

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Mold displaces 200 at Texas base

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — Mold in dorms forced about 200 airmen into new housing over the weekend at Joint Base San Antonio in Texas after online scrutiny of living conditions triggered base leadership to conduct a full review of all facilities. As inspections continue at the Air Force's largest dormitory program, officials anticipate the number of displaced airmen to grow.

The base commander on Wednesday ordered a full review of dormitories within 24 hours. Follow-up inspections continue, and some remediation has begun in those rooms where mold was found to be a severe problem, Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, said in a statement Monday.

About three-quarters of permanent party dorms have been inspected, with 16% showing a presence of mold, according to the statement. Inspection of the remaining permanent party dorms should be completed Tuesday.

The 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron is treating rooms "with a regimen that includes a thorough bleaching process as well as utilizing dehumidifiers, removing and replacing carpet with vinyl planks, and installing ceiling fans," Lenderman said. They are repainting these rooms to "refresh" them.

The work is expected to take about two months and required about 200 airmen from the permanent and training dorms to relocate to other dorms or on-base lodging, she said.

Located in south central Texas, Joint Base San Antonio includes Lackland and Randolph Air Force bases, the Army's Fort Sam Houston and eight other locations. It's home to many training programs and has representation of all branches of the military. It also has the largest dormitory program in the Air Force, with 77 dorms and the capacity of house 27,000.

"There are many factors that affect our ability not only to maintain our dormitories but also to sustain them," Lenderman said. "As we work to correct these near-term issues, we are also continuing to work our long-term 502 (Air Base Wing) Dorm and Training Campus Improvement Plan to mitigate risk and support JBSA mission execution."

## Trump: Coats to leave his top national intel position

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Dan Coats, director of national intelligence, will leave his job next month, President Donald Trump announced, after a turbulent two years in which Coats and the president were often at odds over Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Trump announced Coats' departure date as Aug. 15 in a tweet Sunday that thanked Coats for his service. He said he will nominate Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas, to the post and that he will name an acting official in the coming days. Ratcliffe is a frequent Trump defender who fiercely questioned former special counsel Robert Mueller during a House Judiciary Committee hearing last week.

Coats, 76, often appeared out of step with Trump and disclosed to prosecutors how he was urged by the Republican president to publicly deny any link between Russia and the Trump campaign. The frayed relationship reflected broader divisions between the president and the government's intelligence agencies.

Coats' public, and sometimes personal, disagreements with Trump over policy and intelligence included Russian election interference and North Korean nuclear capabilities. Trump had long been skeptical of the nation's intelligence agencies, which provoked his ire by concluding that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election with the goal of getting him elected.

In a letter of resignation released Sunday night, Coats said serving as the nation's top intelligence official has been a "distinct privilege" but that it was time for him to "move on" to the next chapter of his life. He cited his work to strengthen the intelligence community's effort to prevent harm to the U.S. from adversaries and to reform the security clearance process.

A former Republican senator from Indiana, Coats was appointed director of national intelligence in March 2017, becoming the fifth person to hold the post since it was created in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to oversee and coordinate the nation's 17 intelligence agencies.

Coats had been among the last of the seasoned foreign policy hands to surround the president after his 2016 victory. That roster included Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and later national security adviser H.R. McMaster.

Coats developed a reputation inside the administration for sober presentations of intelligence conclusions that occasionally contradicted Trump's policy aims.

Coats' departure comes days after Mueller's public testimony on his two-year investigation into Russian election interference and potential obstruction of justice by Trump, which officials said both emboldened and infuriated the president.

Ratcliffe shares Trump's view of the Mueller probe. Last week, the Texas Republican was one of the most aggressive questioners of the former special counsel at the House Judiciary hearing. In an appearance Sunday on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures," he also said it was time to move on from Democrats' talk of impeachment.

Confirmation takes a simple 51-vote majority, under new rules in the Senate, but that leaves slim room for error with Republicans holding a 53-seat majority.

Democrats said Ratcliffe was too political for the intelligence post. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer tweeted: "It's clear Rep. Ratcliffe was selected because he exhibited blind loyalty to @realDonaldTrump with his demagogic questioning of Mueller. If Senate Republicans elevate such a partisan player to a position requiring intelligence expertise & non-partisanship, it'd be a big mistake."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell issued a statement Sunday that praised Coats but pointedly noted: "The U.S. intelligence community works best when it is led by professionals who protect its work from political or analytical bias and who deliver unvarnished hard truths to political leaders in both the executive and legislative branches. Very often the news these briefings bring is unpleasant, but it is essential that we be confronted with the facts. Dan Coats was such a leader."

# NATO: 2 US troops killed in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. servicemembers were killed in action in Afghanistan on Monday, NATO said.

The names of the servicemembers are being withheld until next of kin are notified as per Pentagon protocol. No other information was provided.

The deaths bring to 14 the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan this year.

All but two were combat-related.

About 14,000 American troops are deployed to the country and are engaged in counterterrorism operations and in training and advising Afghan security forces.

