

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy chief dies aboard Roosevelt

Chief Petty Officer Justin Calderone leaves behind a wife and 3 children

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A Navy chief who died after a medical emergency aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt was a father of three who was remembered for his humor and love of singing.

The Navy identified the sailor who died Thursday as Chief Petty Officer Justin Calderone, a member of Strike Fighter Squadron 146, or VFA-146, USNI News reported. The nature of the medical emergency he suffered was not disclosed.

Calderone received immediate medical care aboard the ship before being transferred by helicopter to a military medical facility ashore, where he was declared dead, USNI News reported Friday, citing a Navy statement.

"It is a tragedy to lose a shipmate," VFA-146 commanding officer Cmdr. Kevin

'He was so sweet and funny, this world lost an amazing man.'

Dianna Blair Calderone
Justin Calderone's aunt

McNatt said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and shipmates of Chief Calderone."

An Ohio native, Calderone enlisted in the Navy in 2003 and was a five-time recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, USNI News said. The aviation electronics technician had also earned the Global War on Terrorism expeditionary and service medals, it said.

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Jennifer, and children Nathan, 17; Kailey, 14; and Bryan, 8, says a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for

the family.

Known by the nickname "J-LO," Calderone loved to sing, and those who knew him could probably still hear his rendition of Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69," the page says.

"His family in Ohio, classmates, friends, and fellow sailors seem to find comfort in remembering his infectious laugh, continuous jokes, and most important his endless love for all," it says.

On Facebook, his aunt asked for prayers for his wife and children, as well as his mother, brother and sister.

"He was so sweet and funny,

this world lost an amazing man," Dianna Blair Calderone said.

The Theodore Roosevelt's deployment garnered widespread attention earlier this year when the carrier was sidelined in Guam after an outbreak of the coronavirus onboard infected more than 1,100 sailors. Chief Petty Officer Charles Thacker, 41, a crewmember who died in April, was the first U.S. military fatality from the virus.

Nearly 2,000 sailors remained in quarantine on Guam when the ship returned to sea in May after more than two months in port. It was on its way back to its homeport in San Diego when the medical emergency occurred last week.

All personnel aboard the ship have been tested several times for the coronavirus and Calderone consistently tested negative, USNI News cited the Navy as saying.

Berlin: Germany spent over \$1B to cover US troop costs

From staff and wire reports

The German government has paid more than \$1 billion over the past decade to cover costs related to the stationing of U.S. troops in Germany, according to the finance ministry in Berlin.

The ministry provided the figures in reply to a query from opposition Left Party lawmaker Brigitte Freihold. The reply was first reported by German news agency dpa.

The German government paid 982.4 million euros (\$1.1 billion) between 2010 and 2019 for the U.S. military presence, according to the finance ministry. Of that, 648.5 million euros was for construction

and 333.9 million euros was for "defense follow-up costs," Freihold said in a statement. She did not clarify what defense follow-up costs were.

"The German taxpayer is supporting global human rights violations that lead to refugee movements and terror," at the expense of community schools and hospitals, she said.

Ramstein Air Base, near Kaiserslautern, was "a hub for global U.S. warfare," where "environmental damage and 'noise terror'" from military aircraft are daily occurrences, she said.

Last month, President Donald Trump said that he is ordering a major reduction

in troop strength in Germany, from around 34,500 personnel down to 25,000.

Germany wasn't notified of the move, which came after Trump branded the NATO ally "delinquent" for not meeting a goal set in 2014 for members to halt budget cuts and move toward spending at least 2% of gross national product on defense by 2024. Trump has stressed that the German economy benefits from spending by the U.S. troops based there.

According to NATO figures, Germany is spending about 1.38% of GDP on its defense budget. Berlin aims to hit 1.5% by 2024 and insists that this level of spending allows it to meet NATO's defense planning goals.

Sasebo base closes amid flood threat

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

Heavy rain in southern Japan on Monday prompted landslide and flood warnings from Japanese officials and early closures at Sasebo Naval Base. Flooding was expected in Sasebo city, according to an announcement by the Nagasaki District Meteorological Observatory.

Two inches were expected to fall each hour during peak rainfall in late afternoon and the agency warned residents that landslides and floods would be a risk until Tuesday afternoon.

Sasebo city issued an evacuation advisory at 1:22 p.m. for 242,646 residents of 103,970 households due to possible landslides, according to national broadcaster NHK. Heavy rain on Kyushu island over the weekend caused flooding and landslides, which claimed 40 lives as of Monday, The Associated Press reported.

Sasebo base spokesman Aki Nichols in an email Monday said the base is experiencing record rainfall “so the (commander) has closed nonessential facilities and services on base so employees can safely get home before road conditions worsen or we have any flooding in the area.” Officials won’t know until early morning whether they will need to delay reopening the base, he said.

