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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US will cancel sales of F-35s to Turkey

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the United States will cancel the purchase of more than 100 F-35 fighter jets by Turkey because of its acquisition of a Russian antimissile defense system, even as his administration indicated it was still wrestling with sanctions mandated under U.S. law.

"It's not a fair situation," Trump told reporters as he began a Cabinet meeting. Making clear his reluctance to ban the aircraft sale, Trump repeated his contention that Turkey, a NATO ally, was forced to meet

its defense needs by buying the Russian S-400 system because the Obama administration would not sell it the U.S.-made Patriot system.

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Trump were "closely reviewing" the sanctions legislation and "will make a decision based on what they are required to do under U.S. law."

The 2017 Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, which also applies to North Korea and Iran, requires punitive U.S. measures against any

entity that has "significant" dealings with the Russian defense industry.

The law outlines 12 economic and other sanctions from which the president must choose at least five. It is unlikely that Turkey would be eligible for a national security waiver contained in the legislation, which requires a recipient country to be demonstrably downgrading its security relationship with Russia rather than enhancing it.

Any attempt by Trump to waive sanctions would be likely to run into strong bipartisan opposition in Congress. "I think their only option there is

... what sanctions they should have," said Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., who co-wrote separate legislation requiring the administration to cancel Turkey's F-35 purchases — as well as Turkey's participation in building the plane — if it bought the Russian system.

Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said that the situation was "nothing to be trifled with. We need to do exactly what we've said we were going to do." Turkey, Risch said, "need(s) to look in the mirror and really, soberly assess which side of the line they want to be on."

House rebuke of Trump tweets draws some GOP support

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a remarkable political repudiation, the Democratic-led U.S. House voted to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of color, despite protestations by Trump's Republican congressional allies and his own insistence he hasn't "a racist bone in my body."

Two days after Trump tweeted that four Democratic freshmen should "go back" to their home countries — though all are citizens and three were born in the U.S. — Democrats muscled the resolution through the chamber by 240-187 over near-solid GOP opposition. The rebuke Tuesday night was an embarrassing one for Trump even though it carries no legal repercussions, but if anything his latest harangues should help him with his die-hard conservative base.

Despite a lobbying effort by Trump and party leaders for

a unified GOP front, four Republicans voted to condemn his remarks: moderate Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, of Pennsylvania; Fred Upton, of Michigan; Will Hurd, of Texas; and Susan Brooks, of Indiana, who is retiring. Also backing the measure was Michigan's independent Rep. Justin Amash, who left the GOP this month after becoming the party's sole member of Congress to back a Trump impeachment inquiry.

Democrats saved one of the day's most passionate moments until near the end.

"I know racism when I see it," said Rep. John Lewis, of Georgia, whose skull was fractured at the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Ala. "At the highest level of government, there's no room for racism."

Before the showdown roll call, Trump plunged forward with time-tested insults. He accused his four outspoken critics of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgust-

ing things ever said by a politician" and added, "If you hate our Country, or if you are not happy here, you can leave !" — echoing taunts long unleashed against political dissidents rather than opposing parties' lawmakers.

The president was joined by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of California, and other top Republicans in trying to redirect the focus from Trump's original tweets, which for three days have consumed Washington and drawn widespread condemnation. Instead, they tried playing offense by accusing the four congresswomen — among the Democrats' most left-leaning members and ardent Trump critics — of socialism, an accusation that's already a central theme of the GOP's 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns.

Even after 2½ years of Trump's turbulent governing style, the spectacle of a president futilely laboring to head off a House vote essentially

proclaiming him to be a racist was extraordinary.

Underscoring the stakes, Republicans formally objected after Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, said during a floor speech that Trump's tweets were "racist." Led by Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, Republicans moved to have her words stricken from the record, a rare procedural rebuke.

After a delay exceeding 90 minutes, No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer, of Maryland, said Pelosi had indeed violated a House rule against characterizing an action as racist. Hoyer was presiding after Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, of Missouri, stormed away from the presiding officer's chair, lamenting, "We want to just fight," apparently aimed at Republicans.

Even so, Democrats flexed their muscle and the House voted afterward by party line to leave Pelosi's words intact in the record.

Afghan-born Marine eager to deploy there

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
AND CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

Marine Pvt. Atiqullah Assaid remembers the Afghanistan of his childhood vividly.

The country's mountains and vistas remind Assadi, who later grew up in Detroit, of western states like Colorado and Washington.

"I would love to return," said Assadi, seated on the steps in front of a building at Parris Island, S.C., in a Marine Corps video released Monday. "It's beautiful there ... other than the parts where, unfortunately, extremism and the terrorists, you know, took over."

Assadi, who graduated from boot camp last week, would be among a small but valued number of native Afghan U.S. servicemembers fighting a war now in its 18th year.

The video paired scenes from his home country with footage of him in Marine Corps basic training — clambering over obstacles, marching in formation and fighting hand-to-hand with fellow recruits. Meanwhile, Assadi shared painful memories of life from before his family emigrated to Michigan.

