

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy tightens qualifications to be SWO

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy is clamping down on who can become a surface warfare officer — a move aimed at boosting focus on bridge watch-standing opportunities for future warship commanders.

Effective immediately, sailors pursuing SWO certification must be commissioned line officers qualified to command warfighting units or be making a lateral transfer into the field, according to a Navy instruction issued July 23.

The change — which restricts limited-duty officers, chief warrant officers and senior enlisted sailors from becoming SWOs — comes after

ineffective watch-standing was found to be partly to blame for separate collisions last year that killed 17 sailors on the destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain.

It also “aligns with new career path revisions, which focuses on increased experience on ships, including increased bridge watch-standing opportunities for SWOs,” said a Navy statement about the new instruction.

“The surface warfare officer qualification ... is the crucible of a junior professional surface warfare officer to develop and master the core competencies necessary to excel as a future commanding officer of a warship,” Vice Adm. Richard Brown, commander of Naval

Surface Forces and Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in the statement.

Because watch-standing is part of the SWO certification process, allowing only those in line to become warship commanders to earn the certification will divert more watch-standing opportunities to them, Brown said in a U.S. Naval Institute article published Thursday.

Those who do not meet the new qualification but were already pursuing SWO certification will be allowed to continue doing so until Oct. 1, the Navy statement said.

The service’s instruction also says that only those permanently assigned to a vessel may receive SWO designation from

that ship’s commander.

“Once SWO qualification is achieved, transfer from one ship to another will not require requalification as a SWO or revalidation of the entire SWO (Personnel Qualification Standards) package,” the statement said. “However, requalification in all applicable watchstations is required.”

Also included in the changes to SWO certification is the elimination of a time limit to attain SWO pins. However, “open communication with [Navy Personnel Command] is required if a qualification is expected to take longer than the first division officer tour,” the statement said.

## Report: Marines lead all services in binge drinking

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

A new report from the Rand Corp. analyzed survey data from thousands of active-duty military members and found Marines are more likely to be heavy drinkers, use tobacco and engage in riskier sexual behavior than the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the other branches.

Rand found that incidents of binge drinking and hazardous drinking among Marines was almost double what it was in the Air Force.

The report defines binge drinking as having at least four or five drinks on one occasion. Hazardous drinking is defined as usage that suggests alcohol use disorder, commonly known as alcoholism.

Nearly half of the Marines surveyed reported drinking habits that met the criteria for hazardous.

The survey also revealed Marines were more likely to have had more than one sex partner over the course of one year and were less likely to use condoms with new partners.

The data were gathered as part of the 2015 Health Related Behaviors Survey con-

ducted across all branches of the military and the Coast Guard.

Researchers spent two years combing through and making sense of the data, which included responses to numerous aspects of physical and mental health.

In addition to questions about drug and alcohol use, respondents provided researchers with information on their eating and sleeping habits, sexual behavior and diets and exercise.

Almost 17,000 usable surveys were involved in the study.

Dr. Sarah Meadows, a senior sociologist at Rand who helped lead the study, said although it is useful in making policy decisions at the Department of Defense, people should be careful when drawing conclusions or casting judgment on one branch or another.

“We’re not trying to blame anyone for this, but the Marine Corps does tend to stand out,” she said. “Each of the services has their own culture.”

The Navy came in second in alcohol use, followed by the Coast Guard and the Army. Researchers also separated the data

based on other factors, such as gender, race, age and rank. Results show that alcohol use is an issue across the services.

Marines led in tobacco use as well. Marines were significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes. They are also almost twice as likely as members in other branches to use smokeless tobacco, or “dip.”

1st Lt. David Morris works in communications at 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He said that it’s too soon to see any new programs emerge from the Rand study, but that there were existing programs in place on Camp Pendleton, such as the Substance Abuse Counseling Center.

“We do have programs when we identify high-risk Marines,” he said.

Meadows said the results would be useful to congress and the Defense Department in deciding where to devote resources. She suggested the department decide on certain benchmarks for the military, such as how much alcohol and tobacco use is acceptable.

# Troops conclude RIMPAC drills

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Troops from 11 nations on Sunday conducted the final and largest of four amphibious drills here as the Rim of the Pacific exercise nears its end.

Twenty-one amphibious assault vehicles carrying 306 troops bounded across whitecaps on Oahu's Kaneohe Bay toward a sandy beach near the iconic Pyramid Rock on the coast of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The attack was supported by ships, helicopters, fighter jets and a drone.

The assault marks the final flight for the RQ-7B Shadow drone used at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay since 2008.

The mock attack was commanded by RIMPAC's Marine Air Ground Task Force-Hawaii, which is composed of more than 2,800 Marines and sailors and foreign military personnel

from Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Chile, Philippines and Tonga.

"We've been fighting a notional war scenario the last five days," said Col. Michael Styskal, commander of MAGTF-Hawaii, after the 90-minute assault. "We came on this beach to seize an airfield. This culminates the actions of the amphibious force."

Styskal said there were "no real hiccups" in the assault, which was launched from Australia's HMAS Adelaide and Indonesia's KRI Makassar.

Twenty-five nations, 46 ships, five submarines and about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in the biennial RIMPAC, which ends Thursday.

RIMPAC 2018's amphibious portion has not been larger than in previous years, but it has been "a little bit more flexible," Styskal said.

