

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

7 sailors missing after crash off Japan

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Seven sailors are missing and three more, including the commanding officer, were confirmed injured after the USS Fitzgerald collided with a merchant vessel early Saturday off the coast of Japan.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson, who took the helm of the Yokosuka-based destroyer last month, is in stable condition after being evacuated by helicopter to a naval hospital in Yokosuka, Navy officials said.

The other two injured sailors, who received lacerations and bruises, were flown to the same hospital, 7th Fleet announced on its Facebook page.

The collision happened at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday about 56 nautical miles (roughly 64 miles) southwest of Yokosuka near the Izu Peninsula, a Navy statement said.

The Fitzgerald was damaged above and below the water line on the starboard side near the bridge, a Navy official said.

Flooding had been stabilized, and sailors from the guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey were assisting with “damage control efforts,” according to an early afternoon tweet from the 7th Fleet’s official account.

U.S. helicopters and a P-8 Poseidon aircraft also were assisting, said the Navy official, who did not know how it was discovered that the sailors were missing but said after any type of incident like this there would be a muster to ensure all hands were accounted for.

The Fitzgerald arrived back in Yokosuka Naval Base’s harbor at about 6 p.m. Saturday, with tugboats assisting the ship’s return.

An information center has been opened at Yokosuka’s Community Readiness Center to brief crewmembers’ families on the situation. Base spokesman Sean Kelly said the center is staffed with counselors and chaplains and has child care available.

“[Yokosuka Naval Base] has established a family assistance center to relay information to family members here and back in the states,” he said. “We have support. We’re here for the families.”

Capt. Jeffrey Kim, the base commander, and staff have set up an operations center to field phone calls. Family members can dial 315-243-1728 (DSN), 046-816-1728 (from inside Japan) or 011-81-46-816-1728 (outside Japan) for updates.

Kelly said the center received roughly 100 calls an hour dur-

ing the first several hours, and roughly 40 family members of Fitzgerald crew arrived to receive briefings on the situation.

“[Yokosuka Naval Base] is working as part of a team along with USS Fitzgerald ombudsmen, family readiness group and senior leadership spouses,” Kim said.

Limited information was available for some families from the phone bank at about 1 p.m. Saturday, as Navy officials continued to assess the situation.

Lisa Rosenau was still awaiting news on her son, Christopher Rosenau, 22, a sailor aboard the ship. She last heard from him a few days ago.

“We’re just pretty worried,” she said via phone from Wausau, Wis. “I just saw [news of the incident] on Facebook. The family is worried. We just want to know if he’s OK or not.”

Rosenau received a message from her son shortly after the ship’s return to port, saying he was safe.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said his thoughts and prayers are with the Fitzgerald crew and their families.

“U.S. and Japanese support from the Navy, Maritime Self-Defense Force and Coast Guard are in the area to ensure that the sailors on USS Fitzgerald

have the resources they need to stabilize their ship,” he said in a statement. “As more information is learned, we will be sure to share it with the Fitzgerald families and, when appropriate, the public. Thank you for your well wishes and messages of concern.”

Officials identified the merchant vessel as the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal. The ship is 29,060 tons and 730 feet long, according to MarineTraffic.com. Destroyers like the Fitzgerald are roughly 8,230 tons and 505 feet long.

ACX Crystal’s automatic tracking system shows the ship steaming east at about 21 mph before slowing down slightly and abruptly circling back west, according to public data shown on MarineTraffic.com.

The data show the ship returning full circle to a previous point at about the time of the reported incident. The ship then travels at about 4 mph shortly afterward before returning to full speed and heading toward Tokyo Bay. The path appears unusual compared to other ships in the area at the time that did not deviate from relatively straight courses.

The Fitzgerald is forward deployed to Yokosuka as part of the USS Ronald Reagan Strike Group.

Passengers on Navy plane safe after emergency landing

(Medford, Ore.) Mail Tribune

A dozen people are safe after billowing smoke in a naval aircraft cabin prompted an emergency landing at Oregon’s Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport on Friday.

A U.S. Navy Lockheed P-3 Orion originally headed south with 12 people on board landed

safely in Medford about 2:30 p.m. Friday, some 25 minutes after it made a distress call, according to Airport Director Bern Case.

No injuries were reported, and the aircraft landed smoothly, but airport staff, along with Medford Fire-Rescue and Mercy Flights, were waiting at the runway to make sure no one

suffered injuries from smoke inhalation.

“They had quite a bit of smoke on board,” Case said.

The four-engine turboprop maritime surveillance plane had been headed south, though Case was unsure of the plane’s intended destination. Earlier in the day it passed Jackson County, only turning around

after the smoke appeared.

Case couldn’t speculate as to what happened, and said the plane will be stationed at the airport until someone familiar with that type of aircraft can inspect it. The plane ceased smoking on its way to the airport, but crew felt the plane should be inspected before flying again.