"I remember waking up by masked men ... they kidnapped my father and my brothers ... coming from the mosque," Assadi said. "They had a truck outside the house. They were putting everything — every single thing, as small as a needle — [inside it] basically looting the house."

Assadi was crying as he pleaded with the men not to kill his father, he recalled, and his father heard him.

"My father had a smile on his face and said, 'Don't cry son. You're stronger. These days will leave. These days will go away. Just have faith,'" Assadi said.

While he and his family were able to escape, the bloodshed in his homeland is continuing into its fourth decade. After earning the Corps' eagle, globe and anchor emblem last month, Assadi said he wanted to return.

"I decided I want to serve ... to fight against extremism," he said.

Since the majority of foreign combat forces were withdrawn from the country in late 2014, the Taliban has resurged and now control about 10% of the country; they are vying for control of another third, the latest U.S. military assessments show.

President Donald Trump has said he wants to pull the U.S. out of Afghanistan.

U.S. diplomats say they have made progress in hammering out terms with the Taliban for a potential withdrawal and guarantees that the country won't be used for terrorism against the West again.

Now the U.S., China, Russia and Pakistan want the militants to enter negotiations with the Kabul government and other Afghans, and to declare a cease-fire, the U.S. said last week in a statement following four-party talks in Beijing.

Four native Afghans in the Army deployed to the country last year as translators attached to the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, the Army has said, and 10 deployed this year with the 2nd SFAB.

Another Afghan native, Mohammad Nadir, served as an interpreter for U.S. troops in Helmand province for three years before moving with his family to live in the U.S. and joining the service, a Marine statement said after his boot camp graduation in 2017.

"When I saw the Marines fighting I knew I wanted to do that," said Nadir, who first stepped foot on U.S. soil on the Corps' birthday in November 2014. "I respect them a lot for what I saw those Marines do in Afghanistan."

Troops volunteer to clean up Okinawa school

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN, Okinawa — Sailors, Marines and the students of AmerAsian School on Okinawa recently picked up brooms and paint brushes to tidy up the campus before the start of the next school term in the fall.

A group of 30 servicemembers volunteered their free time Monday to help clean hallways, classrooms and outdoor areas.

"The kids are excited to see them and have role models to look up to," said principal Ayako Komine.

AmerAsian School in Okinawa is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 by mothers who needed a school for their mixed-race children, according to the school's website.

"Five mothers of half-American and half-Japanese chil-

dren began homeschooling their kids," Komine said of the school's origin. "Kids who were either facing some sort of discrimination or bullying in the Japanese public school system started contacting these mothers to see if they can join in the initiative."

Since 1985, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has kept a record of incidents of bullying, or ijime, and reported a record high number of 414,378 cases across Japan during the 2017 school year.

AmerAsian School has 67 students and 11 full-time teachers who instruct prekindergarten to ninth grade in English and Japanese. Each class has an average of five or six students.

Komine said most of the students come from retired

military families or have a servicemember parent who left Japan.

To reach out to those children, servicemembers have visited the school three times in the past academic year to help arrange classrooms, paint outdoor picnic tables and build a miniature library in the hallway.

Lance Cpl. Ryan Dave Eban volunteered on all three occasions. He was inspired to join the Marines and to help out at the school based on the humanitarian assistance provided by U.S. servicemembers that he saw growing up in the Philippines, he said.

"I feel proud and happy to give back," Eban said. "When you're cleaning with them, that's always a good part because they look at you in awe

and like a good example."

He said he hopes his volunteering can inspire others, counter the negative image created by protests outside U.S. bases on the island and counter the bad behavior of some servicemembers.

Most U.S. troops are kind-hearted and are willing to give back to the communities where they serve, he said.

After cleaning the school, painting scuffed walls and organizing supplies, the servicemembers played games with small groups of students around campus before leaving for the day.

"It's great to have them around and we very much appreciate their help," Komine said. "We're really glad that this relationship has continued to develop."

Banding together

Families of military killed in training accidents push lawmakers into action

The Orange County (Calif.) Register

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Susan and Michael McDowell attended a memorial in June for their son, 1st Lt. Conor McDowell. Kathleen Isabel Bourque, the love of Conor's life, joined them. None of them had anticipated what they would be going through.

Conor, the McDowells' only child, was killed during a vehicle rollover accident in the Las Pulgas area of Camp Pendleton during routine Marine training on May 9. He was 24.

Just weeks before that emotional ceremony, Alexandrina Braica, her husband and five children attended a similar memorial at the same military base, this to honor Staff Sgt. Joshua Braica, a member of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion who also was killed in a rollover accident, on April 13, at age 29.

Braica, of Sacramento, was married and had a 4½-month-old son.

"To see the love they had for Josh and to see the respect and appreciation was very emotional," Alexandrina Braica said of the battalion. "They spoke very highly of him and what a great leader he was. One of his commanders said, 'He was already the man he was because of the way he was raised.' As parents, we were given some credit."

While the tributes helped the McDowells and Braicas process their grief, the families remain unclear about what caused the training fatalities. They expected their sons eventually would deploy and put their lives at risk, but they didn't expect either would die while training on base.