The Shadow drone provided reconnaissance, surveil-

lance and target acquisition to MAGTF-Hawaii before and during the assault.

The Shadow was operated by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, or VMU-3, part of Marine Aircraft Group 24 based at MCAS Kaneohe Bay. VMU-3 has flown it more than 18,000 hours in the past 10 years.

VMU-3 will begin using the newer RQ-21A Blackjack drone later this year, joining the air station's other two VMUs that have already made that transition. Unlike its predecessor, the Blackjack can be launched from a ship.

Two CH-53E Super Stallions shuttled 48 American, Chilean and South Korean troops to the landing zone to conduct follow-on operations.

Another Super Stallion carried a 9,000-pound howitzer cannon to the captured beachhead. Several F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets shot through the sky above the beach in a loud show of force.

# Oversight of 3 brigades in Europe is shifted

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Army Europe will put a one-star general in charge of three brigades permanently stationed on the continent as part of a command reorganization designed to improve combat readiness.

The effort, known as "mission command restructuring," means the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr will assume oversight of the Vicenza, Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade; the Katterbach, Germany-based 12th Combat Aviation Brigade; and the Vilseck, Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment, which is structured as a Stryker brigade.

The change takes effect Wednesday, when all three brigades begin reporting to Brig. Gen. Christopher LaNeve, whose Grafenwoehr headquarters is taking on higher level responsibilities, USAREUR said.

"U.S. Army Europe is realigning command relationships for optimal readiness and effectiveness," USAREUR said in a statement.

Until now, management of the Army's Europe-based brigades was left to USAREUR's three-star boss.

The shift means USAREUR headquarters can now dedicate more resources to strategy while allowing the 7th Army Training Command to deal with tactical issues it is better designed to oversee, USAREUR said.

The headquarters realignment is the latest way in which the Army's mission in Europe is adapting to a more unpredictable security environment.

Since Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine, U.S. European Command's operations have expanded, particularly along NATO's eastern flank, as allies attempt to deter potential aggression.

# 3M to pay \$9.1M over GIs' defective earplugs

BY WILL MORRIS  
*Stars and Stripes*

A contractor has agreed to pay \$9.1 million to the U.S. government for selling defective earplugs issued to thousands of servicemembers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan from 2003 to 2015.

Known as "selective attenuation earplugs," 3M's Combat Arms earplugs would "loosen in the wearer's ear, imperceptibly to the wearer and even trained audiologists visually observing a wearer, thereby permitting damaging sounds to enter the ear canal by traveling around outside of the earplug," according to the whistleblower lawsuit complaint, which was settled Thursday.

The earplugs were designed to be worn in two ways. The wearer could insert the plugs one way if they needed to hear

speech and another way if they needed greater noise protection. The plugs looked like two inverted cones connected at each bottom by a stem.

The stem was too short, which did not allow the earplugs to go deep enough into the ear, the complaint stated.

The earplugs were originally manufactured by Aearo Technologies, which was acquired by 3M in 2008. Aearo was aware of the plug's defects as early as 2000, many years before it and 3M became the exclusive provider of selective attenuation earplugs to the military, according to the lawsuit.

The complaint alleged that 3M and Aearo Technologies manipulated test results to make it appear that the plugs met government standards.

"In addition to damages directly associated with the contractual cost of the earplugs,"

the complaint stated, "The United States has been damaged by the large and ongoing medical costs associated with treating veterans who likely suffered hearing damage and impairment as a result of the defective earplugs."

Tinnitus and hearing loss are the Department of Veterans Affairs' two most prevalent service-related disabilities, with 1,610,911 and 1,084,069 cases annually, according to the 2016 Annual Benefits Report issued by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

The whistleblower lawsuit was brought by Moldex-Metric Inc., a 3M competitor, in May 2016 under the False Claims Act. The act permits private parties to sue on behalf of the government in cases of fraud. As part of the settlement, Moldex-Metric will receive \$1.9 million.

## AG: US culture 'less hospitable to people of faith'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American culture has become “less hospitable to people of faith,” Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday in vowing that the Justice Department would protect people’s religious freedom and convictions.

Sessions spoke at a Justice Department summit on religious tolerance at a time when courts across the country have been asked how to balance anti-discrimination laws against the First Amendment’s religious freedom guarantees.

Conservative groups immediately praised Sessions for promising to protect deeply held religious convictions, though Trump administration critics repeatedly have voiced concerns that the attorney general’s stance undercuts LGBT rights and favors the rights of Christians over those of other faiths.

Sessions, the country’s chief law enforcement officer, warned of a “dangerous movement” that he said was eroding protections for religious Americans.

He asserted that “nuns were being forced to buy contraceptives” — an apparent, though not fully accurate, reference to an Obama administration health care policy meant to ensure women covered by faith-based groups’ health plans have access to cost-free contraceptives. Religious groups that challenged the policy argued it violated their religious beliefs.

Sessions also said it was inappropriate that judicial and executive branch nominees were being asked about their religious dogma. And he praised a Colorado baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex couple in a case that reached the Supreme Court and ended in his favor. That baker, Jack Phillips, was part of a panel discussion at the Justice Department summit.