Attack kills Afghan, injures 7 US soldiers

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Seven U.S. servicemembers were wounded and at least one Afghan soldier was killed on Saturday in the second insider attack in Afghanistan in a week, NATO and Afghan officials said.

“We can confirm there are no U.S. or NATO Resolute Support fatalities,” NATO said in a statement.

“U.S. forces have been wounded,” the statement said. “One Afghan soldier was killed and one was wounded in the incident.”

NATO later said on Twitter that seven U.S. servicemembers were injured and evacuated for treatment and an investigation was launched.

The shooting happened at Camp Sha-

heen in Mazar-e-Sharif, where the Afghan army’s 209 Corps is based.

Qahar Aram, a spokesman for the corps, told Stars and Stripes that the attacker was an Afghan special forces soldier who opened fire on foreign troops in the afternoon.

Aram said the attacker was fatally shot by foreign forces.

Saturday’s attack came just one week after three U.S. soldiers were killed in another insider attack in eastern Nangarhar province.

A fourth U.S. soldier was wounded in the June 10 incident, which Afghan officials say was also carried out by an Afghan special forces soldier and was claimed by the Taliban.

The Taliban applauded Saturday’s shooting, describing the perpetrator as a “patriotic Afghan” from Paktia province, without

claiming responsibility.

The recent attacks on U.S. troops come as the Trump administration is expected to deploy between 3,000-5,000 more American troops to Afghanistan.

Earlier this week media reported that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had decided to send about 4,000 more troops to the beleaguered country. However, the Pentagon later said no decision had been made on additional troop numbers.

President Donald Trump has delegated force management authority in Afghanistan to Mattis, who told Congress on Tuesday that the U.S. is “not winning” the war against insurgents in the country.

Saturday’s shooting at Camp Shaheen is the second attack at the base since April, when at least 10 Taliban fighters drove past checkpoints and opened fire, killing around 150 Afghan soldiers.

Another officer at Camp Lejeune is disciplined

The (Jacksonville, N.C.) Daily News

A New River Air Station commander relieved of her command June 7 wasn’t the only senior officer recently reprimanded by command.

Col. Daniel P. O’Hora, commander of the Marine Corps Engineering School aboard Camp Lejeune, was fired June 6 by Brig. Gen. Jason Bohm, head of training command. In a press release, Bohm states his reason for O’Hora’s dismissal is for “loss of trust and confidence in his ability to serve in command.”

O’Hora has been replaced by Lt. Col. Gregory Marchlinski, the command’s interim executive officer.

An investigation into O’Hora has been opened and remains ongoing, according to the release.

One day after O’Hora’s firing, Lt. Col. Jennifer L. Grieves, 46, the former commander of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 lost her command “due to a loss of trust and confidence in her ability to

continue to lead,” according to a media advisory issued by II MEF Public Affairs Office. The order to relieve Grieves was issued by Maj. Gen. Matthew Glavy, commander of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Grieves was reassigned for “not properly reporting an incident” which is being investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, according to Lt. Col. Mike Armistead, II Marine Expeditionary Force public affairs director.

Grieves, who has served 27 years in the Marine Corps, was arrested by the Onslow County Sheriff’s Office on Dec. 16, and charged with misdemeanor simple assault. The charges were dropped on Dec. 22, by the complainant, who is Grieves’ wife.

Grieves, who assumed command of the squadron in May 2016, has been replaced by Lt. Col. Troy Callahan, formerly of Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron One as its commander.

O’Hora took command of the engineering school on Sept. 9.

VA is open to extending Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is agreeable to extending Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to more servicemembers and their families, providing Congress can find the additional funding, a VA official testified Thursday.

The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee discussed 14 bills during a Thursday hearing, five of them to alter the GI Bill. Together, the GI Bill proposals would require at least an additional \$360 million in VA spending during the next five years, according to the VA’s written testimony.

Conversations about GI Bill fixes were derailed in the House in April, when veterans organizations became divided over a controversial idea to require servicemembers to absorb the cost of the expanded benefits.

One of the bills discussed Thursday would fix a Pentagon

deployment authorization that is unfairly preventing thousands of reservists and National Guard members from earning GI Bill benefits. About 4,700 reservists and Guard members who deployed under Title 10, Section 12304b, have been restricted from accumulating education benefits.

Another bill discussed in the Senate committee, the Yellow Ribbon Improvement Act of 2017, would expand eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program to surviving spouses and children of servicemembers killed in the line of duty. The program allows veterans to attend schools or enroll in programs that cost more than the GI Bill tuition cap.

The committee also is considering a bill to expand full GI Bill benefits to all Purple Heart recipients.

The Senate committee has not yet scheduled a time to vote on the bills. A full list of the bills discussed Thursday can be found at veterans.senate.gov.

Iraqi forces capture border crossing to Syria from ISIS

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Iraqi forces captured a border crossing point to Syria from Islamic State on Saturday, increasing pressure on the extremists and getting closer to meeting up with Syrian troops and their allies who reached the border earlier this month for the first time in years.