What they know

Braica and two fellow Marines were riding in a Polaris MRZR, made to go at high speeds on rugged terrain. The only information released to the family by the Marine Corps is that Braica, the driver, came upon an obstacle along the roadway and swerved to avoid hitting it. In doing so, the vehicle rolled.

In McDowell's case, he was in a light armored vehicle at the head of a convoy of four as they drove along undulating terrain not far from the coast. Marines who were in the vehicle told McDowell's father that a heavy marine layer and high grasses made it difficult to see.

Suddenly, they said, McDowell's vehicle went head-over-heels and landed on its side, crushing McDowell, who had been manning the vehicle's turret. Six other Marines in the vehicle suffered minor injuries.

Recently, Bourque came across some of McDowell's field manuals, in which he penned daily accounts of his training, de-

tailed concerns:

"Blue Platoon 1 had a rollover," he wrote Dec. 2, 2018. "No injuries, LAV dropped 8 feet onto the turret and then onto its side. Marines will be assessed and cared for. LAV will remain in place. until daylight. ... Seven Marines were on board. My job just got a lot more serious. ... This isn't the end of the world but we got really lucky. LAV just rolled over at Ft. Irwin in blackout conditions. This is the second Charlie Company rollover in two months. ... It's a miracle no one was killed. ... This is a reminder that at any moment, through careless actions even in training, Marines can die."

A push for action

While both incidents remain under investigation, the families are not just waiting around for details. They have banded together with families of other rollover victims to push lawmakers into action — to determine what's causing the rise in training accidents and how they can be curtailed.

"We are fighting to stop more needless, preventable military deaths of our young men and women, and we are just beginning to fight and will keep at it with doggedness and energy," Michael McDowell said. "We will not rest til we have reduced drastically these heartbreaking deaths."

There have been eight rollovers reported in the last five years at Camp Pendleton. A sailor was seriously injured in 2016 when a vehicle flipped; three Marines were injured in September 2017 when a tank rolled; and in the two most recent cases, there were two fatalities and five non-life-threatening injuries. In the other instances there were no injuries or fatalities, according to the Naval Safety Center.

The trend is not isolated to Camp Pendleton.

On May 28, Lance Cpl. Hans Sandoval-Pereyra, 21, of Fairfax, Va., was killed when the Humvee he was riding in went off the road in the Northern Territory of Australia. A second Marine was treated for minor injuries in the crash.

The Army, too, has seen its share of incidents, reporting 14 fatalities involving vehicles — eight from rollovers — in fiscal year 2018-19, which began Oct. 1. Between 2015 and 2018, there were a total of 14 rollover fatalities, said Jason Waggoner, an Army spokesman.

Last month, in response to the incidents, the Army launched a safety video in which U.S. Army Forces Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston warned soldiers against driving vehicles they're not trained for. In the video, Grinston said Army motor vehicle mishaps are the No. 1 killers of Army soldiers.

The incidents over the past few months continue a trend of military training deaths and injuries that began in 2015.

In 2017, there were four times as many deaths among servicemembers in training (80) as in combat (21) throughout the armed forces.

In 2018, there were nine training deaths in the Marine Corps, and this year 10 Marines have died while training, according to Marine Headquarters at the Pentagon. In 2018, the Air Force reported 20 non-combat training deaths.

A report released in May by Congressional Research Services shows that of the 16,652 active-duty deaths in the armed forces from 2006 to 2018, 31.9% were training accidents, compared with 16.3% in combat. The remaining active-duty deaths were related to homicide, suicide, illness and other causes. Suicides accounted for 23.3% of active-duty deaths.

Training injuries and fatalities have become common enough, and systemic enough, that officials are paying attention.

On June 11, U.S. Sens. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., co-wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer voicing their concerns about the number of recent training accidents in the armed forces. McDowell was one of their constituents.

Seeking a cause

Military experts have offered several reasons for the mishaps, including a stepped-up deployment schedule, older equipment and delayed maintenance because spare parts are scarce.

Retired Marine Col. Walt Yates, who was the program manager for training systems at Marine Corps Systems Command, said he wonders what role drivers' decision-making and training play in the recent accidents.

Regarding the death of McDowell, who was to be buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, he said: "If the investigation assigns responsibility for the mishap to the driver of that vehicle then the investigation should also thoroughly examine whether the training provided to this Marine and other LAV drivers is sufficient and realistic enough to develop the skills they need to safely operate the vehicle."

Yates recommends that every Marine driving any vehicle go through a scenario of weather conditions and terrain in a simulator before driving during training.

"In aviation, it doesn't matter how senior you are," he said. "If your simulator training is out of date, you can't fly. In ground vehicles, which are less expensive and don't fall out of the sky, they let it happen."

Quintet pulls away from rest of Dem field

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No votes have been cast in the Democratic presidential nominating contest, but the winnowing has begun.

A distinct top tier of candidates is breaking away from the pack in early polling and fundraising, building distance between themselves and the rest of the bloated field. Although the first nominating contest in Iowa is still more than six months away, tighter qualifying standards for the fall debates and cash flow problems have prompted questions about how many campaigns will still be operational next year.