“A dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom. There can be no doubt. This is no little matter. It must be confronted and defeated,” Sessions said. “This election, and much that has flowed from it, gives us a rare opportunity to arrest these trends. Such a reversal will not just be done with electoral victories, but by intellectual victories.”

## Lawsuit seeks \$100M in fatal Mo. duck boat sinking

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The owners and operators of a tourist boat that sank this month in Missouri, killing 17 people, put profits over people’s safety when they decided to put the Ride the Ducks boat on a lake despite design problems and warnings of severe weather, a lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit filed Sunday in U.S. District Court in Kansas City seeks \$100 million in damages on behalf of two of nine members of an Indiana family who died when the tourist boat sank July 19 at Table Rock Lake near Branson. Others killed were from Arkansas, Illinois and Missouri.

“This tragedy was the predictable and predicted result of decades of unacceptable, greed-driven, and willful ignorance of safety by the Duck Boat industry in the face of specific and repeated warnings that their Duck Boats are death traps for passengers and pose grave danger to the public on water and on land,” the lawsuit alleges.

Ripley Entertainment Inc., Ride the Ducks International, Ride the Ducks of Branson, the Herschend Family Entertainment Corp. and Amphibious Vehicle Manufacturing are named in the lawsuit, which was filed by a team led by a Philadelphia-based legal firm that has litigated previous lawsuits involving duck boats. The legal team planned a news conference Monday morning.

A Ripley spokeswoman said in a statement Monday that the company remains “deeply saddened” by the accident and supportive of the affected families. She said the company would not comment further because a National Transportation Safety Board is still underway and no conclusions have been reached.

The lawsuit says the boat operators violated the company’s own policies by putting the boat into the water despite the weather warnings. It also says the

captain violated protocol by not telling passengers to put on life jackets when the water got rough and instead lowering plastic side curtains, “thus further entrapping passengers in the soon-to-sink vessel.”

The lawsuit cites an August 2017 report from private inspector Steve Paul, who looked at two dozen of the duck boats. The report warned Ripley Entertainment that the vessels’ engines — and pumps that remove water from their hulls — were susceptible to failing in bad weather. It also accuses the defendants of ignoring warnings the NTSB issued in 2000 that the vehicles, which are designed to operate on land and water, should be upgraded to ensure the boats remain upright and floating in bad weather.

The 2000 recommendation from the NTSB was issued after a duck boat sank May 1, 1999, in Arkansas, killing 13 people.

When Robert McDowell, then-president of Ride the Ducks Branson, responded that upgrades would require significant costs, NTSB Chairman Jim Hall said the recommendations were made because the agency believed “immediate action was necessary to avoid additional loss of life.” The lawsuit says the defendants ignored the warnings.

It also alleges McDowell designed and developed the stretch duck boats, including the Stretch Duck O7 that sank, despite having no engineering training.

The National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for the area including Table Rock Lake about 30 minutes before the boat went onto the lake with 31 people on board.

The NTSB said Friday that a preliminary review of video and audio recordings from the boat showed that the lake changed from calm to dangerous in a matter of minutes. The agency emphasized it had not drawn any conclusions on what caused the boat to sink.

## Outage delays American Airlines flights nationwide

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Federal Aviation Administration says no American Airlines flights took off nationwide for about 40 minutes Sunday because of an outage at the carrier’s main operating system and dispatch operation.

Fort Worth-based American said in a statement the airline “experienced a brief connectivity issue” with one of its data centers and that all operations

were returning to normal. The FAA said in a tweet it worked with American to impose the ground stop after the failure about 2:05 p.m. EDT Sunday. The agency said the system was restored about 2:45

p.m. and flights were allowed to resume.

In the brief statement, American spokeswoman Luren Ruotolo said the airline apologizes to its customers “for the inconvenience.”

# MH370 report allows for 3rd-party theory

Associated Press

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia — A Malaysian-led independent investigation report released Monday, more than four years after Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared, highlighted shortcomings in the government's response and raised the possibility of "intervention by a third party."

The report, prepared by a 19-member international team, reiterated Malaysia's assertion the plane was deliberately diverted and flown for over seven hours after severing communications.

Chief investigator Kok Soo Chon said the cause of the disappearance cannot be determined until the wreckage and

the plane's black boxes are found. He said there was no evidence of abnormal behavior or stress in the two pilots that could lead them to hijack the plane but all passengers were also cleared by police and had no pilot training.

"We are not of the opinion that it could be an event committed by the pilot," Kok told a media briefing.

"We cannot rule out unlawful interference by a third party," such as someone holding the pilots hostage, he said. But he added that no group has said it hijacked the plane and no ransom demands have been made, compounding the mystery. Kok said it was up to police to investigate.

He said the investigation

showed lapses by air traffic control, including a failure to swiftly initiate an emergency response and monitor radar continuously, relying too much on information from Malaysia Airlines and not getting in touch with the military for help.

The plane carrying 239 people from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing vanished March 8, 2014, and is presumed to have crashed in the far southern Indian Ocean. The report said there was insufficient information to determine if the aircraft broke up in the air or during impact with the ocean.

Scattered pieces of debris that washed ashore on African beaches and Indian Ocean islands indicated a distant remote stretch of the ocean where the

plane likely crashed.

But a government search by Australia, Malaysia and China failed to pinpoint a location. A second, private search by U.S. company Ocean Infinity that finished at the end of May also found no sign of the wreckage.