Tribal forces and border police, supported by Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition aircraft, took part in the operation to take the al-Waleed crossing, the Iraqi Joint Operations Command said in a statement.

Al-Waleed, in the far west of Iraq, fell to ISIS in 2015, giving the militants full control of the Iraq-Syria border, which they vowed to erase as part of their ambition to build their caliphate.

Saturday's push by Iraqi troops came nearly three weeks after Iraq's paramilitary forces — mostly Shiite fighters with close ties to Iran and referred to as the Popular Mobilization Forces — reached the Syrian border in northeastern Iraq.

In recent months, the militants have been coming under increasing pressure in Iraq and Syria, where they have lost vast parts of the land in the two countries that they declared as a caliphate in June 2014.

U.S. troops and Syrian opposition fighters control the Tanf area on the other side from al-Waleed. Earlier this month, Iranian-sponsored

pro-Syrian government forces outflanked U.S. advisers and rebels holding the Tanf border crossing to establish their own link to Iraq for the first time in years. The Iraqi side is still held by ISIS.

Syrian troops in the area are preparing to march on ISIS positions to the north in the Euphrates River Valley.

The push by Iraqi forces came as the Syrian military announced Saturday the cessation of all combat operations in the southern city of Daraa for 48 hours in support of national reconciliation efforts after days of violence in the area.

The announcement comes days after the contested city witnessed some of the worst fighting in months amid fears by opposition activists that the government will try to take Daraa, where the country's civil war began in 2011.

In a statement, the army's General Command said that all combat operations will stop as of Saturday at 12 p.m. for 48 hours. A "de-escalation agreement" brokered by Iran, Russia and Turkey in May has brought hardly any relief to the city, activists said.

The Syrian government cites national reconciliation efforts when a deal has been reached with local gunmen to give up fighting against the state in return for amnesty. Saturday's announcement came amid ongoing talks in neighboring Jordan to calm the situation in southern Syria.

UN: Up to 150K civilians are trapped in Mosul

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations believes up to 150,000 civilians are trapped in Mosul's Old City where Islamic State extremists want to keep them as human shields — and are shooting people trying to flee, the U.N. humanitarian chief in Iraq said Friday.

Since October, U.S.-backed Iraqi forces have been battling ISIS militants in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. The extremists now control only a handful of neighborhoods in and around the Old City.

Lise Grande, the U.N. deputy special representative and humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the U.N. expects the battle for the Old City to start "within days."

She said that "conditions in the Old City are desperate," with very little food and no clean water, and the U.N. expects almost everyone to try to get out — "probably 120,000 to 150,000 civilians."

US: Strike in Afghanistan kills senior ISIS propagandist

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. airstrike has killed a senior media official belonging to the Afghan branch of Islamic State, the U.S. military said Friday.

In addition to killing Jawad Khan, the strike in Nangarhar province on June 3 also destroyed a major ISIS media production hub, which will disrupt the affiliate's connection to ISIS leadership in Syria, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said in a statement.

Khan has been described as a senior communicator, an experienced media production director and a skilled propagandist for ISIS in Afghanistan, known as Islamic State-Khorasan Province.

"His death will disrupt the ISIS-K network, degrade their recruitment process and hinder their attempts to conduct international operations," Gen. John Nicholson, commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said in the statement.

"There is no safe haven for ISIS-K in Afghanistan. With our Afghan partners we will continue to aggressively target ISIS-K and defeat them," Nicholson said.

At the start of the year, the U.S. said its primary focus in Afghanistan in 2017 was to eliminate ISIS-Khorasan Province, which has claimed responsibility for a number of high-profile attacks across the country.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan estimates the group comprises fewer than 1,000 fighters who are mostly restricted to Nangarhar. At the beginning of 2016, it was believed up to 3,000 of the militant members were active in Afghanistan.

In a sign of its commitment to eradicate the group, the U.S. in April dropped the largest conventional bomb ever used in combat on a complex of the group's tunnels in Nangarhar.

But the threat posed by the militants continues.

On Thursday, suicide bombers attacked a crowded Shiite mosque in Kabul, killing

at least four people and wounding several others. ISIS claimed responsibility.

The attack came just days after Afghan officials reported fighting between the group's loyalists and the Taliban in Tora Bora, a cave complex in Nangarhar once used by Osama bin Laden. ISIS said they had captured the hideout from the Taliban, which would be a significant strategic and symbolic victory for the group. However, the Taliban rejected the claims.

On Saturday, an Afghan official told The Associated Press that government forces had recaptured Tora Bora, killing nearly two dozen ISIS fighters.

It was unclear if fighting would continue.

Khan was the latest high-profile ISIS leader to be killed by Afghan and U.S. counterterrorism forces. The group's emir, Hafiz Sayed Khan, and his successor, Abdul Hasib, also were killed in recent months.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said no civilian casualties resulted from the strike that killed Khan.