B-52 from La. joined drills with 2 carriers in South China Sea

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

A B-52 Stratofortress bomber flew halfway across the world to join two aircraft carriers in an exercise Saturday in the South China Sea, Pacific Air Forces said in a statement Sunday.

While the B-52 was flying with strike fighters and electronic warfare jets from aircraft carriers USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan over the Pacific, Air Force pilots flew B-1, B-2 and other B-52 bombers above Independence Day celebrations in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

“Back home we would celebrate the Fourth by launching fireworks,” Petty Officer 2nd Class Chareese Knox, assigned to the Nimitz, said in a Navy statement Saturday, “but nothing celebrates freedom like launching fighter jets from the middle of the ocean at night.”

The bomber, from the 96th Bomb Squadron, 2nd Bomb Wing, left Barksdale Air Force Base, La., for the 28-hour mission to demonstrate “U.S. capability to rapidly deploy to a forward-operating base and execute long-range strike missions,” PACAF quoted squadron commander Lt. Col. Christopher Duff as saying.

“This sortie demonstrates our ability to reach out from

home station, fly anywhere in the world and execute those missions, rapidly regenerate from a forward operating base and continue operations,” he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the exercises were performed “totally out of ulterior motives” and undermined stability in the area, according to The Associated Press.

“Against such a backdrop, the U.S. deliberately dispatched massive forces to conduct large-scale military exercises in the relevant waters of the South China Sea to flex its military muscle,” Zhao said at a briefing, the AP reported Monday.

Air Force bombers have appeared over the Western Pacific several times this year. Four times B-1B Lancers have overflown the South China Sea or teamed with Japanese Air Self-Defense or U.S. fighters for exercises since April. A pair of B-52s from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, flew to Japan in June for training.

Rear Adm. George Wikoff, commander of Task Force 70, the 7th Fleet battle arm, said Monday in an email to Stars and Stripes that Air Force bombers strengthened “joint, combined, all-domain operations” with multiple strike groups in the Western Pacific. The USS Theodore Roosevelt is also pa-

trolling the region.

Saturday’s exercise came after the Defense Department on Thursday expressed concern over the Chinese military conducting large-scale exercises around the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea from July 1-5.

“The designated area where the exercises are due to take place encompass contested waters and territory,” according to the DOD statement. “Conducting military exercises over disputed territory in the South China Sea is counterproductive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability.”

Official reports did not mention whether either of China’s two carriers took part. But China’s state-run newspaper Global Times wrote that the “South China Sea is fully within grasp of the” Chinese military and “any US aircraft carrier movement in the region is solely at the pleasure of the (Chinese military), which has a wide selection of anti-aircraft carrier weapons like the DF-21D and DF-26 ‘aircraft carrier killer’ missiles.”

Navy Chief of Information Rear Adm. Charlie Brown responded to the article with a tweet Sunday: “And yet, there they are. Two U.S. Navy aircraft carriers operating in the international waters of the South China Sea.”

USS McCampbell heads home for refit, new mission

Stars and Stripes

The guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell is returning to the United States and a new homeport after 13 years at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, the Navy announced Saturday.

“McCampbell has been a workhorse for the theater commanders ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the Navy quoted Capt. Steven DeM-

oss, commander of Destroyer Squadron 15, as saying. “In particular, this last year the crew spent more days at sea than any other ship in theater.”

The McCampbell left Yokosuka, home of the 7th Fleet, 20 years to the day it was christened, according to the Navy. It’s bound for Portland, Ore., and a midlife modernization, including maintenance and upgrades. Afterward, the Mc-

Campbell is expected to steam for Naval Station Everett, Wash., where it will join the 3rd Fleet, according to the Navy.

“It has been an honor and privilege for the McCampbell crew to serve alongside the advanced warfighters in the most challenging operational environment,” the Navy quoted the McCampbell’s commanding officer, Cmdr. Patrick Sullivan, as saying. “We are very appre-

ciative for all of the support for McCampbell and our families during the last 13 years.”

During its stay in Japan, the McCampbell and its crew were part of Destroyer Squadron 7, the 7th Fleet’s “principal surface force,” the Navy stated. The vessel arrived at Yokosuka in July 2007 as part of the strike group attached to the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk.

Air Force pilot resumes flying after electrocution

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Jonathan Kassebaum is set to return to the skies for the first time Monday since an accidental electrocution in his backyard pool just over eight months ago caused his heart to stop for 12 minutes.

Kassebaum, an F-15 Eagle pilot in the Florida Air National Guard's Jacksonville-based 125th Fighter Wing, was working on a rewiring project at his home on Oct. 25, when he heard his dog in distress in the pool, the wing said in a statement.

Not realizing that a ground wire had been severed and the pool water had become electrified through a light fixture, Kassebaum went in to rescue the dog, he said in a November Facebook post.

After helping the dog out of the pool, he grabbed a stainless steel handrail to get out himself, becoming the electrical ground and a conduit for the charge.

