from other military services and the private sector.

The CNO said it would look at individuals' performance, the Navy's operational tempo, maintenance and equipment.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, speaking Monday from Amman, Jordan, said he supported Richardson's actions.

The collision Monday was the fourth accident this year among warships in the Navy's Pacific Fleet. The guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam ran aground off Japan's coast in January. Another cruiser, USS Lake Champlain, in May collided with a South Korean fishing boat, and the deadly Fitzgerald collision with a cargo ship occurred June 17.

The Navy last week removed from duty the commander, executive officer and command master chief of the Fitzgerald after a preliminary investigation found that the ship's leadership had lost situational awareness before the avoidable collision.

Several junior officers who had served as watch standers for the bridge and combat-information center were also relieved of their duties due to "poor seamanship and

flawed teamwork," according to 7th Fleet.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said it was notified of the accident at 5:30 a.m. Monday when the John S. McCain requested tug assistance. The roughly 600-foot, 30,040-ton commercial vessel suffered damage to its "Fore Peak Tank" 7 meters above the waterline and had no crew injuries, the statement said.

The John S. McCain is 505 feet long and weighs about 8,300 tons with a full load.

The collision happened east of the Strait of Malacca, which is the shortest sea route between India and China and one of the world's busiest shipping channels.

Navy ships are frequent visitors to Singapore, which is home to Task Force 73 and Command Logistics Group Western Pacific — teams that arm, fuel, feed and support 7th Fleet operations in the region. U.S. littoral combat ships have been forward deployed there since 2013.

There have been serious accidents in the congested seas, said Ian Chong, an assistant professor in the National University of Singapore's political science department.

"Singapore is one of the busiest ports in the world," he said. The area where Monday's collision happened "is the eastern entrance to the port and there is a lot of shipping going in and out."

Maritime authorities in Singapore have tried to improve monitoring and signaling in the shipping lanes, but the volume of traffic makes their job tough, Chong said.

"There are thousands of ships going in and out ... It's really difficult for operators to keep track of everything that is going on and provide a fair warning before a collision is imminent."

## USS Bush returns home following deployment

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The USS George H.W. Bush was set to arrive at Norfolk, Va., on Monday, finishing a seven-month deployment during which it launched airstrikes against Islamic State from the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean.

The Bush strike group's 7,000

sailors were deployed on Jan. 21 to join Operation Inherent Resolve, a U.S.-led effort to fight ISIS in Syria and Afghanistan.

The strike group provided air support to coalition ground forces as they drove ISIS from the Iraqi city of Mosul, which the militants had controlled for three years.

The airstrikes also helped U.S.-backed Syrian forces push into Raqqa, ISIS' self-declared capital in Syria. In all, the Bush launched more than 1,900 combat sorties and dropped about 1,700 pieces of ordnance, The Virginian-Pilot reported.

This was the carrier's second anti-ISIS deployment. In 2014, the Bush launched the first air-

strikes when the U.S. intervention began.

The USS Nimitz took over on Aug. 1 and is now launching sorties from the Persian Gulf. The Bush took part in Saxon Warrior, a multinational maritime exercise near the British coastline, before heading back to Norfolk.

# Looking beyond Afghanistan, NATO sees an urban battlefield

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — The U.S.-led NATO alliance says it isn't adequately prepared for urban combat and is asking defense contractors for help in reshaping its fighting forces.

The allies see capability gaps in close-quarters warfare, where enemies can create confusion as they mingle with large populations, according to a contract proposal posted by NATO's Norfolk, Va.-based transformation headquarters.

"NATO is not sufficiently organized, trained, or equipped to comprehensively understand and execute precise operations across the maritime, cyberspace, land, air, space dimensions/domains" in densely populated coastal cities, stated

the bid proposal, which closed Monday.

For three years, NATO's transformation office has worked on a strategy for coping with global population shifts.

The United Nations predicts that by 2035 the world population will increase to 8.7 billion people, an increase of 1.4 billion people, and that most of this growth will take place in developing countries and in urban areas.

"Studies, based upon global demographic trends, suggest that an increasing percentage of armed conflicts will likely be fought in urban surroundings," the NATO contract proposal stated.

NATO wants an "overarching" concept to explore and raise awareness of threats, the proposal said.

The contract coincides with the NATO Military Committee's tasking to Allies Command Transformation to produce a conceptual study on urbanization and its military implications.

"(It) is a matter of when, not if, the military will be required to operate in urban environments," NATO's urbanization project team stated.

NATO's increased focus on urban conflict comes as the alliance continues to send troops into Afghanistan, where allies have waged a long, bloody campaign in mostly rural terrain.

While coalition troops are no longer involved in day-to-day combat, they are training Afghan forces struggling against a durable Taliban force that has evaded defeat during the 16-year campaign against it.

# Bergdahl opts for judge to decide

By DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Bowe Bergdahl, the Army sergeant accused of desertion in Afghanistan, has chosen to be tried by a judge rather than a military jury.

