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Navy aircraft launch system faces issues

Los Angeles Times

For more than 60 years, the U.S. Navy has relied on steam power to catapult planes off the decks of aircraft carriers, leaving behind a trail of steam rising from the track.

A new generation of carriers will rely on something far more technologically complex: an electromagnetic system that could launch more aircraft off the deck and at a faster rate than traditional steam methods.

But development of this technology, built by San Diego defense firm General Atomics, has not been without growing pains. And the system's readiness, and that of other new systems on the USS Gerald R. Ford, the first of a new class of carriers, is at the center of a debate between the Navy and Senate leaders.

The Ford was commissioned last summer and entered active service, but it must undergo additional testing before being

able to deploy for operations.

"It's certainly true that anytime you're introducing something new you're going to have issues," said Andrew Hunter, director of the defense-industrial initiatives group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There will probably continue to be kinks to work out."

But, he said, it's too late to go back to steam catapult systems, at least for the next two carriers in this class. (President Donald Trump advocated a return to steam in an interview with *Time* last year in which he described the electromagnetic launch system as "no good.")

China also reportedly is planning to use an electromagnetic aircraft launch system on one of its domestically designed carriers.

"The die is cast on that," Hunter said.

General Atomics, best known

for making the Predator drone, referred all questions about the electromagnetic launch system to the Navy, citing the company's contract.

Known in industry jargon as EMALS, the electromagnetic aircraft launch system hinges on an electrically generated moving magnetic field that pulls a mechanism attached to the aircraft. The technology is similar to the one that powers a railgun that General Atomics has tested for several years.

Steam-powered catapults release built-up pressure all at once, flinging aircraft off the deck and into the sky but placing enormous strain on their airframes. With the electromagnetic system, a pulse of electricity creates a steadier, more gradual acceleration, which can be adjusted for an aircraft's size and weight.

"You just have better control," said Bob Hebner, director of the

Center for Electromechanics at the University of Texas at Austin. That should extend the lifetimes of airframes, saving money on repairs and replacements. The new system also is capable of launching a wider variety of aircraft, he said.

Hebner and his team at the Texas university worked with General Atomics on a generator concept for the electromagnetic catapult system for about five years during the early stages of the company's research. They devised a generator that was about 10 feet long to show that the power system could fit into small spaces aboard a packed carrier. That generator was about one-fourth the size of the power system General Atomics built and used for the catapult system, he said.

But developing such new technology and integrating it onto the new nuclear carrier have been difficult.

Civilian-run US ships play bigger role amid tensions

BY SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy's fleet of mostly civilian-crewed support ships is building up its presence off Europe and Africa as insurgent activity and potential threats to allies by Russia stretch the military's supply lines.

The Military Sealift Command is adding ships within the 6th Fleet theater, which spans the eastern Atlantic Ocean from the Arctic to Antarctica. The theater includes the Mediterranean Sea, a critical point for operations against adversaries in Africa and the Middle East, and the Black Sea, an area of tensions since Russia annexed Ukraine's

Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

"I definitely don't see [activity] going down anytime soon," said Capt. Eric Conzen, MSC commander for Europe and Africa. "There's a desire for it to increase."

MSC last year transported twice the ordnance, three times the critical parts and one-third more cargo in Europe and Africa than in 2016, according to data from the command, which operates about 110 noncombatant ships worldwide.

More warships are in the theater partly because NATO is running more missions and exercises in response to Russia's assertive actions, Conzen said.

The Army also recently placed a heavy brigade along NATO's eastern flank and de-

ployed combat aviation assets to Europe. That mission, known as Atlantic Resolve, strained transport and replenishment capacity.

The Navy's support command, which oversees the leasing of commercial cargo ships for all military services, has seen shipments of vehicles and helicopters almost double in the past year in Europe and Africa, said Fred Woody, MSC deputy operations officer in Europe.

Before last year, MSC's only full-time ship in the 6th Fleet theater was an oiler. MSC has since brought in two fast-transport vessels — the USNS Carson City and the USNS Trenton — and it plans to add a third one in the spring to carry personnel, equipment and supplies.

The Trenton is used mainly for surveillance and intelligence-gathering and partly to aid U.S. military missions in Africa, Conzen said.

The USNS William McLean, which hauls cargo and ammunition, was deployed recently to the theater and will remain indefinitely, officials said.

Next year, the USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams, an MSC sea base, is scheduled to operate in the theater. The 250-person ship has a flight deck, magazines and spaces for repairs. It will assist with security patrols, anti-mine measures, humanitarian efforts and crisis response.

Analysts say Russia is the main reason the U.S. and NATO have amplified their naval activities in the theater.

Sailor who died after helo mishap was flight surgeon

The (Anaheim, Calif.) Orange County Register

CAMP PENDLETON — Military officials on Sunday, Feb. 25 identified Navy Lt. James A. Mazzuchelli as the sailor who died following injuries he sustained in a helicopter accident last week.

Mazzuchelli, 32, died early Saturday at Scripps La Jolla Medical Facility after he was struck by a spinning UH-1Y Venom rotor blade, said Capt. Morgan Frazer. The incident occurred at 6:10 p.m. Wednesday at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Mazzuchelli was a flight surgeon assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267, Marine Aircraft Group

39, stationed at MCAS Camp Pendleton.

