

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Prison term upheld for drill instructor of Muslim recruits

The Detroit News

WASHINGTON — A military court denied the appeal of a former Parris Island, S.C., drill instructor sentenced to 10 years in prison for abusing three Muslim recruits, including Raheel Siddiqui, of Taylor, Mich., who died during boot camp in 2016.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals reviewed the 2017 court-martial of Gunnery Sgt. Joseph A. Felix Jr. and affirmed his conviction and sentence.

In a decision issued last week, the court called Felix a “bully” whose “misconduct impacted an entire generation of Marines.”

“The appellant was placed in a position of trust, charged with turning young men into Marines. He was one of their first authority figures — their first example of what a Marine was supposed to be,” Senior Judge and Capt. Frank D. Hutchison wrote for the court.

“Instead of providing a positive example and conducting meaningful training, he taught his recruits, by his example, that rule-breaking was commonplace and that violence against fellow Marines was not only acceptable but required to instill discipline.”

A military jury at Camp Lejeune, N.C., convicted Felix in November 2017 on three counts of recruit “maltreatment” — abusive, unwarranted or unjustified treatment or that which causes physical or mental suffering. They also found Felix guilty of eight counts of violating general orders by making physical contact with recruits, including striking and choking them, ordering excessive, unauthorized “incentive training” or punitive exercises.

Recruits had testified that Felix forced them to drink chocolate milk until they emptied the bladder dispenser and then put them through physical exercises to make them vomit — “an act that had no training purpose and served only to apparently amuse the appellant at the recruits’ expense,” Hutchinson wrote.

The government had alleged that Felix zeroed in on three Muslim recruits in three different platoons over 12 months, referring to each as “terrorist” or “ISIS” and stuffing two of them into an industrial dryer, among other alleged acts.

Court mulls request to toss Bergdahl conviction

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military appellate judges are considering a request to dismiss the convictions of former Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a one-time Taliban captive who in 2017 pleaded guilty to charges that he deserted his post in Afghanistan and endangered his fellow troops.

The U.S. Army Court for Criminal Appeals is considering whether Bergdahl’s convictions should be thrown out over repeated, disparaging comments issued by President Donald Trump on the campaign trail, after he took office and since the soldier’s sentencing Nov. 3, 2017. A three-judge panel heard oral arguments about the case Thursday.

In 2017, at the conclusion of more than one week of testimony following Bergdahl’s decision to plead guilty, the soldier was sentenced to forfeit \$10,000 in pay, a reduction in rank to E-1 private and a dishonorable discharge.

Trump condemned the lack of prison time for Bergdahl within two hours of the sentence decision in a Fort Bragg, N.C., courtroom by Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, the military judge who has since retired from the service. The president routinely derided Bergdahl during his election campaign in front of cheering crowds as a “dirty, rotten traitor” who “should be shot” or returned to the Taliban.

“The decision on Sgt. Bergdahl is a complete and total disgrace to our country and to our military,” Trump tweeted Nov. 3, 2017.

The president again took to Twitter on April 26, calling Bergdahl “a traitor” as he denied media reports that his administration paid money to North Korea to release American Otto Warmbier, who had been imprisoned by Pyongyang and died shortly after he was released to the United States in June 2017.

Bergdahl’s civilian attorney, Eugene Fidell, has long sought to have the charges — and now the convictions — against his client dismissed over Trump’s comments, arguing they amount to unlawful command influence. In the hours of Trump’s

inauguration, Fidell charged that Bergdahl could not receive a fair trial in the military because everyone in the service falls under the president’s command and could be influenced by his comments.

Fidell on Monday declined to comment on the appeal, which was triggered automatically by the punitive discharge in Bergdahl’s sentence.

The appellate judges now considering Bergdahl’s case must decide whether “the president can unlawfully influence ... a court-martial the president did not personally convene” and if Bergdahl’s lawyers have presented evidence of unlawful influence, according to court documents. They also must consider whether prosecutors had proven “beyond a reasonable doubt” that any perception of unlawful command influence in the case had not affected the public’s confidence in the military justice system or cast doubts about Bergdahl’s ability to receive a fair outcome, the documents state.

It was not clear Monday when the judges would issue a decision on the case.

A lawyer representing the Army at the hearing Thursday at Fort Belvoir in Virginia argued the judges should take no action. Bergdahl “got what he asked for,” Army lawyer Maj. Catharine Parnell argued, according to Military.com. Prior to sentencing, Bergdahl’s attorneys had suggested Nance sentence him to no jail time and a dishonorable discharge. Prosecutors had sought 14 years imprisonment.

Bergdahl, 33, admitted in court that he left Observation Post Mest in eastern Afghanistan’s Paktika province June 30, 2009, in an attempt to walk to a larger base where he said he wanted to alert military brass of problems that he perceived within his chain of command. Instead, he was captured by Taliban insurgents within hours of leaving his post and eventually smuggled into Pakistan where he was held and tortured by Taliban-linked Haqqani Network terrorists for five years.

In 2014, he was freed in a prisoner swap for five former Taliban commanders who had been held at the U.S. Detention Center at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba since 2001.