## Overseas military mail delivery may be altered

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

Servicemembers stationed overseas probably don't think much about how their mail to and from the United States is delivered through the immense system of Army, Air Force and Navy post offices.

In 2018, the Defense Department's Military Postal Service Agency oversaw the delivery of 88,618 tons of packages and letters sent or received by overseas soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and federal employees at about 1.2 million post office boxes, unit mail rooms, buildings and other delivery points.

That was roughly equivalent to mailing 1,310 Abrams tanks.

The average military mail customer has also likely given little thought to an arcane international treaty called the Universal Postal Union — but they're apt to hear a lot more about it by October.

The Trump administration announced last year that the U.S. would withdraw from the 144-year-old treaty, primarily over growing complaints by some U.S.-based businesses

that packages sent to the States from other countries — primarily China — have much lower postal rates. In some cases, U.S. businesses spend more to mail a package domestically than a China-based firm would pay to ship to America.

"The big fight is over delivery charges," said James Campbell Jr., a Washington-based attorney who specializes in regulations concerning international shipping.

"The Trump administration is saying that we are delivering Chinese packages, in particular — but all foreign e-commerce packages, really — for somewhere between a third to half of what we're charging Americans for the same service. That's crazy. The domestic merchants are complaining about that."

The U.S. is slated to drop out of the postal union treaty in October unless changes are made by the Bern, Switzerland-based body that governs the system.

Because the treaty has been in effect so long and includes almost all the world's nations, the ripple effects of withdrawal are unpredictable.

The U.S. Postal Service seems to be counting on a meeting scheduled for September during which treaty members will discuss changes to "terminal dues," which are the rates each member nation pays for delivery of mail within other countries.

"This will provide a new opportunity for UPU members to collaborate and develop solutions to end the distortionary effects associated with excessively low rates for certain foreign origin mail, as compared to domestic postage rates," the Postal Service said in a statement to Stars and Stripes.

But the Postal Service is also undertaking "parallel efforts" in the event the U.S. withdraws from the treaty, including "addressing and prioritizing military mailing issues," the statement said.

Pete Graeve, chief of plans and policy for the Military Postal Service Agency, was optimistic about the potential impact leaving the postal union will have on the APO — or Army Post Office, also used by the Air Force — and the Navy's Fleet Post Office, or FPO.

"The bottom line is that we have host nation agreements/status of forces agreements/diplomatic notes that allow the [Military Postal Service] to operate in host nations, and we expect host nations will not unilaterally abrogate those agreements," Graeve wrote in a response to questions from Stars and Stripes.

Among the primary host nations are Germany, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Kuwait, Australia, Japan and South Korea. If those host nations were dealing only with U.S. withdrawal from the Universal Postal Union treaty, it seems less likely they would abrogate agreements governing military mail.

But the Trump administration is already at odds with European allies over his unilateral withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran in which the nations traded sanctions relief for Iran's delay in enriching uranium.

## WWII sailor posthumously awarded Purple Heart

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

A sailor killed aboard the last U.S. warship to be sunk off the East Coast in World War II has been awarded the Purple Heart medal 74 years after he died.

Seaman 1st Class James Cunningham, of Jackson, Tenn.,

was one of 49 sailors who the Navy said were killed aboard the patrol boat USS Eagle off the coast of Maine on April 23, 1945, when an explosion ripped its hull in half. Saturday, Navy personnel chief Vice Adm. Jeff Hughes awarded the Purple Heart to Cunningham's sister,

Clara Cunningham Osborne, 85, at an event in Millington, Tenn.

A boiler explosion was originally thought to have sunk the Eagle, even though some of the 13 survivors said they had seen a submarine conning tower near the boat.

In 2001, the sinking was

reclassified as a combat loss after Paul Lawton, a lawyer, naval historian and diver, and Bernard Cavalcante, a senior archivist at the Naval Historical Center, found evidence to convince the Navy that the German submarine U-853 had sunk the boat.



# At least 3 killed in Calif. festival shooting

Associated Press

GILROY, Calif. — A 6-year-old boy described by his grandmother as always kind and happy was one of three people killed and at least 15 others injured when a gunman heard to be “really angry” opened fire during the closing moments of a popular weekend garlic festival in Northern California.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee said the gunman, who has been identified as Santino William Legan, 19, was armed with a rifle and sneaked in through a fence that borders a parking lot next to a creek. He appeared to randomly target people when he opened fire just after 5:30 p.m. Sunday, the conclusion of the three-day festival that attracts more than 100,000

people to the city known as the “Garlic Capital of the World.”

Police responded within a minute and killed the suspect, Smithee said. Some witnesses reported a second suspect, Smithee said, but it was unclear whether that person was armed or simply provided assistance. A manhunt continued late into the night.

The 6-year-old boy was one among those killed, his father said. “My son had his whole life to live and he was only 6,” Alberto Romero, the father of Stephen Romero, told NBC Bay Area. “That’s all I can say.”

The boy’s grandmother, Maribel Romero, told ABC7 News she searched several hospitals before learning he had died. She said he was “always kind,

happy and, you know, playful.”