“My heart goes out to our sailor’s family as we support them through this difficult time,” said Maj. Gen. Mark Wise, commanding general of 3rd MAW.

Mazzuchelli, of Orange Park, Fla., was commissioned in the Navy in June 2010. He previously deployed with HMLA-267 to Japan in 2016 as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

“Lt. James Mazzuchelli was an incredibly talented physician and sailor,” said Col. Matthew Mowery, commanding officer of MAG-39.

Details on how the accident happened have not been released. An investigation is ongoing.

US jets soar for small-scale drill as Winter Games close

BY MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — U.S. combat jets screamed over the home of the 51st Fighter Wing a day after the Winter Olympics wrapped up in Pyeongchang.

American and South Korean forces have postponed two massive peninsula-wide exercises — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve — until the Paralympic Games, also in Pyeongchang, end March 18.

But smaller drills continue, such as Beverly Herd, a five-day, wing-level exercise that kicked off at Osan on Monday, U.S. Forces Korea spokeswoman Elise Van Pool said in an email.

“Based on the size of some of the semiannual, annual and biennial exercises we conduct [in South Korea], many of which are combined and joint with multiple nations participating, I would not characterize a wing-level exercise as major,” she said.

Beverly Herd usually sees Osan-based airmen in chemical protective gear respond to simulated missile attacks, and A-10 and F-16 aircraft fly hundreds of sorties, 51st Fighter Wing spokeswoman Capt. Carrie Volpe said in an email.

North Korea claims that the Foal Eagle and Key Resolve drills are rehearsals for an invasion, while U.S. and South Korean military officials insist they’re purely defensive.

The delays in the large-scale war games are part of an easing of tensions on the peninsula that saw athletes from the two Koreas march together under a Korean unification flag at the Olympic opening ceremony.

Post-Olympics messages have been mixed.

Last week, the U.S. slapped sanctions on companies accused of shipping banned products to the North. Pyongyang has called any blockade “an act of war” but on Sunday expressed interest in talks with the U.S.

Trump eyes parade with ‘a lot of plane flyovers’

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday night said he is hopeful that a military parade “with a lot of plane flyovers” can be staged in Washington on Veterans Day but acknowledged that the expense could be a concern.

“We’ll see if we can do it at a reasonable cost, and if we can’t, we won’t do it, but the generals would love to do it, I can tell you, and so would I,” Trump said during a call into a Fox News television show. “I think it’s great for our country.”

The parade Trump envisions would cost between \$10 million and \$30 million, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said earlier this month.

Trump has directed the Pentagon to plan a parade for later this year to showcase U.S. military might. The inspiration was France’s Bastille Day celebration last year, which Trump attended in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron and found very impressive.

“I was at the Bastille Day parade in France with the president of France, very good guy, and it was quite something and, frankly, I think it’s great for spirit,” Trump told host Jeanine Pirro during Saturday night’s broadcast of “Justice with Judge Jeanine.”

Democrats and even some Republicans have questioned the need for such an event, suggesting it could have authoritarian overtones depending on how it’s conducted. Many in the military also have questioned whether a parade would be a waste of money.

Trump insisted Saturday that “the military loves it, they love the idea.”

Trump suggested the military parade would follow the traditional route of inaugural parades.

“It would be up and down Pennsylvania Avenue,” he said, adding that in addition to the display of military might on the ground, there would also be “a lot of plane flyovers.”

Troops see mild flu season in Europe, but it’s not over yet

BY WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. servicemembers in Europe have been less likely than their counterparts elsewhere to get the flu, but it’s still important to get vaccinated, Army health officials said.

“We’re still two months away from being out of the woods,” said Col. Rodney Coldren, chief of epidemiology for the Army’s Public Health Command in Europe.

Even when the vaccine does not prevent infection, “it is still effective in reducing the severity of the infection,” he said.

The flu hit the U.S. and Asia hard this year, with widespread

reports of deaths and hospitalizations, but the effects in Europe have been mild, especially among U.S. forces, Coldren said.

That was partly due to successful vaccination programs in both the military and civilian populations in Europe, he said.

It’s also because the flu strain affecting Europe, influenza type B, is less virulent than type H3N2. Type H3N2 is currently the most common strain in both Asia and the U.S. More than 86 percent of people suffering from this year’s flu epidemic in the U.S. were infected with H3N2, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Trump: Florida shooting to dominate governors meeting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says the deadly mass shooting at a Florida high school is the top issue he wants to discuss with the nation's governors.

Under pressure to act to stem gun violence on school grounds, Trump planned to solicit input from the state chief executives during meetings Monday at the White House. The governors are in Washington for their annual winter meeting.

But socializing was the focus Sunday night as Trump and first lady Melania Trump hosted the governors for an annual black-tie ball.

In brief remarks before dinner beneath dimmed lights in

the State Dining Room, Trump said the governors are “very, very special people.”

“The job you do is really incredible. It’s not easy, but we’re very proud of you and we’re very proud to have you here,” he said.

Previewing Monday’s talks, Trump said they would also discuss the economy “and many other things.”

Seventeen students and teachers were killed in a Valentine’s Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., sparking a public outcry for new gun control measures as well as action to improve school safety.

“We’ll be talking about Parkland and the horrible event that

took place last week,” Trump said. “That will be one of the subjects. We’ll make it first on our list.”