Incapable of moving from below the waist, he was able to whisper to his daughter to switch off the breaker when she came outside to see what was going on, he said.

She got help from a work crew that happened to arrive at the house two hours early for a separate project, the family told News4Jax in January.

"I see him like stuck and, like, the dog's running around the pool barking," his daughter Juliet told the television station.

The 12-year-old also called 911, rather than trying to call her mother first. Her decision was likely critical in saving her father's life.

Kassebaum lost his grip on the handrail and fell completely into the water before the workers were able to cut the power and pull him out. He estimated he spent two or three minutes underwater.

As the workers tried to resuscitate him, he was bright purple, Juliet said on TV.

A police officer arrived and administered CPR for seven minutes, Kassebaum told the local TV news. An ambulance crew was able to get his heart beating again, he said.

A sequence of five "miracles" allowed him to survive the incident, said Kassebaum, who is also a preacher at a local church, in the November Facebook post. If just one hadn't happened, he said, "I wouldn't be here."

The dog, a female Australian shepherd named Phoenix, probably felt only slight shocks, he said.

Kassebaum, who is the commander of the 125th Operations Support Flight, was expected to fly Monday afternoon, the 125th Fighter Wing said.

New class, new rules

Coast Guard alters training for incoming cadets due to virus

Associated Press

NEW LONDON, Conn. — There will be nobody screaming in the face of 18-year-old Ellie Hiigel when she arrives Wednesday for training in advance of her first year at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and that has her mother a bit disappointed.

The school in Connecticut, like other service academies and military training centers, has made major changes because of the coronavirus pandemic. That means the eight weeks of boot camp for new cadets, known as "Swab Summer," will be much different from when Joanna Hiigel went through it herself in 1991 as a fourth-class swab, or even when Ellie's sister, Tana, went through it two years ago.

Ellie Hiigel and the 266 other swabs will be arriving not as one large group, but in eight separate platoons spaced out throughout Wednesday. There will be no haircuts, no drilling, no running as a group from place to place, no lining up against the wall in the hall of the barracks for pushups. They won't even be issued their uniforms. The big ceremony at the end of that first day on the parade field in front of their families also has been canceled.

Their contact with the third-year cadets who will train them, known as the cadre, will come from a social distance.

"They are going to be in quarantine for 14 days," Joanna Hiigel said. "I hope they at least can get out for some exercise, because that's so important for their physical and emotional well-being. I don't know what that quarantine time is going to look like. That's my biggest concern."

Coast Guard officials said those two weeks will be spent in the barracks on what is known as ROM — restriction of movement — status. The cadets will undergo coronavirus testing and the only thing they will be issued that first day will be a computer. They will spend the first part of Swab Summer online in their rooms, learning about their responsibilities and duties, along with the history and traditions of the Coast Guard and the academy.

The physical training will begin once the quarantine ends, with the screaming coming from a little farther away than in past years. It will conclude with what, in past years, has been a three-day sail aboard the Coast Guard's tall ship, Eagle. But for members of this class, that will be divided into several single-day trips to allow for more social distancing on board.

Senior Dan Taglianetti, the Swab Summer company commander, said the training won't be any less rigorous. He said his

group of cadre has been taught how to keep everyone safe, while making sure the swabs learn what they need to know.

Rear Adm. William G. Kelly, the Coast Guard Academy's commandant, sees a silver lining. He said the pandemic has forced him and his staff to think about why they normally throw swabs into the fire of training so quickly and whether they have given past classes too much to absorb at once.

"We're hoping that as we come out of this process this year — and we hope and pray we won't be in the same situation next year — that we are going to learn a thing or two," he said. "We are going to do it better this year and we're going to do it better in the future."

Pandemic-induced changes also were being made at the other, larger service academies, each of which has about 1,200 first-year cadets.

West Point officials have said they expect to complete about 80% of their normal summer basic training program, condensing it from four months to two. The Army also is mandating that masks be worn, social distancing followed when possible and has set up protocols to reduce unnecessary contact between cadets and trainers at the New York academy.

The Navy asked cadets to arrive in Maryland with their hair already cut to regulation. The plebes each received a temperature check and coronavirus test before being allowed onto campus last week. Their training, some of which will now be online, will begin after 72 hours of isolation in the barracks waiting for test results.

At the Air Force Academy in Colorado, new cadets began training June 24. The processing for what is known as I-Day was moved into larger facilities to accommodate social distancing and the cadets learned to march while wearing masks and being 6 feet apart.

Back at the Coast Guard Academy, the summer has already been different for the approximately 1,000 second-, third- and fourth-year cadets, most of whom returned for mostly online training assignments in June.

Kelly said he expects the pandemic experiences of all his cadets, including the swabs, will also make them better prepared to serve in the Coast Guard.

"We are blessed with a group of young women and men who already understand what it means to follow safety protocols, understand what it means to follow orders and understand that they have an important mission to accomplish," he said.

