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Report: Ex-Futenma chief a 'high-risk aviator'

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

The former commander of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma was a "high-risk aviator" who pulled rank to get more time in the cockpit, according to a Marine Corps command investigation.

Col. Mark Coppess was fired from his job at the Okinawa air station on June 5 by Marine Corps Installations Pacific chief Brig. Gen. Paul Rock due to "loss of trust and confidence in his ability to lead his command."

The investigation — detailed in a May 22 report — was launched the previous spring following a complaint about "bullying, abuse of authority to further a personal agenda and a generally poor command climate" at the home of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

It found that Coppess had "abused his authority via inappropriate command pressure regarding his personal flight hours and flight qualification/designation objectives, to the detriment of his command's

climate."

Aviators at the air station reported problems ranging from undue command influence to safety concerns related to command pressure and threats of retaliation.

Coppess had "abused the staff and officers of MCAS Futenma for months so he could achieve his personal objectives to fly," the document said.

The issues arose as Coppess — an AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopter pilot — attempted to transition to the UC-35 Cessna Citation passenger and cargo plane, according to the report. During his time at Futenma, he logged 284 flight hours in the UC-35 over 10 months — more than any other air station commander in the Marine Corps during that period.

Coppess also directed that he be allocated three flights per week and had other pilots bumped from schedules to make room for himself, according to the document.

Flight instructors had designated Coppess as a "high-risk aviator" who struggled to advance his proficiency to command the aircraft, the report said.

A pilot whose name was redacted from the document recalled taking control of an aircraft from Coppess multiple times to prevent mishaps or flight violations, and described him to investigators as making poor decisions and being slow to recognize dangerous situations.

Coppess ignored an emergency command to descend during a flight over Osan Air Base, South Korea, the pilot said.

"We never saw another aircraft but someone could have been flying ... across Osan's active runway and we would have crashed into them," the pilot said in response to an investigator's question.

Other servicemembers — whose names also were redacted from the report — told investigators they thought their commander wanted a fixed-wing qualification in preparation for a civilian career.

The Marine Corps said in a statement Monday that Coppess had been reassigned and retains his rank but didn't provide further details.

Pentagon signals growing interest in unmanned technology

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department has awarded a nearly \$800 million contract to research and develop underwater drones — a move some experts say emphasizes its growing interest in unmanned technologies.

The Pentagon last week selected 23 companies to share the contract, and each will be given tasks related to "the procurement of materials and services used to develop, build, fabricate and support the Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Family of Systems," according to the contract announcement issued July 30.

Work on the project is expected to be completed by July 2023.

The contract supports a

growing trend of defense dollars being spent on drone development. In its fiscal year 2019 budget, the DOD requested \$9.6 billion for unmanned technology and related systems — a 28 percent increase from the previous year, according to a report released June 25 by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.

"Unmanned systems and robotics are key technology areas that enable the United States to counter the range of evolving threats posed on the modern battlefield," AUVSI president and CEO Brian Wynne said in an email to Stars and Stripes.

The Navy has led all service branches in dollars put toward drones for at least the past three years, according to AUVSI. More than half of

all drone projects for land, air and sea are under the Navy's purview.

While air-based drones make up most unmanned technology projects across the services, with about \$7 billion earmarked for 2019, maritime drones are increasing in interest. About \$1.3 billion of drone funding requests support maritime drones, according to the AUVSI report. Ground-based drones account for about \$700 million.

The Mk 18 Unmanned Undersea Vehicle was a highlight of the 2019 budget request, with the Pentagon asking for \$75 million for the underwater drone mainly used for mine countermeasure operations, according to the AUVSI report. Other purposes for underwater drones used by the Navy

include data collection and surveillance.

The Navy in May released a summary of its "Strategic Roadmap for Unmanned Systems," stating the integration of drones in the service "offers many advantages such as reducing personnel and manpower, risk to personnel and operating costs."

The Navy's first Unmanned Undersea Vehicles squadron — UUVRON 1 — will celebrate its first anniversary next month. The squadron's first commander, Cmdr. Scott Smith, called the event "historical."

"Why is this historical? It's because in standing up UUVRON 1, it shows our Navy's commitment to the future of unmanned stems and undersea combat," he said a statement issued last year.

Bill seeks combat pay for Korean War POWs

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

American troops in war zones have received combat pay since 1952. Yet for one group of warfighters — Korean War POW-MIAs — the supplemental compensation was capped for their entire time in captivity.

Now, a bill introduced by Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat who represents New York's 18th Congressional District, aims to pay back the men who endured starvation, disease, freezing temperatures and the summary executions of fellow countrymen.

Maloney introduced the Never Forgotten Korean War POW Act in May, starting the legislative process. It seeks to provide combat pay to all living Korean War POWs for each month spent in a captured or missing-in-action status, adjusting for inflation. Their payments previously had been capped by law at three months, making them the only group of combat veterans with those restrictions.

The bill has been sent to the House Armed Services Committee but has not been set for a vote. It then would have to be passed by the House and the Senate and signed by the president to become law.