SEAL trial exposes divide in secretive force

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — It was called the “The Sewing Circle,” an unlikely name for a secret subsect of Navy SEALs. Its purpose was even more improbable: a chat forum to discuss alleged war crimes they said their chief, a decorated sniper and medic, committed on a recent tour of duty in Iraq.

The WhatsApp group would eventually lead to formal allegations that Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher fatally stabbed a wounded Islamic State captive in his care and shot civilians in Iraq in 2017.

Gallagher, 40, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A jury of mostly combat Marines will ultimately decide the fate of the 19-year veteran and Bronze Star recipient charged with murder, attempted murder and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline for posing with a corpse for photographs.

No matter the outcome, the court-martial at Naval Base San Diego has provided a rare view into the insular Navy SEAL community and likely will have a long-term impact on one of the military’s most secretive and revered forces. It has pitted veterans against each other both inside the courtroom and out in a fierce debate over brotherhood, morality and loyalty.

“SEALs, it seems to me, have been seeing themselves as God-like on the battlefield, and there is a real danger in taking that view of one’s unit or one’s self,” said Gary Solis, a former military judge and Marine Corps prosecutor who teaches law at Georgetown University. “I think this will alert the SEAL community that the rules apply to them.”

The case has laid bare challenges among U.S. special forces as the United States increasingly relies on such troops, which make up only 2% of the military yet carry out most of its battles around the globe.

SEAL scandals

A number of special forces members are on trial this year. A U.S. Navy SEAL last month pleaded guilty to hazing and assault charges for his role in the 2017 strangulation of a U.S. Army Green Beret in Africa.

The scandals have prompted a review by the Navy’s top commanders into the behavior of the special warfare teams. During Gallagher’s trial, it was revealed that nearly all his platoon members readily posed for photos with the dead militant and watched as Gallagher read his reenlistment oath near the body in an impromptu ceremony.

Lt. Jacob Portier, the officer in charge, has been charged separately for overseeing

the ceremony and not reporting the alleged stabbing.

The trial also has shown the struggles of military courts in prosecuting alleged war crimes. The lead prosecutor was removed after allegedly tracking the defense team’s emails to find a news leak, and the lead investigator acknowledged on the stand making mistakes.

Closing arguments were expected Monday.

A jury of five Marines and two sailors, one a SEAL, will weigh whether Gallagher, on his eighth deployment, went off the rails and fatally stabbed the war prisoner as a kind of trophy kill or if the boy died from wounds sustained in an airstrike and Gallagher is being falsely accused by junior SEALs trying to permanently oust a platoon chief they hate.

Nearly a dozen SEALs have testified over the past two weeks. Most were granted immunity to protect them from being prosecuted for acts they described on the stand.

Seven SEALs said Gallagher unexpectedly stabbed the prisoner on May 3, 2017, moments after he and the other medics treated the 17-year-old boy.

Conflicting testimony

Two SEALs testified they saw Gallagher plunge his knife into the boy’s neck, including Special Operator Corey Scott, who stunned the court when he said he was the one who ultimately killed the teen by plugging his breathing tube with his thumb as an act of mercy. The Navy has said it’s considering perjury charges against Scott.

An Iraqi general who handed the wounded prisoner to the SEALs testified that Gallagher did not stab the boy. And Marine Staff Sgt. Giorgio Kurylo said that after the militant died he moved the body to take a “cool guy trophy” photo with it and saw no stab wounds on his neck.

Gallagher also took photos of himself with the corpse. In one picture, he’s holding up his knife in one hand and holding the militant by his hair with his other hand. He later boasted in a text, “got him with my hunting knife.”

Defense lawyers say it was just a warrior’s attempt at dark humor.

“The Sewing Circle,” the WhatsApp group chat, was formed with a select few members of Alpha platoon after they returned to San Diego from their deployment in 2017.

In the thread, Gallagher was referred to as “El Diablo,” Spanish for “the devil.”

“Not sure how to handle him,” Scott texted. “But he is ready to fight and kill.”

Gallagher’s lawyers say the group chat was used to orchestrate a smear campaign to bring down their demanding platoon chief.

A SEAL troop commander told the court that the allegations, which he took no action on for months, were suspect because they came about as Gallagher was being considered for a Silver Star and a promotion.

Platoon members testified that the team was fractured, and the running joke was that if something was missing from a care package, Eddie took it.

‘The True Brotherhood’

His accusers said it went beyond the theft of sunglasses and snacks. “The Sewing Circle” members tried to distinguish themselves as the “True Brotherhood” vs. the “Real Brotherhood,” which supporters of Gallagher have coined for themselves.

“The Real Brotherhood is people who are OK with war crimes,” said Dylan Dille, a former SEAL sniper from the platoon who testified that Gallagher took shots at civilians from the sniper tower, hitting an old man and young girl. He did not see Gallagher pull the trigger either time.

Defense attorney Timothy Parlatore shot back that maybe the Real Brotherhood “are older guys who don’t like you and other SEALs who tell lies.”

Chief Petty Officer Craig Miller, who was also part of “The Sewing Circle,” testified that he saw Gallagher stab the captive multiple times with a custom-made knife Gallagher carried in the belt loops of his pants.

Miller said he told the platoon’s officer in charge about the stabbing during their tour but nothing happened.