Lawyer confirms remains are those of missing soldier

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Human remains found last week along the Leon River in Bell County were those of Spc. Vanessa Guillen, a soldier who went missing from Fort Hood more than two months ago, the family's attorney said.

"We are at a loss for words. This should never have happened," Natalie Khawam, attorney for the Guillen family, said Monday.

The disappearance of the 20-year-old soldier has drawn national media attention and scrutiny from Congress about the handling of the search and investigation. It's also led to an internal investigation from the Army into the program at the central Texas base designed to help prevent and respond to sexual harassment and assault.

Guillen's family maintains the soldier was sexually harassed at the base, but she was too afraid to report the incidents to her unit's sexual harassment program coordinator for fear of reprisal, Khawam said.

Army investigators on the case have conducted hundreds of interviews and found no credible link between the sexual harassment claims and Guillen's disappearance, Damon Phelps, senior special agent with the Army Criminal Investigation Command detachment at Fort Hood, said Thursday during a news conference at the base. Calls made Monday to CID and Fort Hood were not returned.

Multiple members of Congress, including members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, have called on the Defense Department inspector general to investigate Guillen's case. Others have said they support a congressional

inquiry or potential legislation to create a third-party agency where service members can report sexual harassment outside of their chain of command.

Two suspects have been identified in the disappearance and death of Guillen, who went missing April 22. Spc. Aaron Robinson, 20, a fellow soldier in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's Engineer Squadron, shot himself dead Wednesday morning when located by police in Killeen, which is just outside Fort Hood.

Sometime before Tuesday, Robinson had been confined to his barracks room, but somehow left the base on foot, which prompted Fort Hood to issue an alert to area police.

The second, Cecily Anne Aguilar, 22, was arrested and expected to be in a federal courtroom in Waco on Monday on one count of conspiracy to tamper with evidence, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas. Authorities have identified her as Robinson's girlfriend and the estranged wife of a former Fort Hood soldier.

While CID, the lead investigating agency on the case, has remained tight-lipped about any details surrounding their investigation, the federal criminal complaint against Aguilar describes how she said Robinson bludgeoned Guillen to death in an arms room on the Army base, then called on Aguilar to help him burn, dismember and bury Guillen's body on two separate dates.

Guillen worked as a small arms repairer in the squadron's Forward Support Company and Robinson was a combat engineer with Troop A who worked in the armory room.

House wants construction funds to stop for some bases

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON— A new funding bill would prevent military construction funds from being used for projects on installations named after Confederate generals from the Civil War, the latest effort by House lawmakers to address the Confederacy's legacy within the military.

The bill would prevent any funds to be "obligated, expended, or used to construct a project located on a military installation bearing the name of a Confederate officer, except in the case that a process to replace such names has been initiated," according to a provision in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill from the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies' subpanel of the House Appropriations Committee.

The issue of military bases named after Confederate generals reemerged amid anti-racism and police brutality protests following the death of a Black man, George Floyd, by Minneapolis police May 25.

Legislation introduced in the House and Senate has sought to create a process and timeline to remove Confederacy-related names from 10 Army bases as well as other military assets and property, including two Navy ships.

The 10 Army posts named in honor of Confederate generals are Camp Beauregard and Fort Polk in Louisiana; Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia; Fort Bragg in North Carolina; Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia; Fort Rucker in Alabama; and Fort Hood in Texas.

The legislation is just the latest attempt by lawmakers to remove names and symbols related to the Confederacy. Last Wednesday, an amendment to rename military installations within a year was passed in the House Armed Services Committee's version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets yearly policy and funding priorities for the Pentagon. Another amendment to ban the display of Confederate flags on all Defense Department property was also passed.

Scientists to WHO: Address the airborne spread of virus

The Washington Post

More than 200 scientists from more than 30 countries are urging the World Health Organization to take more seriously the possibility of the airborne spread of the new coronavirus as case numbers rise around the world and surge in the United States.

In a forthcoming paper titled "It is Time to Address Airborne Transmission of COVID-19," 239 signatories attempt to raise awareness about what they say is growing evidence that the coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, can spread indoors through aerosols that linger in the air and can be infectious even in smaller quanti-

ties than previously thought.

Until recently, most public health guidelines have focused on social distancing measures, regular hand-washing and precautions to avoid droplets. But the signatories to the paper say the full potential of the virus to spread via airborne transmission has not been fully appreciated even by public health institutions such as the WHO.

The paper, which was shared with *The Washington Post* ahead of publication this week in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, comes as the WHO faces criticism over its coronavirus response, calls for reform and a U.S. threat to cut funding and withdraw completely.

Ga. State Patrol HQ damaged during protest

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Protesters caused extensive damage to the Georgia State Patrol headquarters in Atlanta early Sunday by sparking flames inside the building with fireworks, breaking windows and spraying graffiti, the agency said.