"All of our (Korean War) POWs are heroes," Maloney said in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "They deserve fair compensation for their honorable service like the veterans from every other war."

The issue first was brought to Maloney's attention at a town hall meeting by a friend of Cornwall, N.Y., resident and former POW Ray Mellin, 89.

Mellin later told Maloney that the combat pay restriction for POW-MIAs never felt right to him, especially because he languished in prisoner-of-war camps for years. Maloney began to investigate, a

spokesman for his office said.

In 1950, the Army submitted a proposal for legislation recommending that "hazard duty pay" be paid out "to personnel involved in combat," according to the Defense Department website. They argued that it was unfair that servicemembers engaged in combat did not receive supplemental income when others did for flying, submarine or parachute duty.

Congress agreed and passed the Combat Duty Pay Act of 1952, which paid \$45 per month to servicemembers serving at least six days in designated front-line combat units or those wounded, injured or killed by "hostile fire," the defense website said. It also banned other forms of supplemental compensation, such as flight or submarine pay, and limited the combat pay of POW-MIAs to "not more than three months."

Neither Mellin, Maloney's office nor the Army could say who was responsible for capping the pay for Korean War POW-MIAs.

After the conflict, the Navy and the Air Force protested the combat-pay law, as they were effectively frozen out, and "broad, geographically based zonal eligibility" was instituted, the defense website said. It is a system that endures to this day, effectively leaving Korean War POW-MIAs as the only group excluded from full compensation.

"We were in the prison camp two years already when they [decided] they weren't going to pay us more than just the three months for combat pay, and in all that time, we were getting strafed, we were bombed, guys were dying every day and we just couldn't figure out why," Mellin told Stars and Stripes.

"I think it was just terrible. Why they did it all of a sudden, I don't know if it was to save money or whatever. It was very upsetting ... It's not really a matter of the money; it's a matter of why it was done."

Mellin and Maloney's attempt to get full combat pay for Korean War POWs is not the first.

Fellow 24th ID soldier and POW Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook, 87, worked with now-retired California Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer for years to try to accomplish the same thing, according to Estabrook and Mellin. Estabrook said that ultimately, the Army stood in the way.

Army officials declined to comment.

Estabrook — captured July 15, 1950, by the North Korean Army and held about 38 months in captivity — said he believes Maloney's bill does not go far enough. He wants to see the next of kin of those deceased receive their loved ones' combat pay as well. But he hopes Congress finally will set things right. He believes the overall amount due the POWs would be small.

"This issue can be settled with little cost," he said. "Combat pay was \$45 a month in those days. Perhaps a statutory amount could be established to speed up the process."

Estabrook is not optimistic that Mellin and Maloney will succeed.

"If the chair is of one party and the one introducing from another party, it could remain in limbo forever," he said. "The Army would not budge on this issue when I worked for its approval for years. Why would they change now?"

The website govtrack.us, which monitors legislative activity, puts the chances of the bill's passing at just 2 percent, citing Skopos Labs.

Despite long odds, Maloney attempted to attach the bill to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act being hashed out this summer but it was ruled to be out of order by the House rules committee. He has reached out to the Congressional Budget Office to score the bill but that has not happened.

Survey: Military families' dissatisfaction with Tricare rising

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Military families are growing more dissatisfied with their Tricare medical insurance, according to a survey recently released by the Military Officers Association of America.

The survey of more than 8,500 Tricare beneficiaries "shows increasing dissatisfaction across all categories, including provider choice, access to providers, and especially among medication costs," ac-

ording to the MOAA, a nonprofit advocacy group that lobbies Congress on behalf of servicemembers and their families.

Spouses of enlisted troops using Tricare plans were more likely than all others to cancel or postpone treatment out of cost concerns, according to the survey. Overall, half of those using "Tricare Select" said they were satisfied and 28 percent reported being dissatisfied.

Fifteen percent said they'd canceled or postponed treatment because of out-of-pocket costs, according to the survey.

The survey showed that satisfaction with medication costs also has decreased, from 42 percent being satisfied last year to 28 percent.

More than half of Tricare beneficiaries responded that they were concerned about being able to afford their medications.

Retirees using its "Tricare for Life" plan showed the greatest overall satisfaction with their health care, with 80 percent saying they were satisfied or very satisfied with their coverage, according to the MOAA.

Texans split on allowing Confederate flag in parade

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The Confederate flag is once again dividing a southern community.

Veterans in Austin find themselves in a precarious position in deciding whether to allow the Confederate flag and the groups that want to carry it to march in the city's annual Veterans Day Parade.

"If you were a Confederate soldier, you actively killed U.S. soldiers. The U.S. military defends the U.S. Constitution. Confederate soldiers took the oath of the Confederate States of America and lost their citizenship," said Manuel Jimenez, Air Force veteran and a co-founder of ATX-Vets, a local veterans advocacy group leading the call for organizations that honor Confederate veterans to be excluded from the parade. "To me, it's a slap in the face that you actively went to war with the United States of America and killed our military personnel and want to be back included in everything like nothing happened."

The controversy in Austin has been percolating below the surface for years — gaining greater public attention last year when Mayor Steve Adler boycotted the parade, priming the battle this year.

