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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

KC-130 crashes in Miss.; at least 16 dead

Associated Press

ITTA BENA, Miss. — A U.S. military plane used for refueling crashed into a soybean field in rural Mississippi, killing at least 16 people aboard in a fiery wreck and spreading debris for miles, officials said.

Leflore County Emergency Management Agency Director Frank Randle told reporters at a briefing late Monday that 16 bodies had been recovered after the KC-130 spiraled into the ground about 85 miles north of Jackson in the Mississippi Delta. A witness said some bodies were found more than a mile from the crash site.

Marine Corps spokeswoman Capt. Sarah Burns said in a statement that a KC-130 “experienced a mishap” Monday evening but provided no details. The KC-130 is used as a refueling tanker.

Marine Capt. John Roberts said the plane was under the command of the 4th Marine

Air Wing, which is part of the Marine Forces Reserve headquartered in New Orleans.

In a Tuesday morning tweet, President Donald Trump offered condolences.

“Marine Plane crash in Mississippi is heartbreaking. Melania and I send our deepest condolences to all!” Trump wrote.

Andy Jones said he was working on his family’s catfish farm just before 4 p.m. when he heard a boom and looked up to see the plane corkscrewing downward with one engine smoking.

“You looked up and you saw the plane twirling around,” he said. “It was spinning down.”

Jones said the plane hit the ground behind trees in the soybean field, and by the time he and other reached the crash site, fires were burning too intensely to approach the wreckage. The force of the crash nearly flattened the plane,

Jones said.

“Beans are about waist-high, and there wasn’t much sticking out above the beans,” he said.

Jones said a man borrowed his cellphone to report to authorities that there were bodies across U.S. Highway 82, more than a mile from the crash site.

Greenwood Fire Chief Marcus Banks told the Greenwood Commonwealth that debris from the plane was scattered in a radius of about 5 miles.

Jones said firefighters tried to put out the fire at the main crash site but withdrew after an explosion forced them back. The fire produced towering plumes of black smoke visible for miles across the flat region and continued to burn after dusk, more than four hours after the crash.

Aerial pictures taken by WLBT-TV showed the skeleton of the plane burning strongly.

“It was one of the worst fires you can imagine,” Jones said.

He said the fire was punctuated by the pops of small explosions.

No more smoke was rising Tuesday morning from the site. State patrol units blocked all farm roads on U.S. Highway 82 about 2 miles away from the wreckage to keep anyone who wasn’t law enforcement or a response unit out of the area.

Officials did not release information on what caused the crash.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is about 115 miles southeast of Raleigh, N.C., and about 20 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

The station was authorized by Congress just before the start of World War II. It supports the 2nd Marine Aviation Wing, providing, among other services, KC-130 aircraft used for in-flight refueling. The station covers 45 square miles and has nearly 14,000 Marines, sailors and civilian employees.

Army sergeant charged with attempting to support ISIS

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — An Army sergeant in Hawaii has been charged with attempting to provide classified military documents and training to Islamic State.

Sgt. 1st Class Ikaika Erik Kang, 34, an air traffic control operator with the 25th Infantry Division at Wheeler Army Airfield, on Oahu, was arrested Saturday by an FBI SWAT team after a yearlong surveillance, according to media reports citing documents unsealed Monday at U.S. District Court in Honolulu.

Kang is charged with attempting to provide material

support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization.

He was assigned to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade.

As far back as 2011, Kang had made menacing statements and was reprimanded for threatening to injure or kill fellow soldiers and for making pro-ISIS statements while on post, according to an affidavit filed with the criminal complaint.

Kang’s security clearance was revoked in 2012, but it was reinstated the following year after he had abided by Army requirements during that review period, the affidavit said.

Last August, the Army contacted the FBI because officials believed Kang was becoming “radicalized,” the

affidavit said. Kang has the Army’s highest level of combat-instructor training, and he used his knowledge to train another person he believed to be an ISIS member, the affidavit said. The training sessions were videotaped so they could be used to train other ISIS fighters.

An undercover FBI operative reported that Kang had been researching “the most effective and painful ways people had been tortured,” the affidavit said. Kang also expressed a desire to torture a civilian he held responsible for taking away his air traffic controller’s license, the affidavit said. He threatened to tie the person down and pour Drano into his eyes.

The FBI found 18 military

documents classified as “secret” on hard drives belonging to Kang during a surreptitious search in November 2016. They also found nearly 500 documents referring to ISIS or violence. Some were from the al-Qaida magazine Inspire.

He transferred some of those documents to undercover FBI agents earlier this summer.

Kang told fellow soldiers that if he were deployed to Iraq again, he would not “shoot back at ISIS and he did not believe they were doing anything wrong,” the affidavit said.

Kang appeared in federal court Monday afternoon and is being held pending a detention hearing Thursday, NBC News reported.

Injured Fitzgerald commander is relieved

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Navy officials announced Tuesday that the USS Fitzgerald commanding officer is being temporarily relieved of his command for medical reasons.

The Navy statement said that Cmdr. Bryce Benson is relieved while recovering from injuries sustained in the collision between the destroyer and the ACX Crystal cargo ship June 17.