The wounded were taken to multiple hospitals, and their conditions ranged from fair to critical, with some in surgery Sunday night. At least five were treated and released.

The Gilroy Garlic Festival features food, cooking contests and music. It’s a decades-old staple in the agricultural city of 50,000 about 80 miles southeast of San Francisco. Security is tight — festival-goers pass through metal detectors and their bags are searched.

On Sunday, the band TinMan was starting an encore when the shooting started. Singer Jack van Breen said he saw a man wearing a green shirt and grayish handkerchief around his neck fire into the food area

with what looked like an assault rifle. He and other members of the band dove under the stage.

Van Breen, from nearby Santa Clara, said he heard someone shout, “Why are you doing this?” and the reply: “Because I’m really angry.”

The audience began screaming and running, and the five members of the band and others dove under the stage.

Bandmate Vlad Malinovsky said he heard a lot of shots and then it stopped. Later, law enforcement came by and told those hiding to come out with their hands up.

Taylor Jackson was working at a booth drawing caricatures when she heard gunfire, saw people running and “ran for the hills.”

## Coast Guard Academy whistleblower speaks out

The (New London, Conn.) Day

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Young-McLear, who spent years reporting bullying and harassing behavior by her superiors and later faced retaliation for making those complaints, is finally speaking publicly about what happened to her.

Young-McLear, 35, said she chose now to speak out because she will be recognized, along with 50 others, by the National Whistleblowers Center on Tuesday, designated as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day.

“I want to use this public opportunity to affirm the dignity of victims and their families while still advocating for honest, efficient and accountable workplace environments in the military,” she said.

Young-McLear cited the cases of Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Harry Lew and Army Pvt. Danny Chen, who died by suicide after enduring military hazing. Lew’s aunt, U.S. Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., has advocated in Congress for reforming the way the military deals with hazing.

“They didn’t survive harassment and, therefore, cannot tell

their stories or serve,” Young-McLear said.

Young-McLear said she endured four years of abuse at the academy, including her supervisor making belittling comments toward her, using her as a scapegoat and undermining her work. She said she exhausted the complaint process, making reports to her Coast Guard chain of command, including senior leadership at the academy and the commandant, and through the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security’s civil rights reporting processes.

“They all failed me. The re-

porting systems that we have in place failed, and I was retaliated against,” said Young-McLear, who left the academy this summer for a cybersecurity fellowship under the Department of Homeland Security.

Young-McLear said the head of the Coast Guard declined to meet with her to discuss what she experienced and also declined to provide her with “a formal written apology on behalf of the Coast Guard.”

To add to that, she said, the Coast Guard “has never held anyone accountable for the years of abuse I sustained.”

## Bowers takes over Marine Corps Installations Pacific

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II  
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, Okinawa — Marine Brig. Gen. William J. Bowers has assumed command of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, a far-flung organization responsible for operating bases in Hawaii, Japan, South

Korea and, soon, Guam.

Bowers took over for Maj. Gen. Paul J. Rock Jr., who has commanded since June 27, 2017, during a ceremony Friday in a hangar on one of the island’s most strategically important but controversial air bases in the Pacific.

“It is with great confidence that I hand the bow that is Ma-

rine Corps Installations Pacific to you,” Rock told Bowers during the change of command ceremony, “and I know that you will work to keep pulling that bow harder ... to launch the [Marine Expeditionary Force] arrow that much farther.”

Marine Corps Installations Pacific has approximately 11,000 Marines, sailors and ci-

vilians who work for the command across Japan, including MCAS Futenma and several camps on Okinawa and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and the Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji on the main island of Honshu; in South Korea at Camp Mjuk; and at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

# President signs 9/11 compensation bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday signed a bill ensuring that a victims' compensation fund helping those impacted by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks never runs out of money, ending years of legislative gridlock as the number of first responders dying of ground zero-related illnesses mounted.

Appearing in the Rose Garden with more than 60 first responders from the 2001 terrorist attacks, Trump signed into law an extension of the fund through 2092, essentially making it permanent.

"You inspire all of humanity," Trump said of the "true American warriors" who rushed to assist victims that day and searched for remains for months after.

The president said the nation has a "sacred obligation" to care for the responders and their families.

The \$7.4 billion fund had been rapidly depleting, and administrators recently cut benefit payments by up to 70%. The bill passed Congress on a bipartisan basis but only after

delays by some Republicans exposed the legislative branch to brutal criticism from activists, including the comedian Jon Stewart.

Dozens of first responders, many gravely ill, would repeatedly travel to Washington to lobby lawmakers to extend the funding every time it needed to be reauthorized. Though their ranks shrunk, as emergency workers died of cancers and other diseases linked to the toxic fumes from the World Trade Center rubble, the fate of the funding had never been permanently guaranteed.

NYPD detective Luis Alvarez appeared gaunt and ill when he testified before Congress last month, urging lawmakers to pass the measure to help his fellow first responders even if it was too late for him.

"You made me come down here the day before my 69th round of chemo, and I'm going to make sure that you never forget to take care of the 9/11 first responders," Alvarez said.