ATXVets asked in July for

the Austin Veterans Day Parade Committee, a small group of volunteers that plan the parade with support from local VFW Post 4443, to vote on a policy to block Confederate groups from participating. The committee declined to vote, leaving the decision up to the larger membership of the VFW. Officials at that post did not respond to requests for comment.

The parade's fate could be decided Thursday by the Austin City Council when it is scheduled to vote on a resolution to waive the cost for services the city provides for the parade.

"They know where we stand on it," said Terry Ayers, a Vietnam War veteran and member of the Descendants of Confederate Veterans. "Nothing has changed other than some people have wandered in off street who want it to change. ...

"That (battle) flag was co-opted by the [Ku Klux Klan] years after the war," Ayers said. "It became a symbol of racism, because the KKK was racist. We realize there's some people we'll never convince that it can have different meaning for different folks."

The six-member volunteer parade committee has received "lots" of feedback supporting both sides of the issue, said Perry Jefferies, public affairs volunteer for the committee.

DOD restricts use of fitness trackers

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. servicemembers and other Defense Department personnel can no longer use fitness trackers or certain other geolocation devices and applications in parts of the world deemed operational areas, including war zones, Pentagon officials announced Monday.

The prohibition of such tracking services, which range from smartphone and tablet applications to wearable fitness trackers, is designed to protect information about where American servicemembers are operating, said Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman. The policy stops short of banning all devices capable of geolocation, such as smartphones, if the service can be turned off.

The new policy was announced in a memorandum dated Aug. 3 and signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan. The memo said the new policy was effective immediately.

"These geolocation capabilities can expose personal information, locations, routines, and

numbers of DOD personnel, and potentially create unintended security consequences and increased risk to the joint force and mission," Shanahan wrote in the memo.

The change is the result of months of study of the use of geolocation features by troops after a GPS tracking company, Strava, published a global heat map in January that appeared to reveal locations and movements of American troops in combat zones.

Senior DOD officials determined the potential for such information to be published again in the future posed an operational security risk to servicemembers, Manning said.

"We don't want to give the enemy any unfair advantage," Manning told reporters Monday. "This is a necessary step to ensure the security of our personnel."

It was not immediately clear what punishment individuals could face if they fail to adhere to the new policy. Manning said he did not know Monday what consequences personnel could face if they are caught using geolocation devices or applications.

Cross-country trek for the fallen ends at Arlington cemetery

BY CAROLINE HURLEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As the final team of runners approached the Old Post Chapel at Virginia's Fort Myer, Gold Star family members cheered, hugged and cried, waving flags and wearing T-shirts with the names of their fallen loved ones across them.

So began the final stages of a cross-country memorial relay run named the Run for the Fallen.

The runners, dripping with sweat, came to a halt at an Arlington National Cemetery gate. They presented the col-

ors — four flags participants had carried with them from the run's beginning, some 2,500 miles away.

Then, a U.S. Marine read a list of names of those recently killed fighting in the war on terrorism.

After eyes were dried, families hugged and thanked the runners who had just arrived. The entire group then set out on the final mile — a somber trek across Arlington National Cemetery to Section 60, where many of their family members have been laid to rest.

The run began on April 7 at Fort Irwin, an Army base in California situated between

Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The route wound through 19 states and almost 6,000 miles.

Each mile along the route was dedicated to specific servicemembers who died over the past 18 years. Deceased American troops, beginning with those killed in the USS Cole bombing on Oct. 12, 2000, were honored over the course of the run.

Runners stopped for a few minutes each mile to read the names of servicemembers being honored on that stretch of the journey. After covering about 50 miles, each day concluded with a ceremony to again remember each service-

member recognized during that day's run. In all, more than 500 runners participated in the relay and 20,067 names were read.

Donald Gillespie was part of the two years of planning as the runner coordinator. To him, it is clear why the run is so important.

"Everybody needs to experience this," he said. "If you've never experienced a Run for the Fallen, you need to go out to a marker and stand and listen to a name being read, or talk to a Gold Star family and see how important it is."

US reimposes economic sanctions on Iran

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday reimposing many sanctions on Iran, three months after pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, saying the U.S. policy is to levy “maximum economic pressure” on the country.

In a statement, Trump said the 2015 international accord to freeze Iran’s nuclear program in return for lifting sanctions was a “horrible, one-sided deal” and said it left the Iranian government flush with cash to use to fuel conflict in the Middle East.

“We urge all nations to take such steps to make clear that the Iranian regime faces a choice: either change its threat-

ening, destabilizing behavior and reintegrate with the global economy, or continue down a path of economic isolation,” Trump said.

Trump warned that those who don’t wind down their economic ties to Iran “risk severe consequences” under the reimposed sanctions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said renewed U.S. sanctions on Iran will be rigorously enforced and remain in place until the Iranian government radically changes course.

Speaking to reporters en route from a three-nation trip to Southeast Asia, Pompeo said Monday’s reimposition of some sanctions is an important pillar in U.S. policy toward Iran. He said the Trump administration is open to looking beyond

sanctions but that would “require enormous change” from Tehran.