Five candidates have pulled away from the pack: former Vice President Joe Biden; Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders; Massachu-

setts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; California Sen. Kamala Harris; and Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Ind. Biden has consistently led early polls, with the four others jostling for position behind him. Most other candidates have struggled to even hit 2% in recent surveys.

Money has also flowed disproportionately to the top five candidates. Buttigieg, who led the field in second quarter fundraising with \$24.8 million, raised more than a quartet of senators — Amy Klobuchar, Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand and Michael Bennet — combined.

“There’s a field of likelies, unlikelies and possibles,” said Sue Dvorsky, the former chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party.

Even as the primary field cleaves into

haves and have nots, big questions remain about what direction the party will take as voters weigh who best, and how best, to defeat President Donald Trump next year. The top tier includes moderates and liberals; the oldest contender in the race and the youngest; and a black candidate.

At this early phase, the enduring strength of the leading White House hopefuls is unclear. Biden is a fragile front-runner whose decadeslong political career will continue to be picked apart. Harris faces questions about whether she can sustain her spurts of dynamism. Buttigieg is struggling with black voters, the backbone of the Democratic Party. And some Democrats anxiously wonder whether Sanders and Warren, the most liberal candidates in the race, could win a general election.

Data shows spike in opioid shipments amid crisis

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Newly released federal data shows how drugmakers and distributors increased shipments of opioid painkillers across the U.S. as the nation’s addiction crisis accelerated from 2006 to 2012.

The data, released this week by a federal court in Ohio as part of a far-reaching opioids case, shows that companies distributed 8.4 billion hydrocodone and oxycodone pills to commercial pharmacies in 2006 and 12.6 billion in 2012. That’s an increase of more than 50%.

Over that seven-year period, 76 billion pills were distributed in all, according to

an analysis by The Washington Post, which had sued along with another outlet, HD Media, to obtain the data. During the same time frame, prescription opioids contributed to more than 100,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The shipments increased even after one of the companies, Purdue Pharma, was leveled with a \$635 million federal fine in 2007 for falsely claiming its drug, OxyContin, was not as addictive as earlier opioids.

While OxyContin is the best-known prescription opioid, the Post analysis shows that Purdue accounted for just 3% of pills sold during that time. Three makers of ge-

neric drugs accounted for nearly 90% of the sales.

The data tracks a dozen different opioids, including oxycodone and hydrocodone, according to The Post. They account for most of the pill shipments to pharmacies.

The distribution data, maintained by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, is a key element of lawsuits filed by more than 2,000 state, local and tribal governments seeking to hold drug companies accountable for the crisis.

Drug distribution companies told The Post that the federal data would not exist without their providing accurate reports to the DEA.

To protect wildlife, Tenn. police warn not to flush drugs

USA Today

Pray to never encounter a meth-gator: an alligator on methamphetamine.

One Tennessee police department is urging residents not to flush drugs down the toilet, citing fears that wildlife might consume them and exhibit unnatural behaviors.

“Ducks, Geese, and other fowl frequent our treatment ponds and we shudder to think what one all hyped up on meth would do,” the Loretto Police Department posted Saturday on Facebook. “Furthermore, if it made it far enough we could create meth-gators in Shoal Creek and the Tennessee River down in North Alabama.”

Some social media users immediately

latched onto the prospect of methed-up gators.

“This should be the new mascot for a university down there,” one user tweeted. “Think of how terrifying it would be to play the South Alabama Meth Gators.”

“TONIGHT!! Live at THE NICK!!! METH GATORRRRR!!!!” another user joked.

The effects of methamphetamine on alligators is unknown. Loretto police did not note any recent documented cases of alligators consuming meth, but took a dig at Alabama’s “attack squirrel” case.

Last month, Alabama authorities arrested a man who allegedly fed meth to a pet squirrel named Deeznutz and trained it to attack people.

Authorities said they could not conduct a drug test on it, however.

A jungle python in Australia reportedly required six weeks of detoxification after absorbing meth through its skin in a lab. The python behaved more aggressively and erratically, a senior overseer at the John Morony correctional complex told The Telegraph.

Dogs fed meth can suffer from seizures, diarrhea and extreme agitation, according to a study published in the BMC Veterinary Research journal.

In Tennessee, police noted sanitation workers are not prepared to clean out meth from sewage before sending it to retention ponds or eventually downstream to Alabama’s alligator habitats.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman arrested for climbing Rushmore

SD RAPID CITY — A Nebraska woman was fined \$1,000 for illegally climbing Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Authorities said Alexandria Incontro scaled the massive sculpture without a rope in bare feet, making it about 15 feet from the top of the granite mountain.

A number of signs on the presidential monument warn people not to trespass or climb the sculpture.

The Omaha woman pleaded guilty to climbing the monument during a federal court appearance in Rapid City on Monday. Three other charges, including trespassing, were dropped.