Department of Public Safety workers put out the fire, and two employees were treated for smoke inhalation, Georgia State Patrol Lt. Stephanie Stall-

ings said in a statement. One of the agency's vehicles parked in front of the building also was damaged.

Video showed several dozen people outside and the sound of drums being played in the background. Smoke could be seen through a glass window of the building after a red flash was seen inside.

As many as 100 people dressed in dark clothing and wearing masks were outside the building, Stallings said.

The incident was under investigation and no arrests had been made, the statement said.

The demonstration started peacefully, said Kimberly Krautter, who recorded video of the fire.

"Only about three or four people" looked to be trying to vandalize the building, she said.

Stallings disputed that the protest was largely peaceful.

"The group at HQ overnight came to destroy property.

There was nothing peaceful about their motives while on property," she stated.

Protests have taken place in Atlanta over the past month in response to the deaths of Rayshard Brooks and George Floyd, but the subject of this protest wasn't clear, Krautter said.

The building is located about 3 miles southeast of downtown. It also houses a number of other state agencies, news outlets reported.

States can now bind presidential electors' votes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that states can require presidential electors to back their states' popular vote winner in the Electoral College.

The ruling, just under four months before the 2020 election, leaves in place laws in 32 states and the District of Columbia that bind electors to vote for the popular-vote winner, as electors almost always do anyway.

So-called faithless electors have not been critical to the outcome of a presidential election, but that could change in a race decided by just a few electoral votes. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

A state may instruct "electors that they have no ground for reversing the vote of millions of its citizens," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her majority opinion that walked through American political history and contained pop culture references to "Veep" and "Hamilton."

"That direction accords with the Constitution — as well as with the trust of a Nation that here, We the People rule," Kagan wrote.

President Donald Trump has argued both sides of the issue.

In 2012, he tweeted, "The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy." After he won the presidency in 2016 despite losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton, he tweeted, "The Electoral College is actually genius in that it brings all states, including the smaller ones, into play."

The justices had scheduled arguments for last spring so they could resolve the issue before this year's presidential election, rather than amid a potential political crisis after the country votes.

When the court heard arguments by telephone in May because of the coronavirus outbreak, justices invoked fears of bribery and chaos if electors could cast their ballots regardless of the popular vote outcome in their states.

The issue arose in lawsuits filed by three

Hillary Clinton electors in Washington state and one in Colorado who refused to vote for her despite her popular vote win in both states in 2016. In so doing, they hoped to persuade enough electors in states won by Trump to choose someone else and deny him the presidency.

The federal appeals court in Denver ruled that electors can vote as they please, rejecting arguments that they must choose the popular-vote winner. In Washington, the state Supreme Court upheld \$1,000 fines against the three electors and rejected their claims.

In all, there were 10 faithless electors in 2016, including a fourth in Washington, a Democratic elector in Hawaii and two Republican electors in Texas. In addition, Democratic electors who said they would not vote for Clinton were replaced in Maine and Minnesota.

The Supreme Court also Monday upheld a 1991 law that bars robocalls to cellphones.

Iran: Damaged nuclear site was centrifuge facility

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran on Sunday confirmed that a damaged building at the underground Natanz nuclear site was a new centrifuge assembly center, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian officials had previously sought to downplay the fire, which erupted early Thursday, calling it only an "incident" that affected an "indus-

trial shed." A released photo and video of the site broadcast by Iranian state television, however, showed a two-story building with scorch marks and its roof apparently destroyed.

A spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said Sunday that work had begun on the center in 2013 and it was officially inaugurated in 2018.

"More advanced centrifuge machines were intended to be

built there," he said, adding that the damage would "possibly cause a delay in development and production of advanced centrifuge machines in the medium term."

He said that the fire had damaged "precision and measuring instruments," and that the center had not been operating at full capacity due to restrictions imposed by Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

An online video and messages purportedly claiming responsibility for the fire were released Friday. The multiple, different claims by a self-described group called the "Cheetahs of the Homeland," as well as the fact that Iran experts have never heard of the group before, raised questions about whether Natanz again had faced sabotage by a foreign nation.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police say man tried to drown someone in pond

NY TAGHKANIC — A 75-year-old man was arrested after police said he attempted to drown an unidentified victim in a pond on his upstate New York property.

Joseph Macri, of Taghkanic, was ordered jailed without bail after a video arraignment on an attempted murder charge.

State troopers found Macri attempting to drown the victim as they responded to a report of a possible domestic incident, state police said in a news release.

Macri complied with the troopers' commands and was arrested without incident, state police said. The victim was hospitalized in stable condition.

18 endangered monk seals born this year

HI HONOLULU — There have been 18 monk seal pups born in Hawaii this year, federal environmental officials said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported 11 on Molokai, five on Oahu and one each on Kauai and Hawaii Island, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

The agency said the number falls short of the record 48 pups born in the main Hawaiian islands last year.

Staff and volunteers were not able to monitor seals on shorelines as frequently as before the pandemic, but still did spot checks of the pups, the agency said.