Family members of those on board the plane said after a briefing by the investigation team that they were frustrated because there were many gaps in the probe and questions left unanswered.

"There is nothing new but it highlighted failings of some government agencies" that did not follow protocol and guidelines, said Grace Nathan, whose mother was on board the plane.

## Officers' bodycam video released in Minn. shooting

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Authorities in Minneapolis released body camera video from two police officers in the fatal shooting of a 31-year-old black man, with the footage showing the man shot from behind after a frenetic foot chase and what appeared to be a gun in his hand.

Officers Justin Schmidt and Ryan Kelly were responding to a 911 call of a man firing a gun into the air on the city's north side June 23. The video released Sunday shows them pulling their cruiser up and a man — Thurman Blevins — seated on a curb near a woman with a child in a stroller. As the officers pull up, one says, "He's got a gun!" Blevins jumps up and runs, as the officers yell "Stop, stop! Put your hands up! I will (expletive) shoot you!"

In a chase that takes less than a minute, Blevins yells back, "I didn't do nothing bro," "Please don't shoot" and "Leave me alone." An enhanced version of the video has a red circle drawn around Blevins' hand to highlight what appears to

be a gun. After the chase turns down an alley, Blevins is shot, still running.

Investigators said both Kelly and Schmidt fired their weapons. An autopsy showed Blevins was shot multiple times.

Investigators have said the officers arrived to find Blevins sitting with a woman on a curb before he ran, carrying a black and silver gun. A gun was recovered at the scene. Some witnesses had disputed Blevins was armed, saying he was carrying a bottle or a cup. He appeared to have something in each hand when he first ran.

The two officers are on paid administrative leave. A protest of Blevins' death was planned for Tuesday afternoon at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Kelly has been with the police department since 2013 and Schmidt joined in 2014. Both had served in the military and had been recognized numerous times for their work as police officers, according to redacted personnel files. They also both have had complaints against them.

## Man charged in fatal shooting of rookie Ariz. state trooper

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — A man was charged with murder in the fatal shooting of a rookie Arizona state trooper still in training, state officials said.

Isaac King, 20, was charged with several counts including first-degree murder, spokesman Raul Garcia said in a statement Sunday.

The shooting occurred after troopers responded to reports late Wednesday of a person throwing rocks at vehicles on Interstate 10 roughly 15 miles west of downtown Phoenix. Motorists had also pulled over to try to get the suspect off the road, according to Arizona Department of Public Safety officials.

A fight ensued when troopers tried to get King off the roadway. Trooper Tyler Edenhofer, 24, was shot and killed during the struggle. He was in his last week of field training.

King was transported to a hospital, but authorities would not say why he was hospitalized. He was charged after he made a remote appearance before a judge Sunday from his

hospital room.

King, who lives in Avondale, was on medication for anxiety and depression and has no criminal record, said DPS Col. Frank Milstead.

Six officers, including some local police, were struggling with the suspect for several minutes when he somehow got a hold of Trooper Sean Rodecap's weapon. Rodecap is a field training officer who was not wearing a uniform. King then fired two shots, Milstead said.

One hit Edenhofer in the shoulder but ricocheted downward, DPS spokesman Capt. Tony Mapp said. Trooper Dalin Dorris was shot through the shoulder, treated at a hospital and released.

Rodecap was injured, but not shot, in the fight.

Whether the weapon became dislodged or how King was able to fire it is under investigation, Milstead said.

Edenhofer, a U.S. Navy veteran, was killed just two months after graduating from the Department of Public Safety academy.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## No injuries after bears paw humans in park

**AK** ANCHORAGE — Alaska park officials said two incidents happened recently in which bears reached out and touched humans, something that hasn't happened in two decades.

KTUU-TV reported Katmai National Park & Preserve said last week that a bear pawed a visitor's pant leg after approaching the visitor in a curious manner at Brooks Camp. A second bear that was being chased by another bear pawed an employee of Katmailand's Brooks Lodge.

The National Park Service said in a news release that neither case led to injury to the people involved.

Officials said both cases involved young bears known as "subadults," a high number of which are now concentrated around Brooks Camp.

## Pro-Trump flag on ferry investigated

**NC** HATTERAS — North Carolina officials are investigating after people shared photos on social media of a pro-Trump flag on a state-operated ferry on the Outer Banks.

Multiple news outlets reported that travelers said they saw the flag Thursday aboard the MV Frisco ferry. Photos posted on social media show the flag says "Trump 2020" and is flying below the U.S. flag and even with the North Carolina flag.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk, Va., reported the flag was flown during a late run from Hatteras to Ocracoke. Ferry Division spokesman Tim Hass said the flag was up for one run.

Ferry system officials said they and the state Transportation Department are investigating.

## National Lobster Day designation sought

**RI** PROVIDENCE — U.S. senators from New England want to grant the lobster another national day of celebration.

They've introduced a resolution to again designate Sept. 25 as National Lobster Day to honor the economic, historic, cultural and culinary contributions of lobsters.

The resolution is being led by Maine U.S. Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins, who say it honors not only the lobsters but also the people who harvest, ship and cook them.

Rhode Island U.S. Sen. Jack Reed said he expects the full Senate to again unanimously approve it as a way to honor lobstermen and their catch.