“We’re hopeful that we can find a way to move forward but it’s going to require enormous change on the part of the Iranian regime,” he said Sunday. “They’ve got to behave like a normal country. That’s the ask. It’s pretty simple.”

European foreign ministers said Monday they “deeply regret” the reimposition of U.S. sanctions.

A statement by European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and foreign ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom insisted that the 2015 Iran nuclear deal “is working and delivering on its goal” of limiting Iran’s nuclear program.

The ministers said the Iran deal is “crucial for the security of Europe, the region and the entire world.”

The European Union issued a “blocking statute” Monday to protect European businesses from the impact of the sanctions.

A first set of U.S. sanctions that had been eased by the Obama administration under the terms of the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal took effect on Monday, following Trump’s May decision to withdraw from the accord. Those sanctions target Iran’s automotive sector as well as gold and other metals.

A second batch of U.S. sanctions targeting Iran’s oil sector and central bank will be reimposed in early November.

At least 98 dead after quake rocks Indonesian island

Associated Press

MATARAM, Indonesia — Rescuers still haven’t reached some devastated parts of the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok after a powerful earthquake flattened houses and toppled bridges, killing at least 98 people and shaking neighboring Bali, authorities said Monday. The death toll is expected to rise.

It was the second deadly quake in a week to hit Lombok. A July 29 quake killed 16 people and damaged hundreds of houses, some of which collapsed in Sunday evening’s magnitude 7.0 temblor, killing those inside.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told a news conference that damage was “massive” in northern Lombok. In several districts, more than half the homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

Some areas still hadn’t been reached, with rescuers battling against collapsed bridges, electricity blackouts and damaged roads blocked with debris. A lack of heavy equipment was hampering attempts to find

victims beneath the rubble of a mosque that collapsed in northern Lombok while villagers prayed inside, Nugroho said.

The death toll had risen to 98 and was expected to increase, he said, adding that two of the deaths were on Bali and the rest on Lombok. More than 200 people were seriously injured. Thousands of homes and buildings were damaged, and 20,000 people are in shelters.

The quake, measured at magnitude 7.0 by Indonesian authorities and a still-powerful 6.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey, struck early Sunday evening at a relatively shallow depth of 6 miles in the northern part of Lombok. Shallow quakes tend to cause more damage than deeper quakes do.

Videos showed screaming people running in panic from a shopping mall and a neighborhood on Bali where parked vehicles swayed.

On Lombok, soldiers and other rescuers carried injured people on stretchers and carpets to evacuation centers. Many victims were treated outdoors because hospitals were damaged.

Fire now 2nd-largest in Calif. history, officials say

Los Angeles Times

The Mendocino Complex fire is now the second-largest wildfire in California history, scorching more than 273,000 acres and frustrating firefighters as it continues to leap across natural and man-made barriers in Lake County, officials said Monday morning.

The Ranch and River fires, which make up the complex fire, had grown to 273,664 acres as of Monday morning, according to Cal Fire. The blaze was only 30 percent contained as of 7 a.m. Monday, but officials expect to achieve full containment by next week.

The blaze is on pace to become the largest wildfire in state history, surpassing the Thomas fire, which burned through more than 281,000 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties late last year.

Officials said the Mendocino Complex fire has continued to grow by thousands of acres each day, even at night, when most fires normally calm down.

The fire has prompted evacuations in Mendocino, Lake and Colusa counties, but it has been

less destructive to property than some of the other dozen-plus wildfires burning across the state because it continues to rage in remote areas.

But the fire’s sheer size and rate of spread are the latest signal of a remarkable fire year for California.

“It is extremely fast, extremely aggressive, extremely dangerous,” said Scott McLean, a deputy chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “Look how big it got, just in a matter of days. Look how fast this Mendocino Complex went up in ranking. That doesn’t happen. That just doesn’t happen.”

Years of drought have created ripe conditions for large-scale wildfires that spread rapidly. Of the five largest wildfires in state history, four have occurred since 2012.

There are 18 large wildfires burning in California, scarring a combined 559,000 acres, officials have said. In Redding, the Carr fire has claimed seven lives and more than 1,000 homes while growing to roughly 160,000 acres in size.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Company offers Mets' fans free therapy

NY NEW YORK — New York Mets fans struggling with their team's lousy season now have somewhere to cope besides sports talk radio.

An online mental health marketplace is giving free, confidential therapy sessions to Flushing faithful who fill out a form asking for their most difficult moments as fans.

New York-based UMA Health made the offer after last week's 25-4 loss to the Washington Nationals, the worst loss in Mets history. UMA said the light-hearted promotion is meant to bring attention to the important role of therapy.

The Mets are the fifth-worst team in Major League Baseball this season.

Town residents: Dunes used as bathroom

DE LEWES — Residents of a Delaware beach town say they're tired of beachgoers using dunes as a bathroom.

The News Journal of Wilmington reported that residents have filed complaints about beach visitors in Lewes urinating and defecating on the dunes. The 1.5-mile stretch of beach in a largely residential area has public bathrooms available on either end, but nowhere in between.