Surgeon charged in \$52M sober living fraud

CA SANTA ANA — A Beverly Hills surgeon and his girlfriend pleaded

not guilty to taking part in a \$52 million insurance fraud scheme that involved recruiting patients at Southern California sober living homes to undergo unnecessary surgeries and other procedures, prosecutors said.

Dr. Randy Rosen and Liza Visamanos, both of Los Angeles, entered pleas in Orange County to a total of nearly 150 felony charges, the county district attorney's office said in a statement.

Four other people also have been charged in connection with the alleged scheme.

Family going to wedding helps crash victims

NE HOLDREGE — Two family members on their way to a wedding in central Nebraska stopped at a two-vehicle accident to help the victims before making it to the nuptials with minutes to spare.

Jodi Damrow, the mother of Hailey Krull, the bride, said her rendering aid in a long gown wasn't anything special because "I've done it for so long," The Omaha World-Herald reported. She's a veteran emergency room nurse in Holdrege, about 190 miles southwest of Omaha.

Another daughter, Sadie Johnson, a physician's assistant, also stopped to help. She then rushed home to get three young children ready and served as matron of honor at the wedding.

11-foot gator caught in neighborhood, killed

LA NEW ORLEANS — A large alligator was euthanized after being spotted in a New Orleans residential area.

News outlets reported that area residents noticed the gator

— roughly 11 feet long and weighing about 300 pounds — near New Orleans City Park.

Louisiana wildlife officials said the animal was euthanized because it was too large to transport.

First responders pull naked man from sewer

MN DULUTH — First responders pulled a naked man out of the downtown Duluth sewer system.

The rescue came after authorities got a report that a person had entered a manhole downtown. City spokeswoman Kate Van Daele said his clothes were found near that manhole.

Authorities searched for several hours but called off the search when they could not find him.

Van Daele said a passerby heard someone calling for help from a manhole outside the Wells Fargo building the next day. First responders pulled him out.

Man killed, maybe lost chute while skydiving

NY GARDINER — A New York City man killed in an apparent skydiving accident may have lost his parachute mid-jump, police said.

William McCartin, 40, was found dead in a fire station parking lot in upstate Gardiner, about 75 miles north of Manhattan, state police said.

Investigators have yet to locate the parachute that a fellow skydiver said McCartin was wearing when he left the plane, state police said.

McCartin, an experienced skydiver with more than 220 prior jumps, left the plane with the other skydiver — described by state police as a skydiving coach — at an altitude of about 14,000 feet.

Pilot lands on highway after engine trouble

LA LAROSE — A Louisiana pilot experiencing engine trouble made a safe emergency landing on a highway.

WVL-TV reported that long-time pilot Howie Guidry was about an hour into his flight and 2,000 feet in the air when his plane experienced engine trouble.

He knew he couldn't make it back to an airport and remembered the advice of his training instructor to land on the biggest highway he could find.

"I had to make fast decisions to get on the ground safely. Through my years of training, my flight instructors always told me 'Fly the plane until you get on the ground. Fly it, fly it. Don't give up,'" Guidry told the TV station.

The pilot landed on Louisiana Highway 3235 near Larose in Lafourche Parish. The landing was caught on camera by an astonished truck driver.

Woman wins \$250K in state lottery

SC BOILING SPRINGS — A South Carolina woman stopped at a convenience store to pick up her favorite lottery ticket but the store didn't have it. But she didn't go away empty-handed.

She picked another ticket, scratched it and was surprised to find out that she was holding a \$250,000 winner, The Spartanburg Herald-Journal reported.

The S & J Mart in Boiling Springs sold her the 50X ticket. S & J Mart received a commission of \$2,500 for selling the claimed ticket.

From wire reports

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NHL, union take major step forward in return to ice

Associated Press

The NHL and NHL Players' Association agreed Sunday on protocols to resume the season, a major step toward the return of hockey this summer.

Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said there was an agreement on protocols for training camps and games and the sides are still negotiating an extension of the collective bargaining agreement, which is crucial to the process.

A person with knowledge of the situation said the return-to-play protocols would only go into effect if each side votes to approve the full package of the CBA extension and return-to-play agreement.

To complete a return, two-thirds of the league's board of governors and majorities of the players' executive committee and full membership must vote in favor.

If everything is ratified, it will end a pandemic-forced shutdown that began in mid-March. Games would resume in late July or early August with 24 teams taking part in an expanded playoffs, finishing with the Stanley Cup being awarded in October.

The agreement was first reported by TSN.

The 47 pages of protocols outline the health and safety measures the league and players agreed to after several weeks of negotiations.

All team and league employees plus hotel, restaurant and arena staff coming in contact with players will be tested daily in the two "hub" cities.

One player's positive coronavirus test result is not expected to shut down play entirely. The league has said it would isolate any player or staff member who tests positive, acknowledging an outbreak would threaten the remainder of the season.