The president also boasted about the economy, saying numbers that weren’t so good under his predecessor are improving under his leadership.

“You’re going to see some numbers coming up over the next year, the likes of which we haven’t seen in our country for many, many years,” Trump said.

Trump’s session with the governors will be the latest in which he solicits ideas for stopping gun violence at schools as the White House works to finalize an expected legislative proposal.

Cyberthreats cloud 2018 elections, governors say

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Will your vote be safe this year from foreign adversaries working to undermine U.S. democracy? Some of the nation’s governors aren’t so sure.

State leaders of both parties worried aloud Sunday about the security of America’s election systems against possible cyberattacks ahead of this fall’s midterm elections, aware that Russian agents targeted over 20 states little more a year ago, and the Trump administration has taken a mostly hands-off approach to the interference.

U.S. intelligence leaders report Russian hackers are already working to undermine this November’s elections.

The Trump administration has so far done little to help secure the mishmash of 10,000 local voting jurisdictions across the nation that mostly run on obsolete and imperfectly secured technology.

The search for a solution has been shaped by partisan politics. While Democratic governors lashed out at the Trump administration for ignoring the threat, some Republicans, such as Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, insisted the media are overstating the problem. Several other Republicans were openly concerned about outside interference but declined to criticize the Trump administration’s inaction.

Earlier in the month, senior officials from the Department of Homeland Security participated in a series of “coordination meetings” with state and local election officials and private companies to discuss cybersecurity for the nation’s election infrastructure, the White House said last week. A Trump spokesman, however, declined to respond to the governors’ concerns when asked to comment Sunday.

Trump rarely mentions the Russian threat. The president has instead repeatedly condemned Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s probe into Russian election meddling.

Deregulation weakening safety rules

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a clear, dry June evening in 2015, cars and trucks rolled slowly in a herky-jerky backup ahead of an Interstate 75 construction zone in Chattanooga, Tenn. Barrel-ling toward them: an 18-ton tractor-trailer going about 80 mph.

Despite multiple signs warning of slow traffic, the driver, with little or no braking, bashed into eight vehicles before coming to a stop. Six people died in the mangled wreck, and four more were hurt. The driver was convicted of vehicular homicide and other charges last month.

In response to this and similar crashes, the government in 2016 proposed requiring that new heavy trucks have potentially life-saving software that would electronically limit speeds. But now, like many other safety rules in the works before President Donald Trump took office, it has been delayed indefinitely — by the Transportation Department as part of a sweeping retreat from regulations that the president

says slow the economy.

An Associated Press review of the department’s rulemaking in Trump’s first year in office shows at least a dozen safety rules that were under development or already adopted have been repealed, withdrawn, delayed or put on the back burner. In most cases, those rules are opposed by powerful industries. And the political appointees running the agencies that write the rules often come from the industries they regulate.

The rules would have, among other things, required states to conduct annual inspections of commercial bus operators, railroads to operate trains with at least two crewmembers and automakers to equip future cars and light trucks with vehicle-to-vehicle communications to prevent collisions.

Some rules that were in the works have been abandoned entirely. After four people died when a New York commuter train derailed while speeding around a curve in 2013, investigators determined that the

engineer had fallen asleep. He had undiagnosed sleep apnea, a disorder that causes pauses in breathing and prevents restful sleep, and had made no effort to stop the train.

The National Transportation Safety Board blamed the crash in part on federal regulators for not requiring medical screening of engineers for sleep disorders. Yet last summer, the DOT withdrew a rule the government was in the early stages of writing to require screening for engineers and truck and bus drivers.

The government said current safety programs either address the problem or it will be addressed in a rulemaking to reduce fatigue risks in the railroad industry. But the fatigue rule is years overdue with no timetable for completion.

The NTSB has cited sleep apnea as a cause of 13 rail and highway accidents it has investigated, including two more commuter train crashes in Hoboken, N.J., in 2016, and Brooklyn, N.Y., in 2017.

Congress turns attention to VA caregivers

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Congress is working on a way to give more help to caregivers of veterans injured before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It took seven years of pressure from advocates to get to this point.

Groups pushing lawmakers to end what they call an unfair discrepancy between veterans injured before and after 9/11 contend negotiations — stalled for years because of the high cost of expanding benefits to more families — are coming to a critical point.

“Everybody is talking about how to do this rather than questioning whether we should,” said Adrian Atizado, deputy national legislative director with Disabled American Veterans.

In 2010, Congress created the Department of Veterans Affairs caregiver program for veterans who sustained serious injuries after 9/11. Approximately 26,000 caregivers who are enrolled in the program receive monthly stipends as well as other benefits such as medical training, counseling and respite care.

But spouses such as Jason

Courneen — who has been caring for his wife for two decades — don’t meet the criteria for assistance. Alexis Courneen suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving in the Coast Guard in 1998. Jason Courneen said he felt “isolated” and had to learn by himself the skills necessary to be a caregiver.

“That really needs to change,” he said last year on Capitol Hill.

Major veterans organizations — such as Disabled American Veterans, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and The American Legion — have been fighting to expand benefits to all veteran caregivers. In December, a handful of groups presented lawmakers with a printed petition containing 182,000 signatures of people supportive of the expansion.