“This is a temporary relief

due to medical reasons,” 7th Fleet Spokesman Clay Doss said in an email to Stars and Stripes. “We’re focused on supporting Cmdr. Benson ... getting him the resources he needs during the recovery process.”

Benson was one of three sailors who were medically evacuated by helicopter from the ship to Yokosuka Naval Hospital after the destroyer collided with the ACX Crystal. Benson was released from the hospital June 19 along with the other two sailors, according to a 7th Fleet Facebook post.

Navy officials declined to discuss Benson’s current medical status, citing privacy laws.

The Fitzgerald was damaged above and below the water line on the starboard side near the bridge after being struck by the cargo ship, which is nearly four times its size. During a June 17 press conference, 7th Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin said Benson’s living area was among many spots on the ship that received significant damage.

“His cabin was destroyed,” Aucoin said. “He’s lucky to be

alive.”

Benson assumed duties as the ship’s executive officer in November 2015 before assuming command of the ship May 2017, according to a previous Navy news release.

Cmdr. Jack Fray, who is currently assigned to Task Force 70, has assumed command of the ship. Fray had previously served as commanding officer of the USS Howard, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer similar to the Fitzgerald, according to the statement.

Fitzgerald awaits Navy assessment of repair options

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Fitzgerald is now in Yokosuka’s dry dock 4, where officials will conduct a full assessment and decide the next step for the damaged destroyer.

Seven sailors were killed in a June 17 collision between the Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged cargo ship about 64 miles southwest of the naval base.

Officials will “conduct assessments that will inform options for long term repairs,” the Navy said in a statement Monday. They are trying to determine if the Fitzgerald is able to travel to the states under its own power or will need to be towed there for repairs.

Preparations for moving the ship to dry dock included patch-

ing the damaged hull, pumping out water and removing fuel and ammunition.

“Only a slight variation from a normal undamaged, routine, scheduled dry dock,” Lt. Dave Reinhardt, a docking officer, told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. “The flooded compartments were another variable we had to deal with. We were always talking with the salvage guys and had a plan to put the ship into dock even with an extra amount of water.”

“The patch was put on, it held and we were able to pump out the water from flooded compartments which enabled us to do things more routinely.”

The Fitzgerald was damaged above and below the water line on the starboard side near the bridge after being struck by the cargo ship, which is nearly four times its size.

The collision destroyed the captain’s cabin and hospitalized Cmdr. Bryce Benson.

“As far as damage ... I think this was greater damage compared to the USS Cole,” Chief Andrae Sutherland, a damage controlman, told Stars and Stripes on June 19. He participated in emergency response efforts after the October 2000 bombing that killed 17 Americans and injured 39.

Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin and Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift have both indicated the Fitzgerald will be repaired and returned to service.

“The ship is salvageable,” Aucoin told reporters on June 17. “It will require some significant repairs. You will see the USS Fitzgerald back as one of our warships here. [Repair time] will take months, hopefully,

under a year.”

Swift is looking for a ship to take over for the Fitzgerald and is considering vessels outside the 7th Fleet, he told Stars and Stripes on June 26.

He said he has two candidates in mind but declined to name them.

Also unclear is the future of the Fitzgerald’s sailors. There has been speculation that they will be transferred stateside along with the ship. Naval Forces Japan spokesman Darin Wilson said nothing will be decided until the damage assessment is completed.

The Navy announced last month that Rear Adm. Brian Fort will lead an investigation into the collision. Officials from the U.S., Japan Coast Guard and Japan Transport Safety Board have also launched investigations.

FBI: Device explodes at Okla. recruiting center

Associated Press

BIXBY, Okla. — Federal authorities are searching for surveillance video of a commercial area that houses an Oklahoma Air Force recruiting center where an explosive device was set off.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokeswoman Meredith Davis said agents believe there must be video cameras at the suburban Tulsa site, which is also home to a multiplex theater and other businesses.

Bixby police said the blast was reported

around 10:30 p.m. Monday. Bixby is about 15 miles south of Tulsa.

FBI Agent Jessi Rice said the recruiting office was closed at the time of the explosion and no one was injured.

The extent of the damage is not yet known.

Sporadic clashes in Mosul after victory

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Sporadic clashes erupted in Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday, a day after Iraq's prime minister declared "total victory" over Islamic State, with several airstrikes hitting the Old City neighborhood that was the scene of the fierce battle's final days.

Plumes of smoke rose into the air as ISIS mortar shells landed near Iraqi positions, and heavy gunfire could be heard on the western edge of the Old City.

The clashes underscored the dangers still posed by the militants after Iraqi forces announced they retook full control of Mosul, the country's second-largest city, three years after it was seized by extremists bent on building a global caliphate.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International warned in a report released Tuesday that the conflict in Mosul has created a "civilian catastrophe," with the extremists carrying out forced displacement and summary killings and using civilians as human shields.

The report also detailed violations by Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition.

"The scale and gravity of the loss of civilian lives during the military operation to retake Mosul must immediately be publicly acknowledged at the highest levels of government in Iraq and states that are part of the U.S.-led coalition," said Lynn Maalouf, the research director for Mideast at Amnesty.

The report, which covers the

first five months of this year, noted how ISIS fighters moved civilians with them around the city, preventing them from escaping, creating battle spaces with dense civilian populations while "Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition failed to adapt their tactics."

The Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition "continued to use imprecise, explosive weapons with wide area effects in densely populated urban environments," Amnesty stated, adding that some violations may constitute war crimes.

On Monday evening, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi came to Mosul for the second day in a row to declare "total victory," flanked by his senior military leadership at a small base on the edge of the Old City. But he also alluded to the brutality of the conflict, saying the triumph had been achieved "by the blood of our martyrs."

In Geneva, the U.N. human rights chief urged Iraq's government to ensure that human rights will be respected in post-ISIS Mosul.

Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein described Mosul's fall as the "turning point" in the conflict against ISIS but warned that the group continues to subject people to "daily horrors" in its remaining strongholds of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, and Hawijah, north of Baghdad.

"Horrific though the crimes of ISIL are, there is no place for vengeance," said Zeid, who is a Jordanian prince, using an alternative acronym for ISIS.

He cited allegations of threats of collective punishment and forced evictions in Mosul by Iraqi security forces and their allies. He also cited three years of human rights violations during ISIS' control of Mosul, including abuses like sexual slavery of women and girls that "have left deep scars on Iraqi society."

In Baghdad, Shiite politician Karim al-Nouri warned that defeating ISIS in Mosul doesn't mean that "terrorism" is finished and urged the government to review its policies for dealing with Sunni areas of the country to "avoid previous mistakes that led to the emergence" of ISIS.

The government needs to work on "removing fears of marginalization and terrorism affiliation in Sunni areas," said al-Nouri, a senior member of Badr Organization. He said he believes the Iraqi security forces should stay in Mosul until it is fully secure before handing it over to local forces.

Lawmaker Intisar al-Jabouri, from Nineveh province, where Mosul is the capital, said uprooting ISIS' "extremism ideology" was key for a peaceful future in Mosul, which reeled under the extremists' harsh rule for three years.

She urged Baghdad to invest in "good relations" between the residents and the security forces and take all "necessary measures to prevent terrorism groups from returning to Mosul."

While Mosul fell to ISIS in a matter of days in 2014, the campaign to retake the city lasted

nearly nine months. For more than two years before the operation started, Iraqi forces backed by coalition airstrikes slowly clawed back territory from ISIS elsewhere in Iraq, and tens of thousands of Iraqi troops went through a massive coalition training program.

The ISIS defeat in Mosul dealt a huge blow to the group's so-called Islamic "caliphate" — territory that the militants seized, spanning large swaths of both Iraq and Syria — but also killed thousands, left entire neighborhoods in ruins and displaced nearly 900,000 from their homes.

Thousands of civilians are estimated to have been killed in the fight for the city, according to the provincial council of Nineveh — a toll that does not include those still believed buried under collapsed buildings. Iraq's military does not release official casualty numbers for soldiers killed in combat. A statement late Monday from ISIS claimed its fighters were still attacking Iraqi soldiers in the al-Maydan area of Mosul's Old City, purportedly killing and wounding many and seizing weapons and ammunition.

"The soldiers of the caliphate in Mosul continue to accomplish epics until they achieve either victory or martyrdom," it said.

Also Monday, the United Nations said that of the more than 897,000 people displaced from Mosul, thousands will probably not be able to return because of "extensive damage caused during the conflict."

Syrian war monitor reports death of al-Baghdadi; US can't confirm

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — A group that monitors the war in Syria said Tuesday it has "confirmed information" about the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State, citing information received from the militants in eastern Syria.

Al-Baghdadi's death has been rumored numerous times in the past, and it was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim. There also were no

immediate announcements from ISIS news channels.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement, "We cannot confirm this report, but hope it is true."

"We strongly advise ISIS to implement a strong line of succession. It will be needed," the statement said.

The death of al-Baghdadi — if true — would mark another blow to the extremist group days after it was finally driven from the northern Iraqi city of Mosul by Iraqi-led forces. The militants

are also under siege in the Syrian city of Raqqa, ISIS' self-declared capital, where a U.S.-backed force of mainly Kurdish fighters has been advancing for weeks.

The monitoring group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, is based in Britain and relies on a network of activists in Syria for its reporting. The group's director, who goes by the pseudonym Rami Abdulrahman, told The Washington Post that ISIS leaders had confirmed al-Baghdadi's death to the Obser-

vatory's activists in the Syrian province of Deir al-Zour.

"We don't know when. We don't know how," Abdulrahman said.

A post on the Syrian Observatory's website said it "confirmed information ... about the death" of al-Baghdadi, whose real name is Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badry. Al-Baghdadi's apparent death or capture have been asserted several times over the past decade as his breakaway al-Qaida faction gradually formed into the core of ISIS.

California proposal would require release of police body camera recordings

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A long-standing national debate about police transparency and privacy has been reignited in California with legislation that would require law enforcement agencies to release body camera video and recordings of fatal police shootings and other significant incidents.

The proposal, which comes amid a push across the U.S. for body camera recordings to be released more quickly after fatal police shootings, seeks to establish a statewide policy on when body camera footage and other audio and video recordings should be released.

The state Senate's Public Safety Committee has scheduled a hearing Tuesday on Assembly Bill 748, which would amend California's public records statute to limit the discretion that police departments have for withholding body camera videos. The proposed measure would require police

departments to release video in cases where law enforcement officers use force or in incidents where it is believed there is a violation of law or public policy.