SEAL sniper Dalton Tolbert told the court he did not recall who started the chat group but that the intent was to talk with others who were disturbed by what they saw on the deployment and decide what to do. “I shot more warning shots to save civilians from Eddie than I ever did at ISIS. I see an issue with that,” Tolbert texted others.

After plans were discussed about going to the commodore, an investigation was opened and Gallagher was arrested.

Weeks before the trial, Tolbert, who was accepted to the famed SEAL Team 6 that killed Osama bin Laden, sent a text urging his teammates to speak up no matter what was at stake.

He told the court his dream of doing covert operations with Team 6 is likely over now that he’s been publicly identified in the case.

US, N. Korea hail historic DMZ meeting

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea and the U.S. hailed the historic impromptu meeting between Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump during the weekend at the Demilitarized Zone as a chance to reset troubled nuclear negotiations.

But neither side has given an indication of how things will be different this time, four months after their summit in Vietnam ended without agreement due to stark differences over North Korean demands for sanctions relief.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said a new round of talks likely would begin in mid-July and insisted that progress has been made.

“We’ve worked on this a lot, so we’re not at square one. We have a sense of their expecta-

Flock of birds spurs frenzy

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Ending a brief media frenzy, South Korea’s military said it turned out to be a flock of birds that prompted it to launch fighter jets and alert journalists that it had detected an unidentified object flying near the border with North Korea on Monday.

The South’s earlier announcement on the flying

object left many media outlets scrambling, with the incident coming a day after President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met at a different portion of the heavily fortified Korean border.

The South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff had said earlier Monday that its radar found “the traces of flight by an unidentified object” over the central portion of the Demilitarized Zone.

tions and for a range of ways this might move forward,” he told reporters after Sunday’s meeting, but he did not elaborate.

North Korea’s state-run

media called the meeting “historic” and “amazing” in a report on Monday that was accompanied by 35 photos showing Kim and Trump walking toward each other and grasp-

ing hands at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The two leaders agreed to “resume and push forward productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and in the bilateral relations,” the Korean Central News Agency reported Monday.

Trump also said the meeting had paved the way for new negotiations but gave no hint of possible compromises amid warnings the North has no intention of giving up its hard-won nuclear weapons, which it considers vital to regime security.

The two countries, which remain technically at war, agreed last June during their first summit in Singapore to work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to improve relations.

UN watchdog: Iran has breached uranium limit

The Washington Post

MANAMA, Bahrain — The U.N. nuclear watchdog confirmed Monday that Tehran has broken a stockpile limit for low-enriched uranium allowed under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, a move that could add to friction with the U.S.

Iran’s total stockpile of low-enriched uranium on Monday

exceeded the 660-pound limit allowed under the deal, International Atomic Energy Agency spokesman Fredrik Dahl said.

His statement followed comments by Iranian officials saying they had breached the limit because Europe has not done enough to mitigate biting U.S. sanctions. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad

Javad Zarif said the move was “reversible” but warned that Iran can continue to reduce its commitment to the agreement if Europe does not take necessary action to uphold the other side of the deal, Iran’s official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Iran had repeatedly threatened to cross the limit laid out in the deal for its stockpile of

low-enriched uranium unless it received some relief from sanctions, arguing that it has been constrained by the accord but unable to reap the benefits of it since the U.S. pulled out last year.

An Iranian breach of the stockpile limit does not put it significantly closer to building a nuclear weapon, but it strikes another blow to the tattered deal.

Turkey rebuffs US; poised to receive Russian launchers

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russia will deliver its advanced S-400 air defense system to Turkey within the next few days, said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has shown no sign of backing away from a deal that has drawn warnings of sanctions

from Washington.

Erdogan told Turkey’s NTV television on Monday that delivery of the S-400 Triumf system will happen any day now, and that he told President Donald Trump it was happening. The contract, signed in December 2017, is worth \$2.5 billion.

“Within 10 days, maybe within one week, the first ship-

ment will have arrived. I told Trump this openly,” said Erdogan, as quoted by Turkish media.

Turkey’s plan to acquire the long-range system has been met with fierce opposition from the Pentagon, which has warned that the longtime NATO ally will be cut off from deliveries of America’s new F-35 fighter if it moves forward

with the Russian system. For the U.S. military, deploying Russian-made air defenses inside a NATO country poses a technological security risk for the F-35. The Russian system also isn’t compatible with other NATO weapons systems, according to allies.

The broader ramifications for Turkey’s relationship with the U.S. are unclear.

Trump wants tanks at 4th of July event

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — National Park Service acting Director P. Daniel Smith faces plenty of looming priorities this summer, from an \$11 billion backlog in maintenance needs to natural disasters like the recent wildfire damage to Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas.

But in recent days, another issue has competed for Smith's attention: how to satisfy President Donald Trump's request to station tanks or other armored military vehicles on the Mall for his planned July Fourth address to the nation.

The ongoing negotiations over whether to use massive military hardware, such as Abrams tanks or Bradley fighting vehicles, as a prop for

Trump's "Salute to America" is just one of many unfinished details when it comes to the celebration planned for Thursday, according to several people briefed on the plan, who requested anonymity to speak frankly.