Scalise better, still in critical condition

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressman Steve Scalise can hope to make an “excellent recovery,” his trauma surgeon said Friday, even though the lawmaker arrived at the hospital Wednesday at imminent risk of death after getting shot at a congressional baseball practice.

Sava declined to put a timeline on when that would happen or when Scalise, 51, would be able to leave the hospital. The doctor described how a bullet from an assault rifle entered Scalise’s hip and traversed his pelvis, shattering blood vessels, bones and internal organs along the way.

For now, Scalise remains in critical condition in the hospital’s intensive care unit.

Scalise, the No. 3 House Republican, arrived at the hospi-

tal via helicopter in shock, with intense internal bleeding and “an imminent risk of death,” Sava said.

Since then, the lawmaker has undergone multiple surgeries and procedures to stop the bleeding and repair bone. He has been sedated but has been brought out of sedation periodically and been able to recognize and communicate with his family, Sava said.

Scalise has received multiple blood transfusions, which can affect clotting, something doctors will monitor closely. Infection also is a risk, especially if the intestines were perforated.

Scalise was wounded when a gunman opened fire at a GOP lawmaker baseball practice Wednesday morning. The fact that his injuries brought him close to death was not widely known initially.

Cosby’s sex assault case ends in mistrial

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby’s trial on sexual assault charges ended in a mistrial Saturday after jurors failed to reach a unanimous decision in a case that nevertheless helped destroy the 79-year-old comedian’s image as “America’s Dad.”

Prosecutors vowed to try again, declaring the woman who accused Cosby of drugging and molesting her at his Philadelphia-area home in 2004 is “entitled to a verdict.”

The jury deliberated more than 52 hours over six days before telling a judge they couldn’t agree on whether “The Cosby Show” star sexually violated Temple University employee Andrea Constand after giving her pills that left her woozy and unable to say no or to fight

back. The judge then declared a mistrial.

Cosby’s team declared victory and went on the attack.

“Mr. Cosby’s power is back. It has been restored,” said Andrew Wyatt, his spokesman.

District Attorney Kevin Steele said he’s disappointed the jury was unable to agree on the charges, but vowed to put Cosby on trial again.

The jurors clearly struggled with their verdict, telling the judge on Day 4 they were at impasse. Judge Steven O’Neill instructed them to keep working toward a unanimous decision. On Saturday, they came back and told O’Neill they were hopelessly deadlocked. It wasn’t immediately known how many jurors wanted to convict and how many wanted to acquit.

Trump discloses assets of at least \$1.4 billion

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump reported on a new financial disclosure that his far-flung real estate and hotel assets are worth at least \$1.4 billion.

The report, which the president voluntarily filed with the Office of Government Ethics, shows that he collected an influx of new revenue from recent foreign deals and a surge of business at his signature Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

Trump’s refusal to relinquish ownership of his company has spurred ethics complaints and legal challenges.

As a candidate, he claimed he was worth more than \$10 billion, although his net worth is impossible to determine from his financial disclosures, and he has not provided independent evidence to back that up. The White House did not make any statements about his net worth when his filing was posted Friday by the ethics office.

The report does not require officials to report their incomes, tax rates or charitable giving, unlike a tax return, which Trump has refused to release.

Trump’s 98-page disclosure shows he held onto the vast majority of his assets since his last disclosure in May 2016, when he reported his holdings were worth at least \$1.5 billion.

However, he did sell dozens of stocks he held in brokerage accounts, including shares in Amazon, Exxon Mobil, Goldman Sachs, Microsoft, Toyota and other companies. The stocks earned him millions of dollars in capital gains and dividends.

Since January, all of Trump’s business assets have been in a trust managed and controlled by his sons Donald Jr. and Eric, as well as longtime Trump Organization executive Allen Weisselberg. Documents released in April show that Trump is the beneficiary of the trust and is allowed to draw money from it at any time.

Minnesota officer found not guilty in Castile shooting

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A Minnesota police officer was cleared Friday in the fatal shooting of Philando Castile, a black motorist whose death captured national attention when his girlfriend streamed the grim aftermath on Facebook.

Castile’s family stormed out of the courtroom after the verdict was read, and the city of St. Anthony swiftly announced plans to dismiss Officer Jeronimo Yanez, despite his acquittal. Yanez, 29, was charged with manslaughter in the death of Castile, 32, a school cafeteria worker, during a July 6 traffic stop that turned deadly seconds after Castile alerted Yanez that he was carrying a gun. Castile had a permit for the weapon.

“He didn’t deserve to die the way he did,” Philando Castile’s sister, Allysa, said, through tears. “I will never have faith in the system.”

Thousands of people gath-

ered Friday evening at the state Capitol to protest and began a march that organizers said was headed for St. Paul Cathedral. The mixed-race crowd, including many people with children, carried signs that read “Unite for Philando” and “Corrupt systems only corrupt.”

The protest was peaceful as darkness fell, but a smaller group splintered off and walked down an entrance ramp to block Interstate 94, quickly snarling traffic and leading to the freeway’s shutdown in both directions.