Now, there’s opportunity to reach a compromise.

So far, the Senate and VA have proposed different ideas of how to expand caregiver benefits without escalating costs.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, is working on his own legislation to expand the program, using input from the VA. The next step is a round-

table discussion on the legislation scheduled for March 6 with House and Senate lawmakers.

“I do see a pathway forward where we can do this right and get this done,” Roe said during a Feb. 6 congressional hearing. “Getting it done this year would be my goal.”

The Senate’s version is included in a larger VA reform bill that’s been stalled since November. Instead of opening up the program to everyone at once, the measure would first make benefits available to veterans injured before May 7, 1975 — with the intent to immediately get help to all caregivers of Vietnam War-era veterans. Two years later, veterans who served between 1975 and 2001 would be eligible.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the measure would cost \$3.4 billion over five years to implement. Officials with President Donald Trump’s administration told Congress last month that the White House couldn’t support the expansion because of fiscal restraints.

VA Secretary David Shulkin explained another option to lawmakers earlier this month. He proposed limiting eligibility for

the caregivers program to the most severely injured and ill veterans in order to expand it to veterans of all eras without inflating costs. Under his plan, eligibility would be restricted to veterans with the highest clinical need, who require help with at least three activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing and dressing.

The 26,000 caregivers already enrolled into the program should still receive the benefit with the old rules, Shulkin said, but the new rules would apply to all new enrollees.

If the program were expanded with the current eligibility rules, the VA would enroll 188,000 caregivers in the next 10 years, the VA estimated. With proposed restrictions, the number of caregivers receiving assistance would grow to only 40,000 in the next 10 years. The agency predicted it would avoid about \$2.5 billion in implementation costs.

Atizado said Disabled American Veterans would support any proposal that allows more caregivers to receive assistance but added the group would continue fighting until help is available to all veteran caregivers who need it.

Program pairs dogs with vets who have PTSD

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

The Department of Veterans Affairs is studying how service dogs might be able to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Though the results are years away, a group helping with that research isn’t waiting to pair its pups with servicemembers.

Canine Companions for Independence Inc. — a nonprofit in Santa Rosa, Calif., that’s been providing service dogs for people with physical disabilities since 1975 — is preparing to launch a pilot program that will train and pair dogs with veterans with PTSD based on a curriculum developed for the VA study.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder caused by the psychological wounds of war and other traumatic experiences. Symptoms include anger, paranoia, anxiety and withdrawal from society.

CCI aims to begin pairing dogs with veterans by the middle of this year, with up to 20 placements by mid-2019, said instructor Sarah Birman.

“This is the first time — aside from the VA study — that we will be training dogs in specific skills that are designed to address the symptoms of PTSD,” she said. “As we’ve worked with veterans with PTSD through the VA study, we’ve had the opportunity to really get to know them, hear some really incredible stories of the ways in which the dogs have helped them.”

For its pilot program, CCI is accepting veterans who live within 90 miles of its Santa Rosa campus but hopes to expand nationwide over the next few years.

Service dogs have been used for years to benefit those with physical disabilities; however, there is no scientific literature that says the animals are equally beneficial to those with PTSD. A 2011 attempt to study the issue was scuttled because of dog bites and later was canceled over concerns about the animals’ health and training.

At the end of 2014, the VA kicked off the current study, which it says is more comprehensive and more tightly controlled, with new partners, including Canine Companions.

The most recent group of participants received their dogs in December, Birman said. After 18 months, the VA will compile and publish the results.

Birman said CCI has confidence in the protocols and training techniques and believes that it will benefit some veterans.

CCI’s program will start with about five local veterans, whose dogs will be selected based on temperament, energy levels, confidence and reactions to stimuli, Birman said.

For example, they are looking for dogs with a high level of confidence, those that interact or snuggle with their handlers, and those attuned to their handlers’ emotional states and are not reactive to loud sounds.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Mom, sons in revenge hit, run

CA LA HABRA — A Los Angeles County woman is accused of intentionally striking a teenage boy with a car before her two juveniles sons beat him up in what police are calling a revenge hit-and-run.

Investigators say the teen victim had gotten into an altercation with the woman's sons before she allegedly ran him over in La Habra.

Police Lt. Brian Miller said Friday that officers responded to what initially was reported as a traffic collision. The injured teen was hospitalized with moderate injuries.

Miller said detectives tracked down the suspected vehicle and arrested the 41-year-old woman and her sons. They could face assault charges.

NYPD: Men lured on dating site and robbed

NY NEW YORK — Police say potential romance turned out to be robbery instead for several men who had their possessions stolen when they showed up to meet someone they had been communicating with on a dating site.

The New York Police Department said five men were lured to a Bronx building in December and January. They each told authorities they had gone there to meet a woman and instead were faced with two or three men who took items including phones, bank debit cards and cash.

Police said two men have been arrested in connection with the robberies and a third is being sought. Authorities also are looking for a 16-year-old girl in connection with the accounts used in the dating profiles.

Woman, 99, calms her hostage-taker

UT WEST VALLEY CITY — A 99-year-old Utah woman who was held hostage for several hours said she helped calm the suspect during a tense standoff with police.

KSTU-TV in Salt Lake City reported Unified Police arrested Freddy Alexander Velasquez, 18, following a standoff with SWAT officers in West Valley City, where he allegedly held Doris Rucker Wasden at gunpoint.