White House officials intend to give out tickets for attendees to sit in a VIP section and watch Trump's speech but did not develop a distribution system before much of the staff left for Asia last week, according to two administration officials.

Officials are also still working on other key crowd management details, such as how to get attendees through magnetometers in an orderly fashion.

Traditionally, major gatherings on the Mall, including inauguration festivities and a

jubilee commemorating the start of a new millennium, have featured a designated event producer. But in this case, the producer is the president himself.

Trump has demonstrated an unusual level of interest in this year's Independence Day observance, according to three senior administration officials. He has received regular briefings about it from Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, according to the people briefed on the plan, and has weighed in on everything from how the pyrotechnics should be launched to how the military should be honored.

As a result, the administration has organized a far more ambitious celebration than was originally planned, at a yet-to-

be specified additional cost to taxpayers.

Two major fireworks firms have donated a pyrotechnic show valued at \$750,000, for example, but the Park Service will have to pay employees overtime to clean up the remnants of that display.

The fireworks have also been moved to a new location in West Potomac Park at Trump's urging.

Trump has also spurred the use of military aircraft for a flyover, including one of the jetliners used as Air Force One. In addition, the Navy's Blue Angels were supposed to have a break between a performance in Davenport, Iowa, on June 30 and one in Kansas City, Mo., on July 6, but will now be flying in Washington on the 4th.

Plane crashes on takeoff in Texas; all 10 killed

Associated Press

DALLAS — All 10 people on board a small plane were killed in a fiery crash Sunday morning when the aircraft struggled to gain altitude after taking off from a suburban Dallas airport, veered to one side and plunged into a hangar, local authorities and witnesses said.

Federal officials said two crewmembers and eight passengers were killed when the twin-engine plane, scheduled to fly to St. Petersburg, Fla., crashed at Addison Municipal Airport at 9:11 a.m. The identities of those killed were not immediately released.

"We don't know a lot about the people on board at this point," National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg said.

Officials say the Beechcraft BE-350 King Air hit a hangar that then burst into flames, with black smoke billowing from the building as firefighters sprayed it with water. A plane and helicopter in the hangar were damaged, but there were no people

in the building.

The crash left a gaping hole in the hangar, which sits not far from a busy commercial strip and densely populated residential neighborhoods of the northern suburb of Dallas.

Landsberg said the plane had recently changed hands so its tail number was not yet certain. Jennifer Rodi, the NTSB's lead investigator on the accident, said it had previously been owned by a private charter company in Chicago.

Edward Martelle, a spokesman for the town of Addison, said the plane was taking off at the south end of the airport and had just lifted off the runway when it veered left, dropped its left wing and went into the hangar.

Dallas County was helping the city of Addison set up a family assistance center for people affected by the crash, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said. The center is staffed with chaplains, counselors and other mental health and support workers, he said.

Hong Kong protests escalate; legislative chamber stormed

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds of protesters in Hong Kong swarmed into the legislature's main building Monday night, tearing down portraits of legislative leaders and spray-painting pro-democracy slogans on the walls of the main chamber.

The sharp escalation in tactics came on the anniversary of the former British colony's return to China, a city holiday, and reflected mounting frustration with Hong Kong's leader for not responding to protesters' demands after several weeks of demonstrations.

The protesters whacked away at thick glass windows until they shattered and broke and pried open steel security gates and propped them open with barricades to get inside.

Police in riot gear retreated as the protesters entered about 9 p.m., avoiding a confrontation and giving them the run of the building.

They stood on lawmakers' desks in the main legislative chamber, painted over the

territory's emblem high up on a wooden wall and wrote slogans calling for a democratic election of the city's leader and denouncing now-suspended extradition legislation that sparked the protests. Many wore yellow and white helmets, face masks and the black T-shirts that have become their uniform.

Police announced about 10:30 p.m. that they would clear the area, asking protesters to leave and warning they would use "appropriate force" if they encountered resistance.

The actions prompted organizers of a separate peaceful march against the extradition bill to change the endpoint of their protest from the legislature to a nearby park after police asked them to either call it off or change the route.

Police wanted the march to end earlier in the Wan Chai district, but organizers said that would leave out many people who planned to join the march along the way.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

20 fall into creek as dock collapses

SC MOUNT PLEASANT — Three people are recovering from minor injuries after a dock collapsed at a coastal South Carolina restaurant, dumping 20 people into a tidal creek.

Local news outlets reported the dock collapsed Saturday at The Wreck of the Richard & Charlene, a restaurant in Mount Pleasant.

Town police called a diver to ensure everyone was out of the water. Three people were taken to hospitals with minor injuries.

Taylor Grooms told WCSC-TV that a group was celebrating a friend's 30th birthday. They were lining the dock for a photograph when they heard a "loud crack."

Beagles sniff out snails at airport

GA ATLANTA — Two dogs, part of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's "beagle brigade," sniffed out two Giant African Snails in the luggage of a passenger arriving at Atlanta's airport from Nigeria.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported the beagles, named Candie and Chipper, were alerted to the passenger's checked bags at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on Friday. A Customs agriculture specialist found the snails in a suitcase, along with prohibited fruits and vegetables.

The snails were turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, while the food was destroyed. The USDA's website says such snails are illegally imported for classroom exhibits, as pets or for food.