Jurors deliberated for about 29 hours over five days before reaching the verdict. Prosecutors argued Yanez had overreacted and Castile was not a threat. Yanez, who is Latino, testified that Castile was pulling his gun out of his pocket despite his commands not to do so. The defense also argued Castile was high on marijuana and said that affected his actions.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man at airport with meth in underwear

CA LOS ANGELES — Federal agents arrested a man in Los Angeles for allegedly trying to smuggle nearly four pounds of crystal methamphetamine in his underwear.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the drugs were seized June 11 at Los Angeles International Airport. Authorities said the man, a French citizen, was trying to return to his home in French Polynesia when he was found to have packages of meth hidden in areas of his groin and upper thigh.

The man's companions were removed from a plane and their baggage was searched.

Authorities said more meth was found in the carry-on luggage of a man and woman and in the lining of the woman's underwear.

Both also were arrested.

Alarm clock inside wall goes off for 13 years

PA ROSS — A Pennsylvania homeowner is reminded once a day that he wasn't as clever as he hoped.

Jerry Lynn told KDKA-TV that an alarm clock he lost inside the wall of his home rings at 7:50 p.m. each day — during Daylight Savings Time — and at 6:50 p.m. otherwise.

Lynn said he tied the clock to a string in September 2004 and lowered it into the wall through a vent in his Ross Township home. Lynn set the alarm hoping noise would help him drill a hole in the right spot through which to pass a TV cable. But the battery-operated clock fell off the string and has stayed inside the wall ever since.

Lynn has been unable to retrieve the clock and figured the battery would eventually die.

So far, it hasn't.

Court: 'JudgeCutie' nickname no problem

MS JACKSON — A Mississippi jurist can call herself "JudgeCutie" without ruffling the dignity of the legal profession.

That's what the Mississippi Supreme Court said in one of its speediest decisions in years.

Only two days after hearing arguments, the court — which often takes months to reach decisions — dismissed a complaint filed against Gay Polk-Payton. The justice court judge has gone by "JudgeCutie" on social media.

The state Commission on Judicial Performance sought to reprimand her, saying she had used her job on the bench and the online persona to promote herself as a motivational speaker and musical entertainer.

During arguments to the Supreme Court, her attorney, Oliver Diaz, pointed out that other Mississippi judges have used names that some might consider less than dignified.

Yearbook to be reissued with pro-Trump photos

NJ WALL — A New Jersey school district will issue corrected yearbooks after photos of two high school students were altered to remove President Donald Trump's name on their clothing.

In a letter to parents, Wall Township School Superintendent Cheryl Dyer said one photo was intentionally altered even though it did not violate the school's dress code. Dyer said the other photo was resized to match others, and it does not appear that was intentionally done to remove Trump's name.

One student wore a sweater vest with Trump's name on it. Another student wore a T-shirt

emblazoned with the words "Trump Make America Great Again."

The yearbook adviser is suspended with pay.

Road exit sign changed to say 'Crooked Hillary'

NY BRENTWOOD — A sign marking the Crooked Hill Road exit off a suburban New York parkway has been altered to read "Crooked Hillary."

Newsday reported the defaced green traffic sign on the Sagtikos Parkway on Long Island was reported to the state Department of Transportation on Wednesday.

A DOT spokesman said the sign has been removed and "defacing public signs is illegal."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump often used the moniker "Crooked Hillary" when referring to Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, who at the time suffered from the mistrust of many voters.

DUI defendants ordered to use ride-hailing apps

OH PAINESVILLE — An Ohio judge known for handing down unusual sentences is requiring convicted drunken drivers to download ride-hailing apps on their phones as part of their punishment.

Municipal Court Judge Michael Cicconetti, in Painesville, also required defendants to enter a credit card number on the Uber and Lyft apps as a condition of probation.

Cicconetti told the Willoughby News-Herald that it's common sense to take advantage of the technology, which is safer than driving drunk and a cheaper alternative to thousands of dollars spent after a drunken driving arrest.

Minor league team pitches pregnancy tests

FL JACKSONVILLE — A minor league baseball team in Florida has planned an unusual Father's Day promotion: The team will give out pregnancy tests.

Last week, Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp added a second promotion to the usual Thirsty Thursday celebration. They're calling it the "You Might Be the Father's Day" promotion, which comes with a free pregnancy test.

The team's website explains it like this: The test will let men know if they should return to the Father's Day game on Sunday.

General Manager Harold Crow told The Florida Times-Union the idea was pitched as a "tongue-in-cheek" promotion for the Thirsty Thursday crowd. He said the tests were given only to people who want one.

3 teen cadets steal cruisers, go on patrol

CA LOS ANGELES — Three teenagers in a program for those who may want to become officers stole three Los Angeles Police Department vehicles and went on patrol around the city before leading authorities on wild pursuits that ended with crashes, Chief Charlie Beck said.

Two boys and a girl, ages 15, 16 and 17, "gamed the system" and used a vacationing sergeant's name to sign out stun guns and radios and drive the cars right out of a stationhouse parking lot, Beck said. Police are investigating whether the teens impersonated officers and pulled over drivers.