More than a dozen law enforcement organizations oppose the measure, and many contend it should be up to local police departments to determine when, if ever, body camera footage should be released.

State lawmakers have failed to pass a handful of different bills in the last few years that addressed body-worn video, including establishing policies on when officers should turn their cameras on and off and when the public would have access to videos.

Several California police departments, including the Los Angeles Police Department, maintain policies denying the disclosure of body camera videos and consider the footage to be investigative records that are exempt from the state's open records law.

Turkey issues warrants for tech experts in failed coup

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish authorities have issued detention warrants for 105 information technology experts suspected of aiding last year's failed coup, the state-run news agency reported.

The warrants were issued Tuesday as Turkey kicked off a week of events commemorating the July 15 anniversary of the thwarted coup and remembering about 250 people who were killed.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim visited a graveyard in Istanbul where some of the victims were buried, while special prayers were to be recited in honor of the dead at mosques across the

country.

Anadolu Agency says 52 of the suspects, who include ex-employees of Turkey's scientific research council and of the telecommunications authority, have been detained so far. They are accused of providing technical support to the coup plotters.

Turkey has blamed U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen for the coup and is seeking his extradition. Gulen has denied involvement.

Turkey declared a state of emergency following the attempt and embarked on a sweeping crackdown, arresting some 50,000 people for alleged links to the coup and dismissing more than 100,000 from government jobs.

Views of Russian lawyer, Trump Jr. on meeting differ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Russian lawyer who met with Donald Trump's eldest son during the presidential campaign said she was summoned to Trump Tower and asked if she had damaging information on Hillary Clinton, painting a very different picture of the encounter from the one that Donald Trump Jr. has described.

Trump Jr. has said his June 2016 meeting with attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya was arranged through an acquaintance so that he could hear information helpful to the Trump campaign. Distancing himself from the source of the information, he has said he didn't even know the name of the person he was to meet with in advance.

The dueling depictions of the meeting, arranged just after Trump had clinched the Republican nomination, come as congressional committees and Special Counsel Robert Mueller investigate whether Trump campaign associates and Russia coordinated to tip the election in Trump's favor. Though neither Veselnitskaya nor Trump Jr. has described the meeting as fruitful, it'll likely be dissected by investigators trying to determine whether collusion took place.

In an interview that aired Tuesday on NBC's "Today," Veselnitskaya said she received a phone call from a man she didn't know and was told to meet with Trump Jr. She said she didn't have information on the Clinton campaign and has never worked for the Russian government.

"All I knew was that Donald Trump Jr. was willing to meet with me," she said through a translator.

On Clinton, she said: "It's quite possible that maybe they

were looking for information. They wanted it so badly."

The interview was Veselnitskaya's first public comment since Trump Jr. acknowledged that he made time for the meeting hoping to get information on Clinton, his father's Democratic presidential opponent. The president's son has said the meeting was arranged by an acquaintance he knew through the 2013 Miss Universe pageant Trump held in Moscow.

On Monday, Trump Jr. tweeted sarcastically: "Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent ... went nowhere but had to listen."

According to the NBC interview, Veselnitskaya suggested she didn't initiate the meeting; she said she was lobbying against U.S. sanctions affecting Moscow but wasn't acting on behalf of the Kremlin.

She said Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, also attended the meeting but left after a few minutes. Paul Manafort, then Trump's campaign chairman, was there, too, but never participated and spent much of the meeting on his phone, she said. It wasn't clear from the NBC report who in the meeting asked her for information on Clinton.

The circumstances surrounding the meeting, and a report by The New York Times late Monday that Trump Jr. was told ahead of time that the Russian government was the source of damaging information on Clinton, have fueled new questions about the Trump campaign's possible ties to Moscow.

The sequence of events that led to the June 2016 meeting highlighted the tangled web of relationships that investigators now are sorting through.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Refused handshake leads to fatal shooting

PA PITTSTON — Police said a man fatally shot another outside a Pennsylvania bar after someone refused to shake hands to settle a dispute over a game of pool.

Pittston police said Stephen Spencer, 30, was holding a gun when they arrived outside Saints and Sinners Irish Pub about 1 a.m. Sunday. They said he told them, "Here's the gun. I shot him," referring to Christopher Williams, 32. The Pittston man died a short time later at a hospital.

Police didn't immediately say whether Williams was the man who refused to shake Spencer's hand after two groups of people got into an argument.

Spencer was being held in the Luzerne County jail without bond Monday.

Suspect in shooting might have Alzheimer's

WV PRINCETON — Authorities said a West Virginia man with signs of Alzheimer's disease fatally shot his wife when he thought she was in distress.

The Bluefield Daily Telegraph reported that Larry Dillon, 65, shot his wife, Sandy Dillon, in their home on Thursday night.

Mercer County prosecuting attorney George Sitler said there is evidence that Dillon has Alzheimer's, a cognitive disorder. Dillon has been charged with first-degree murder, but a judge has ordered that Dillon undergo a mental competency hearing.

Police said Dillon believed family members were being harmed, so he took out a handgun and began shooting in a bedroom with his wife and 9-year-old granddaughter inside.