They're also described as "one of the most damaging"

in the world because they consume at least 500 types of plants, reproduce quickly and can cause meningitis.

Man charged with buying tiger skin rug

PA PHILADELPHIA — A New Jersey man was charged last week with buying a \$6,800 tiger skin rug in violation of federal wildlife conservation laws.

Authorities released few details about the case and declined to answer questions. They said Loren Varga, 60, of Franklin Park, bought the pelt in Pennsylvania last month and agreed to plead guilty at a forthcoming court hearing in Philadelphia.

The Endangered Species Act makes buying, selling, importing or exporting tiger fur or body parts a federal crime punishable by up to a year in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

The population of wild tigers has been decimated over the last century by poaching and habitat destruction. In 2015, conservationists estimated that the global wild tiger population had plummeted to less than 4,000 — down from around 100,000 at the start of the 20th century.

Public library does away with fines, fees

MO KANSAS CITY — Got an overdue book from a Kansas City library weighing on you? You're in luck. The Kansas City Public Library has forgiven \$250,000 in overdue fines and will no longer charge late fees on any materials starting Monday.

The Kansas City Star reported that the changes were announced Friday at the library's southeast branch.

Mayor-elect Quinton Lucas said the decision was to give

more people access to the city's libraries. About 9,000 patrons with suspended library cards will regain access to library resources.

Man's body parts found inside gator

FL FORT MEADE — Officials are investigating the death of a man discovered floating in a Florida canal with some of his remains found inside an alligator.

The Ledger reported that a person found the body floating west of Fort Meade and saw an alligator had parts of it in its mouth. The victim was identified as Michael Ford II, 45.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission trapped and killed the alligator to perform a necropsy, which revealed that one of Ford's hands and one of his feet were in the gator's stomach.

Hiker missing in mountains found alive

CA LA CRESCENTA — A hiker who was missing in the mountains north of Los Angeles for a week was found Saturday and apparently survived in the wilderness by drinking water from a creek, authorities said.

A helicopter crew found Eugene Jo, 73, in a canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains and hoisted him to safety, said Sgt. Greg Taylor of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The crew flew him to a hospital to be examined.

The Montrose Search and Rescue team tweeted that Jo was "walking and speaking" despite not having eaten in at least five days. He survived by drinking water from a creek.

Temperatures have been mild in the mountains.

Jo was hiking with a group to the 8,000-foot summit of Mount

Waterman on June 22 when he became separated from them.

2 kids in '99 wedding take their own vows

ND MANDAN — A North Dakota couple who were kids at a wedding ceremony nearly 20 years ago have tied the knot themselves.

Renae Zachmeier and Daniel Schimetz took their vows Saturday at the Church of St. Joseph in Mandan. Renae and Daniel got married in the same church where they met in 1999 when she was a flower girl and he was ring bearer.

Daniel was about 8 years old and Renae about 4 at the time. The Bismarck Tribune reported that the couple only vaguely remembers the wedding and sharing their first dance.

The couple started dating in August 2017 and got engaged in June 2018.

911 caller says he's violating probation

NY AVON — Authorities said a western New York man was arrested after he called 911 to say he was violating the terms of his probation.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office said Brian Seaver, 62, of Avon, called 911 on Thursday and then hung up.

Sheriff Thomas Dougherty said a deputy went to investigate and determined that Seaver had earlier called 911 to report that he was drinking and violating the conditions of his probation.

Dougherty said Seaver had four active orders of protection ordering him to stay away from a particular person, and he was with that person.

Seaver was arrested on four counts of felony criminal contempt.

From wire reports

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NBA free agency

Nets are kings of New York after Irving, Durant signings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just three seasons ago, the Brooklyn Nets were the worst team in the NBA.

On Sunday, they were the story of the league.

They agreed to deals with superstars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving as part of a sensational start to free agency, giving the longtime No. 2 team in New York top billing in the Big Apple.

They landed two of the top players available, both perennial All-Stars and NBA champions, and they weren't finished. They also added center DeAndre Jordan, who played with Durant and Irving on the 2016 U.S. Olympic team that won the gold medal, and veteran swingman Garrett Temple.

It was such a powerful victory that the cross-town Knicks even put out a statement acknowledging their fans' disappointment, just three hours after shopping season had started.

And it was even more remarkable given where the Nets were not long ago.

An ill-fated trade with Boston in 2013, when the Nets acquired Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce in hopes of competing for a championship but didn't even get out of the second round, cost them years of high draft picks and contributed to them becoming the worst team in the league.

They bottomed out at 20-62 in 2016-17, when Durant won NBA Finals MVP in his first season with Golden State after the Warriors beat Irving's Cleveland Cavaliers for the title.

Now they will try to win one together.

They might have to wait a year, as Durant could miss next season while recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon. But after stamping themselves as a team on the rise and returning to the playoffs last season with a 42-40 record, Brooklyn appears positioned to keep rising all the way to the top after Sunday's moves.

Even after winning titles in his first two seasons with the Warriors, there was seasonlong speculation that Durant might leave. But much of that speculation had been focused on the Knicks, who had more than \$70 million and the ability to sign two top free agents after trading Kristaps Porzingis during the season.