## \$250K violin sold to pawn shop for \$50

**MA** SOMERVILLE — A violin bought by a Massachusetts pawn shop for \$50 ended up being worth a lot more — about 5,000 times that.

WFXT-TV reported that a new employee at the LBC Boutique and Loan in Somerville had no idea what he was buying when he paid for the Ferdinando Gagliano violin handcrafted in 1759 and worth \$250,000. Store manager Dylan McDermitt said the bows alone are worth \$16,000 to \$18,000.

Police said the violin was stolen during a house break-in and has been returned to its rightful owner.

## Thieves steal bronze 1920s lampposts

**IN** LAFAYETTE — Police are investigating the theft of a pair of bronze lampposts dating to the 1920s that were unbolted and hauled away

from outside an arts and cultural center in Lafayette.

The heavy ornamental posts had stood since 1926 outside the former library that's now the northwestern Indiana city's Wells Community Cultural Center.

Tetia Lee, the Tippecanoe Arts Federation's executive director, told the Journal & Courier that decorative elements which fell from the posts left a trail leading away from the building to an adjacent street.

## Centuries-old tree toppled by weather

**NJ** KINNELON — A centuries-old tree in Kinnelon was destroyed by heavy rain and strong wind.

A 60-foot butternut tree featured in the town's logo and on the patch worn by police officers fell after 245 years.

Mayor Robert Collins told The Record the town hopes to preserve as much wood as possible and use it for benches and a fireplace mantel at a new community center.

Residents planted a sapling using nuts from the tree 10 years ago that is now 15 feet tall.

## Parents told to get rid of autistic son's ducks

**MI** GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP — Parents of a 12-year-old boy with autism are fighting against a western Michigan township's order to get rid of their son's ducks that are used as emotional support animals.

WOOD-TV reported that Georgetown Township zoning officials issued a nuisance order to Mark and Jen Dyke after receiving multiple complaints from neighbors about the ducks straying from their property and their unpleasant smell. Township officials said they're enforcing an ordinance that pro-

hibits homeowners from having farm animals on their property.

The Dykes are requesting an ordinance variance and hope the township's zoning appeals board will rule in their favor next month.

## Twister the tortoise back at rescue facility

**ID** NAMPA — A 75-pound tortoise named Twister who went missing from a reptile rescue facility in southwestern Idaho has returned.

Employees with Reptile Adventures in Nampa told KBOI-TV that Twister showed up in a yard Wednesday after disappearing from the same yard two days earlier.

Employees said they suspect someone removed Twister from the yard and then brought him back. They said the tortoise appears to be healthy and doing well.

Twister has been at the facility for about a year and had his shell painted white, blue, yellow and red by previous owners before being surrendered.

## Video captures officer helping homeless man

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — In a random act of kindness that's gone viral, a Florida police officer was captured on video helping a homeless man shave his thick beard before a job interview.

The Tallahassee Democrat reported Officer Tony Carlson pulled into a gas station recently and saw the man trying to shave. The man, identified only as Phil, didn't have a mirror and was having a hard time.

The video shows Carlson shaving the man's beard. Phil told the officer he was trying to get a job at the nearby McDonald's but needed to be clean-shaven to get hired.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# C. Jones leads class into HOF

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Chipper Jones didn't bow to the pressure of the moment, and it was considerable.

Jones was inducted Sunday into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and he stood there delivering his speech with wife Taylor staring up at him, hours away from giving birth to a son to be named Cooper in honor of the special day.

Faced with that daunting task, Jones delivered flawlessly, just as he did during a 19-year career with the Atlanta Braves.

"She changed my life forever," Jones said as his wife brushed away tears. "It took me 40 years and some major imperfections in me along the way to find my true profession. Now we've taken our two families and blended them together. It has given me what I've been searching for my entire life — true happiness."

A crowd estimated at about 50,000 gathered on a sun-splashed day to honor six former players. Also enshrined were Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero, Trevor Hoffman and former Detroit Tigers teammates Jack Morris and Alan Trammell.

Jones controlled his emotions in a speech that took the crowd through his entire career, starting with his rookie season when he helped lead the Braves to the 1995 World Series title. He was one of the greatest switch-hitters in baseball history, in the mold of his dad's favorite player, Mickey Mantle, and finished with a .303 career batting average, 468 home runs, and 1,623 RBIs, credentials that earned him election on the first try.

Jones also heaped praise on his mom and dad — "You're the reason I'm on this stage," he said — and ended his speech by thanking the loyal Atlanta fans.

"You stuck by me," he said. "You're the reason I never want to play anywhere else. I love you guys. Thank you."

Emotional during a Hall of Fame visit in February to tour the museum in preparation for

this day, Thome held it together despite having to wipe away tears after his daughter Lila sang the national anthem. Like Jones, he heaped praise on his wife, Andrea.

"Obviously, induction into the Hall of Fame is one of the greatest honors of my life," Thome said. "The best thing, though, that's ever happened to me is the day you agreed to marry me. You are without a doubt the best teammate I could ever have and, with the world as my witness, I love you more today than ever."

The lefty-swinging Thome hit 612 home runs, eighth all-time, and had an MLB record 13 walk-off homers, mostly for the Cleveland Indians.