He died two weeks later.

More than 40,000 people have applied to the fund, which covers illnesses potentially related to being at the World

Trade Center site, the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pa., after the attacks. Stewart, who made the cause a personal passion project, tore into the lawmakers' inaction when he testified alongside Alvarez, creating a moment that was frequently replayed on cable news.

"Hundreds died in an instant. Thousands more poured in to continue to fight for their brothers and sisters," Stewart said before the committee. "They did their jobs with courage, grace, tenacity, humility. Eighteen years later, do yours."

A pair of Republican senators, Rand Paul, of Kentucky, and Mike Lee, of Utah, voted against the measure this month, preventing its adoption from being unanimous. Both cited the need to eliminate unnecessary spending and offset the measure with budget cuts.

Trump did not dwell on that division when he signed the bill. The bill-signing prompted a round of applause from first responders in the Rose Garden as well as Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, who was mayor of New York City during the attacks and was widely praised for his leadership in the

aftermath of the World Trade Center collapse.

Trump, whose real estate holdings that day included some 20 buildings in Manhattan, played up his own personal connection on Monday to the World Trade Center site.

"I was down there also, but I'm not considering myself a first responder," the president said.

But a number of the president's recollections about his own personal experiences that day cannot be verified, including his claims that he sent construction crews to help clear the site, that he had "hundreds" of friends die at ground zero and that he witnessed television coverage of Muslims in the United States cheering the destruction of the iconic skyscrapers.

The ceremony was attended by a handful of lawmakers — all Republican — though a White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity to share planning details, said that all members of Congress had been invited to the event. The invitations went out Friday and Saturday.

## Seoul to return North Koreans who crossed sea border in boat

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea said Monday it's returning three North Koreans who crossed the Korea's sea border aboard a wooden fishing boat over the weekend.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement it decided to let the North Koreans return home in line with their wishes.

It said the North Koreans were to sail across the sea border back to North Korea aboard the same boat later Monday.

Fishing boats drift across the Korea's eastern sea border in both directions. South

Korea typically returns North Korean fishermen unless they are suspected of espionage. But it also lets them resettle in the South if they want, often triggering angry responses from the North.

North Korea on Saturday released two South Koreans and 15 Russians whose fishing boat drifted into North Korean waters 10 days ago. Those crew members returned to South Korea on Sunday.

Ties between the Koreas remain cool amid a lack of progress in U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program.

## Ailing Russian political leader returned to jail

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was discharged from a hospital Monday even though his physician raised suspicions of a possible poisoning.

Details about Navalny's condition were scarce after he was rushed to a hospital Sunday with what authorities said was a suspected allergy attack inside a detention facility where he was serving a 30-day sentence for calling an unsanctioned protest. Navalny, 43, was arrested several days before a major opposition rally Saturday.

Tensions are running high in

Moscow, and the opposition has called for a new rally for next weekend.

Dr. Anastasiya Vasilyeva, who has been Navalny's physician for several years, told reporters that the politician had been discharged from the hospital and sent back to the detention facility before the necessary tests were run on him. Doctors at the hospital initially said Navalny was taken in with a severe allergy attack, but Vasilyeva said the swelling and the rash on his face could be consistent with chemical poisoning. The physician said the incarceration would jeopardize Navalny's health.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman accused in raw beef scheme

**TX** HOUSTON — Authorities are accusing a Texas woman of taking part in a scheme in which she claimed she was served raw hamburger meat at two different locations of a fast-food chain.

Cassandra Brooks, 53, a former lieutenant with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, has been charged with insurance fraud and faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said Brooks was awarded more than \$10,000 as part of an insurance settlement after she claimed that she had been served raw beef at a Sonic restaurant in Lake Charles, La., in July 2018. Prosecutors said Brooks made a similar claim at a Sonic in suburban Houston a month later.

## Couple fills up on gas, wins \$1M in lottery

**NC** KILL DEVIL HILLS — It turned out to be a good time to be running out of gas.

North Carolina lottery officials said a West Virginia couple vacationing in North Carolina bought a \$2 Powerball ticket after running low on gas and they won \$1 million.

Dennis Woolwine told lottery officials that he and his wife, Michelle, were driving to check on their beach house in the Outer Banks when their gas light came on. He said they went inside a Circle K in Kill Devil Hills for a drink and decided to also get a lottery ticket.

## Woman awoken by splash; gator in pool

**FL** PORT CHARLOTTE — A Florida woman

heard a splash coming from her backyard swimming pool in the middle of the night, and when she went outside to check on it she found a 7-foot alligator.

It took authorities in Port Charlotte four hours to remove the gator early Saturday.

Kerri Kibbe told television station WBBH that the gator initially was just resting at the bottom of the pool, but when she turned on the outside lights the reptile started stirring.

Kibbe said she thought she would just let the gator find its way out of the pool but then realized that was a bad idea considering she has three children and three dogs.