Right city, but wrong team.

The Nets felt confident with what they could offer, from their roster, to their medical staff, to their facilities. And when they made a cap-clearing trade last month, they became even more attractive by freeing up salary to bring in two stars.

Irving wasn't expected to be one of them a few months ago, after he'd said last fall he planned to re-sign in Boston. But despite his good stats it

was a bad season for him with the Celtics, who were considered an Eastern Conference favorite but instead lost in the second round.

Irving, who became frustrated and reconsidered his plans, deciding his future was not in Boston, but in Brooklyn. Now he'll play for the team he watched while growing up in New Jersey, where the Nets played before moving in 2012.

Even when the Nets had better teams, the Knicks still got more attention and it sometimes felt as if they would always be the marquee team in the city.

That changed Sunday, forcing the Knicks to take the rare step of commenting about their situation.

"While we understand that some Knicks fans could be disappointed with tonight's news, we continue to be upbeat and confident in our plans to rebuild the Knicks," Knicks President Steve Mills said in a statement.

The Knicks eventually agreed to deals with forwards Julius Randle, Taj Gibson and Bobby Portis, so they did get something.

Just nowhere near as much as the Nets.

In other key deals:

■ A person with knowledge of the negotiations says Damian Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers have agreed on a four-year Supermax extension that will be worth nearly \$200 million.

The extension will kick in for the 2021-22 season with a salary of nearly \$44 million and will end in 2024-25 with Lillard holding an option of nearly \$55 million for that season.

■ A person with knowledge of the situation says the Miami Heat have agreed to trade Hassan Whiteside to the Portland Trail Blazers for Meyers Leonard and Moe Harkless.

Whiteside is entering the final season of a four-year, \$98 million contract. Leonard and Harkless are also in the final year of their contracts.

■ Indiana is set to acquire 2017 rookie of the year Malcolm Brogdon from Milwaukee and sign the shooting guard to a four-year, \$85 million deal.

■ Harrison Barnes is remaining in Sacramento on a four-year, \$85 million contract.

■ The Pacers lost forward Bojan Bogdanovic to the Utah Jazz, which signed the forward to a four-year, \$73.1 million deal.

■ Former NBA MVP Derrick Rose will sign a two-year, \$15 million contract with the Detroit Pistons.

■ San Antonio kept Rudy Gay on a two-year, \$32 million deal and added veteran forward DeMarre Carroll on a two-year, \$12 million deal.

NHL free agency

Jackets breakup begins

Associated Press

The New York Rangers have landed the biggest fish in free agency by agreeing to terms with winger Artemi Panarin, and the anticipated breakup of the Columbus Blue Jackets' star core of players began with the start of the NHL's free agency signing period.

The team announced the contract with Panarin on Monday, about an hour after the market opened.

Panarin has 116 goals and 204 assists for 302 points in 322 regular-season games with the Chicago Blackhawks and Columbus Blue Jackets. Panarin recorded a career-best 87 points last season with Columbus.

Blue Jacket goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, signed a seven-year contract with the Florida Panthers.

A person with knowledge of the signing says Bobrovsky's deal is worth \$70 million for a salary-cap hit of \$10 million per season. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Bobrovsky was Florida's top free-agent target this summer, especially after last week's retirement of longtime goalie Roberto Luongo. Bobrovsky has a 2.46 goals-against average over nine NHL seasons, the last seven of those with Columbus.

The two-time Vezina Trophy winner was second in the NHL with 37 victories last season and led the league with nine shutouts.

Matt Duchene also is leaving Columbus and heading to Music City.

A person with direct knowledge of discussions told the AP that Duchene had agreed to a seven-year, \$56 million contract with the Nashville Predators.

No. 2 Osaka suffers first-round upset

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — After winning two straight Grand Slam titles, Naomi Osaka has now failed to reach the second week at the last two majors.

Osaka, who was ranked No. 1 in the world until last week, lost to Yulia Putintseva 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Monday in the first round at Wimbledon.

The second-seeded Osaka won the U.S. Open last year and the Australian Open this year, but she lost in the third round at the French Open and now the first round at the All England Club.

Osaka had 38 unforced errors on Centre Court, while Putintseva had only seven.

“Honestly, every match is a battle, you never know what’s going to happen, but I was hoping and doing all my best, that’s pretty much all I can do,” Putintseva said.

It was Osaka’s second loss to Putintseva on grass this season. The Japanese player lost to the 24-year-old Kazakh in Birmingham two weeks ago.

Osaka later cut short her news conference, leaving before any questions were asked in Japanese.

“Can I leave?” she asked the moderator after several short answers. “I feel like I’m about to cry.”

Earlier, last year’s Wimbledon men’s finalists both advanced to the second round on the opening day of this year’s tournament.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic was first on Centre Court, as is tradition at the All England Club. He beat Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 in the first round.

“It’s a sacred court, the cradle of our sport for sure,” four-time Wimbledon champion Djokovic said in the tunnel after walking off the grass. “It has a very special place in my heart, in my career as well.”

Fourth-seeded Kevin An-

derson, who lost to Djokovic in straight sets in last year’s final, moved into the second round by beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in only his third match since March.