Police allege Velasquez broke into Wasden's home about midnight Saturday and pointed a gun at her grandchildren, who escaped. But Wasden was unable to leave with her grandchildren.

Wasden said she talked to Velasquez for several hours before he released her and then surrendered.

Woman gets prison for drug-linked spree

WY CASPER — A Wyoming woman who pleaded guilty to her role in a drug-related crime spree has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison.

KTWO-AM reported U.S. District Judge Scott Skavdahl sentenced Santana Keener on Thursday to 20 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute drugs, aiding and abetting a carjacking and a firearms charge.

Keener was arrested in June by officers investigating drug trafficking. Keener was driving when officers initiated a pursuit.

Her co-defendant, Christopher Eads, allegedly shot at pursuing officers, assaulted a woman, stole her car, assaulted a Glenrock police officer and

stole his car, abandoned it and stole another car, leading officers on a pursuit that ended in a standoff in Casper.

The Casper Star-Tribune reported Eads faces sentencing in March on six felonies including drug and firearms charges, assaulting an officer and carjacking.

12 charged in school basketball brawl

PA CLAIRTON — A dozen adults and juveniles have been charged in a brawl earlier this month at a high school boys' basketball game in western Pennsylvania.

Clairton police filed charges Friday against six adults and six juveniles on counts of disorderly conduct in the Feb. 6 melee at the Clairton-Monesen game.

Video on social media showed dozens of fans spilling onto the court in an all-out brawl after a fourth-quarter fight between two players.

The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League placed the school districts on five years' probation for all sports, with violations to mean a tournament ban for that sport for that season.

The league also ordered sportsmanship programs and a limit on presale tickets to upcoming playoff games.

Aging albatross welcomes new chick

HI HONOLULU — A renowned 67-year-old bird is a mother again.

Hawaii News Now reported Thursday that the albatross named Wisdom is the world's oldest known wild breeding bird.

Officials said Wisdom welcomed her new chick Feb. 6 at the Midway Atoll National

Wildlife Refuge.

Midway Atoll and Battle of Midway National Memorial in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument are home to more than 3 million seabirds.

Hiker missing for 6 days is found

CA YOSEMITE — A well-prepared California hiker missing for six days in the backcountry of Yosemite National Park has been found.

The National Park Service told San Francisco Bay Area news station KTVU-TV that Alan Chow, of Oakland, was found hydrated and in good health. A ranger in a helicopter spotted him Friday after an extensive search.

Chow planned an overnight backpacking trip alone and was last seen Feb. 17. He wasn't officially noticed to be missing until three days later.

Yosemite park ranger Scott Gediman said Chow got lost, then set up his tent and stayed put until he was found.

Jail deputy held over sex with inmate

CO GREELEY — A Colorado deputy is accused of having sex with a woman while she was being held in jail.

The Weld County Sheriff's Office said Zachary Cullison, 26, was arrested Friday on suspicion of sexual conduct in a correctional institution.

The Greeley Tribune reported that investigators believe Cullison and a female inmate had consensual sex in a bathroom, out of view of security cameras. Cullison began working at the jail in August 2016. He's been placed on unpaid leave.

From wire reports

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Harvick speeds to 2nd win in Atlanta

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Kevin Harvick had to wait 17 years for a second Atlanta salute to Dale Earnhardt.

The memory brought tears to his eyes.

In a reprise of the celebration of his first win in Atlanta in 2001, Harvick raised his three-finger salute to Earnhardt following his dominant victory Sunday in the rain-delayed NASCAR Monster Energy Cup race.

Harvick completed his weekend mastery of Atlanta Motor Speedway by holding off Brad Keselowski following a late restart.

Then he held the three fingers out the window, just as he did in 2001 when he gave the Richard Childress team an Atlanta win following the death of Dale Earnhardt in Daytona a few weeks earlier. The young Harvick took over Earnhardt's car, with a new No. 29.

Ending five years of frustration in Cup races in Atlanta was satisfying, but Harvick said "the coolest part was being able to try to replicate that first win celebration."

Harvick led 915 laps in Cup races in Atlanta over the last five years — including 181 on Sunday — but endured the long wait for his second win at the track. It brought back memories.

"That was the first win in my career and to be able to do that and pay tribute to Dale was pretty cool," Harvick said. "I've been waiting a long time to do that."

He said he was emotional on Sunday because he was moved to see his team so happy.

"For me there was just a lot of happiness," Harvick said, adding "There's nothing better than seeing all those guys smile."

The win came one week after Austin Dillon, who now has the No. 3 that Earnhardt made famous, won the Daytona 500.

"You see that 3 back in Victory Lane and us back in Victo-

ry Lane tonight, it's almost, it's how it's meant to be," Harvick said, smiling.

The win completed an impressive weekend for Harvick following a similarly dominant win in the second-tier Xfinity event on Saturday.

Harvick started fourth in the Cup race and quickly proved he had the car to beat.

Harvick was comfortably in the lead when Trevor Bayne's engine blew with 28 laps to go. The restart gave contenders a chance to grab the lead, but Harvick beat Keselowski to remain in control.

"What a relief," Harvick told his crew after crossing the finish line. He led 292 laps in Atlanta last year before finishing ninth following a pit road speeding penalty.