In a sparse one-line filing this week, his lawyers told the court that he prefers a military judge. The accused has the right to make that choice.

His lead attorney Eugene Fiddell confirmed the decision, but declined to comment.

The decision was made after the return of questionnaires submitted by Bergdahl's defense team to prospective jurors. In June, the Army judge overseeing the case, Col. Jeffrey R. Nance, granted the defense permission to submit a private 41-question survey to each potential juror about President Donald Trump. Nance denied the defense its request to include a question asking whether they voted for Trump.

The lawyers said they wanted to ensure that their client receives a fair trial in the wake of more than 60 disparaging remarks Trump made about Bergdahl during the 2015-16 election campaign.

Bergdahl, 31, is slated to go on trial in October on charges that he deserted his post in eastern Afghanistan in 2009.

After walking off his base, he was captured and held hostage by the Taliban for five years. He was released in 2014 in a prisoner exchange.

The Army charged Bergdahl with "misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place" and "desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty" in March 2015.

He has yet to enter a plea to the charges.

# S. Korea, US kick off joint war games

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea began joint war games Monday, raising fears of a fresh crisis in the standoff with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program.

The mainly computerized annual exercise known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian comes as tensions have eased following a fierce standoff that saw North Korea threaten to fire missiles into the waters near Guam.

The simulations, which are carried out in bunkers and are designed to hone command decision-making and readiness, are to run through Aug. 31 and involve 17,500 U.S. service members, with approximately 3,000 coming from off the divided peninsula, officials said.

North Korea considers joint exercises a rehearsal for an invasion and frequently responds furiously.

The communist state issued a fresh warning on Sunday, saying Washington's "reckless behavior" was "driving the situation into the uncontrollable phase of a nuclear war."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in stressed the exercises were defensive in nature and warned Pyongyang not to use them as a pretext for provocations.

Some 50,000 South Korean soldiers are expected to participate in the exercise, according to Yonhap News Agency. The South Korean side also will conduct a nationwide civil-defense drill on Wednesday.

Seven other member states of the United Nations Command — Australia, Canada, Colom-

bia, Denmark, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Britain — also are involved.

As is the usual practice, the U.N. Command Military Armistice Commission, which oversees the agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, informed the North Korean army about the drills Monday via its mission in the truce village of Panmunjom, according to U.S. Forces Korea's public affairs office.

Three U.S. military commanders — Adm. Harry Harris, head of Pacific Command; Gen. John Hyten, head of the Strategic Command; and Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, director of the Missile Defense Agency — traveled to the peninsula and planned to observe the exercise this week.



## Trump approves memorial for Iraq, Afghan war dead

BY DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — More than 15 years into the Global War on Terrorism, the U.S. president signed a bill approving the construction of a national memorial honoring those who have fought and died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 — and those doing so today.

President Donald Trump signed the bill at Camp David on Friday, where he held meetings with national security leadership to discuss the latest strategy in Afghanistan. He was flanked by his national security team and White House chief of staff Marine Gen. John Kelly, who commanded troops in Iraq and lost a son in Afghanistan.

With the fighting still going on, the legislation to create the memorial required an exception from the 1986 Commemorative Works Act requiring Congress to wait 10 years after the official end of a military conflict before considering a memorial in the nation's capital. A similar bill proposed last year did not go through.

The law authorizes the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to oversee the fundraising, design and construction of the memorial.

"Today's historic signing is dedicated to our 3 million brothers and sisters who have deployed in the Global War on Terror, especially to the ones we have lost, and those who face great obstacles since their return home," Andrew Brennan, founder and executive director of the foundation, said in a statement. "We're looking forward to building a sacred place of healing and remembrance for our veterans and their families and want to thank our partners and advocates who worked tirelessly on Capitol Hill to pass this bipartisan legislation."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 2.5 million Americans are estimated to have deployed in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Department of Defense says nearly 7,000 have been killed and 52,000 have been wounded. About 20 percent of veterans returning from those conflicts struggle with post-traumatic stress, according to the release.

The foundation hopes to raise \$40 million to \$50 million for the privately funded memorial. It plans to seek federal approval to build it on the National Mall and to hold a national competition for its design. The project is expected to be completed in 2024 — 10 years after Brennan, a former Army captain who flew Black Hawks in the Afghanistan War, conceived of the project.

The memorial will include six themes: endurance, sacrifice, all-volunteer, global, multicultural and unfinished.

## US-led Iraqi forces near ISIS-held town of Tal Afar

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

IRBIL, Iraq — Iraqi forces are closing in on the Islamic State-held town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, the U.S.-led coalition said Monday, but they have not yet pushed into the town itself, which some commanders are calling a "microcosm" of Mosul where resistance will be stronger.

Though the militants lost in Mosul, they're expected to incorporate lethal lessons learned there in defense of the town, which is about 90 miles from the Syrian border and one of the last pockets in Iraq controlled by the jihadi group.