Thome marveled that the genesis of this moment was hitting rocks on a gravel driveway with an aluminum bat as a kid.

"It's been my great privilege to have played the game for as long as I did," he said. "And I can say this with certainty: The possibilities are just as important as the outcome. Living the dream that is major league baseball, the best part is not the result but taking the journey with the people whose contributions make it all possible."

"I'm so honored to be part of something so special. Baseball is beautiful, and I am forever in its service."

Greeted by hundreds of fans waving Dominican Republic flags, Guerrero spoke in his native Spanish in a speech that was translated from Spanish and lasted just five minutes. He thanked his father and mother, who cooked dinners for him and does the same now for his son, and the fans and the people in his hometown of Don Gregorio. His son Vladimir Jr., the top prospect in the minor leagues with the Blue Jays, was in attendance.

The nine-time All-Star outfielder batted .318 with 449 homers and 1,496 RBIs and is the first player inducted wearing the cap of the Angels, the team where he enjoyed his greatest success.

Just as he did in his unflap-

pable role in the bullpen during his career as an ace reliever, Hoffman was flawless in delivering his speech, also closing it by thanking his wife, Tracy.

"You shared with me this amazing journey of ups and downs from the beginning, always never letting me get too high or get too low," Hoffman said. "I love you."

Hoffman played the bulk of his career with the San Diego Padres before finishing with the Milwaukee Brewers. After failing to impress the front office in three years as a shortstop, he switched to the bullpen and became a star. Using a stultifying change-up, Hoffman recorded 601 saves over 18 seasons, second all-time to former Yankees star Mariano Rivera's 652.

Morris, now 63, spent 15 years on the ballot before getting the call from the Hall of Fame last December. Known for his toughness on the mound, he pitched 18 seasons for the Tigers, Twins, Blue Jays and Indians, and played on four World Series champions. The crowning achievement of his career was his 1-0, 10-inning complete-game victory in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series while pitching for his hometown Twins against the Braves.

Among those he thanked were his dad and his late mother and the late Sparky Anderson, who managed the Tigers to the 1984 World Series championship.

"I know Sparky Anderson is with us here today," Morris added. "He taught me so many things, especially to respect this great game. He taught me a valuable lesson by allowing me to fail and fight through adversity."

Trammell, who played shortstop for 20 seasons — all for the Tigers — and Morris were selected together by a veterans committee, which made the day extra special for the Motor City.

"We signed together in 1976, spent 13 years together in Detroit, and now 42 years later, Cooperstown. Wow!" Morris said.

# Canton to 'honor' T. Owens

Associated Press

Despite his decision to not attend Saturday's Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Terrell Owens will be "honored" by the hall for his NFL career.

Hall President David Baker told The Associated Press on Monday that the Canton, Ohio, shrine's mission statement begins with the goal "to honor the heroes of the game."

So Owens, who instead will be making an appearance at the University of Chattanooga, where he played college football, will be part of the 2018 class exhibit that includes a glass locker for each new member; their pictures on the light standards of Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium; a role in opening videos shown within the stadium; and mention in any reference to the 2018 class.

Baker said NFL Network and ESPN, which both televise the inductions, will show a video of Owens' career to the audience at home. That video will not be shown in the stadium.

"It's difficult he will not be here to put on the jacket, unveil his bust, make a speech, and attend the parade," Baker says. "For those things, there's nothing we can do."

Owens has cited the fact it took three years of eligibility for him to make the hall, claiming there were false representations of him as a teammate during the voting process. He also noted that no former players vote, ignoring that Hall of Famers James Lofton and Dan Fouts are among those on the committee.

The 44-year-old Owens had a mostly sensational 15-year career playing for San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas, Buffalo and Cincinnati. He is second to Jerry Rice in receiving yards and third in touchdown catches behind Rice and Randy Moss, who is entering the hall this week and will attend the festivities.

# Newcomb misses no-no, issues apology

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Sean Newcomb thought his near no-hitter would be the story of the day. Then he picked up his phone.

Newcomb said he had forgotten about racist, homophobic and sexist tweets he sent as a teenager, but was quickly reminded a few minutes after speaking with the media about the Atlanta Braves' 4-1 win Sunday over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

After seeing that he had been called out, the 25-year-old Newcomb said it was his idea to bring reporters back to the clubhouse so he could address the issue before he went home.

The old tweets overshadowed his career-best moment.

"This is something obviously that can't be happening," he said. "I feel bad about it. I don't mean to offend anybody. It was six, seven years ago. I didn't mean anything by it and I definitely regret it, for sure."

Newcomb came within one strike of pitching the first no-hitter by the Braves since 1994. He was denied when Chris Taylor sharply singled with two outs in the ninth

inning.

"I was happy to get to that point and annoyed it was just a groundball through the hole," Newcomb said. "In hindsight, you'd like to throw a different pitch or something, but I will just take that and go forward."

Newcomb had a 2-2 count when Taylor hit a hard grounder beyond the reach of diving third baseman Johan Camargo. That came on the career-high 134th and final pitch by the lefty.

"I was crushed," Braves catcher Kurt Suzuki said. "It felt like we lost, like that was a walk-off hit, but it happens. We were really close."