Lewes Mayor Ted Becker acknowledged that residents have a legitimate concern but said there are numerous challenges the town would face to add bathroom facilities to the beach.

Chicago is site of US Pizza Museum

IL CHICAGO — The city that boasts it gave the world deep-dish pizza will soon

be home to a pizza museum.

The U.S. Pizza Museum opens its doors in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood on Friday. The Chicago Tribune reported the museum will be open through October, and possibly longer.

The museum was created in 2015 but has mostly existed online and in pop-up exhibits.

Among the items in the collection are pizza-themed clothing, menus, records and toys.

Missing pooch, owner reunited a year later

SC COLUMBIA — Call it a tail-wagging ending to a doggone good story.

After a year — and dozens of miles — apart, a pit bull named Ratchet has been reunited with his owner, thanks to the dogged determination of a South Carolina dog lover.

Esther Atkins was walking her dog last week when she noticed a pup cowering in a mud puddle. Atkins said the timid canine followed her home, where she went to work trying to find his owner.

After having the dog's microchip scanned, Atkins said she got in touch with a woman in Greenwood, nearly 70 miles away.

Old booze stash is found in home

MA QUINCY — A couple moving into a Massachusetts home found what they believe is a stash of Prohibition-era booze.

The Patriot Ledger reported that Ian Sutherland and his girlfriend, Alexa Lee, found dozens of dusty glass bottles and clay jugs shelved behind a false wall in their Quincy home.

A contractor uncovered the hidden compartment while working in the basement in July after the couple had moved in

from Connecticut.

Some of the 56 bottles still contain liquid that Sutherland says appears to include beer and moonshine.

Flags, Confederate cash in time capsule

LA NEW ORLEANS — Turn-of-the-century tour books, lots of Confederate cash, a post-Civil War medal and a flag too tattered by time to tell whether it was U.S. or Confederate were among items removed Friday from a 1913 time capsule buried beneath a Confederate monument.

The statue of P.G.T. Beauregard was among four Confederate monuments removed last year. Its pedestal was removed a week ago. Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser said the copper box was stuck to the bottom of the pedestal.

Fire guts part of 1929 mansion; dog killed

GA MACON — The back of a historic 1929 mansion in Georgia was gutted by a fire last week.

Ken Gozur told The Telegraph of Macon he and his wife were watching television when they heard a pop and noticed a flash in the corner of the sun room at the Villa Teresa Italian mansion.

Gozur said the fire spread within 45 seconds, and they would have lost the entire house if firefighters hadn't quickly responded. Smoke inhalation claimed one of their dogs, Bella.

Virgin Mary mural defaced by vandals

NM OJO CALIENTE — A mural of the Virgin Mary in one of the oldest health resorts in North America and in a historic Hispanic and

Native American community was defaced.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported a mural of la Virgen de Guadalupe in Ojo Caliente was recently desecrated after vandals painted over her face and praying hands.

It's the second time this year that the mural has been vandalized in this devoutly Catholic town.

Stolen lemur returned to Santa Ana Zoo

CA SANTA ANA — A lemur that was stolen from a Southern California zoo is back after someone left it at a hotel.

Police said Isaac, a 32-year-old lemur, was stolen from the Santa Ana Zoo after someone cut through a fence and opened cages. Ten capuchin monkeys got out but were all rounded up.

Police said Isaac was left in a crate near the front door of a Marriott hotel in Newport Beach, a few miles from the zoo.

Lemurs are an endangered species and taking one is a federal crime.

Teen kills self in Russian roulette

AR HASKELL — Authorities in central Arkansas said a 15-year-old boy fatally shot himself while playing a game of Russian roulette.

Haskell Police Chief Mike Hardester said the teen was playing Russian roulette when he shot himself. Hardester told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that two other teenagers who were present tried to stop the 15-year-old, but backed off when he kept pulling the trigger.

Hardester said the teen's parents were not home at the time.

From wire reports

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Meyer probe expected to take 2 weeks

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State will rely on an outside law firm to investigate what coach Urban Meyer knew and did about domestic abuse accusations against a former assistant, a process expected to be completed within two weeks, the university said Sunday night.

Ohio State said in a release that a trustees' committee formed to coordinate the investigation had an initial meeting and has hired a firm to conduct the probe of Meyer, who says he followed proper protocol when informed of a 2015 abuse allegation against assistant Zach Smith.

Mary Jo White of the national firm Debevoise & Plimpton is leading the investigation, the university said. She's a former

federal prosecutor and a former chairwoman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange.

"Ohio State is committed to a thorough and complete investigation," said Jo Ann Davidson, a former Ohio House Speaker who is chairwoman of the trustees' group coordinating the effort. "We look forward to sharing the results of this investigation and any action the university may take."

Any decisions resulting from the investigation will be made by Ohio State President Michael Drake in consultation with university trustees, the statement said.

Meyer was put on paid leave last week amid questions about what he knew and did about accusations of abuse made against Smith, who was fired July 24 after his ex-wife sought

a restraining order against him. The couple divorced in 2016.