The operation to retake Tal Afar began Sunday, and the Iraqis had retaken about 90 square miles outside the town, mostly in the city's east and southwest, within the first 24 hours, said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman. ISIS has put up some resistance outside the town, but the forces are expected to fall back to the urban center, where they will mount their main defense and slow the pace of the Iraqi advance.

"Similarly to Raqqa and Mosul, we have seen ISIS really defend — the core of their defenses, where it emanates — is going to be from these urban centers," Dillon said.

Officials expect Tal Afar to be less of a challenge than Mosul, but some say it won't be easy. As in Mosul and outlying villages, Iraqi forces are expected to face a dug-in enemy with many car bombs hidden in buildings throughout the town, Army Maj. Gen. Robert White, a coalition commander in Iraq, said earlier this month.

White said he expects ISIS' battle-hardened fighters to make deadly adjustments to their defensive tactics, drawing on the successes they had in bogging down Iraqi

forces in the nine-month battle for Mosul.

"You will see pretty much the same thing you saw in Mosul," White said. "The nuances that may occur ... would be a slight tweak on how they (ISIS) employ both their indirect fires and their direct fires inside an urban terrain."

ISIS fighters in Mosul used berms to slow the Iraqi advance. As government forces approached, they fired mortars and artillery, and as the troops closed on their positions, they unleashed hidden suicide car bombs against tanks and armored vehicles.

The Iraqis know those tactics and have adapted to them, White said, but they will need to be prepared for ISIS to try new ways to draw them into urban traps.

"That ranges from a sniper to a three-man enemy team that has rifles and automatic rifles, to try to draw the Iraqis into an engagement area," he said.

The Iraqis learned in Mosul to use small drones to help them avoid walking into ambushes. Advancing troops were supported by the U.S.-led coalition with intelligence, combat advising and precision strikes.

All branches of the Iraqi Security Forces are participating, officials have said. Coalition advisers are nearby, alongside Iraqi commanders, Dillon said, "just like we've been with them in east Mosul, west Mosul, Ramadi (and) Fallujah." He declined to give the number of advisers.

Tal Afar was a stronghold of anti-American resistance after the 2003 invasion of that country. It was where current national security adviser H.R. McMaster developed the highly effective counterinsurgency strategy that became a model for Gen. David Petraeus' subsequent "surge," whose success led to the withdrawal of most U.S. forces in 2011.

## Afghan police: Taliban attack in north

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan police official says that the Taliban have launched an attack in northern Jawzjan province, trying to capture the district headquarters and setting off heavy fighting.

Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani, the provincial police chief, said a fierce gunbattle is underway on Monday between the Afghan security forces and the insurgents in Khamab district.

He said the security forces are trying to

repel the attack.

Some unconfirmed reports claimed that the Taliban have seized control of the Khamab district headquarters.

Turkistani didn't confirm that and the Taliban have not commented on the attack yet.

Turkistani did say that the insurgents gained control of several villages nearby recently, and that Afghan forces put up no resistance.

Taliban attacks have stepped up all across Afghanistan, with the insurgents constantly expanding their footprint.

# Eyes turn skyward to view historic eclipse

Associated Press

Americans gazed through telescopes, cameras and protective glasses Monday as the moon began blotting out the sun in the first full-blown solar eclipse to sweep the U.S. from coast to coast in nearly a century.

The celestial show was expected to be the most observed and photographed eclipse in history, with millions staking out prime viewing spots and settling into lawn chairs to watch, especially along the path of totality — the projected line of shadow created when the sun is completely obscured.

The path of totality was 60 to 70 miles wide, running from Oregon to South Carolina.

Darkness along the path lasted for only two to three minutes in any one spot.

With 200 million people within a day's drive from the path of totality, towns and parks braced for monumental crowds. Clear skies beckoned along most of the route, to the relief of those who feared clouds would spoil this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

Astronomers were giddy with excitement. A solar eclipse is considered one of the grandest of cosmic spectacles.

With a half-hour to go before totality, NASA's acting administrator, Robert Lightfoot, enjoyed the moon's "first bites out of the sun" from a plane flying over the Oregon coast and declared it "just an incredible view."

"I'm about to fight this man for a window seat," Lightfoot said, referring to a fellow NASA scientist.

The Earth, moon and sun line up perfectly every one to three years, briefly turning day into night for a sliver of the planet. But these sights normally are in no man's land, like the vast Pacific or Earth's poles. This is the first eclipse of the social media era to pass through such a heavily populated area.

The moon hasn't thrown this much shade at the U.S. since 1918. That was the country's last coast-to-coast total eclipse. In fact, the U.S. mainland hasn't seen a total solar eclipse since 1979 — and even then, only five states in the Northwest experi-

enced total darkness.

Scientists said Monday's total eclipse would cast a shadow that would race 2,600 miles through 14 states, entering near Lincoln City, Ore., at 1:16 p.m. EDT and exiting near Charleston, S.C., at 2:47 p.m. EDT.

NASA and other scientists were in position to watch and analyze from telescopes on the ground and in orbit, the International Space Station, airplanes and scores of high-altitude balloons beaming back live video.