Man rescued from car dangling off of cliff

MA PLYMOUTH — Police said a man was hospitalized after his car went flying off a cliff on the Massachusetts coast.

The car went off the road Sunday in Plymouth, about 40 miles south of Boston. A nearby resident, Karl Abele, said he saw the car go over the cliff and found it dangling about a third of the way down, narrowly avoiding a drop onto the beach below.

Abele said smoke was coming out of the car. He said he broke the rear windshield before he and another neighbor helped the driver out. The man seemed dazed but otherwise OK, Abele said. The driver was taken to a hospital.

Family dog may have started house fire

PA ARNOLD — Fire officials said a family dog may have been responsible for a house fire in Pennsylvania.

WTAE-TV reported that firefighters responded to a house fire in Arnold on Sunday night. Officials said one person was home, along with two pet dogs.

Authorities said the lone person was able to escape the house unharmed. Firefighters rescued both dogs and administered CPR before taking the pets to a veterinarian.

Arnold fire Chief Chris O'Leath said he believes one of the dogs sparked the fire when it knocked a candle over.

Man says monkeys swarming property

FL OCALA — A Florida man says he's got a monkey problem.

Local media reported that Brian Pritchard, of Ocala, said troops of rhesus monkeys have

been invading his property in search of food in his deer feeders. Cameras he set up to photograph deer instead contain pictures of dozens of monkeys.

Pritchard said the primates had eaten 250 pounds of food in recent days.

Officials said the monkeys probably originated in nearby Silver Springs State Park, which recently shut down two areas because of increased monkey presence. It's estimated that 200 monkeys live in the park, but many are seen beyond its boundaries.

Gunfire detectors to be installed across city

OH CINCINNATI — Cincinnati plans to install a series of high-tech devices to track gunfire around the city in an effort to reduce gun violence and provide more information to officers responding to calls.

ShotSpotter is a gunfire detection system that uses microphones to quickly pinpoint the location of gunfire.

WCPO-TV reported that the system is expected to be operating in Cincinnati in the coming weeks.

The ShotSpotter system costs \$235,000 a year and will cover a 3-square-mile radius in five city neighborhoods.

Elderly woman flashes stunned crowd at game

CA LOS ANGELES — An elderly woman shown dancing on the videoboard between innings at Dodger Stadium proceeded to flash the crowd.

Fans egged on her dance moves, and perhaps emboldened by their cheers, the smiling woman quickly lifted her blue shirt, revealing a white bra underneath, in the seventh inning on Saturday night.

The camera cut away, but it

wasn't in time.

There was a collective gasp from the crowd of 45,225, many of whom began laughing.

Man accused of using stun gun on 3 toddlers

MO SPRINGFIELD — A Missouri couple has been charged after the man admitted he uses a stun gun to discipline his wife's three toddlers.

According to a probable cause statement, Shelby Crabtree, 21, of Springfield, told a baby sitter she didn't report Gale Epple's actions to authorities because she feared the state would remove her 2-year-old daughter and 1-year-old twins.

The sitter contacted police after she spotted bruises on the children. Police said she secretly recorded Epple, 22, saying he knows he shouldn't use the stun gun on the children but that it doesn't hurt.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that Epple was charged Friday with three counts of child abuse or neglect. Crabtree is charged with three counts of child endangerment.

Bedbugs are found in fire station again

SC CHARLESTON — The bedbugs are back at a South Carolina fire station one month after an outbreak at four stations.

The Charleston Fire Department said in a news release July 5 that bedbugs have been found at one of the stations that had problems earlier this year. Firefighters are being moved to another station about 3 miles away.

Charleston spokesman Jack O'Toole said the bugs were found on a covered mattress in the station's dorm. A pest-sniffing dog determined the infiltration was limited to one area of one room.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Yankees' Judge wins Home Run Derby

Associated Press

MIAMI — Aaron Judge hit the glass behind left field that supports the retractable roof at Marlins Park. He drove balls over the Red Grooms home run sculpture in left-center, over the batter's eye in center and — unusually for a Home Run Derby, to the opposite field, too.

He even hit the roof.

The larger-than-life New York Yankees slugger dominated the All-Star Home Run Derby in the same manner he has smashed his way through his rookie season, beating Minnesota's Miguel Sano 11-10 with two minutes to spare in the final on Monday night.

"It was a blast. I enjoyed every minute of it — watching the other guys swing, coming here early and talking to the media," Judge said. "Everything about today was fantastic."

Five years ago, Judge won the college home run derby in Omaha, Neb. This time, he out-slugged some of baseball's top stars, including local favorites Giancarlo Stanton and Justin Bour, of the Miami Marlins.

"A lot more fans," Judge said. "Your adrenaline is pumping, you're nervous, you're excited. But this was an incredible experience."

Judge, 6-foot-7 and 282 pounds, hit 47 home runs in the derby that totaled 3.9 miles. His longest drive of the night

went 513 feet, and he topped 500 four times.

"I thought I had seen it all before. He didn't even look like he was getting tired," said Seattle's Robinson Cano, the 2011 Derby winner. "He was going opposite field. He was late on the ball and he was putting the ball in the upper deck."