Smith has never been criminally charged or convicted.

Meyer initially told reporters at Big Ten Media Days on July 25 that he didn't know anything about abuse allegations made by Courtney Smith in October 2015. In a statement released Friday via Twitter, Meyer admitted that he knew about the 2015 incidents and insisted he followed proper protocol. He also admitted lying to reporters about it.

Smith denied assaulting his wife and said any physical injuries she might have suffered were the result of him defending himself. He said he discussed the 2015 allegations at the time with Meyer and athletic director Gene Smith.

Ohio State's policy on sexual

misconduct says anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students or volunteers has a duty to report "when they receive a disclosure of sexual misconduct or become aware of information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that sexual misconduct may have occurred involving anyone covered under this policy."

A clause in Meyer's new contract, which raised his salary to \$7.6 million this year and runs through 2022, also requires him to "report to Ohio State's Title IX athletics any known violations" of the sexual misconduct policy involving students, faculty or staff at the risk of being fired with cause.

Ohio State starts the season Sept. 1 against Oregon State. Co-offensive coordinator Ryan Day is the acting head coach.

NFL roundup

Browns deal disappointing WR Coleman to Bills

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns dropped Corey Coleman.

After two disappointing, injury-slowed seasons, Coleman was traded Sunday night to the Buffalo Bills for an undisclosed draft pick.

Coleman has been a bust with the Browns, who selected him with the No. 15 overall pick in 2016 — the first selection by Cleveland's previous, analytics-driven front office. Coleman played in just 19 games over two seasons because of injuries, and he never developed into the big-play receiver Cleveland thought it was getting, so the Browns decided to get something for him while they could.

Coleman's tenure with the Browns will be best remembered for his drop late in the fourth quarter in last season's finale at Pittsburgh that sealed the Browns' 0-16 finish.

But beyond Coleman's problems on the field, he had issues

outside the lines that hurt his standing with coach Hue Jackson and new general manager John Dorsey.

Coleman was named in a police report regarding an alleged felonious assault last year. He was also sent home from the Browns' trip to Houston for missing curfew while he was injured.

This is the second major trade this year between the Browns and Bills. In March, Cleveland acquired quarterback Tyrod Taylor from Buffalo. Taylor led the Bills to a playoff berth last season and he's expected to start for the Browns while rookie Baker Mayfield, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, learns and develops.

Roseman, Pederson extended through '22

The Philadelphia Eagles have signed coach Doug Pederson and executive vice president of football operations Howie Roseman to contract exten-

sions through the 2022 season.

Coming off the franchise's first Super Bowl championship, the team announced the deals an hour before a sellout crowd watched an open practice Sunday night at Lincoln Financial Field.

Pederson is entering his third season. He originally signed a four-year contract with a club option for 2020.

Roseman began his career with the team as an unpaid intern in 2000, rose to become the youngest general manager in the NFL at age 34 in 2010, overcame a season in exile in 2015 after losing a power struggle to former coach Chip Kelly and returned to put together a championship team.

49ers' Sherman out with hamstring strain

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco newcomer Richard Sherman will miss the next week of training camp and the 49ers' preseason opener after

straining a hamstring in practice Friday.

"We're definitely going to rest him at least a week," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan "We don't think it should be long term. It's Grade 1, it's a little higher than we expected so we got to be careful with that."

The former Seattle cornerback was hurt chasing down receiver Pierre Garcon after a long completion from Jimmy Garoppolo during a full-team drill. The three-time All-Pro returned to practice at the start of training camp after suffering a torn right Achilles in November with the Seahawks. Sherman signed a three-year \$39.15 million deal in the offseason after being cut by Seattle.

In Sherman's place Sunday, the 49ers rotated Tyvis Powell and Greg Mabin with the starting defense. Jimmie Ward stepped in for Sherman during the offseason program but has been withheld from full-team drills after suffering a hamstring strain last week.

Elliott holds off Truex for 1st Cup win

Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Like father, like son.

Mired in a confounding losing streak since the start of his NASCAR Cup career in 2016, Chase Elliott finally broke into the win column Sunday, holding off road course ace Martin Truex Jr. at Watkins Glen.

The son of Hall of Famer Bill Elliott, who also won his first Cup race on a road course (Riverside in 1983 in his 124th start), Chase celebrated a triumph he will cherish forever. Out of fuel after the finish, he was pushed to Victory Lane by the banged-up No. 48 Chevy of seven-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson, a teammate and one of his staunchest supporters, as his father raced to join the celebration after spotting.

Toss in the raucous cheers of the sellout crowd and it doesn't get much better than that.

"It's something I'll never

forget," said Elliott, who has finished second eight times in Cup. "I was going to do a burn-out, but I ran out of gas. Certainly glad that we were on the front end today."

Elliott's victory came in his 99th Cup start and was the 250th win for Hendrick Motorsports, breaking a 37-race losing streak for one of NASCAR's signature teams. It also assured Elliott a spot in the playoffs as he became only the fifth driver to win a race outside of the "Big 3" of Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Truex, who have combined to win 16 of 22 races.