The start was delayed 2 hours, 30 minutes by rain. There was no additional significant rain until immediately after the race.

"Turns out Mother Nature is a race fan," said Clint Bowyer, who finished third, giving Ford drivers the top three spots.

Denny Hamlin was fourth.

Harvick showed his strength when he charged through the field after an unscheduled pit stop dropped him to 19th midway through the race.

"If he hadn't had the pit row issue today he probably would have led 300-something laps," Keselowski said.

Rookie Darrell "Bubba" Wallace Jr., coming off a second-place finish at last week's Daytona 500, finished 32nd. Wallace was the first black driver in the Daytona 500 field since 1969, and he became the first black Cup racer in an Atlanta race since Bill Lester finished 38th in 2006.

Martin Truex Jr., the 2017 series champion, started 35th after failing to qualify on Saturday but was up to fourth by the 12th lap before finishing fifth.

Jimmie Johnson, who won in Atlanta in 2015 and 2016, finished 27th.

College basketball roundup

No. 2 Michigan St. holds off Wisconsin

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Cassius Winston scored 20 points and went 6-for-6 from the three-point line, and No. 2 Michigan State held off Wisconsin 68-63 on Sunday to earn the outright regular-season Big Ten title.

Winston hit two threes during an 11-2 run in the second half — the second with a defender in his face from well beyond the arc — to lead the Spartans (28-3, 16-2).

Brad Davison finished with 30 points for Wisconsin (14-17, 7-11), including a three with 4.7 seconds left that had hometown fans holding out hope for an upset.

Miles Bridges wrapped up the Spartans' 12th straight win with two foul shots. The star forward had 10 points on 3 of 15 shooting in his first game since getting cleared by the NCAA following a Yahoo! Sports article on Friday that identified him as one of many players who may have received improper benefits.

No. 9 Purdue 84, Minnesota 60: Dakota Mathias matched his career high with 25 points and left to a standing ovation in his final home game as Purdue blew out Minnesota.

Carsen Edwards had 18 points for the Boilermakers (26-5, 15-3 Big Ten), who won their third straight after a three-game skid.

No. 11 Cincinnati 82, Tulsa 74: Gary Clark led a 24-4 run that put Cincinnati ahead to stay early in the second half, and the host Bearcats held on to preserve their one-game lead in the American Athletic Conference heading into the final week.

Cincinnati (25-4, 14-2) stayed ahead of No. 13 Wichita State (23-5, 13-3) in the race for the regular-season title. The Shockers won on Cincinnati's home court 76-72 a week ago.

No. 20 Nevada 92, Colorado State 83: Caleb Martin

scored 25 points, Jordan Carolline had 21 points and 14 rebounds and host Nevada beat Colorado State to earn the No. 1 seed in the Mountain West Tournament.

No. 23 Houston 109, East Carolina 58: Rob Gray had 19 points and 11 assists, and host Houston used a huge first half to rout East Carolina.

NC State 92, No. 25 Florida State 72: Allerik Freeman scored 25 points to help North Carolina State beat visiting Florida State.

Nebraska 76, Penn State 64: Isaac Copeland had 17 points and Nebraska opened a 21-point lead midway through the second half, then held off visiting Penn State.

Nebraska (22-9, 13-5 Big Ten) clinched the No. 4 seed and double-bye into the quarterfinals of next week's conference tournament.

UNC Greensboro 88, Samford 75: Marvin Smith scored a career-high 26 points, Kyrin Galloway scored 15 and host UNC Greensboro clinched the Southern Conference regular-season championship.

The Spartans (24-7, 15-3) won the conference outright after Furman (22-9, 13-5) defeated second-place East Tennessee State (23-8, 14-4), 79-76, earlier in the day.

Rider 110, Iona 101: Dimencio Vaughn scored 26 points, Tyere Marshall had 19 points and 16 rebounds and host Rider clinched the No. 1 seed for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament with its highest-scoring output of the season in beating Iona.

The Broncs (22-8, 15-3) share the regular-season title with Canisius. Rider will play the 8-9 winner at the tournament in Albany, New York, while fourth-seeded Iona (17-13, 11-7) will play the fifth seed.

NBA roundup

Spurs top Cavaliers, snap skid

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points, Danny Green added 22 and the San Antonio Spurs ended their annual “rodeo” road trip by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-94 on Sunday to snap a four-game losing streak.

Green, who missed Friday’s loss at Denver with food poisoning, came off the bench for the first time in 49 games this season. He made five three-pointers to provide a perfect outside complement to Aldridge’s dynamic inside game. Dejounte Murray added 13 points and nine rebounds for San Antonio, a team not accustomed to any turmoil.

But the Spurs have not been themselves lately while playing without star Kawhi Leonard. They had dropped six of seven and four in a row on a trip (their arena hosts a rodeo every year) that coach Gregg Popovich’s squad typically uses as a springboard into the playoffs.

LeBron James had 33 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists for the Cavs, who fell to 3-2 since overhauling their roster with three trades.

Cleveland was within two points after three, but the Spurs scored the first 10 of the fourth and made all the necessary plays down the stretch to pull off the impressive win.

Kyle Korver’s three-pointer with 4:47 left brought the Cavs within 96-88, but Patty Mills countered with a three for the Spurs.