Citizen scientists also planned to monitor animal and plant behavior as day turned into twilight and the temperature dropped. Thousands streamed into the Nashville Zoo just to watch the animals' reaction.

## 1 dead as van rams bus stops in France

Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France — A van rammed into two bus stops in the French port city of Marseille on Monday, killing one person and injuring another, but investigators ruled out terrorism as a motive, police said.

The van's driver was a 35-year-old from the Grenoble region in eastern France who was being treated for psychological problems, a Marseille police official said.

The collisions at the bus stops about 3 miles apart came days after back-to-back van attacks in Barcelona and Spanish resort town of Cambrils killed 15 people.

It was the second time in a week in which a driver in France with mental health problems allegedly killed a person with a vehicle and was thought by authorities to have acted deliberately.

The Marseille driver was arrested in the Old Port area of France's second-largest city and held for questioning.

A man was injured at the first bus stop in a working class northern district filled with

housing projects, David-Olivier Reverdy, of the Alliance police union said.

The van later rammed into another bus stop in a second neighborhood, killing a woman. The driver steered onto the curb to crash into the glass-sided bus shelter then sped away, one witness said.

La Provence newspaper reported that the suspect came to Marseille specifically for psychiatric treatment in a specialized institution. The paper did not name its sources and the police official could not confirm the report.

On Aug. 14, a driver rammed his car into a crowded pizzeria east of Paris, killing an adolescent girl and injuring a dozen other people.

A prosecutor has described the driver, a 32-year-old security guard, as under the influence of drugs and showing signs of paranoia, but not motivated by extremist views. He is facing murder charges after a psychiatric exam determined his judgment was not impaired and he could be held legally responsible for his actions.

## Barcelona suspect shot dead

Associated Press

SUBIRATS, Spain — A man thought to be the driver in the Barcelona van attack was shot dead by Spanish police Monday after authorities announced he also was suspected of killing the owner of a hijacked getaway car. The fugitive was wearing a bomb belt, authorities said.

Younes Abouyaaqoub was shot when officers confronted him in Subirats, a rural area known for its vineyards about 28 miles west of Barcelona, police in Spain's Catalonia region said. A bomb disposal robot was dispatched to approach him, police said.

Abouyaaqoub, 22, had been the target of an international manhunt that raised fears throughout the region since Thursday's van attack in Barcelona.

Authorities said Monday they have evidence Abouyaaqoub drove the van that plowed down the city's famed Las Ramblas promenade, killing 13 pedestrians and injuring more than 120 others.

They said Abouyaaqoub, who was born in Morocco and has Spanish residency, also is suspected of carjacking and stabbing a man to death as Abouyaaqoub made his getaway, raising the death toll between

the Barcelona attack and a related attack hours later to 15.

Roser Ventura, whose father owns a vineyard between the towns of Sadurn d'Anoia and Subirats, said he alerted the regional Catalan police when they spotted a car crossing their property at high speed.

"The police told us to leave the premises and go home. We heard a helicopter flying around and many police cars coming toward the gas station that is some 600 meters from the property," Ventura said.

Abouyaaqoub was believed to be the lone attacker on the run by Sunday. Authorities hadn't confirmed his identity because they were having difficulty identifying the remains of at least two extremists who died Wednesday in an explosion at a house in Alcanar where explosives were being prepared.

The explosion destroyed the house, but police found remnants of over 100 butane gas tanks and materials needed for the TATP explosive, which has been used previously by Islamic State militants.

Those discoveries, and reports that Abouyaaqoub had rented three vans, suggested the militant cell was making plans for an even more massive attack on the city.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Scammers rob town of almost \$60,000

**CO** SNOWMASS VILLAGE — Email scammers have robbed the Colorado resort town of Snowmass of almost \$60,000.

Town officials say they aren't optimistic about getting the money back.

The Aspen Daily News reported that the fraud happened July 18. The culprits mimicked a town email account to request a money transfer. The transaction appeared related to construction materials, and the town's finance department paid the money.

Town officials noticed the crime the following week and reported it to police.

Town Manager Clint Kinney said no employee's personal information was compromised.

### Suit: Property owner lowered rent for sex

**NY** OSWEGO — The owner of an amusement park named Santa's Workshop is being sued by six women who claim he demanded sex in exchange for lower rents at his central New York properties.

The lawsuit, filed earlier this month in federal court in Syracuse, accuses Douglas Waterbury, of Oswego, of sexually harassing the women starting in 2012. They claim he demanded sex in return for lower rents and maintenance work at their apartments.

CNY Fair Housing, a non-profit organization, joined the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

In addition to rental properties in Oswego, Waterbury also owns an amusement park on Oneida Lake, the Renaissance Fair in Sterling on Lake Ontario and Santa's Workshop in the Adirondacks near Lake Placid.

### Police: Woman used toddler as shield

**ME** JAY — Police said a woman used her 2-year-old as a shield during her arrest.

Officers said the episode unfolded after they responded to a dispute between neighbors in the town of Jay. Police said they arrived Tuesday evening to find a 30-year-old woman screaming obscenities at the person who made the call.