## Man accused of robbing bank twice

**UT** OGDEN — A Utah man is accused of robbing the same bank twice.

A federal indictment charges Anthony Thomas Murdzak, 52, of Logan, with robbing a Wells Fargo branch in Ogden on June 4 and June 24, allegedly getting a total of \$8,650 from tellers on the two different occasions.

According to a complaint filed by an FBI agent, tellers thought it was the same man in both robberies, and investigators identified Murdzak through a pickup truck used in both robberies. Murdzak has pleaded not guilty.

## District to allow teachers to carry guns

**WY** LANDER — A Wyoming school district has decided to allow teachers and staff to carry guns in school.

The Casper Star-Tribune reported the Fremont County school board voted 4-2 on July 23 to allow approved staff to carry guns.

Opponents argued the board

ignored overwhelming opposition. Board member Brett Berg said there was more support for the policy than what was apparent at board meetings.

The policy includes an application process along with training and drug-testing requirements. It also includes legal protection for staff.

## Cat recovering after being shot by arrow

**VA** ROANOKE — An animal rescue agency in Virginia said a cat is recovering in its care after it was shot with an arrow.

News outlets reported Roanoke County police received a call on Thursday and found the wounded cat. Angels of Assisi Executive Director Lisa O'Neill said on Friday that animal control officers took the cat to an emergency animal clinic to have the arrow removed. The cat was transferred to Angels of Assisi for further treatment.

O'Neill said the cat, which they named Little John, is on antibiotics and pain medicine.

## 9 osprey chicks rescued after tornado

**MA** EASTHAM — Wildlife rehabilitators have begun returning osprey chicks to nests after their homes were damaged by storms and tornadoes.

Wild Care Cape Cod Executive Director Stephanie Ellis told The Boston Globe that nine living osprey chicks were found from five different nests damaged July 23.

Power was temporarily shut down near one of the nests in Chatham on Thursday so the fire department could return a chick to its home. An electrical wire had fallen on the nest.

Two chicks from Harwich and two from Dennis were

placed in a makeshift nest — a plastic swimming pool filled with sticks placed inside an aviary. Three birds have yet to be released.

## Girl, 12, charged with painting swastikas

**NY** GENEVA — A 12-year-old girl has been charged with spray-painting swastikas on the sides of a church and other buildings in New York's Finger Lakes region.

Police in Ontario County said the Geneva resident was charged Thursday with criminal mischief as a juvenile delinquent and will face the charges in family court.

Earlier this month, authorities found a swastika on Mount Calvary Church in Geneva, about an hour's drive southeast of Rochester.

Other swastikas were found in Geneva recently on a garage door and on an armory.

## Fire department's new truck burns

**TX** ABILENE — A nearly \$350,000 firetruck delivered last month to a West Texas department went up in flames during a test drive to check the brakes.

Snyder fire Chief Perry Westmoreland said Friday that the new pumper truck was destroyed a day earlier in Abilene.

Westmoreland said the rig, put into service June 19, was driven Thursday to a Freightliner dealer for warranty work.

He said a mechanic and a driver took the truck out to evaluate the brakes when they heard a boom, got out and saw a rear tire on fire. The flames then spread.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Murray already turning heads at camp

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Kyler Murray took off around the left end of the line, made a quick cut and raced through the secondary for a big gain, drawing a rising roar from the fans who watched it unfold right below them.

OK, so it was one run during a training camp practice. Murray wasn't allowed to be hit, wasn't even wearing pads.

Even so, the burst and bolt was what the Cardinals and their fans had hoped to see from the No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft.

The next step is doing it against NFL teams intent on squashing Arizona's diminutive quarterback.

After an offseason of seeing what Murray can do firsthand, Cardinals players have no doubt the show he put on at Oklahoma will continue in the pros.

"He's been really impressive, on and off the field," Cardinals receiver Trent Herfield said Saturday before Arizona's first practice in pads.

The Cardinals were so enamored of Murray's skills, they used the top pick in this year's draft to take the reigning Heis-

man Trophy winner despite using the No. 10 overall pick last year on Josh Rosen, who was traded to Miami.

They saw Murray as a generational talent, a game-changing quarterback who would be a perfect fit for new coach Kliff Kingsbury's offensive experiment in the desert.

Other teams have implemented versions of the Air Raid-style offenses that have been so successful at the college level, but none has gone all-in with it as Kingsbury is attempting.

Murray will be the key to making it work.

Though undersized for an NFL quarterback at 5-foot-10, he's a pinpoint passer who can avoid long-armed defensive lineman by changing arm angles, similar to Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes. He's an adept passer on the run and can use his agility to escape oncoming pass rushers, a la Seattle's Russell Wilson.

Murray also has the speed to turn an innocuous scramble into a game-changing touchdown run, as Michael Vick did in his prime.

Whether Murray can live up to those lofty comparisons remains to be seen. He hasn't

been hit in practice, much less in a game, nor has he seen the speed and ferocity of a live NFL game.

He does have confidence. Lots of it.

Not the hollow, chest-puffing, look-at-me type of confidence. The type of confidence that comes with being successful at every level he's played; winning a Heisman Trophy after one year as a starter; becoming the first person drafted in the top 10 of the NFL and Major League Baseball drafts.