Police: Kids locked in truck carrying drugs

TN NEWPORT — Authorities said three children were rescued from the back of a U-Haul truck that was carrying drugs in Tennessee, and three North Carolinians have been charged in the case.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol told reporters that a bystander in Cocke County called authorities to report seeing children being locked in the truck. Trooper Owen Caudill pulled over the U-Haul and found a 1-year-old, a 5-year-old and an 8-year-old locked in the back. Temperatures hovered in the low 90s.

Authorities said a passenger surrendered some marijuana and an ensuing vehicle search uncovered crystal meth, cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Eric Larue, Lakiza Williams and Willie Green Jr. were arrested on charges including child endangerment.

'Jerk' steals doors off police Humvee

MA WARREN — Police in Massachusetts are looking for "some jerk" who stole four doors off a department vehicle.

The Warren Police Department's Humvee doors were taken while it was parked in a municipal lot near the police station.

Police have surveillance video of a white pickup truck they believe may have been driven by a person connected to the theft.

Chief Gerald Millette told the Telegram & Gazette the doors can be lifted off their hinges without unbolting anything. The motive for the theft is unclear, but Millette said such doors can fetch up to \$5,000 online.

Disney Skyliner to open in September

FL ORLANDO — Disney visitors will get to try out the theme park's new air gondolas in September.

Walt Disney World announced Monday that the Disney Skyliner, which is like mini cabins in the sky, will begin operating on Sept. 29 and will give guests "a never-before-seen birds-eye view." It will transport visitors between Epcot, Hollywood Studios and several resorts.

The rides will last between five and 15 minutes.

Worker put on leave over bra/X-ray flap

MO KANSAS CITY — A Missouri jail employee said she was placed on leave after putting her underwire bra through an X-ray machine as she was getting screened into work.

Charlotte Hardin said she had to take off her bra because it set off the metal detector at Jackson County Detention Center. She said the facility put her on leave in June, saying undergarments can't be X-rayed. She hasn't been given a return date.

Hardin's attorney filed a sex discrimination and retaliation complaint with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

3 children hurt when bounce house lifts off

NV RENO — Authorities said strong winds blew an inflatable bounce house with three children inside into power lines, causing electricity to be temporarily cut off to thousands of people in Nevada.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office said the bounce house was uplifted about 10 feet and got caught on the lines in Reno.

Deputies and firefighters rescued the children, treating two at the scene and taking the third to a hospital.

Woman gets postcard man mailed in 1993

IL SPRINGFIELD — An Illinois woman checked her mail and learned about a man's travels in Hong Kong. But Kim Draper doesn't know the man — and the postcard is 26 years old.

Draper, who lives in Springfield, said the postcard from 1993 appears to have been written by a father to his children. She told The State Journal-Register that she's been searching online for Leena Kizilbash, who could be living in Massachusetts.

Draper said the postcard is in great condition despite being nearly three decades old. She believes the family probably

was renting her house in the 1990s.

County mulls bill to ban balloon releases

MD CENTREVILLE — Lawmakers of a Maryland county are considering a bill that would outlaw balloon releases and impose a \$250 fine on those who ignore the mandate.

The Capital reported the bill was introduced to the Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners last week by Commissioner Christopher Corchiarino, who said releasing balloons is littering. The bill wouldn't penalize accidental releases or those done by government agencies.

The bill is backed by the Queen Anne's Conservation Association. The association's executive director, Jay Falstad, said creatures often mistake nonbiodegradable balloons as food or get fatally trapped and injured by balloon ribbons.

Museum to display Picasso art in 2020

OH CLEVELAND — Pablo Picasso's artwork will be displayed next year on a large scale at the Cleveland Museum of Art for the first time in nearly two decades.

The museum will host the international traveling exhibition, "Picasso and Paper" from May 24 to Aug. 23.

Museum officials said the exhibition will be organized in partnership with London's Royal Academy of Arts and the Musee national Picasso-Paris. The last time the Cleveland museum showcased a large-scale display of Picasso's work was in 2001.

From wire reports

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Koepka using local caddie at Portrush

Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Brooks Koepka's biggest asset during this year's British Open won't be in his bag, it'll be on his bag.

The four-time major winner will be walking around Royal Portrush, a course new to most of the players in the field, with a native expert helping him negotiate the sharp elevation changes of the century-old links course on the northern coast of Northern Ireland. His caddie, Ricky Elliott, is a local lad.

"Every hole I just step up on, 'You tell me what to do. You've played it more than anybody,'" said Koepka, who is on such a roll at majors he may be one of the few players who doesn't need extra help. "So just let him figure it out. He knows his spots to miss it. The spots to come in from, with different hole locations and different winds."

Elliott grew up in Portrush, and grew up playing at Royal Portrush. The pair started

working together shortly after the 2013 British Open, when Phil Mickelson won at Muirfield.

It only took a phone call to put things in motion.

"We had about a 30-minute phone conversation. I liked the way he went about things," Koepka said Tuesday. "He was kind of light. He was joking on the phone. And that's somebody I want. I want somebody that's not going to be so focused in all the time. My personality, I laugh and joke on the golf course. I know it doesn't look like it, but the camera is not on us all the time. He's pretty laid back."