Judge had no trouble hitting the roof, thought to be previously untouched by batted ball. That drive didn't count.

"I got it in BP, too, earlier. So I wasn't too surprised by that," Judge said.

Hitting second each time, Judge knocked out Bour 23-22 in the first round and beat Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger 13-12 in the second. Then, with lightning visible behind the huge glass door, he hit a 458-foot drive above the batter's eye for the title.

"That guy Aaron Judge, he doesn't get tired," Sano said.

Many of the All-Stars sat in foul territory, some with their kids.

"I had never seen him in person. He's really impressive," said Colorado's Charlie Blackmon, who was eliminated in the first round. "The first time I saw him, he was in a crowd. I was wondering what he was standing on. He's a monster."

Judge leads the major leagues with 30 home runs, and some Yankees fans showed up to sup-

port him in their full dress — flowing black robes and white powdered wigs. Booed initially by the crowd of 37,027, Judge earned cheers once Stanton, the defending champion, and Bour were eliminated in the first round.

Judge has hit the longest home run in the regular season this year in the majors — 495 feet. He broke a TV monitor at Yankee Stadium with a BP drive that went over the center-field bleachers in May and dented a door casing with a home run last week.

In Tuesday night's game, he's set to bat third for the American League.

Sano beat Kansas City's Mike Moustakas 11-10 in the opening round, and the Yankees' Gary Sanchez topped Stanton 17-16.

Stanton, who got home about 5 a.m. after a game in San Francisco, started slowly against pitcher Pat Shine, hitting three liners before a 429-foot drive to center.

Stanton began to find his groove and hit a 496-foot shot off the glass behind the left-field seats, then started spraying impressive drives. He had 15 when his 30-second bonus round started but added just one more. The crowd groaned when his last fell short.

"It just didn't work out as we had planned," Shine said.

Bellinger, hitting off his dad,

former big leaguer Clay Bellinger, earned bonus time as four minutes expired with his 13th drive, into the right-field upper deck, then with five seconds remaining knocked out Blackmon 15-14.

Hitting without batting gloves, Bour excited fans with 22 homers. Judge, hitting against his regular BP pitcher, Danilo Valiente, had 22 through four minutes, according to the scoreboard, and when he hit one in bonus time he walked away. But the scoreboard reverted to 22 — apparently the roof shot was subtracted — and Judge added another with a few seconds left.

"I thought I had 23 already, but I guess I tied him," he said. "I really didn't have any worries."

Seeming tired, Sanchez opened the second round with 10 and Sano needed just 3:10 to hit 11, the longest at 491 feet. In a matchup of the leading candidates for rookies of the year, Bellinger hit 12 and Judge topped him with a minute to spare, including a 513-foot shot high off the window, a drive that left his bat at 119 mph and rose 143 feet.

"I had no pressure going into it," Judge said. "I'm a rookie. This is my first time doing it. For me, I got no expectations. I'm just going to go in there and have some fun."

Milwaukee could use strong second half from Braun

Associated Press

The Milwaukee Brewers are the surprising leaders of the NL Central, and they've reached this point with minimal contributions from their star slugger.

Ryan Braun, who missed almost all of June with calf problems, is hitting .259 with only 23 RBIs. With the Cubs and Cardinals still looming 5½ games behind, Milwaukee's postseason hopes could depend on whether the 33-year-old Braun can stay on the field and produce.

Braun's power is still there. He has 10 home runs in only 40 games, and he ranks among the top hitters in baseball in exit velocity, according to MLB's Statcast. The question is his health. Braun hasn't played more than 140 games since 2012, and he was out Sunday with left calf tightness.

If Braun can come back refreshed and healthy after the All-Star break, he's a good candidate to make a bigger impact in the second half.

Here are a few other players who could enjoy significant

turnarounds down the stretch:

■Manny Machado, Orioles. Machado has 18 home runs, but that doesn't really stand out in this homer-happy season. Baltimore needs more than a .230 average and .296 on-base percentage from its star third baseman, and Machado will likely provide it going forward. His batting average on balls in play is just .239 — 63 points below his career number — so he's been victimized by some bad luck.

■Jeff Samardzija, Giants. He's 4-10 with a 4.58 ERA, but

don't be fooled. In 118 innings, the right-hander has 127 strikeouts and only 14 walks. He'd make an interesting trade target for a contender looking to improve its rotation.

■Aroldis Chapman, Yankees. Like Braun, Chapman's main issue is probably his health. He missed more than a month because of shoulder problems — always a concern for someone who throws as hard as he does. His 3.48 ERA is ordinary, but his strikeout rate is actually up from last year.

Djokovic wins 4th-round match in 3 sets

Associated Press

LONDON — Novak Djokovic played the first match of this year's Wimbledon tournament under a closed roof on Centre Court, and he won it in straight sets.

The three-time champion at the All England Club beat Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4 Tuesday in a fourth-round match that was postponed from Monday.

During the third set, with Djokovic already up a break, the second-seeded Serb asked for a medical timeout and a

trainer examined and stretched his right shoulder. Djokovic appeared to grimace in pain a couple of times as his shoulder was being checked.

"It's been something that I've been dragging back and forth for a while now," Djokovic said. "But I'm still managing to play, which is the most important thing."