The three were arrested Wednesday after two pursuits ended with crashes in South Los Angeles. A third police car was later recovered around the corner from a police station.

From wire reports

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Loni latest Unser to make racing mark

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hanging with her dad at the track and hearing stories about her famous great-uncles Al and Bobby Unser, it's easy to understand why Loni Unser always wanted to race cars.

The 19-year-old freshman at Colorado is the daughter of Johnny Unser, and she's suited up for a handful of events so far in her professional racing debut season.

"I've been around racing since I was born," Loni said. "I remember my dad sitting me in his Indy car and just thinking that was the coolest thing."

She made her pro debut in March, driving a Spec Miata at the NASA Rocky Mountain Region in Pueblo, Colo. She's had several races in Colorado and will compete in select endurance races in the World Racing League.

"I loved them," Loni said during a recent swing to New York. "I thought they were a lot of fun, lots of challenges. There was one I raced in the rain. I learn something new every single time I go out."

The fourth generation Unser racer will participate in Father's Day weekend events at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Loni and her dad will compete in Sportscar Vintage Racing

Association events. Johnny, a former Indy 500 driver, plans to team with Shannon Ivey and split time behind the wheel of a 1967 Camaro during a 2-hour road race on Saturday. Loni will drive a 1960 Porsche 356 with Marcus Pillion in the Enduro on Sunday.

Here are some more things to know about Loni and Johnny Unser:

Born racing

After competing in Go-Kart races at age 10, Loni moved up to driving schooling in Southern California and the Mid-Ohio race track. Recently, she's competed in 30-minute sprints (about 15 laps) and 2½-hour endurance races (75 laps) for NRG Motorsports.

Her dad liked racing in marathons of 12 and 24 hours. He competed in the 24 hours of Daytona and finished second in the 24 hours of Le Mans.

"You have to take into account different things like fuel consumption, pit stops and changing with other drivers," said Loni, who may race the 24-hour event at Colorado High Plains Raceway at the end of August.

She's got plenty of impressive role models in a family that's combined for nine Indy 500

victories. Al Sr. was a four-time winner. Bobby Sr. had 3 wins and Al Jr. 2. Her 58-year-old father qualified for Indy five straight years from 1996-2000.

Loni frequently talks to her great uncles and cousins, who give her driving tips and stress mental toughness. Her cousin Robby Unser, Bobby Sr.'s son, helps with races when Johnny isn't available.

She's also aware of the dangers. Her grandfather, Jerry, died at 26 from a crash in practice before the 1959 Indy 500. Instead, she focuses on preparing for races and driving cars with the best safety equipment.

Early talent

Loni grew up in the mountains of Utah with her parents, Johnny and Shauna, and showed an aptitude for climbing into the car.

"Our attitude was ... it had to come from within her," Johnny said. "I saw some natural talent there and it would be only the right thing to do to let her explore it. She's progressed a lot faster than any of us expected."

A National Honor Society member and three-sport athlete in cross country, swimming and skiing at Wood River High School, the 5-foot-4,

130-pound Unser constantly works on strength training to build endurance for long races. She also runs, hikes and rides mountain bikes.

She juggles her weekday studies in college with racing on the weekends.

Fatherly advice

The father-daughter duo study video and data after every race, concentrating on strategy such as when to pass and how to handle spins and crashes.

"In racing, you have to be aggressive but you can't be too aggressive," Johnny said. "Not too aggressive — causing crashes all the time — but aggressive enough to not be afraid to stick it in there. If anything, we have to pull Loni back. Being afraid really is not her problem."

What advice does her dad give?

"Probably just to be strong," Loni said. "He's given me very specific advice, but he helps along the way — driving advice, life advice and how to deal with the pressures."

Johnny says the sport includes "a lot of bad days in racing and fewer good days. That's in anybody's career. You have to be able to accept those types of things. Bury your head and keep going."

Larson, Truex take top two spots for NASCAR race

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr. are neck and neck at the top of the NASCAR Cup Series standings.

Now, they're set to start at the front for this weekend's race at Michigan International Speedway.

Larson won the pole Friday and Truex qualified second, another impressive showing for the duo that's been so consistently strong this season. Truex is first in the standings, one point ahead of Larson. Ev-

everyone else is over 100 points behind.

Larson also had the fastest car in practice Friday, and he won at this track last August after finishing third in June.

"Hopefully, we can keep it going," he said. "So far it's been a really good weekend leading in practice and then getting the quick time here."

Larson won his second pole of the season and third of his career. This will be his fourth chance to start from the pole this year, but two of them came when qualifying was called off because of the weather.

Larson posted a lap of 202.156 mph in his No. 42 Chevrolet.

Truex is first in the points standings despite being without a pole this year. He started second in the past two races at Pocono and Dover, and earlier in the season at Las Vegas.

"We've got to figure out how to go from second to first," Truex said.