Newcomb (10-5) exited to a thunderous standing ovation from the sellout crowd at SunTrust Park as manager Brian Snitker removed him. Snitker took the ball and gave it back to Newcomb as a keepsake — instead, Newcomb simply tossed it toward the Atlanta dugout as he walked off, wanting no souvenir of the near-miss.

Kent Mercker was the last Atlanta pitcher to throw a no-hitter, doing it 24 years ago at Dodger Stadium. There have been three no-hitters in the majors this year.

Less than an hour later, Newcomb was talking about his offensive tweets.

"I just wanted to apologize for any insensitive material," he said. "It was a long time ago, six or seven years ago, saying some stupid stuff with friends."

Major League Baseball dealt with a similar situation this month involving Milwaukee Brewers reliever Josh Hader on the night he pitched in the All-Star Game.

"Such inappropriate comments have no place in our game," MLB said in a statement. "We are aware of this serious issue ... we will identify an appropriate course of diversity training for him in the Atlanta community."

In a statement posted on Twitter, the Braves said they had spoken to Newcomb, calling him "incredibly remorseful."

"We find the tweets hurtful and incredibly disappointing and even though he was 18 or 19 years old when posted, it doesn't make them any less tolerable. We will work together with Sean towards mending the wounds created in our community," the team said.

## MLB roundup

# Lefty Happ makes solid debut with Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — J.A. Happ had made eight previous starts at Yankee Stadium plus a relief appearance in the final game of the 2009 World Series. This was different.

"It was kind of weird looking down and seeing the pinstripes on me," he said, "but I'm happy to get used to it."

James Anthony Happ made the midseason impact the Yankees hoped for, pitching one-run ball for six innings to win his New York debut 6-3 over the Kansas City Royals on Sunday.

"It's a significant dude to the rotation," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said in California surfer-speak, "that helps in not just the days he pitches, hopefully, but also just makes our staff and our bullpen as a whole a little bit better."

Three days after New York acquired the 35-year-old left-hander from Toronto for infielder Brandon Drury and outfield prospect Billy McK-

inney, Happ took a shutout into the fifth before Salvador Perez's opposite-field home run into the Yankees bullpen in right-center. Happ (11-6) allowed three hits, struck out two and walked one, and the first-time All-Star ended a four-start winless streak.

**Red Sox 3, Twins 0:** Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven impressive innings in his first start with Boston, J.D. Martinez drove in all three runs to increase his major league-leading RBI total to 89 and host Boston beat Minnesota for its 18th victory in 22 games.

**Cubs 5, Cardinals 2:** Kyle Hendricks pitched seven sharp innings, Ben Zobrist had four hits and the visiting Cubs salvaged the finale of their weekend series.

**Rangers 4, Astros 3:** Jurickson Profar hit a go-ahead double deflected by the pitcher and stayed in despite getting kicked in the face as Texas became the first team to sweep

host Houston this year.

**Rockies 3, Athletics 2:** German Marquez continued Colorado's strong starting pitching, Tom Murphy homered and the host Rockies beat Oakland to sweep the interleague series.

**Mets 1, Pirates 0:** Zack Wheeler pitched six strong innings and drove in the lone run, leading New York over host Pittsburgh.

**Indians 8, Tigers 1:** Yonder Alonso, Melky Cabrera and Edwin Encarnacion all homered for Cleveland, and Corey Kluber pitched into the eighth inning in a victory over host Detroit.

**Orioles 11, Rays 5:** Adam Jones had three hits and an RBI in what could be his final game with the Orioles, and host Baltimore got a rare series win.

**Giants 8, Brewers 5:** Buster Posey had four hits, including a three-run double to help San Francisco break out of a collective funk, and the host Giants avoided a four-game sweep.

**Reds 4, Phillies 0:** Luis Castillo allowed four hits in a season-high seven innings, Scooter Gennett hit a two-run homer and host Cincinnati wrapped up its long homestand with a third consecutive win over Philadelphia.

**Blue Jays 7, White Sox 4:** Brandon Drury hit a go-ahead, two-run double in a five-run ninth inning and Toronto beat host Chicago.

**Marlins 5, Nationals 0:** Jose Urena and three relievers combined on a two-hitter for host Miami in a win over Washington to split a four-game series.

**Mariners 8, Angels 5:** Mike Zunino had a two-run double in a seven-run first inning and Marco Gonzales (12-5) went six strong innings to help visiting Seattle beat Los Angeles.

**Diamondbacks 5, Padres 4:** Paul Goldschmidt and Nick Ahmed each hit a two-run homer and A.J. Pollock also connected for visiting Arizona, which held on to beat San Diego.

# Kyle Busch gets his 6th win of season

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Kyle Busch and his Joe Gibbs Racing team were in sync everywhere on the track but Victory Lane. When it was time to snap photos of the winners, some members flashed one finger, others held up six.

Yes, that's one for the win at Pocono Raceway and six for the total this season.

Busch then heard his name shouted from the top of the Richard Petty 200 Victory Circle. He craned his neck toward the section where the words were flanked by two images of Petty in his feathered Stetson hat and dark glasses.

Busch still has a long chase toward Petty on the Cup wins list but it hasn't kept the 33-year-old star from thinking about how far he can get.

"The top! Pretty simple," Busch said.

Busch had no one to bump him out of the lead this week and stormed from the bottom half of the field Sunday at Pocono Raceway on the way to his sixth NASCAR Cup victory of the season.