Cavs coach Tyrone Lue has spent most of the season adjusting his lineups and rotations, and he may have to do some more tweaking after starters Cedi Osman, J.R. Smith, George Hill and Tristan Thompson shot a combined 6 of 28. Cleveland has to find a dependable No. 2 option on offense while All-Star Kevin Love recovers from a broken hand.

Before the game, Popovich joked that it’s easy to become entranced against James.

“I just have to make sure that I don’t just stare at him all night like I did when I first came in the league and played the Bulls. I’d just watch Michael (Jordan) the whole time and Larry Brown would elbow me like, ‘You going to do something?’ I said, ‘Coach, I’ve got to watch. I’ve got to see this guy.’”

James dazzled in the first half scoring 17 points with seven rebounds and five assists.

Cleveland built a nine-point lead, but Green dropped a pair of 3-pointers and the Spurs pulled even at 50-all before James hit a three in the final second.

Rockets 119, Nuggets 114: James Harden had 41 points and eight rebounds, Chris Paul scored 23 points and Houston beat Denver for its 12th straight victory.

Harden had 27 in the first half and seven in the fourth quarter, when the Rockets held off a late Denver rally. Harden has scored 40 or more points nine times this season. He finished with seven assists.

Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 14 rebounds for Denver, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Will Barton added 25 points.

The Rockets are 21-4 since Dec. 29 and own the best record (46-13) in the NBA. They are outscoring teams by an average of 12.5 points during the 12-game winning streak. The five-point win Sunday was their closest game during the streak.

Pelicans 123, Bucks 121 (OT): Jrue Holiday scored 28 of his 36 points after halftime to lead visiting New Orleans over Milwaukee in overtime.

Holiday added nine rebounds and six assists for New Orleans, which held on for its season-high fifth win in a row when Jason Terry’s three-pointer was ruled after the buzzer.

Anthony Davis, who entered the game as the league’s third-leading scorer (27.7 ppg), added 27 points and 13 rebounds.

The Pelicans trailed by 18 early in the second half but outscored Milwaukee 38-19 in the third quarter.

Khris Middleton scored 25 points for the Bucks. Giannis Antetokounmpo, the No. 2 scorer in the NBA (27.8) and Eric Bledsoe each added 20, but the Bucks lost for only the fourth time in the last 14 games and fell to 9-26 all-time against New Orleans.

Wizards 109, 76ers 94: Otto Porter scored 24 points, Bradley Beal added 23 and host Washington had a dominant second quarter in a victory over Philadelphia.

Kelly Oubre scored 16 of his 19 points in the first half to help fourth-place Washington move a half-game ahead of Indiana in the Eastern Conference standings.

The Wizards improved to 9-3 in an extended stretch without All-Star point guard John Wall (knee surgery).

Joel Embiid had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia, which dropped a half-game behind Milwaukee into seventh place and two back of Washington in the congested East standings.

Hornets 114, Pistons 98: Dwight Howard had 17 points and 12 rebounds, Kemba Walker added 17 points and Charlotte beat visiting Detroit for its season-best fourth straight win.

The Hornets improved to 27-33 while making a push toward the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference for the playoffs. The Pistons have 28 wins, and there are eight teams in the conference with at least 31 victories.

Seven Charlotte players scored in double digits, and the Hornets’ bench outscored Detroit’s reserves 51-28.

Blake Griffin led the Pistons with 20 points on 10-for-18 shooting, while Andre Drummond had 14 points and 14 rebounds. Detroit has lost five of six.

Golf roundup

Thomas delivers in playoff

Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Justin Thomas is another young player that Tiger Woods has brought into his golfing circle, not only spending time with him but sharing some of his experience that led to 79 victories on the PGA Tour.

As recently as last week at Riviera, when Thomas was within range of the lead going into the final round, he said Woods sent him a text to dispense some advice and wish him well. That changed on the eve of the final round of the Honda Classic.

“Got crickets last night,” Thomas said with a laugh.

That’s because Woods was playing, and he was playing well.

Just not as good as Thomas.

Thomas delivered a moment that so many times belonged to Woods on Sunday. He was tied for the lead with Luke List on the par-5 18th at PGA National, with List already on the green and some 35 feet away for eagle while Thomas had to lay up from the rough.

He needed a birdie to have any chance of a playoff, and his gap wedge from 117 yards was so pure that it rolled 6 inches by the cup and settled 2 feet away.

Given a second chance in a sudden-death playoff with his 2-under 68, the 24-year-old Thomas came through with another clutch shot. This one was a 5-wood over the water on the 18th, toward a bunker. Thomas barked at the ball to go a little further, just to be safe.

Thomas now has eight career victories, seven of them in his last 31 starts on tour. Woods wound up with a 70 and finished 12th.

LPGA Tour: Jessica Korda closed with a 4-under 67 to complete a four-shot victory and set the tournament record in the Honda LPGA Thailand.

Bruins acquire Rangers' Nash

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — As well as the Boston Bruins have been playing, general manager Don Sweeney wasn't going to pass up an opportunity to make them better. And bigger.

Sweeney continued solidifying a playoff push Sunday by acquiring forward Rick Nash in a multiplayer trade with the Rangers that leaves New York retooling for the long-term future. The Rangers acquired the Bruins' first-round pick in this year's draft as well as forwards Ryan Spooner and Matt Beleskey, prospect defenseman Ryan Lindgren and a seventh-round pick in the 2019 draft in a deal reached a day before the NHL's trade deadline.