Truex ran second to Elliott for most of the final stage and began to steadily close as both drivers tried to save enough gas to reach the end of the 90-lap race. It was a two-car breakaway as the rest of the field was more than 11 seconds back.

Truex closed to the back bumper of Elliott's No. 9 Chevy as his car bobbled slightly out

of the first turn on the final lap around the 2.45-mile natural terrain layout. But Truex's No. 78 Toyota skidded, Elliott regrouped and pulled away and Truex sputtered home, out of fuel.

"I just tried all I could to chase him down, and I got there with plenty of time," Truex said. "It's just every time I'd start putting together some good corners and get close enough to him to even think about making a move, I'd get sideways behind him. He did a good job of putting his car exactly where it needed to be and not making a mistake."

Truex was bidding to become the first Cup driver to win three straight road races since Tony Stewart accomplished the feat just over a decade ago (2004-05). Kyle Busch finished third, 20 seconds behind, followed by Daniel Suarez and Erik Jones, a triumvirate of Joe Gibbs Racing Toyotas. Pole-sitter Denny Hamlin finished 13th.

The race promised to turn into a fuel mileage race as the laps wound down, and nobody has been better with the strategy than Truex and crew chief Cole Pearn. All three of Truex's road course wins were won with strategy, including last year at The Glen and this year at Sonoma in California's wine country.

"You feel satisfied," Elliott said. "It's a huge deal. It has not been an easy year. We were getting closer, closer, closer and finally got it done."

Elliott won the race's second stage and brought the crowd to its feet with a pass of Busch. Elliott pulled out to a half-second lead while Truex was fighting to get back to the front after a restart mired him in 12th.

Midway through the segment, the Big 3 were running in the top 10, but Elliott dominated and beat Busch by 1.3 seconds.

Golf roundup

Thomas cruises in finale at Firestone

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Justin Thomas took all the drama out of the final World Golf Championship at Firestone, never letting anyone closer than two shots and closing with a 1-under 69 to win the Bridgestone Invitational for his third PGA Tour title this season.

Sweeter than capturing his first World Golf Championship was the sight behind the 18th green Sunday. His grandparents, Paul and Phyllis Thomas, watched him win in person for the first time on the PGA Tour. Paul Thomas was a career club professional and played at Firestone in the 1960 PGA Championship, missing the 54-hole cut. His son, Mike Thomas, also is a career club pro in Kentucky and a former PGA of America board member. They saw a one-man show.

Playing in the final group

with Rory McIlroy, the 25-year-old Thomas made only two birdies. That was all he needed on a day when just about everyone within range was making all the mistakes.

Thomas finished at 15-under 265 for a four-shot victory over Kyle Stanley, who got within two shots of the lead until bogeys on the 13th and 14th holes. Stanley closed with a 68.

Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player who was coming off a victory in the Canadian Open last week, started the final round 10 shots behind and shot 29 on the front nine. A birdie at No. 10 put him three shots behind, but that was all he had. Johnson bogeyed the last hole for a 64 and shared third with Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark, who also had a 64. McIlroy shot 73 to tie for sixth.

Tiger Woods, an eight-time winner at Firestone, started 11 shots behind and figured

he would go out with a bang by playing aggressively. He turned in a dud, shooting 73 to finish 15 shots behind.

Thomas had gone five months since his last victory, a playoff win at the Honda Classic. While he didn't feel as though he were playing poorly, he didn't have the results to back it up. Now he does, and Thomas heads to St. Louis next week for the PGA Championship, where he will try to join Woods as the only players to win back-to-back in stroke play. Woods did it twice.

LPGA Tour: Georgia Hall of England reeled in Pornanong Phatlum in a final-round duel at Royal Lytham & St. Annes to win the Women's British Open for her first major title.

Roared on by the large galleries in her home country, the 22-year-old Hall only took the lead for the first time after a 20-foot putt for birdie at the 16th hole and stayed steady to

post 5-under 67.

After tapping in for a bogey at No. 18 — her first of the day — to secure a two-shot victory over Pornanong (70), Hall hugged her playing partner from Thailand before being lifted off her feet by her caddie, father Wayne.

PGA Tour Champions: Kenny Perry won the 3M Championship one last time, closing with a 3-under 69 for a three-stroke victory in the PGA Tour Champions event in Blaine, Minn., that is being replaced by the PGA Tour's 3M Open.

Also the 2014 and 2015 winner at TPC Twin Cities, the 57-year-old Perry matched Hale Irwin's tournament record of three victories in the final edition of the event that started in 1993.

Five shots ahead after rounds of 66 and 60, Perry finished at 21-under 195.

Red Sox stun Yankees for sweep

Associated Press

BOSTON — Andrew Benintendi's hit bounced a handful of times before finding its way into center field for the winning run and a big four-game sweep over the rival New York Yankees.

The Red Sox now find themselves in firm control of the AL East.

Benintendi's RBI single with two outs in the 10th capped Boston's rally from three runs down in the ninth against New York closer Aroldis Chapman, and the Red Sox completed a four-game sweep with a 5-4 victory Sunday night.