Koepka has excelled over the last couple of years with Elliott on his bag, particularly at the major tournaments. After winning his second straight U.S. Open title last year, Koepka won his second straight PGA Championship this year. And he didn't do badly at the other two majors this season either, finishing second at the Masters and at the U.S. Open.

"The whole reason I show up is to win. That's what I'm trying to do," Koepka said of his major results. "It's incredible. But at the same time, it's been quite disappointing, you know? Finishing second sucks. It really does."

Tiger Woods, the one who edged Koepka to win this year's Masters, came to Northern Ireland looking for a little local knowledge. He said he texted Koepka, hoping to get some advice on the course.

"What he's done in the last four major championships has been just unbelievable. To be so consistent, so solid. He's been in contention to win each and every major championship," Woods said. "And I said, 'Hey, dude, do you mind if I tag along and play a practice round?' I've heard nothing."

Koepka will play his first two rounds at Royal Portrush alongside 2010 British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and Shubhankar Sharma.

And like many great champions in all sorts of sports, Koepka

is full of self-belief heading into the final major of the season.

"I think you always have to have a chip on your shoulder, no matter what it is," Koepka said. "Every great athlete and every major sport always has one."

"Over the last year and a half, I just felt like if other guys had done what I had done it would be a bigger deal. Now it doesn't matter to me. I've got my own chip on my shoulder for what I'm trying to accomplish. ... How many majors I want to win, how many wins, my own accomplishments."

With his trust in his own ability to deliver the big shots and his trust in his caddie's ability to deliver that little bit of extra insight on a course that hasn't hosted the British Open since 1951, Koepka is on the short list of favorites this week.

"Definitely have a little bit more confidence having him on the bag this week," Koepka said of Elliott, "knowing this golf course so well."

British Open in Northern Ireland for first time in 68 years

Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Darren Clarke was a teenager working at a bar in his hometown of Dungannon when the call came in.

The message was simple: Get out or get killed.

It was a few days before Christmas in 1986 and Northern Ireland was at war with itself — and by proxy, the government in London. "The Troubles," as they are euphemistically known here, were raging and no one knew who the next target would be.

Clarke and his fellow workers took heed and got out.

"The bomb scare at 8:30, everybody out, bomb went off at 9:00," Clarke said, "and the place was flattened."

Clarke recalled the close escape this week amid preparations for a home British Open he thought he would never see.

The Open is back in Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years, and Clarke will step up to the first tee early Thursday morning and hit the first shot.

As with anyone who grew up around here during the time, though, The Troubles are never far from his mind.

"That was life in Northern Ireland. Bombs were going off quite frequently," Clarke said. "And a lot of people, unfortunately, paid a heavy penalty for being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The Troubles that killed more than 3,700 people have largely ended, thanks to the Good Friday peace agreement in 1998. Still, tensions between unionists, mostly Protestant, and Roman Catholic supporters of a united Ireland still simmer beneath the surface and there are occasional incidents like the shooting death earlier this

year of journalist Lyra McKee during rioting in Londonderry.

But with prodding from Clarke and some others, the R&A felt comfortable enough to bring the tournament back to Royal Portrush, where it was last held in 1951 — the only time it had ever been played in Northern Ireland.

And with more than 200,000 fans expected to flood the course before play ends Sunday, the focus for both them and Clarke is now on golf.

"It goes without saying, it's a huge thing to have it back here in Northern Ireland again," Clarke said. "It's going to be an amazing tournament. The atmosphere is going to be sensational."

Indeed, the atmosphere might already be ahead of projections, with fans streaming out of the nearby train station to get a glimpse of their favorite

players in Tuesday's practice round. In between they could look at the spectacular vistas that spread for miles from the links course perched on a cliff overlooking the sea.

It's a bucolic setting that belies the violence that is mostly past. And it's an important way to spread the idea that Northern Ireland is not only the home of major champions like Clarke, Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell, but some of the best golf courses in the world.

It's also a way to show the world that Northern Ireland is moving on from its past.

The golf, at least at Royal Portrush, could be as spectacular as the views. This is a British Open with a little of everything for golf fans, from Tiger Woods trying for another major to McIlroy, McDowell or even the 50-year-old Clarke winning on home soil.

WNBA suspends Sparks' Williams 10 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Los Angeles Sparks guard Riquna Williams was suspended without pay by the WNBA on Tuesday for 10 games — nearly a third of the season — for a domestic violence incident.

Williams, 28, was arrested on April 29 and charged with two felony counts, one involving the assault of an individual with whom she was in a relationship and the other involving a threat to another person with a firearm. Her criminal case is ongoing.

The WNBA said it conducted its own investigation, including interviews with Williams and several witnesses, and consulted with a panel of experts in the field of domestic violence. Among other factors, the league said it took into account the nature and seriousness of the allegations, including the involvement of a gun. The WNBA also will require Williams to participate in counseling.