Officers attempted to arrest the woman, and they said a 31-year-old man tried to block them. The woman then tried to use the child as a shield.

WABI-TV reported the woman has been charged with assault, harassment and refusal to submit to arrest. The man is facing charges for obstructing government administration.

Both the man and the woman are facing child-endangerment charges.

### 1K trees to be given away to homeowners

**RI** PROVIDENCE — State environmental officials are once again working with the Arbor Day Foundation to give away 1,000 trees this spring to help homeowners conserve energy, reduce utility costs and beautify their neighborhoods.

The state Department of Environmental Management said a single mature tree can save \$30 annually in heating and cooling costs when planted properly.

Online registration for the popular Energy-Saving Trees Program opened Monday and is required.

The trees are 4 feet to 6 feet tall and will be distributed in three-gallon containers. Homeowners will receive planting and care instructions and guidance to maximize energy savings.

### People urged not to float down river

**MI** PORT HURON — Despite advisories from the U.S. and Canadian coast guards, people took part in the Port Huron Float Down along the St. Clair River on Sunday.

Winds slowed the event, and a U.S. Coast Guard officer said some participants would not be able to complete it.

A joint letter issued by the agencies before it started stated the event is unsanctioned and poses risks to the participants and others over the 7½-mile course.

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Jodie Knox said winds out of the south caused people to float a lot slower than anticipated. Knox said the shipping channel was due to reopen at 8 p.m., likely leaving some participants short of completing the course.

Strong winds blew about 1,500 people into international waters during last year's event, and they needed help from Canadian authorities to get back to the U.S.

### Girl says scammed out of Pokemon collection

**WI** WAUSAU — Offers of support are pouring in for a 9-year-old Wausau girl who was allegedly scammed while trying to sell her Pokemon card collection.

Kaitlynn Cooper's mother, Sarah Hesbol, told WAOW-TV that several people have offered to reimburse her after a man gave her a fake \$100 bill in exchange for more than 500 cards. The family has filed a report with the Wausau Police Department, which is investigating the incident.

Hesbol said her daughter is thankful for the offers but is asking people to donate to St. Jude Children's Hospital instead.

### Angler's record trout catch deemed invalid

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — An Idaho man who caught a record-setting trout in Utah has been told his fish does not qualify for the record anymore because he caught it without a valid fishing license.

Sidney Cellan caught the 57-pound, 48-inch lake trout in June at the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources told Cellan the fish was the state's largest catch-and-release trout in history. Wildlife officials, however, now say they made an honest mistake in crowning Cellan's trout since his fishing license expired a few days before the catch.

Cellan released the fish, so it is still in the reservoir for another angler to catch. The record trout of 46.5 inches by Ray Johnson in 1998 stands, again.

### Winds collapse tent; at least 2 injured

**PA** JOHNSTOWN — Authorities said strong winds partially collapsed the main tent at a Pennsylvania festival over the weekend, causing some injuries, none of them life-threatening.

The damage, caused between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, prompted the cancellation of the remaining activities of Richland Community Days in Johnstown.

Cambria County emergency services said at least two people were injured. WJAC-TV reported that seven people were injured, and two of them were taken to hospitals.

Event co-chairperson Jim Miliauskas said security enacted its evacuation plan for the first time in the 10-year history of the festival.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# OSU takes aim at Barrett's efficiency

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Can Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett become a better passer?

That's the overarching question at preseason training camp as the fifth-year star works with yet another new offensive coordinator and position coach.

Barrett arguably is the best quarterback to ever play at Ohio State, but his issues with accuracy and decision-making — along with inconsistent play from receivers and the offensive line — contributed to the team's failings in big games last year, especially the 31-0 loss to Clemson in the playoffs.

New quarterbacks coach Ryan Day was assigned to work with Barrett on accuracy, placement of passes and throwing into coverage. Ohio State practices are closed to media, but those who have watched Barrett in preseason camp note his improvement.

"His accuracy and just his energy level right now is incredible," coach Urban Meyer said.

"He's providing that energy for everybody. He's always done that, but I can tell that he's got complete ownership of everything going on in that offense."

Barrett has been working with Day on taking more risks and trying to give receivers a chance to get their hands on the ball, instead of tucking and running when nobody appears to be open. Barrett was sent on the run a lot last year when protection broke down.

His receivers are mostly unproven but are expected to be better.

"Those guys are not going to always be just wide open, so you have to give them the opportunity to touch the ball," Barrett said. "Sometimes they're going to have to make some catches for you, and there are going to be some ugly throws and it's not going to be perfect, but the simple fact is that you allow those guys to touch the ball and let have a chance to go make plays."

Barrett passed for 2,555 yards and 24 touchdowns in

2016 and also ran for 845 yards. While the latter number is impressive, his carries often resulted from him scrambling to make something out of nothing. Meyer wants to rely less on Barrett's feet.

"That's not an indication things are going well," Meyer said.