The protocols include a provision for Commissioner Gary Bettman in consultation with NHLPA executive director Don Fehr to postpone, delay or cancel games in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Nats cancel Monday workout; more players opt out of season

Associated Press

The defending World Series champion Nationals canceled their workout Monday because of COVID-19 testing delays that general manager Mike Rizzo worried could endanger the baseball season.

All players and staff were tested Friday, and Rizzo said the team still hasn't received those results. The cancellation came a day after All-Star reliever Sean Doolittle voiced concerns about the slow turnaround on coronavirus tests and the Nationals not receiving some kinds of personal protective equipment.

Minutes after Nationals manager Dave Martinez said two players out of 60 tested were positive for the virus, Doolittle lamented not having his test results back from Friday and implored baseball to "clean this up."

The 33-year-old said the Nationals still haven't received the respirator masks they were told were coming.

"It's a little bit disorganized," Doolittle said. "We're not getting tests back in time. They still haven't sent us the PPE. We're supposed to have N95 masks, stuff like that, gowns, gloves. We're supposed to have that stuff, we don't have that stuff. Those are the things it's going to take for people to stay safe enough for us to continue this season."

Doolittle said he's still debating whether to play.

"I'm planning on playing," Doolittle said. "But if at any point I start to feel unsafe, if it starts to take a toll on my mental health with all these things that we have to worry about and just kind of this cloud of uncertainty hanging over everything, then I'll opt out."

Doolittle also implored fans to take care of themselves and attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19 to make sure baseball and other sports can resume.

"Sports are like the reward of a functional society, and we're just like trying to bring it back even though we've taken none of the steps to flatten the curve or whatever you want to say," he said. "We did flatten the curve for a little bit, but we didn't use that time to do anything productive. We just opened back up for Memorial Day. We decided we're done with it."

"If there aren't sports, it's going to be because people are not wearing masks because the response to this has been so politicized. We need help from the general public. If they want to watch baseball, please wear a mask, social distance, keep washing your hands."

Former Cy Young Award winner Felix Hernandez has joined the list of major leaguers opting out of the 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic, at least temporarily ending the 34-year-old's bid to revive his career.

As baseball prepares to start its season in less than three weeks while the coronavirus continues to ravage the U.S., there is growing unease in many clubhouses. Even Mike Trout's mother weighed in on Twitter, urging Americans to wear masks as the reigning AL MVP considers his options for the season.

In Oakland, two projected members of the Athletics' starting rotation, ace Mike Fiers and Jesus Luzardo, were not on the field for a second straight day of the reboot of spring training because of what manager Bob Melvin called a "pending" issue without elaborating, aside from saying it's not injury-related.

The A's, who have lost the AL wild-card game the last two seasons, are not confirming positive coronavirus tests.

Oakland was forced to push back its first full-squad workout because intake testing results for position players were not yet available following the July 4 holiday. The team ex-

pected to practice as a full unit Monday.

Hernandez' decision came a day after Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker announced that four-time All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman, premier reliever Will Smith and two other Atlanta players tested positive for the virus.

Indians manager Terry Francona has been staying apprised on players such as Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher David Price who have decided against playing.

"I have a feeling that there probably are more guys than have been listed that are probably along those categories that are thinking of things like that," he said.

Rangers All-Star slugger Joey Gallo and first baseman Ronald Guzman haven't taken part in the first three days of workouts. General manager Jon Daniels said they are still in the intake testing process. Reliever Brett Martin tested positive on intake and allowed the Rangers to disclose that Friday.

Daniels said he didn't plan to announce if the team has any more positive tests.

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said outfielder Socrates Brito and pitcher Blake Cederlind tested positive for the coronavirus and allowed their names to be released. Shelton indicated there are other players on the club who have tested positive but have not granted the team permission to announce the diagnosis.

Philadelphia ace Aaron Nola is among the seven Phillies players who haven't reported. The team is not revealing who is on the COVID-19 list. Seven players have tested positive, including the players who forced the shutdown of the team's spring training complex a few weeks ago.

The Chicago White Sox said two players tested positive and are asymptomatic. They are isolated in Chicago.

DeChambeau drives to win in Detroit

Associated Press

DETROIT — Bryson DeChambeau pounded protein shakes and lifted iron to transform his body, adding 40 pounds of mass, and changed his game to put a premium on power.

The plan is working.

With jaw-dropping drives and some clutch putts, DeChambeau won the Rocket Mortgage Classic by three strokes Sunday for his first victory of the season and sixth overall. He became the first PGA Tour player since 2004 to lead a tournament in driving distance, along with shots gained off the tee and putting.

“This is a little emotional for me because I did do something a little different,” the 26-year-old DeChambeau said. “I changed my body, changed my mindset in the game and I was able to accomplish a win while playing a completely different style of golf. And, it’s pretty amazing to see that. I hope it’s an inspiration to a lot of people.”