"As an organization, we abhor violence of any kind and specifically take domestic violence allegations very seriously," the Sparks said in a statement. "We will pro-

vide whatever resources we are allowed to help Riquna learn and grow from this unfortunate situation."

The union said it would file a grievance on Williams' behalf.

"We are disappointed with the league's actions. There is an ongoing criminal proceeding and in fairness to the player, the league could have and should have awaited its completion before taking any action," said Terri Jackson, executive director of the union.

"Riquna has not had a fair opportunity to fully defend herself. We are immediately filing a grievance and will seek the arbitrator's review."

The suspension, which surpassed the seven games given to Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson in 2015 for their domestic violence arrests, will begin with Thursday's game against the Dallas Wings.

It's not the longest in league history: The WNBA dismissed Rhonda Mapp, who also played for Los Angeles, in 2003 for violating its drug policy. Mapp never returned after being suspended by the league for two years.

According to an arrest report, Williams

forced her way inside a Florida home and repeatedly struck Alkeria Davis in the head and pulled her hair on Dec. 6. Two men told Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies they spent 10 minutes trying to break up the fight. When they finally separated the women, Williams grabbed a gun from her car, placed it on the trunk and pointed it at one man, saying "you'll get all 18" before speeding off, authorities said.

Davis said she and Williams had been together on and off for five years and had broken up a month earlier. She told authorities she thought Williams was jealous but had never been violent in the past.

Williams was booked on burglary and aggravated assault charges.

The Sparks signed her on May 15. The seventh-year player has started six games this season and is averaging 11.5 points. She had 23 points in Los Angeles' last game, an overtime win over Atlanta on Sunday.

Assuming she doesn't appeal, Williams would return for the Sparks' final eight games, starting against the Indiana Fever on Aug. 22.

Forward Oubre re-signs with overhauled Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Forward Kelly Oubre Jr. re-signed with the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday. The team said it was a multiyear deal.

Oubre returns to a new-look roster that includes star Devin Booker and second-year center Deandre Ayton, plus point guard Ricky Rubio. The Suns also added power forward Dario Saric and center Aron Baynes via trades, and drafted Cameron Johnson with the 11th overall pick last month.

"We added at the positions of need for us, point guard and power forward," Suns general manager James Jones said. "And we kept our core guys intact. I think you had a glimpse of what we can become at the end of last season. Kelly was a big reason for our turnaround. We're just excited to have him back with us."

Oubre was acquired in a trade with the Washington Wiz-

ards for veteran Trevor Ariza last December. He averaged 16.9 points and 4.9 rebounds in 40 games with the Suns to go with his energy on defense. The four-year pro led the NBA in steals per game with 2.1 after the All-Star break, to go with 20.2 points and 5.7 rebounds.

"Right now I'm a Phoenix Sun, and I'm excited to get better every day with the group of guys that we have," the 23-year-old Oubre said. "At the end of the day, I'm super excited about where we're going and where we're going to be. The sky's the limit for us."

"The numbers don't lie," he added. "You see how my game evolved when I got here and it happened the right way. Nothing was given to me."

The Suns made it a priority to retain Oubre, who became a fan favorite for his hustling style of play and all-around game in what was another down season.

The Suns went 19-63 last sea-

son and haven't finished above .500 since 2013-14.

Phoenix won five of seven games during a stretch from Feb. 25 to March 10 last season, which included wins over the Los Angeles Lakers, Central Division champion Milwaukee Bucks and the Golden State Warriors.

Oubre underwent a minor thumb procedure on March 22 and didn't play the rest of the season.

"Defensively he's one of the guys in the league that fits today's game and even past eras of basketball," new Suns head coach Monty Williams said. "For me it's a level of comfort to have somebody who has experience but still has room to improve."

Oubre and Ayton came up with "Valley Boyz," a name they gave themselves and their teammates that has caught on via social media with Suns fans. He's since trademarked the phrase and hopes the brand

can continue to rally support for the team.

"It's a family. It's going to grow organically," Oubre said. "I can't force it to grow. It's been a beautiful thing to see, man, because that's the whole city of Phoenix."

Williams said Rubio's job will be to manage the game from the point guard spot. The veteran from Spain started his career with the Minnesota Timberwolves and spent the past two seasons with the Utah Jazz.

"We have a guy in Ricky that's going to make everybody more efficient than they have been," Williams said. "When we get stops, I don't want to have to call plays, and I think when you have a point guard like Ricky and guys like Kelly who can get out and run and make plays, that's something that's going to allow me more freedom to sit back and let the guys develop our culture offensively."

Astros manager livid as Marisnick hit

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Houston Astros expected the Angels to retaliate against Jake Marisnick in his first game versus Los Angeles since his violent home plate collision with catcher Jonathan Lucroy.

So while the pitch that hit Marisnick in the back in the sixth inning was no surprise, it still left manager AJ Hinch and his Astros profoundly steamed — even after Noe Ramirez insisted he hadn't done it on purpose.

Albert Pujols hit a bases-clearing double during the Angels' six-run first inning, and Los Angeles remained unbeaten in five games since the All-Star break with a 7-2 victory over the Astros on Tuesday

night.