Day, who last worked as an NFL assistant for the San Francisco 49ers and Philadelphia Eagles, likes Barrett's progress.

"I'm proud of the command he's had of the offense and the quick decision-making he's shown in practice," Day said. "The ball's coming out of his hand quickly, he's confident in what he's doing, his eyes are right. So the ball's coming out on time right now, and you can tell that he has a rhythm about him when he's playing the position."

The 22-year-old Texan's name is all over Ohio State record books. He holds all-time marks for career pass comple-

tions, touchdowns, passing yards per game, total offense and touchdowns responsible for. This season he's expected to become the school's leader in passing yards. He's 26-4 as a starter.

But college football's collective memory is short. The last anybody saw of Barrett was him leading the floundering Ohio State offense against Clemson. Over the winter, fans on social media and talk radio wanted to push him aside and give backup Joe Burrow — or even heralded true freshman Tate Martell — a chance. To his teammates, that suggestion couldn't be more ridiculous.

"People try to be down on him, but he's such a good dude, a good QB," receiver Johnnie Dixon said. "He's a hard worker so I don't understand that sometimes.... I think it's bizarre, because you see J.T. and yeah, he's got every record in the book, but at the end of the day that never gets to his head. He's a worker."

## Americans dominate for Solheim Cup win

Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Four years ago, Team Europe celebrated the most decisive win in Solheim Cup history — on American soil, no less.

Captain Annika Sorenstam and her team will likely spend their trip back across the Atlantic wondering when they'll be ready to compete with the U.S. again.

Lexi Thompson, 22, and her resurgent U.S. teammates finished off their most-decisive Solheim Cup victory in more than 20 years, beating Europe 16½-11½ on Sunday at Des Moines Golf and Country Club.

Though Europe played the U.S. even on Sunday, the Americans dominated foursome and four-ball play to put the Europeans in a major hole.

The Americans are now 10-5 in the biennial tournament after their biggest win since a 17-11 triumph in 1996 in Wales. They rallied to win in Germany in 2015 and have taken five of the last seven matches — the exception being that 18-10 blowout that Europe handed the U.S. in Colorado in 2013.

"We just got outplayed, no doubt about it," Sorenstam said. "I'm just so proud of how hard they fought. What can I say? Just congratulate the USA because they played some awesome golf."

Cristie Kerr and Paula Creamer won key matches, and Gerina Piller sealed it with a birdie putt that put her 3 up over Florentyna Parker with three to play in a 4-and-2 victory.

"They just bonded. They believed in each other. They played for the person behind them and in front of them. And they played some amazing golf," said Juli Inkster, who joined Judy Rankin as the only U.S. captains to win the Solheim Cup twice.

**Wyndham Championship:** Henrik Stenson kept making birdies on the back nine Sunday. They added up to a tournament record — and his first victory of the year.

Stenson closed with a 6-under 64 for a one-stroke victory in the final event of the PGA Tour regular season.

The 2013 FedEx Cup champion finished at 22-under 258 at Sedgefield Country Club, breaking the course's 72-hole record set by

Carl Pettersson in 2008 and matched last year by Si Woo Kim.

The Swede earned \$1,044,000 and 500 FedEx Cup points for his sixth win on tour and his first since the 2016 British Open.

"It's certainly a good time to start firing," Stenson said. "We know the kind of damage you can do in the playoffs. ... If you get hot and keep on playing well, you have a chance to challenge."

Ollie Schniederjans shot a 64 to finish second. Webb Simpson was 18 under after a 67.

The other subplot at Sedgefield was the push by the bubble players to qualify for the playoffs that start next week at The Northern Trust for the top 125 on the points list.

Geoff Ogilvy, who was at No. 125, finished at 11 under and earned enough points to move to No. 116.

And Martin Flores, who started at No. 139, jumped to No. 118 and made the playoffs for the first time since 2014 after a 63 highlighted by a hole-in-one on the par-3 16th.



# WR Boldin abruptly retires from NFL

BY JOHN WAWROW  
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Receiver Anquan Boldin is abruptly giving up on football to pursue his humanitarian and charitable work just less than two weeks after signing with the Buffalo Bills.

Boldin released a statement on Sunday night shortly after informing the Bills of his decision.

“Football has afforded me a platform throughout my career to have a greater impact on my humanitarian work,” Boldin said. “At this time, I feel drawn to make the larger fight for human rights a priority. My life’s purpose is bigger than football.”

He added that football brings together people of different races and religions to strive toward one shared goal, and how important it is to not let your fellow man down.

Boldin, the NFL’s 2015 Wal-

ter Payton Man of the Year, oversees the south Florida-based Q81 Foundation, which offers educational support for under-privileged children.

Bills general manager Brandon Beane said the team respects Boldin’s decision to retire.

“We appreciate the time he gave us over the past two weeks,” Beane said. “He is one of the best receivers to play this game and we wish him and his family all the best moving forward.”

Boldin’s decision came as a complete surprise, especially after he talked about building on his legacy entering his 15th season. Though he was non-committal about his future beyond this year, Boldin was intent on playing this season upon signing a one-year contract with a base salary of \$1.75 million on Aug. 7.