DeChambeau shot a 7-under

65 at Detroit Golf Club, birdieing four of the first seven holes and closing with three straight. He finished at a career-best 23-under 265.

Matthew Wolff (71) was second. He started the day with a three-shot lead and hurt his chances with five bogeys on his first 10 holes. Kevin Kisner (66) finished another stroke back as part of a relatively weak field that continued the trend of exceptional play since the PGA Tour restarted.

“The level of play on tour in these first four weeks has been incredible, cuts at 4 and 5 under every week,” Kisner said.

With a strong finish, DeChambeau removed all doubt that he would win the second Rocket Mortgage Classic.

He made a 30-foot birdie putt at No. 16, which he said was his shot of the day. He also had a short putt for birdie on the next hole. And finally, he uncorked a 367-yard drive to set up another short putt at 18.

DeChambeau came into the

week with six straight top-eight finishes and was the only player with top 10s in the first three events after the restart from the coronavirus pandemic. He won for the first time since the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in November 2018.

DeChambeau has dramatically altered his body, packing about 240 pounds on his 6-foot-1 body, and took advantage of the extra time he had to work on his physique during the pandemic.

“He understands what is the key to gaining the biggest advantage and that’s distance, and mega distance,” Kisner said. “He just has too much time on his hands. He needs to start getting married and having kids and feel like the rest of us.”

DeChambeau’s power was on full display in the Motor City with drives that went 351 yards on average after looking like he might swing out of his spikes.

When DeChambeau was on the tee box at the 399-yard,

par-4 13th, he waited for the next group to leave the green before hitting his drive so that he didn’t hit any fellow competitors.

His drive on the 621-yard, par-5 fourth went way left and landed in greenside rough on an adjacent hole. He cleared towering trees and landed just short of the green, sending his approach 276 yards and he two-putted from 37 feet.

While a Black Lives Matter protests was gathering outside the Detroit Golf Club, breaking the silence of the fan-free event with chants and air horns, DeChambeau took some time to reset before hitting a 366-yard drive.

“I know there’s a lot of strife and trouble going on right now,” he said. “I love that everybody’s voicing their opinion and I think that they deserve to do so.”

“We’re golfers here trying to provide the best entertainment. I think that’s the most important thing that we can do.”

Harvick takes advantage of Hamlin’s crash to win

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kevin Harvick turned up the pressure on Denny Hamlin late in the Brickyard 400.

And on a cooling track, Hamlin’s worn tires simply gave out.

As the sun set Sunday over Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Hamlin seven laps from one of the few victories that has eluded him, he went careening into the first turn wall with a flat right front-side tire, and Harvick beat Matt Kenseth off the final restart to win his second straight Brickyard.

“We had great tire wear today, so I was able to really push my car as hard as I could,” Harvick said after his third 400 title. “I was able to push him a little harder than last run than earlier in the race and when the sun went down the track was cooling and speeds were going up in the turns.”

The strategy worked out perfectly — just like Stewart-Haas Racing’s holiday weekend.

Not only did Harvick race to his 53rd victory to move within one of tying Lee Petty for 11th on NASCAR’s career list, teammates Aric Almirola and Cole Custer,

a rookie, finished third and fifth Sunday. Fellow Stewart-Haas driver Chase Briscoe won the Xfinity Series race Saturday on the road course.

Harvick tied Hamlin with a season-high fourth victory and lead in the points. The California driver has four straight top-10 finishes.

For the third straight race, it looked as if it would be another one-two finish for Harvick and Hamlin. But until the late, stunning twist.

After trading victories and runner-up finishes at Pocono last week and Sunday’s result, Harvick and Hamlin have combined for seven of 12 victories since the season restarted at Darlington in mid-May and it’s only the second time in seven races Hamlin and his No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing entry hasn’t finished in the top seven.

Childers monitored tire wear and sensed Hamlin was on borrowed time.

“We tried to play it a little safe and we had backed down ours down a little bit to save our tires,” he said. “It just depends on how that situation plays out at the race and it just so happened we were out there a long

time on tires so backing down was the way to go.”

One person was noticeably absent: Seven-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson in the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports car. Johnson watched the race from his Colorado home as the series’ longest active streak of consecutive and fifth-longest in series history ended at 663. Johnson was hoping to become the third driver to win five races on the 2.5-mile oval. Instead, Justin Allgaier replaced him in the car and he didn’t stick around long.

Allgaier was involved in a six-car pileup near the entrance to pit road that brought out a red flag on Lap 16 when one of Ryan Blaney’s crew members was pinned between two cars. Track workers put Zachary Price on a stretcher. He was eventually transported to a nearby hospital.

Two laps later, Allgaier’s day was over.

“I didn’t know if I got the gentleman on the No. 12 or not,” Allgaier said. “Once the wreck started happening in front of us and we all got bottled up there, one car after another was getting run into. It’s just a shame. I hate it for these guys.”