Djokovic will face 2010 Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych, a man he has beaten 25 times in 27 matches, on Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

The men traditionally have Tuesday off at Wimbledon, but

Rafael Nadal's five-set loss to Gilles Muller on Monday forced Djokovic's match to be pushed back a day.

The rain started at about 11:30 a.m. The opening match on Centre Court was due to start at noon, so the roof was closed for the first time this year. The rain came and went into the afternoon, forcing the delay of the first women's quarterfinal match on No. 1 Court.

There was a brief rain delay on the opening day of the tournament, but the roof stayed open and the rain went away.

Djokovic was broken only

once in his match, in the second set. But the 12-time major champion, who won the Wimbledon title in 2011, '14 and '15, broke Mannarino early in the third and advanced to the quarterfinals at the All England Club for the ninth time.

Mannarino has never before reached the quarterfinals at any of the four Grand Slam tournaments. He also lost in the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2013. Last year, he lost to Djokovic in the second round at Wimbledon, also in straight sets.

Venus in Wimbledon semifinals for 10th time in career

Associated Press

LONDON — Playing at Wimbledon for the 20th time, Venus Williams is in the semifinals for the 10th time.

The five-time champion at the All England Club advanced to the last four for the second year in a row by beating Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 7-5 Tuesday under a closed roof on Centre Court.

Williams, who is 37 years old, made her Wimbledon debut a few months before Ostapenko was born. She last won the title in 2008, but reached the semifinals last year and the Australian Open final this year.

Williams is the oldest woman in the Wimbledon quarterfinals since 1994. She will next face either second-seeded Simona Halep or Johanna Konta on Thursday. In the other women's semifinal match, Garbine Muguruza will play either CoCo Vandeweghe or Magdalena Rybarikova. Muguruza beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 6-4 on No. 1 Court.

Konta was next to play on Centre Court against Halep.

Williams went up a break early in both sets against Ostapenko, the French Open champion. But the 20-year-old Latvian broke back in the second set and pushed the score to 5-5. A few unforced errors

later, though, and Williams broke again for a 6-5 lead before serving out the match.

Williams ended up with eight aces and only 13 winners. Ostapenko had one ace and 20 winners.

In Monday's action, Rafael Nadal kept getting pushed to the brink of defeat. He kept resisting.

He dropped the first two sets, then won the next two. He erased two match points in the riveting fifth set's 10th game, then another two in its 20th game. Only when his fourth-round match against 16th-seeded Gilles Muller of Luxembourg stretched past 4½ hours, the sunlight fading, did Nadal blink.

After repeatedly digging himself out of difficult situations, Nadal finally succumbed, broken in the last game of a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 15-13 loss to Muller on Monday.

"I played with the right determination, right passion, right attitude," Nadal said, "to win the match."

But he could not pull through, extending his drought without a quarterfinal berth at the All England Club to six years.

"Just tried to hang in there," Muller said. "Still kept believing. Yeah, somehow in the end, I made it."

Nadal won two of his 15 Grand Slam championships at

Wimbledon, and played in the final three other times, most recently in 2011. But since then, Nadal's exits at the All England Club have come in the first round (2013), second round (2012, 2015) or fourth round (2014, 2017).

All of those losses, except Monday's, came against men ranked 100th or worse. The 34-year-old Muller is not exactly a giant-killer: He had lost 22 consecutive matches against players in the top five. And he'd only reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal once before, at the 2008 U.S. Open.

Nadal said Muller's powerful serve and crisp volleys make him "uncomfortable" to play.

Now Muller, who also beat Nadal at Wimbledon in 2005, will get a much-needed chance to recover before facing 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic in Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Other men's quarterfinals: defending champion Andy Murray against Sam Querrey, Roger Federer against Milos Raonic, Tomas Berdych against Novak Djokovic or Adrian Mannarino. The Djokovic-Mannarino fourth-rounder was postponed until Tuesday; it had been scheduled for after Nadal-Muller.

But that duo played on and on, past 8 p.m., when the descending sun's reflection off the arena bothered Nadal so much that he

held up action; chair umpire Ali Nili asked spectators to stand in the way and block the rays. A few games later, Nili told fans to stop doing the wave, suggesting they wait for the next change-over so play could proceed.

Hours earlier came what might be interpreted as a bad omen for Nadal. Going through his prematch rituals on the way to the court, he jumped up so high that he banged his head on the doorway's transom. He staggered back a bit, then tried to laugh it off, before rubbing the top of his head.

"Maybe that's why the first two sets I was winning quite easy," Muller joked. "Maybe still a little bit feeling dizzy."

After all, until Monday, Nadal hadn't lost a Grand Slam set since the fifth of the Australian Open final in January against Federer. From the outset of the French Open — where he won a record 10th championship last month — and through his first three matches at Wimbledon, Nadal won 28 consecutive completed sets at the majors. Healthy and playing terrifically, Nadal seemed poised to again be a factor at the All England Club.

Don't forget, from 2006 to 2011, he reached the final in five consecutive Wimbledons (he missed it in 2009 because of bad knees), winning titles in 2008 and 2010.

Independent review upholds Horn win

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — An independent review of the scoring in Manny Pacquiao's contentious WBO welterweight world title loss to Jeff Horn has confirmed the outcome in favor of the Australian former schoolteacher.