“At this point in your career, you can’t get too far ahead of yourself, so I just take it a year

at a time,” he said then. “Once I’m committed, I’m all in.”

Only four days after Boldin signed, Buffalo traded its top receiving threat in Sammy Watkins to the Los Angeles Rams for cornerback E.J. Gaines as part of two blockbuster deals on Aug. 11. In a separate trade, the Bills acquired receiver Jordan Matthews from Philadelphia for starting cornerback Ronald Darby.

The Bills also acquired second- and third-round draft picks in an indication the team is more intent on building through the draft.

Though surprised by the moves, Boldin insisted at the time that Watkins’ presence had little to do with him signing with Buffalo.

“For me, I would’ve loved to have played alongside of Sammy, but that wasn’t the reason I signed here,” Boldin had signed. “The reason I signed here is the guys who are still here. I believe in coach Sean

(McDermott) and what he’s doing and the direction this organization is heading in.”

McDermott is a first-time coach who spent the past six seasons as the Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator. He was hired in January to replace Rex Ryan.

Boldin ranks in the top four among active receivers with 1,076 catches, 13,779 yards receiving and 82 touchdowns receiving. He appeared in just one preseason game for Buffalo, and finished with one catch for 5 yards in a 20-16 loss to Philadelphia Thursday night.

Boldin spent last season with Detroit, where he had 67 catches for 584 yards and eight touchdowns in 16 games. The former Florida State star spent his first seven NFL seasons with Arizona, then played three years with Baltimore and three with San Francisco. He helped the Ravens win the Super Bowl in February 2013.

## NBA investigating LA Lakers for possibly tampering with George

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA is investigating whether the Los Angeles Lakers tampered with All-Star forward Paul George while he was under contract with the Indiana Pacers.

The Pacers asked the league to open the probe.

“The Lakers have been cooperative and, at this point, no findings have been made,” NBA spokesman Mike Bass said Sunday in a statement. “We have asked both teams to refrain from commenting while the investigation is ongoing.”

There is no known timetable for the completion of the investigation being conducted by the New York law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

George is a four-time All-Star and Los Angeles native who was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder this offseason. The Pacers traded him after George told them he planned to leave Indiana as a free agent next summer.

“As the NBA’s statement made clear, we cannot comment about the specifics of any ongoing investigation,” Lakers spokeswoman Alison Bogli sai. “We can confirm, however, that we are

cooperating fully with the NBA in the hope of clearing our name as soon as possible.”

There has been speculation for some time that George has wanted to join the Lakers. Under NBA rules, teams are not permitted to attempt to sway any player who is under contract with another team.

If the Lakers are found to have tampered, the NBA could issue any combination of fines, forfeiture of draft picks or suspensions of those who were deemed to be involved. Tampering, the league has said, can be either direct or indirect — and an interview that Lakers President Magic Johnson did earlier this year on ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live” did little to quell speculation about George’s potential future in Los Angeles.

In that interview, Kimmel asked Johnson what constitutes tampering, and if he would be allowed to speak to George if they happened to cross paths.

“We’re going to say hi because we know each other,” Johnson said. “You just can’t say, ‘Hey, I want you come to the Lakers,’ even though I’m going to be wink-winking. You know what that means, right?”

George will be a free agent in 2018.

## Power now in contention

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Will Power masterfully protected the inside line and blocked Josef Newgarden from ever making the decisive pass over the final 10 laps Sunday at Pocono Raceway.

Power pumped his fist and celebrated another win that moved him up in the IndyCar record book. His focus soon shifted from the way he held off Newgarden to catching him: Power thrust himself into the IndyCar championship picture and stuck his aim on the series points leader, Newgarden.

“I’m going for it,” Power said.

Power and Newgarden gave Penske Racing a 1-2 podium finish at Pocono. It could serve as a preview for the final standings.

Power’s third win of the season — and second at Pocono in two years — inched him within 42 points of Newgarden for the lead with three races left.

# Verlander wins pitching duel with LA

Associated Press

DETROIT — Justin Verlander approached this start like a postseason game, fully aware of how tough the Los Angeles Dodgers are to beat right now.

After five innings, Verlander had a no-hitter going — but so did Kenta Maeda. Then Detroit broke through for four runs in the sixth, giving Verlander a little more margin for error.

“It’s impossible to really create a playoff atmosphere without being in the playoffs, but I tried my best to do that,” Verlander said. “There was that much more focus and intensity in every pitch.”

Verlander allowed two hits in eight innings, and the Tigers beat the Dodgers 6-1 on Sunday, snapping their six-game skid and halting a six-game winning streak by Los Angeles.

The Tigers star allowed a home run to

Curtis Granderson in the sixth, but shortly after his no-hit bid ended, Detroit broke up Maeda’s and took the lead in the bottom of the inning.

Verlander (9-8) walked one and struck out nine.

“Verlander certainly showed today that he’s still an ace,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “He hasn’t had the career he’s had by accident. He’s a great pitcher.”