"When you look in his eyes, there's nothing timid about him," Cardinals veteran receiver Larry Fitzgerald said. "He looks confident, he looks ready to go and that's a great sign for a young quarterback."

Murray also has a pair of advantages over other would-be rookie starting quarterbacks.

The first is Kingsbury's system.

Though new to the NFL, Murray knows it inside out. Oklahoma ran a similar offensive system as Kingsbury did at Texas Tech and Murray did pretty well with it, racking up more than 5,300 combined yards and 53 touchdowns.

Murray also knows the ter-

minology, putting him ahead of Arizona's veteran players, at least during the offseason.

"It's helped me a lot, coming in and being more comfortable," Murray said. "If I was to go anywhere else, play for another guy, have to learn a whole new system, a whole new offense, it would be a lot hard, obviously. For me coming into this system, Day 1 and through rookie minicamp, I'm probably more comfortable than any other quarterback out there."

Murray also enters the season as Arizona's undisputed starter. No quarterback battle, no waiting his turn behind a veteran.

The downside could be immediately throwing a rookie into the NFL fire, but the upside is he has no distractions during camp, no questions about his role. He's also had the support of his teammates from the day he first stepped on the practice field, further bolstering his confidence.

"Everybody in this locker room knows he's going to be here," Fitzgerald said. "First pick overall, guys understand, it's going to be his show. You want to be a part of it? Get on board."

## Muhammad sets 400 hurdles world record

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The running joke between Dalilah Muhammad and some of her competitors goes like this: She orders the wet conditions.

Because she reigns in the rain.

On a drizzly Sunday night, Muhammad broke a 16-year-old world record in the 400-meter hurdles by finishing in 52.20 seconds at the U.S. championships.

"I'm just shocked," Muhammad said. "I broke the world record."

With puddles formed on the track, the defending Olympic champion sloshed her way around the track to eclipse the mark of 52.34 set by Yuliya Pechonkina of Russia on Aug. 8, 2003.

Running out of the fourth lane, Muhammad didn't let the raindrops deter her. She looked at her time and was almost taken aback.

No way that can be real, right?

It was.

Muhammad smiled, briefly put her hands on her hips and then slumped down when her time flashed on the screen at Drake Stadium. Third-place finisher Ashley Spencer emphatically celebrated behind her and teenager Sydney McLaughlin came over to hug Muhammad after finishing second.

It was also lightly raining when Muhammad won the Olympic gold at the 2016 Rio Games. Her competitors might want to start looking at the weather reports for the Tokyo Games, which are a year away.

"Ashley said, 'You're the one that brings the rain,'" the 29-year-old Muhammad cracked. "I don't know what it is."

In workouts, Muhammad has often been on world-record pace.

She put it all together for real.

To think, Muhammad fell in a training session two weeks ago and suffered a mild concussion.

Muhammad's performance stole the show on a big final night.

Soon after, Dezerea Bryant won the 200 in 22.47 seconds.

"I woke up this morning and I'm like, 'I'm not going to be denied,'" Bryant said. "That was my attitude."

Noah Lyles closed out the competition in style by doing a nifty little dance after taking the men's 200 title in 19.78. He held off Christian Coleman and, after crossing the line, shook his rival's hand before breaking off some dance moves.

"Joy? Tons of joy. This is the hardest team to make," said Lyles, who sprayed his hair silver. "The saying is, once you make the U.S. team, you better come away with a medal."



## Briefly

# 7-time champ Johnson gets new crew chief

Associated Press

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson and Hendrick Motorsports have replaced crew chief Kevin Meendering with Cliff Daniels, who will be atop the pit box for Sunday's road course race at Watkins Glen International in New York.

Johnson won seven championships with crew chief Chad Knaus over 17 years before they were split up after last season. Meendering failed to steer Johnson into victory lane this season. Johnson is 12 points out of the 16-driver playoff field with five races left before the cutoff.

The 31-year-old Daniels was Johnson's race engineer on the 2016 championship team.

## Lightning extend Vasilevskiy

TAMPA, Fla. — Goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy has signed an eight-year, \$76 million contract extension with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The 25-year-old two-time All-Star appeared in 53 games last season, going 39-10-4 with a 2.40 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage while helping Tampa Bay match the NHL single-season record with 62 wins.

## Fortnite world champ wins \$3M

NEW YORK — 16-year-old Kyle Giersdorf, of Pottsgrove, Pa., racked up the most points and won \$3 million as the first Fortnite World Cup solo champion. The competition took place Sunday at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

In second place, 24-year-old Harrison Chang, of the U.S., won \$1.8 million.

The duo competition was won by 17-year-old David Wang, of Austria, and 16-year-old Emil Pedersen, of Norway. They'll split the \$3 million prize.

## Koepka wins first WGC title

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Brooks Koepka had three birdies in a four-hole stretch on the front nine and cruised to a three-stroke victory in the FedEx St. Jude Invitational on Sunday for his first World Golf Championships title.