Clint Bowyer was third in qualifying, followed by Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin and Ryan Blaney, last week's winner.

Another noteworthy development at MIS:

High speeds

Drivers routinely exceed 200 mph at MIS, and Larson didn't come close to Jeff Gordon's track qualifying record of 206.558, set in 2014. Larson said the ride at those high speeds is reasonably comfortable at MIS.

"Here, you know you're going fast, but I get more of a sensation at, say, Dover or Bristol on going fast, just because it's bumpy, the straightaways are narrow," he said. "Here, the straightaways are smooth, wide, and you're not bouncing around a lot."

Top three golfers miss cut for US Open

Associated Press

ERIN, Wis. — An 11-year-old golf course shaped from Wisconsin pastureland was sure to bring something different to the U.S. Open.

This might have been more than anyone was expecting.

The four players tied for the lead — Paul Casey, Brooks Koepka, Brian Harman and Tommy Fleetwood — created the largest 36-hole logjam in 43 years at the U.S. Open. None has ever won a major, and neither have the next 14 players behind them.

On the longest course ever for a major, the cut was the lowest at the U.S. Open since 1990.

And for all the birdies and blunders at Erin Hills, the most compelling image Friday came from the parking lot, where one star after another left town

after missing the cut.

Dustin Johnson. Rory McIlroy. Jason Day.

It was the first time since the world ranking began in 1986 that the top three players missed the cut in any major.

Henrik Stenson. Alex Noren. Jon Rahm. Justin Rose. Adam Scott.

Eight of the top 12 players in the world won't be around for the weekend at Erin Hills, leaving a tournament as open as the land on which it was built.

Casey chopped his way to a triple bogey, only to respond with five straight birdies that carried him to a 1-under 71 and make him the first to post at 7-under 137. He set the target early under warm sunshine, and even as the wind tapered in the afternoon, no one could catch him.

Koepka had the lead until he turned a birdie chance into a bogey on the par-5 first hole after making the turn. He didn't make a birdie the rest of the way and had to settle for a 70. They were joined by Harman and Fleetwood, who each had a 70.

Right behind was a trio of players that included Rickie Fowler, who went 28 holes before making his first bogey and then went three holes without making a par. Fowler shot a 73 and was still very much in the hunt at a second straight major.

The four-way tie was the most after two rounds in a U.S. Open since Winged Foot in 1974, back when the names were more familiar for a major — Raymond Floyd, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Hale

Irwin, who went on to win his first major.

Casey discovered how little it takes to make a big number in the U.S. Open — and at this U.S. Open, how a recovery is never too far away.

Casey laid up in the rough, took two chops to get out of more rough behind the 14th green, and staggered away with a triple-bogey 8 that might have ruined his day at Erin Hills. Moments later, he began a run of five straight birdies that put him right where he wanted to be going into the weekend.

"Not every day you enjoy a round of golf with an 8 on the card, but I'm a pretty happy man," Casey said. "Yeah, it was a bit of a roller coaster. I guess it's rare you get through a U.S. Open or any major without some kind of a hiccup."

Arena restoring confidence to US men's soccer team

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY— Bruce Arena has managed the tricky task of establishing a sense of calm along with urgency within the U.S. soccer team. It's quite a contrast to the frustration and futility at the end of Jurgen Klinsmann's coaching reign last November.

Of course, climbing from last to third in the final round of World Cup qualifying has eased pressure immensely.

"We haven't lost yet this year since Bruce has had the team," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said Monday, a day after a 1-1 draw with Mexico at Azteca Stadium. "So whatever has gotten us there, whatever occasion or bonding that's led to a change, that's a positive, and certainly Bruce has to receive a lot of credit."

Now 65, Arena is a member of the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame. He coached the national team from 1998-2006, leading the Americans to the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals in their best result since the

first tournament in 1930.

Klinsmann was fired after a 2-1 home loss to Mexico and a 4-0 fiasco at Costa Rica. The rebound in qualifying under the witty and sarcastic Arena began with a 6-0 home win over Honduras and a 1-1 tie at Panama. It continued with a 2-0 home victory over Trinidad and Tobago last Thursday in Colorado and the draw against El Tri — just the third point the Americans have gained at Azteca.

"I'm not going to compare the current situation to any previous situations. I don't think that is appropriate. But I think that clearly the team has responded to some of the things that Bruce has outlined and is doing, and that's what we were hoping for," Gulati said. "I think it's probably a lot of little things and not any one thing."

"Obviously when you're on the field and in camp and the team starts to believe even before they've played a game that they're capable of playing better and of winning, that helps. And then when you go out and see results that come from that,

from following the path he's laid out, that obviously gives people a lot of confidence not only in Bruce but in themselves and in the team."

On the sidewalk outside Estadio Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica, last fall, U.S. captain Michael Bradley said self-examination and urgency was needed. Speaking in Azteca's tunnel on Sunday night, Bradley diagnosed what had gone wrong.