“Different expectations coming in right now given that I’ve not played many matches this year,” said Anderson, a South African who also reached the 2017 U.S. Open final. “But I think there’s a lot of positives I can take from today.”

Stan Wawrinka, seeded 22nd, also advanced. The three-time Grand Slam singles champion, who has won each of the other three majors but never Wimbledon, defeated Belgian qualifier Ruben Bemelmans 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Wawrinka, who will next face tall American Reilly Opelka in the second round, has never been past the quarterfinals at the All England Club.

The 21-year-old Opelka, who is 6 feet 11, beat Cedrik-Marcel Stebe of Germany 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Sixth-seeded Alexander Zverev and seventh-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas were both eliminated in the first round at Wimbledon.

Zverev lost to Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5, while Tsitsipas was beaten by Thomas Fabbiano of Italy 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3.

Tsitsipas, who beat Federer at the Australian Open en route to the semifinals, saved two match points in the fourth-set tiebreaker and failed to convert three break points early in the fifth. Fabbiano broke Tsitsipas twice in the final set, including in the last game when the Greek popped a shot long.

Simona Halep, seeded seventh at Wimbledon, advanced despite some pain in her left knee and foot. The Romanian trailed 5-2 in the second set before rallying to beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-4, 7-5.

Third-seeded Karolina Pliskova also advanced, beating Lin Zhu 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Briefly

Bowman races to 1st Cup Series win

Associated Press

JOLIET, Ill. — Alex Bowman is part of the club now. That means no more cracks about coming up empty.

He’s a winner once again.

Bowman held off Kyle Larson for his first career NASCAR Cup Series victory, leading a terrific performance for Hendrick Motorsports at Chicagoland Speedway on Sunday.

Bowman had one of the fastest cars during practice, and the strength of his No. 88 Axalta Chevrolet showed after the race was delayed by a storm. He had just six top-five finishes in 133 starts on NASCAR’s top series before his banner day on the bumpy 1.5-mile oval.

Bowman, 26, who won on the Xfinity Series in 2017, took second at Talladega, Dover and Kansas this year, and he was sick of hearing about the hole on his resume. He said even Chad Knaus, William Byron’s crew chief, had said something to him.

Those days are over.

“I was just tired of running second,” Bowman said. “I don’t want to do that anymore. I feel like this is the last box, aside from going and chasing a championship, that I needed personally for myself to validate my career.”

Larson put together another memorable run a year after he lost an epic last-lap duel with Kyle Busch on the same track. Larson passed Bowman with about seven laps left, but Bowman quickly regained the lead and smartly navigated his way to the victory.

“He was struggling, and we were able to get to him and get by him, but he did a good job,” Larson said. “He did a good job regrouping and figuring out how to make his car drive better.”

Joey Logano, who leads Kyle Busch by 18 points for the top spot in the series standings, finished third. Jimmie Johnson was fourth, and Brad Kesel-

owski rounded out the top five.

It was Hendrick’s second victory of the season after Chase Elliott won at Talladega in April. Led by Bowman and Johnson, Hendrick placed each of its four cars in the top 11.

“So proud of everybody at Hendrick Motorsports,” Bowman said.

In other racing news:

■ Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix for a second straight year on Sunday as Red Bull ended Mercedes’ unbeaten streak this season.

The Dutchman recovered from a poor start to work his way up to the front of the pack from eighth place, and overtook leader Charles Leclerc in a Ferrari with just two laps to go.

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas completed the podium, ahead of Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel and championship leader Lewis Hamilton, who started fourth.

Stricker makes debut, wins US Senior Open

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Steve Stricker made his U.S. Senior Open debut one for the record book.

Stricker birdied the opening hole Sunday and never was threatened on his way to a 1-under 69 for a six-shot victory. He finished at 19-under 261 on the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame, breaking by three shots the U.S. Senior Open record set two years ago by Kenny Perry at Salem Country Club.

Stricker, 52, who still spends half of his time on the PGA Tour, won a PGA Tour Champions major for the second time this year. He also won by six shots at the Regions Tradition in May in Alabama.

Jerry Kelly, who beat Stricker in a playoff last week in Wisconsin in the event Stricker hosts, shot a 69 and tied for second with defending champion David Toms, who had a 68.

Yanks rally for London sweep of BoSox

Associated Press

LONDON — Gary Sanchez hit a go-ahead, two-run single during a nine-run seventh inning, and the New York Yankees overcame a four-run deficit to beat the Boston Red Sox 12-8 Sunday for a two-game sweep of the groundbreaking, high-scoring trip across the pond.

DJ LeMahieu doubled off Marcus Walden (6-1) leading off the seventh and hit a two-run double against Josh Taylor later in the inning as the Yankees opened an 11-4 lead, sending 14 batters to the plate in their highest-scoring inning in four years.

Didi Gregorius went deep against Ryan Brasier in the eighth, extending New York's record streak of games with home runs to 31. Combined with the Yankees' 17-13 win Saturday, the teams scored 50 runs on the weekend, four more than their previous scoring mark in consecutive games against each other.

Rays 6, Rangers 2: Blake Snell struck out 12 in six innings for just his second win in 10 starts and host Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Snell (5-7) gave up three hits during an 80-pitch outing. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner had an 11.94 ERA in five previous starts this month.