Playing with Rory McIlroy in their first final-group pairing, the top-ranked Koepka closed with a bogey-free 5-under 65 at TPC Southwind for his seventh PGA Tour title. He finished at 16-under 264.

## Auto racing

# Hamlin stamps himself Cup contender with win at Pocono

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Denny Hamlin had enough speed in his Toyota, enough confidence in his crew chief, and just enough fuel to reach the finish line. Hamlin got the win Sunday at Pocono Raceway — his fifth at the tri-oval track nestled in the mountains — but so much more could be on the horizon.

At 38, Hamlin is having one of the best seasons of his career for Joe Gibbs Racing. He has a Daytona 500 victory, and two other wins and just maybe, his best shot at a NASCAR Cup Series championship since he fell short in 2014.

"I feel as long as we keep putting the effort in what we're doing, I have as good a shot as any," Hamlin said.

The Cup championship has eluded Hamlin but not much else has over a fantastic career that took off as a rookie in 2006 when he swept two Pocono races. He won two straight races at Pocono over the 2009 and 2010 seasons, but often struggled in recent years to seriously compete for a win on the tri-oval track.

He needed a bit of everything to go right over the final laps Sunday to reverse his fortune and win for the first time since March in Texas. Hamlin had to clear JGR teammates Erik Jones and Martin Truex Jr., then had to conserve fuel in the No. 11 for when he needed it on two late restarts, including the final one in overtime.

Hamlin is coming off the first full winless season of his career and split with crew chief Michael Wheeler, with JGR giving the reins to Chris Gabehart. Hamlin said he has full faith in the first-year Cup crew chief and followed his directives on fuel. Gabehart made all the right calls atop the pit box.

"I just let him go, get the lead," Gabehart said. "Then as soon as he got out front, I pulled the reins on him, started putting some in the bank."

That was enough for Hamlin.

"Win or lose, he comes up with the plays, and I'm the one that needs to execute it," Hamlin said. "When he said, 'OK, I need two positions on this restart,' I got to go get two positions. He's really done a good job of knowing what it takes to win in the Cup Series in his rookie season. I mean, he's going to be around for a very long time."

Hamlin's three wins are the most since he won five in 2012 and his 10 top-10 finishes match his total from last season. His 34th career win in Cup helped lead a 1-2-3

charge for JGR: Jones, who needed a win to secure a spot in the playoffs, was second and Truex third. Hamlin also erased some of the sting from his near-miss last week at New Hampshire when Kevin Harvick caught him late for the win.

With the leaders running low on fuel, Hamlin had enough left to get a good jump off two late restarts that made the difference. Hamlin seemingly had the race won in regulation when he took the lead off a restart with four laps to go after Kurt Busch slammed into the wall to bring out another caution. Hamlin, Jones and Truex made it a 1-2-3 running order for JGR as the race headed into OT. That's the way it shook out after three extra laps, and on Sunday, Hamlin had the right combination to score his third straight top-five finish.

"We're running our best right now," Hamlin said. "There's no doubt about it."

William Bryon was fourth, and Kyle Larson finished fifth.

## Dixon back in Indy contention

LEXINGTON, Ohio — Scott Dixon's victory Sunday was a lot closer than his previous five at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Scott Dixon held off rookie teammate Felix Rosenqvist by 0.0934 seconds in the Honda Indy 200 to put himself back in contention to defend his IndyCar season championship.

It was the closest finish at Mid-Ohio and the third-closest on a road course in IndyCar history. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver from New Zealand is third on the career victory list with 46.

"I would have preferred winning by 10 seconds instead of banging wheels for a few laps," Dixon said. "It feels really good for the sheer fact we haven't won here since 2014."

The final lap on the 13-turn, 2.258-mile road course featured an epic battle with Rosenqvist — and a failed maneuver by points leader Josef Newgarden of Team Penske. Newgarden tried to get around third-place Ryan Hunter-Reay in the key-hole part of the course, but ended up bumping Hunter-Reay and spinning off the track. Hunter-Reay of Andretti Autosport was third, 1.16 seconds behind Dixon.

Newgarden blew a chance to add to his points lead over Alexander Rossi. Rossi struggled to fifth, but still reduced Newgarden's advantage to 16 points.

# Mets get Stroman from Jays

Associated Press

NEW YORK — All-Star pitcher Marcus Stroman was acquired by his hometown Mets from the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday for a pair of minor league prospects, a trade that makes it likely New York will deal away one of its current starters by Wednesday's deadline.

A 28-year-old right-hander who made his first All-Star team this season, Stroman is 6-11 in 21 starts despite a 2.96 ERA that is fifth-best in the American League. He is eligible for arbitration next winter and can become a free agent after the 2020 season.

Toronto received two of New York's top pitching prospects in 24-year-old left-hander Anthony Kay and 18-year-old righty Simeon Woods Richardson. As part of the swap, the Mets get \$1.5 million from the Blue Jays to offset much of the \$2,506,452 remaining on Stroman's \$7.4 million salary this year.