But both teams were preoccupied by the moment when Ramirez (4-1) drilled Marisnick between the shoulder blades with a 1-1 pitch in the sixth. Players nearly came to blows moments later, and Hinch vaguely hinted at retaliation if Ramirez isn't punished by Major League Baseball.

"Wasn't everybody expecting something to happen to Jake tonight?" Hinch asked. "I mean, the entire industry was probably expecting it. Our guy got suspended for an unintentional act, and they got a free shot. I feel bad for players nowadays. There's a lot of gray area in what to do."

Marisnick ran over Lucroy while trying to score in Hous-

ton nine days ago, leaving Lucroy with a concussion and a broken nose. He is out for at least three more weeks.

Shortly after Ramirez hit Marisnick, a verbal confrontation broke out between Pujols and several Astros in the dugout, including Lance McCullers Jr. and Justin Verlander. Benches and bullpens partially emptied, but there was no serious physical contact.

"Sometimes you can retaliate, like tonight," Hinch said. "They're going to get away with it, unless he gets suspended. Sometimes you can't, and you get thrown out of the game for backup sliders that hit guys. It's a confusing time. Either the players govern the players on the field like it's always been,

or we legislate it to where none of this crap happens. They got a free shot at him with no warning, with no ejection. We'll see if there's discipline, and without discipline, there's not going to be any issue doing it the next time. So if retaliations are in, cool. We're well aware."

Marisnick, a native of nearby Riverside, likely isn't on board with that mentality. He noticeably tried to calm his teammates during the fracas, and he attempted to shrug off the heavy boos that greeted his every move at Angel Stadium.

"It's not what I want," said Marisnick, who had two hits. "It was an unfortunate play back in Houston. I feel terrible about it. To come here and have something like this go down, it [stinks]."

MLB roundup

Harper's 2-run double in 9th lifts Phillies over Dodgers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bryce Harper threw his helmet off rounding the bases, thrust his arms in the air and screamed while teammates stormed out of the dugout to mob him.

That's what Philadelphia has been waiting for from its \$330 million man.

Harper hit a two-run double off Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen with one out in the bottom of the ninth after pinch-hitter Matt Beaty hit a three-run homer off Phillies closer Hector Neris in the top half, rallying Philadelphia to a 9-8 win over Los Angeles on Tuesday night.

"That's what baseball is all about," Harper said. "Against one of the best closers, it's always fun."

Pinch-hitter Andrew Knapp hit a double with one out after Adam Haseley's grounder hit off Jansen's right foot near the ankle and rolled to first base. Cesar Hernandez followed with a single and Scott Kingery's bloop single to center scored

Knapp to get the Phillies with-in a run. Harper then ripped a ball to the gap that bounced off A.J. Pollock's glove and went to the wall to win it.

"That was a huge moment for Bryce," Phillies manager Gabe Kapler said. "You could see how important that was for him."

The Phillies rebounded from a 16-2 loss in the opener of a four-game series against the two-time defending NL champions.

Cody Bellinger hit his major league-leading 34th homer and Max Muncy, A.J. Pollock and Joc Pederson also went deep for the Dodgers.

Yankees 8, Rays 3: Aaron Judge hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Didi Gregorius followed with a grand slam as host New York won another surly clash between CC Sabathia and the Rays.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 4: Teoscar Hernandez hit a three-run homer off new Boston starter Andrew Cashner, and

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had three hits to lead visiting Toronto.

Nationals 8, Orioles 1: Matt Adams and Juan Soto homered and rookie Austin Voth extended a streak of strong performances by Washington's rotation in a win over neighboring Baltimore.

Marlins 12, Padres 7: Brian Anderson hit a three-run homer in the first inning and host Miami dealt San Diego its fourth straight loss.

Pirates 3, Cardinals 1: Colin Moran drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single and Pittsburgh scored twice in the ninth to beat host St. Louis.

Diamondbacks 9, Rangers 2: Rookie Alex Young allowed one run in 5¹/₃ innings to help Arizona beat host Texas.

Royals 11, White Sox 0: Glenn Sparkman pitched a five-hitter for his first career complete game, Whit Merrifield and Hunter Dozier each had three hits including a home run for host Kansas City.

Mets 3, Twins 2: Michael Conforto went 4 for 4 and drove

in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the fifth inning, helping New York over host Minnesota.

Indians 8, Tigers 0: Oscar Mercado hit a two-run homer and Zach Plesac and three relievers combined for a one-hitter as host Cleveland beat Detroit.

Cubs 4, Reds 3 (10): Kyle Schwarber hit a solo home run with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning to rally host Chicago.

Brewers 13, Braves 1: Christian Yelich hit his second career grand slam, Keston Hiura and Lorenzo Cain each had a solo homer and host Milwaukee routed Atlanta.

Giants 8, Rockies 4 (10): Alex Dickerson had a career-best four hits, including the go-ahead RBI single in visiting San Francisco's four-run 10th inning.

Athletics 9, Mariners 2: All-Star Matt Chapman homered and had five RBIs and host Oakland won its fifth straight.