A Philippines government department asked the WBO to review the refereeing and the judging of the so-called "Battle of Brisbane" in Australia on July 2 after Horn, fighting for his first world title, won a unanimous points decision against Pacquiao, an 11-time world champion.

In a statement late Monday, the WBO said three of the five independent judges who reviewed the bout awarded it to Horn, one awarded it to Pacquiao and one scored it a draw.

WBO President Francisco Valcarcel asked the judges, who came from different coun-

tries and remained anonymous, to assign their own scores to rounds, saying the results would be tabulated to ascertain which rounds each fighter won using an average scale based on 100, 80 and 60 percent.

Based on the analysis, the WBO said Pacquiao won the 3rd, 8th and 9th round by 100 percent, the 5th round by 80 percent and the 11th by 60 percent. Horn was given the 1st, 6th and 12th rounds by 100 percent, the 2nd, 4th and 7th by 80 percent and the 10th by 60 percent.

"From the results, it can be established that Pacquiao won 5 rounds while Horn won 7 rounds," the WBO statement said.

A further step of combining the independent judge's scores for each round with the bout judge's scores for each round also confirmed a win for Horn, the WBO said.

The Philippines Games and

Amusements Board last week urged a review, saying it wanted to protect the integrity of the sport.

The fight, in front of more than 51,000 people at a rugby stadium in Brisbane, was scored 117-111 by Waleksa Roldan and 115-113 each by Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan — Roldan's score coming in for most criticism. Pacquiao had Horn wobbling and in trouble in the 9th round, but couldn't finish him off. Horn rallied late to hold on for a points decision and remain unbeaten in 18 professional fights.

"It gives me evidence behind me that I can just use now. Instead of saying 'I think I won the fight,' now a heap of other people — professionally — think I won the fight," Horn told reporters in Brisbane on Tuesday as he prepared to board a flight for Los Angeles. "It's definitely nice to have it finally put on paper."

"Now just to have it clear in front of us is good."

Pacquiao had a rematch clause in his rich contract for the fight, and speculating is mounting about another showdown in Australia in November.

GAB chairman Abraham Kahlil Mitra last week welcomed the WBO's decision to conduct the review, saying it would send a strong signal that any sign of leniency, abuse of authority or wrongdoing would not be tolerated.

"Our feeling is, if you're quiet, you'll get abused but if you complain, they'll be careful ... Manny is a senator, a champion, but was like wrestled there, abused by them," Mitra told The Associated Press in the Philippines' capital after the WBO confirmed it would review the scoring. "If it can be done to him, it can be done to any other Filipino boxer."

Los Angeles, Paris present Olympic bids for 2024, '28

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — After Los Angeles and Paris laid out their Olympic hosting plans Tuesday, their mayors said they could work together on a deal to ensure both cities host a Summer Games soon.

Both cities used 45 minutes of videos and speeches, including French President Emmanuel Macron promoting the Paris cause, in a closed-door session with International Olympic Committee members to explain how they would host the 2024 Olympics.

Those members should vote later Tuesday to add the 2028 hosting rights and make both cities winners when the IOC next meets in September.

That will likely need IOC leaders to broker a consensus deal within weeks in talks which start with Paris widely seen as the 2024 favorite.

"We look forward to working

together maybe not in competition but collaboration with Paris," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference after his city's bid officials opened the campaign event.

Garcetti and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo have long touted their good working relations on other issues such as climate change.

"We are all at the disposition and by the side of the IOC which was right to ask itself this question," Hidalgo said at the Paris news conference, citing her friendship with Garcetti as potentially a "key element" to reaching an agreement.

The dual award can give the IOC a decade of stability with two world-class cities touting financially secure bids with, in LA's case, zero risk of white elephant venues. This follows years of overspending by Olympic hosts and political defeats to sink potential candidates.

The win-win option also

guards against a 2024 loser refusing to bid again for 2028 and avoids inflicting a third recent defeat on Paris — which lost with bids for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics — and the United States. New York and Chicago both lost heavily for 2012 and 2016, respectively. Paris also failed with a 1992 bid.

"We lost three times; we don't want to lose a fourth one," Macron said. "I'm here to convey the message that there's a strong unity to back this candidacy."

Minutes after Macron spoke, President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter: "Working hard to get the Olympics for the United States (L.A.). Stay tuned!"

Garcetti said the Olympic movement "can't afford to lose the United States."

"Both of us will find it more and more difficult to convince cities — whether it's Paris, Los Angeles or other American cities — to really go into this

process if one of us gets turned down," the mayor said.

Still, it could be a 2028 Olympics in LA that will be the first American-hosted games since 1996 in Atlanta.

IOC President Thomas Bach has said the idea of a double award was presented to him at a lunch last year by friends whom he declined to identify in a recent interview with French sports daily L'Equipe.

The LA bid team declined to comment Tuesday whether the suggestion came from its supporters.

"He (Bach) has good friends who gave him good advice," LA bid chairman Casey Wasserman said.

If Tuesday's vote passes as expected, the Bach-chaired IOC executive board could be empowered to broker a future deal on picking the 2024 host ahead of a Sept. 13 meeting in Lima, Peru.