The 5-foot-7 Stroman is 47-45 with a 3.76 ERA in six big league seasons. He grew up on Long Island near Mets starter Steven Matz, about 50 miles from Citi Field.

"Marcus is a dynamic talent who will bring tremendous passion to our team and energy our fans will truly appreciate," first-year general manager Brodie Van Wagenen said in a statement. "As a Long Island native, we believe that Marcus will thrive playing in New York."

With reports emerging that the deal was close to completion, Stroman posted a tweet that read: "Toronto, I love you... forever!" It was followed by a Canadian flag.

New York (50-55) is six games back in the NL wild-card race, with six teams ahead for the two spots, after a four-game winning streak that boosted the Mets to 10-5 since the All-Star break.

# Bauer loses cool, Royals top Tribe

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Back in the clubhouse, Trevor Bauer calmly and profusely apologized. It was quite the contrast from his emotional outburst earlier in the game.

In a startling scene, Bauer suddenly heaved the ball from just past the mound over the center field wall while being taken out of the game Sunday in the Cleveland Indians' 9-6 loss to the Kansas City Royals.

"I'm an intense competitor and that fire is what drives me," Bauer said before answering

questions. "Today it completely consumed me and took over. I just wanted to say I'm sorry for how I behaved. It won't happen again."

It was not clear at the time whether Bauer was upset with his performance or that manager Terry Francona was pulling him. An All-Star last year, Bauer (9-8) had just allowed a two-run single to Nicky Lopez that gave the Royals a 7-5 lead with one out in the fifth inning.

When Francona emerged from the dugout, Bauer turned, took a couple steps and fired the ball over the 410-foot mark.

"Nothing really broke my way," Bauer said. "Even when I felt like I executed good pitches, they were capped off the end of the bat. So, the frustration built up."

As Francona reached the mound, he and Bauer appeared to exchange words. Francona pointed Bauer toward the dugout, then followed closely behind him. They both disappeared into the tunnel. They later emerged, separate but both fuming.

"That's just between us," Francona said about what he told Bauer.

## MLB roundup

# Bumgarner wins before trade deadline

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Ace Madison Bumgarner, rookie Mike Yastrzemski and the rest of the surging San Francisco Giants made sure manager Bruce Bochy's final game in San Diego was memorable.

Bumgarner won his final start before the trade deadline and Yastrzemski had four hits, two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run to lead the Giants to a 7-6 victory against the San Diego Padres on Sunday.

Bumgarner (6-7) had been considered a prime trade target but the Giants could be inclined to keep the ace left-hander after they've won 19 of 24 games to jump into the wild-card race. The Giants had 16 hits in beating the Padres for the seventh time in eight games since June 11.

**Nationals 11, Dodgers 4:** Stephen Strasburg tossed seven masterful innings to win his seventh consecutive start, leading host Washington to a rout.

**Yankees 9, Red Sox 6:** Didi Gregorius and Austin Romine each hit a two-run homer off Chris Sale, and Domingo German struck out nine to help visiting New York avoid a four-game sweep.

**Mets 8, Pirates 7:** Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer in a six-run first inning against Chris Archer, and host New York matched its longest winning streak of the season at four.

**Marlins 5, Diamondbacks 1:** Rookie outfielder Harold Ramirez homered, hit a line drive that scored the tiebreaking run and made consecutive catches against the fence to help host Miami beat Arizona.

**Reds 3, Rockies 2:** Tucker Barnhart hit a tiebreaking single in the sixth inning and host Cincinnati beat Colorado.

**Rays 10, Blue Jays 9:** Joey Wendle drove in the tiebreaking run with a bases-loaded groundout in the ninth inning and Tampa Bay rallied from a seven-run deficit to beat host Toronto.

**Phillies 9, Braves 4:** J.T. Realmuto hit a grand slam, three other Phillies went deep and Philadelphia averted a three-game sweep against visiting Atlanta.

**Twins 11, White Sox 1:** Miguel Sano hit a three-run homer in a five-run first inning, and Minnesota pounded Dylan Covey and host Chicago to strengthen its hold on the AL Central.

Jorge Polanco, Jonathan Schoop and Max Kepler also homered as Minnesota ran its major league-leading total to 205 home runs.

**Cubs 11, Brewers 4:** Kyle Schwarber hit a grand slam and a three-run homer to power Chicago past host Milwaukee, averting a three-game sweep.

**Astros 6, Cardinals 2:** George Springer led off the game with a home run, Jose Altuve and rookie Yordan Alvarez also connected and Houston beat host St. Louis.

**Angels 5, Orioles 4:** Matt Thaiss hit his second home run of the game in the bottom of the ninth and Los Angeles avoided being swept by visiting Baltimore.

Albert Pujols hit his 650th homer. He needs 11 more to pass Willie Mays (660) for fifth place.

**Athletics 6, Rangers 5:** Marcus Semien homered and scored the game-winning run on a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth as host Oakland beat Texas.

**Mariners 3, Tigers 2 (10):** J.P. Crawford hit a walkoff single with one out in the 10th inning and host Seattle extended its winning streak to five games.