"Any 10 hopper that goes through for a hit feels pretty good," the usually quiet Benintendi said, breaking into a grin.

"Everybody knew how big the series was. We came in and did what we wanted to do. We kind of stole this one."

Boston opened a 9½-game lead atop the division over the Yankees, who lost their season-high fifth straight.

Mookie Betts hit his 26th homer for Boston (79-34), which has won eight of nine games and owns the majors' best record.

The Yankees hadn't been swept in a four-game series by the Red Sox when they entered a series 30 or more games over .500 since Hall of Famer Ted Williams' rookie season in 1939, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"A tough way to obviously end

a tough weekend, but we can't let this define what's been a great season," manager Aaron Boone said.

Sandy Leon looped a two-out single off Jonathan Holder (1-3) in the 10th and advanced on a wild pitch. Tony Renda pinch-ran before Benintendi's single up the middle to the right of the second-base bag into center field.

Matt Barnes (4-3) worked a perfect inning in the top of the 10th.

For the Yankees, it was a stunning reversal of the Boston Massacre in 1978 when the Yankees came to town and swept the Red Sox en route to erasing a large lead and capturing the AL East.

"We lost these four games

here, but what I can tell you is that we're gonna keep battling. We're gonna keep playing ball," Chapman said through a translator. "There's no looking back."

The blown save snapped Chapman's streak of converting 22 straight opportunities since his last blown save on May 4.

With New York leading 4-1 in the ninth, Chapman loaded the bases on walks before J.D. Martinez's two-out, two-run single pulled Boston within one. Third baseman Miguel Andujar then bounced a throw to first on Xander Bogaerts' grounder, with pinch-runner Jackie Bradley Jr. racing home with the tying run.

Roundup

Dozier, Machado help Dodgers take one from Astros

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Brian Dozier delivered a two-run double in the first inning and Manny Machado had three hits with two runs scored as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Houston Astros 3-2 Sunday.

Cody Bellinger had an RBI double for the Dodgers, who prevented a three-game sweep by the team that beat them in last year's World Series.

George Springer and Tony Kemp homered for the Astros, but Springer exited in the third with left thumb discomfort after he was thrown out trying to steal second base.

New reliever Roberto Osuna did not pitch in his first game on the active roster for Houston. Osuna was reinstated from the restricted list after serving a 75-game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. The All-Star closer was acquired Monday in a trade with the Toronto Blue Jays while he was still serving his suspension.

Indians 4, Angels 3: Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer, rookie Shane Bieber picked up his sixth win and Cleveland beat visiting Los Angeles.

Before the game, Angels manager Mike Scioscia dismissed a report that he's stepping down after this season. Scioscia, who has managed the Angels since 2000, said before Sunday's game that he won't talk

about his future with the club until the season ends.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1: Jack Flaherty cruised through six innings, Matt Carpenter hit his 29th homer and host St. Louis held on to beat Pittsburgh. St. Louis took the final two games of the three-game series to move past the Pirates into sole possession of third place in the NL Central.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2: Evan Longoria's solo home run in the eighth inning led San Francisco past host Arizona.

The Diamondbacks' loss and the Los Angeles Dodgers' victory Sunday created a tie for first place atop the NL West between the teams.

Athletics 6, Tigers 0: Trevor Cahill struck out 10 in six innings, Khris Davis and Matt Chapman both homered for the second consecutive game and host Oakland beat Detroit to complete a season sweep.

Oakland won all seven games against Detroit this season and has a franchise-record 12 consecutive victories over the Tigers. It was the first time in Oakland history that the team did not give up an earned run in a series of three or more games.

Padres 10, Cubs 6: Jon Lester was hit hard again and visiting San Diego also battered Chicago's bullpen.

Lester was tagged for five runs and eight hits in five innings. The All-Star left-hander was 10-2 with a 2.18 ERA after beating the Dodgers on June 26, but has a 6.81 ERA

in seven starts since.

Braves 5, Mets 4 (10): Nick Markakis hit a go-ahead home run in the 10th inning and Atlanta Braves, helped by pitcher Julio Teheran's first big league homer, rallied to beat host New York.

Phillies 5, Marlins 3: Asdrubal Cabrera hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning and surging Philadelphia completed a four-game sweep of Miami.

Nationals 2, Reds 1: Matt Wieters homered to back Tanner Roark, who went seven innings to win his third consecutive start for host Washington.

Rockies 5, Brewers 4 (11): Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead homer with two outs in the 11th inning to lift visiting Colorado over Milwaukee.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 3: Kyle Seager hit two homers and Nelson Cruz added another as host Seattle powered past Toronto.

Orioles 9, Rangers 6: Mark Trumbo homered twice and drove in five runs as visiting Baltimore beat Texas to avoid a four-game sweep.

White Sox 8, Rays 7: Daniel Palka hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the ninth inning and visiting Chicago completed its first three-game sweep in a year.

Twins 6, Royals 5: Rookie Jake Cave hit his first career grand slam and closer Fernando Rodney survived a chaotic ninth inning as Minnesota beat visiting Kansas City.