"Our players have made a push and I wanted to inch that along if we could, and reward it in a way," Sweeney said.

At 6-foot-4, Nash provides Boston an established power forward to fill out their second line centered by David Krejci. And the 33-year-old Nash, who has topped 30 goals in eight of

his 15 seasons, also adds an offensive dimension to a team that has leaned heavily on its top line, which has combined to score 73 of Boston's 192 goals this season.

The Bruins lost 4-1 to Buffalo in Nash's debut and squandered an opportunity to jump into second place in the Atlantic Division standings, a point ahead of Toronto.

Nash arrived in Buffalo in time for the game and was credited with five shots on goal and 17½ minutes of ice time.

The game was Nash's first in nearly a week after the Rangers had him sit out their previous two games to avoid the possibility of him getting injured.

"It was a strange last few weeks in New York, but I've moved on and I'm excited about this opportunity," he said.

Nash knew he was on the move being in the final year of his contract and eligible to become an unrestricted free agent this summer, and after the Rangers asked him to submit a list of teams he'd consider

joining.

The Bruins topped his list, though Nash acknowledged he was ready to go almost anywhere.

"I wasn't going hold them hostage or anything like that, but I wanted to go to a place that wanted me and a place that had a chance to win," he said. "And I think Boston fits those perfectly."

Boston wasn't done adding to its roster by signing Brian Gionta to a one-year \$700,000 contract. Gionta returns for a 16th NHL season after serving as captain of the United States Olympic team, which was eliminated following a loss to the Czech Republic in the quarter-final round at the Pyeongchang Winter Games.

For the Rangers, trading Nash further signaled their plans to overhaul the aging core of a roster that helped New York make the playoffs in each of the previous seven seasons, including the team that lost the 2014 Stanley Cup Final in five games to Los Angeles.

Players' singing of anthem won't be held against Russia's return

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Russia's imminent return from a doping suspension won't be derailed because its hockey players sang their national anthem, the International Olympic Committee said Monday.

The Russian men's team defied IOC rules by belting out the anthem at their medal ceremony following Sunday's 4-3 overtime win against Germany in the gold-medal game. Russian fans present also sang along.

"We understand that this was over excitement by the athletes who had just won a gold medal in extraordinary circumstances," the IOC said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Players on the Russian team said they agreed before the game that they would sing.

The IOC suspended Russia's membership in December over a doping scheme at the 2014 Olympics, but allowed 168 Russians to enter the Pyeongchang Olympics as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" in neutral uniforms.

They had to sign a document agreeing not to display any national symbols or protest the restrictions. The Olympic anthem played when Russians won gold.

The IOC voted against reinstating Russia in time for the closing ceremony Sunday, which would have allowed Russian athletes to march under their national flag. The Russian delegation had stockpiled uniforms with the Russian flag in preparation.

However, the IOC decided that Russia will be reinstated if no more of its athletes fail drug tests from the Pyeongchang Games. Russia produced two of the four doping cases announced so far.

Testing of samples taken from Russians in Pyeongchang is nearing its end, and Russian IOC member Shamil Tarpishchev told the state news agency RIA Novosti on Monday that reinstatement could come as soon as Tuesday.

NHL roundup

Oilers hold off Ducks in overtime

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Edmonton Oilers have been reduced to playing spoiler in the playoff race. It's a role they seem to be relishing, creating plenty of drama along the way.

Ryan Strome scored twice and the Oilers recovered to beat the Anaheim Ducks 6-5 in a shootout Sunday after giving up two goals in the final 21 seconds of regulation.

After nearly allowing Los Angeles to overcome a two-goal deficit in the final 18 seconds of a 4-3 win Saturday, the Oilers found themselves playing extra hockey Sunday when Rickard Rakell scored with 20.9 seconds remaining in the third period to make it 5-4 and then tied

it with 6.3 seconds to play. He beat Al Montoya with a wrist shot from the slot after Derek Grant won the faceoff against Leon Draisaitl.

Following a wide-open overtime in which both teams had plenty of chances to win, Draisaitl and Connor McDavid scored in the shootout for Edmonton and Montoya stopped shots by Ryan Getzlaf and Ondrej Kase after Rakell made his.

"When you're not really in the hunt anymore you've got to find ways to keep yourself motivated and we've definitely been able to do that," said McDavid, who had three assists. "I think our last two games have been two of the best that we've played in a long time."

Red Wings 3, Rangers 2 (OT): Trevor Daley scored on a tip-in with 5.6 seconds to go in overtime to lift visiting Detroit.

Predators 4, Blues 0: Pekka Rinne made 27 saves for his sixth shutout of the season and Nashville beat visiting St. Louis to regain sole possession of the Central Division lead.

Wild 3, Sharks 2 (OT): Jared Spurgeon scored with 12 seconds left in overtime to lift host Minnesota.

Spurgeon added an assist, and Jason Zucker had two assists, as Minnesota tied a season-high with its fourth straight win.

Canucks 3, Coyotes 1: Daniel Sedin broke a tie with 9:17 to play with his second goal of the game and Vancouver beat host Arizona.