Astros 6, Mariners 1: Rookie Yordan Alvarez drove in three to back up seven strong innings by Gerrit Cole and help host Houston complete a three-game sweep over Seattle.

Cole (8-5), who allowed just four singles after a solo homer to J.P. Crawford, struck out 10 and walked one to win his fourth

straight decision. Cole leads the American League with 151 strikeouts this season.

White Sox 4, Twins 3: First-time All-Star Lucas Giolito (11-2) allowed one hit in five innings to earn his major league-leading 11th victory and host Chicago beat Minnesota.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 5: Joc Pederson had three hits and three RBIs, Matt Beaty doubled twice and drove in two, and visiting Los Angeles rallied past Colorado to split their four-game series.

Nationals 2, Tigers 1: Max Scherzer struck out 14 against his former team and Anthony Rendon homered for the second straight game as visiting Washington topped Detroit.

Scherzer (8-5) returned to Comerica Park for the first time since leaving as a free agent after the 2014 season and struck out double-digit batters for the fourth straight outing.

Brewers 2, Pirates 1: Eric Thames homered leading off the eighth inning, lifting Milwaukee past Pittsburgh.

Thames blasted an 0-1 pitch from Pirates reliever Kyle Crick (3-4) to straightaway center, a 432-foot shot that hit just below the scoreboard.

Reds 8, Cubs 6: Eugenio Suarez ended his slump with Cincinnati's longest homer of the season, Anthony DeSclafani (5-4) pitched six scoreless innings and the host Reds held off Chicago.

Indians 2, Orioles 0: Shane Bieber allowed three hits and struck out 11 in eight dazzling innings, Carlos Santana drove in two and visiting Cleveland edged Baltimore

to avert a three-game sweep.

Athletics 12, Angels 3: Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer, a triple and a three-run double on the day he was named to his first All-Star team, and visiting Oakland beat Los Angeles to take three of four from its AL West rival.

Cardinals 5, Padres 3 (11): Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 11th inning, and visiting St. Louis overcame a three-run deficit to beat San Diego and snap a five-game losing streak.

Phillies 13, Marlins 6: Bryce Harper homered and drove in four to help visiting Philadelphia end a streak of five consecutive losses to last-place Miami.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 6: Jorge Soler homered and had two RBIs, Brad Keller (4-9) pitched five innings to win for the first time since May 22, and visiting Kansas City beat Toronto.

Giants 10, Diamondbacks 4: Kevin Pillar had four hits, including a homer, and drove in five runs, Madison Bumgarner pitched seven strong innings, and host San Francisco beat Arizona.

Mets 8, Braves 5: Newly named All-Stars Jeff McNeil and Pete Alonso had the big hits in a five-run eighth inning that rallied host New York past Atlanta and snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Todd Frazier launched a long homer to begin the comeback and finished with three hits and two RBIs. McNeil and J.D. Davis also had three hits apiece for the Mets, who prevented a three-game sweep by the NL East leaders and won for only the fifth time in 18 games.

Astros lead the way with 6 All-Stars

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Last time the Houston Astros went to Cleveland, they made a boozy, bubbly mess in the visiting locker room.

Now they're invading the home clubhouse too.

Justin Verlander, Gerrit Cole and four of their Astros teammates will lead the American League squad at the All-Star Game in Cleveland on July 9. Major League Baseball unveiled full rosters for the midsummer showcase Sunday, and Houston topped all big league clubs with six players. No other AL team has more than three.

Alex Bregman, George

Springer and Michael Brantley will be in the starting lineup, and Verlander, Cole and Ryan Pressly are on the pitching staff. It will be the first trip to Cleveland for those Astros since Game 3 of last year's AL Division Series, when Houston won 11-3 to complete a sweep.

The Dodgers, Brewers and Rockies lead the NL with four players each. The Los Angeles contingent includes Cody Bellinger, Clayton Kershaw, Hyun-Jin Ryu and Walker Buehler — plenty of familiar faces for manager Dave Roberts.

Milwaukee will be represented by Christian Yelich, Mike Moustakas, Yasmani Grandal and Josh Hader. It's the sec-

ond appearance for Hader, who came under fire when racist and homophobic tweets resurfaced on his account during last year's game. Hader apologized for the tweets, which he sent as a teenager.

Braves teammates Ronald Acuna Jr. and Mike Soroka are set to be this year's youngest players at 21. Atlanta said it's the first time two players under 22 from the same team made the All-Star team.

The NL team includes just three hitters in their 30s: Moustakas and Grandal are 30, and Charlie Blackmon will turn 33 on Monday. Depending on who serves as DH, the NL could have the youngest starting line-

up in All-Star Game history.

The Yankees have the AL's best record but boast just three All-Stars: Gary Sanchez, DJ LeMahieu and Aroldis Chapman. Gleyber Torres and Luke Voit were also contenders, while Aaron Judge — injured for much of the season — narrowly missed out on a spot via fan balloting.

Fans of the reigning champion Red Sox won't be pleased that shortstop Xander Bogaerts and third baseman Rafael Devers were left out.

Red Sox ace Chris Sale was also omitted despite ranking second in the league in strikeouts.