Maeda (11-5) retired the first 15 Detroit batters before allowing five hits in the sixth. He was pulled after that inning and lost for the first time in seven starts.

Verlander has pitched two no-hitters in his career. He retired the first 13 Los Angeles hitters, taming the team with by far the best record in the major leagues.

“If Justin Verlander’s pitching well, it doesn’t matter. It could be the ‘27 Yankees,” Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said. “The numbers are going to look pretty good for

Ver at the end of the game if he’s pitching like he did today.”

Verlander walked Yasiel Puig on a full count in the fifth, and Granderson’s drive to right field an inning later hit the pole for a homer. The only other hitter to reach base against Verlander was Austin Barnes, who singled in the eighth.

John Hicks lined a clean single to left-center to lead off the bottom of the sixth and break up Maeda’s perfect game. Andrew Romine followed with a double, and Dixon Machado hit a two-run double that put the Tigers up 2-1.

Justin Upton added a two-run homer later in the inning.

“It all happened very quickly. He gave up that first double on a curveball, and then they got a couple more,” Roberts said. “He looked like he was going to get through it, but he hung a slider in Justin’s turbo zone. You can’t do that right now.”

## Roundup

# Bell blasts Cards in Little League Classic

Associated Press

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Despite spending the afternoon with 12-year-old Little Leaguers who idolize pros like himself, Josh Bell didn’t find himself dispensing much advice.

“No one came to me and asked, ‘What do you think about my swing?’” Bell said. “It was more like, ‘Follow me on Instagram’ or like this or that picture. It was more lighthearted.”

So he gave them a demonstration of how to hit one out.

Bell homered and drove in four runs to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates over the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 in the Little League Classic on Sunday night.

The teams played at renovated Bowman Field, a 91-year-old minor league ballpark located 5 miles from where the Little League World Series is held. Sitting in the front rows were admiring Little Leaguers who got to mingle with the big league stars earlier in the day, part of a Major League Baseball initiative to celebrate youth baseball.

After the final out of MLB’s first regular-season game in Williamsport, the Pirates shook

hands on the field as usual following a victory. And then — in a nod to Little League baseball — both teams lined up at home plate and shook hands with each other, throwing in some hugs and high-fives to finish off a feel-good day.

“It was refreshing every once in a while to be able to look in the stands and see the kids watching the game,” Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. “It was one of the highlights of my career.”

Cardinals manager Mike Matheny also appreciated the atmosphere inside a 2,366-seat venue that was packed with 2,596 fans.

“You can’t help but get caught up, especially these kids treating our players like they’re heroes as they walk through there,” Matheny said. “Pretty special stuff. I think that’s something they never get used to completely.”

**Athletics 3, Astros 2:** Marcus Semien wound up with a Little League home run when the Astros kept throwing the ball away, Jharel Cotton pitched into the seventh inning and visiting Oakland edged Houston.

**Marlins 6, Mets 4:** Giancar-

lo Stanton hit his major league-leading 45th home run and Adam Conley struck out a career-high 11, leading visiting Miami over New York.

**Red Sox 5, Yankees 1:** Jackie Bradley Jr. tripled in two runs and singled home one, and Rick Porcello pitched six innings of a combined three-hitter to help AL East-leading Boston extend its margin over visiting New York to five games.

**Rays 3, Mariners 0:** Blake Snell allowed only two hits in seven innings for his second consecutive win following a long drought, and host Tampa Bay blanked Seattle.

**Angels 5, Orioles 4:** Pinch-hitter Cameron Maybin singled home the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, Kole Calhoun and Andrelton Simmons homered for visiting Los Angeles.

**Braves 8, Reds 1:** Tyler Flowers’ grand slam broke open a close game in Atlanta’s six-run fifth inning, Sean Newcomb earned his first home win.

**Royals 7, Indians 4:** Cheslor Cuthbert homered and drove in three runs, Alcides Escobar also had three RBIs and host Kansas City defeated Cleveland

to avert a three-game sweep.

**Twins 12, Diamondbacks 5:** Eddie Rosario hit a grand slam in a nine-run first inning and host Minnesota completed a three-game sweep.

**Cubs 6, Blue Jays 5 (10):** Alex Avila capped Chicago’s three-run 10th inning with a two-run single, and the Cubs rallied past visiting Toronto for a three-game sweep.

**White Sox 3, Rangers 2:** Miguel Gonzalez escaped early trouble and pitched six scoreless innings, leading visiting Chicago over Texas.

**Brewers 8, Rockies 4:** Jesus Aguilar homered twice, Chase Anderson won in his return from the disabled list and visiting Milwaukee got its sixth victory in seven games.

**Nationals 4, Padres 1:** Gio Gonzalez allowed five singles and struck out eight as he almost got through the seventh inning to pitch visiting Washington past San Diego.

**Phillies 5, Giants 2:** Rookie slugger Rhys Hoskins homered for the fifth time in his first 11 major league games and Pedro Florimon contributed with his bat and arm.