While champagne was

sprayed on the podium, team owner Joe Gibbs was a safe distance from the party, a Super Bowl ring glistening on a finger he plugged into his ear to muffle the noise as he talked on the phone.

"Crazy, man. He's on a tear right now," he said to the other side.

The milestones kept piling up for Busch in a race where he matched Kevin Harvick for most wins this season.

Busch tied three-time champ Tony Stewart for 13th on the career wins list with 49.

"You keep reaching higher up the ladder and you keep reaching more milestone drivers," Busch said. "Tony Stewart is one of the all-time best and one of the drivers that I was a fan of growing up. It's awesome to be able to tie him. There's many more. We want to keep going."

Gibbs fielded cars for both Busch and Stewart and said both drivers were born to race.

"Very talented, driven, they want to go to the front," Gibbs said. "Both of them were real talented, that's for sure."

Busch, who won eight times in 2008, made it look easy at Pocono this weekend, with a

win Saturday in the Truck Series race. He won for the 192nd time over the Cup, Xfinity and Truck Series.

"How many can you get? I don't know. I'd like to think everything's achievable," Busch said.

He has Cup wins this year at Texas, Bristol, Richmond, Charlotte and Chicagoland. He hasn't gone more than three races without winning a race since April. Busch had never won at Pocono until July 2017. He's won 10 races since that date and led more than 2,000 laps.

The only quibble with all this success?

"I do have a trophy case problem," Busch said, laughing.

Busch was set to start second but his No. 18 Toyota was one of 13 cars dumped to the back of the pack for flunking post-qualifying inspection. The penalized cars included Harvick, who used a bump-and-run on the 18 with seven laps left last week at New Hampshire to knock Busch out of contention.

Oh well.

Much like the qualifying penalty, last week was just a minor afterthought.

Harvick's pole qualifying run also was tossed out but he led 30 laps and finished fourth.

The race was red flagged with six laps left in the wake of a violent wreck by Darrell Wallace Jr. Wallace lost the breaks in his No. 43 Chevrolet and the car shot across the grass and slammed into the wall. There were several tense seconds during a wait for Wallace to put down his window net. Once out, he sat on the track and slumped against the car before he taken to the track medical center.

When the race resumed, Busch zipped away and he surged ahead again on the final restart in overtime to add to the win total for NASCAR's Big Three: Busch, Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. have won 16 of the 21 Cup Series.

"What's crazy is, how this year keeps going," Busch said. "Harvick gets one, we get one, Truex gets one. We're all back and forth."

Busch held off a pair of young drivers aiming for their first career Cup win. Daniel Suarez, the first Mexican driver to win the pole for a Cup race, finished second and Alex Bowman was third.

# Rossi runs away with IndyCar race in Ohio

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ohio — Alexander Rossi took a gamble Sunday at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course that paid off with his second IndyCar victory of the season and fourth overall.

Starting from the pole and using a two-stop strategy while the rest of the field pitted three times, the 2016 Indianapolis 500 winner finished 12.8 seconds ahead of rookie Robert Wickens in the caution-free race on the 13-turn, 2.258-mile permanent road course. The race covered 90 laps and 202.3 miles.

"It was a little concerning at times," Rossi said. "Guys committed to doing it, but they bailed. [The strategy] worked."

"We didn't know how it would work. Without a warm-up we were not capable of knowing the

fuel mileage you're getting."

Will Power was third, 14.7 seconds back. Josef Newgarden was fourth, and points leader Scott Dixon fifth.

"Maybe we should have thought of that," Power said about Rossi's strategy. "I don't know what my fuel number would have been."

Rossi also won the street race in Long Beach, Calif., in April.

Rossi had a 23-second lead over Wickens when he made his second pit stop on Lap 59. Wickens took the lead but, because he had been so far back when Rossi pitted it, was only a matter of time before he would fall behind again.

"We ran a good race today," Wickens said. "We were just unfortunate with the traffic. I got stuck behind (Takuma) Sato. We had to wait 10 to 15

laps to make a move. It was a frustrating stint."

Rossi got the lead for good when Wickens pitted on Lap 65 and Power temporarily moved to second. Rossi cruised from there and his only problem was trying to do a post-race doughnut in celebration only to get stuck in the grass.

He led 66 laps.

Dixon leads the series with 494 points, 46 more than Rossi. Newgarden, the defending champion is third, 60 points back.

Rossi led the first 30 laps until pitting, allowing Wickens to take the lead.

**Notables:** Local favorite and 2015 race winner Graham Rahal was ninth. Rookie Pietro Fittipaldi, in his first race since sustaining a compound fracture of his leg and a broken

right ankle during qualifying in Belgium in early May, finished 23rd of 24 cars in the PaySafe Honda for Dale Coyne Racing. Jack Harvey, driving for Meyer Shank Racing from Pataskala, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus about 55 miles south of Lexington, placed 20th.

**Who's hot:** Sebastian Bourdais started last after causing a red flag in qualifying Saturday but made up ground in a hurry to finish sixth. He led all drivers with 20 passes.

**Who's not:** Max Chilton seemed primed for a good race after running well and qualifying sixth. However, he made contact with Sato on Lap 2 and had to serve a drive-through penalty. Chilton never recovered and finished last, two laps off the pace.