"It was just a case at the end of last year where a few too many areas started to drop, and I think Bruce has done a very good job of coming in and just little by little working at getting every — just raising the level across the board," he said. "And obviously a big part of it is this idea of team, of spirit, of mentality, of [guts] and understanding that we have good players, we have a good team, but we're not good enough to just step on the field and think that things are going to take care of themselves."

Arena's biggest personnel changes were to add left back Jorge Villafana, who was over-

looked by Klinsmann, and to bring back midfielder Darlington Nagbe, dropped by Klinsmann in a spat for refusing an invitation to a training camp ahead of exhibition games last October.

Arena used 20 of the 26 players on his roster in the last two qualifiers, changing seven starters because of the 7,820-foot altitude and the short recovery time.

"When you have the confidence of the manager to put you in a game like this, it means everything, obviously," said Brad Guzan, who started against Mexico in place of No. 1 goalkeeper Tim Howard. "We've got a lot of good guys in our group, not just the guys that are here on this trip, but guys back home, and I think ultimately that's going to make our team stronger."

Arena shifted from a 4-4-2 formation against Trinidad to a five-man back line against Mexico, a tactic he settled on in the winter, and had players practice daily once the most recent training camp opened May 29.

Thames' walk-off homer lifts Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell gave a pretty apt description of Eric Thames' walk-off home run.

Thames hit the Brewers' first walk-off home run of the season in the bottom of the 10th inning, lifting Milwaukee to a 6-5 victory over the San Diego Padres on Friday night.

"I knew he hit it good and obviously really high," Counsell said of Thames' first career walk-off homer and the team's first since Martin Maldonado did it in a 17-inning win on May 31, 2015 against Arizona.

Thames' towering shot, his 19th home run of the season, came off a 1-1 pitch from Ryan Butcher (3-3) that bounced off the yellow padding on top of the left-field fence. The ball landed in the Brewers' bullpen, setting off a raucous celebration at home plate.

"I got under it, but I got it

good," Thames said. "I was like, hopefully, the wind is blowing out — like, go, go, go!"

The retractable roof was closing as Thames started to circle the bases.

"I was kind of blowing a little," he said. "Guess it worked. Two home runs in two nights by a matter of inches. Ain't baseball a funny game."

Not to Butcher.

"He hit it," Butcher said. "He did his job."

Thames helped the Brewers beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-4 Thursday with a two-run shot that just cleared the fence in right.

Jared Hughes (3-1) retired the side in order in the top of the 10th, helping the Brewers match their season-best four-game winning streak for the third time.

Manny Piña tied the game in the bottom of the eighth with a solo shot off Kirby Yates. Yangervis Solarte put the Padres ahead 5-4 in the top of the

inning with his seventh home run this season.

Milwaukee starter Junior Guerra made two big mistakes in the first inning. Wil Myers hit a three-run homer and Hunter Renfroe followed with his 15th, snapping a tie with Nate Colbert (1969) for the most rookie home runs before the All-Star break in franchise history.

Guerra allowed three earned runs over six innings, walked four and struck out three in his fifth start since coming off the disabled list on May 25 with a right calf strain. He suffered the injury legging out a sacrifice bunt on Opening Day.

Broxton's bombs

Broxton made it consecutive games with long-distance home runs. His three-run blast off Miguel Diaz traveled 449 feet. Thursday, he belted the longest home run in the history of Busch Stadium, a clout that traveled 489 feet.

It's the second longest homer in the majors this season. The New York Yankees' Aaron Judge belted one that traveled 495 feet on June 11.

Vote of confidence for Diaz

Miguel Diaz made 21 relief appearances before his first major league start for the Padres on June 10, a two-inning scoreless stint against the Kansas City Royals. Facing the Brewers, he wilted with one out in the fourth. Broxton's three-run homer tied the game at 4 and Lewis Brinson snapped a 1-for-14 streak with a triple that chased Diaz, a 2011 non-drafted free agent signed by Milwaukee. Travis Shaw went deep in the second for his 12th home run of the season.

"He's impressive," Myers said of Diaz. "Just a couple of pitches there kind of unraveled. He's going to figure it out. He's got great stuff with a live arm."

Roundup

Scherzer strikes out 10 as Nationals pound Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Max Scherzer struck out 10 over eight masterful innings to reach double digits for the fifth straight start and limited the Mets to four hits, leading the Washington Nationals over New York 7-2 on Friday night.

Matt Wieters and Michael A. Taylor hit consecutive homers starting the third inning against Steven Matz (1-1). Anthony Rendon added a two-run homer in the sixth and had three RBIs, Bryce Harper finished with three hits, including a run-scoring single in the eighth, as the Nationals improved to 5-0 at Citi Field this year.

Scherzer (8-4) won for the fourth time in five starts.

Athletics 7, Yankees 6: Matt Chapman hit a go-ahead two-run single in the eighth

inning for his first career big league hit to help host Oakland hand New York its season-high fourth straight loss.

Dodgers 3, Reds 1: Left-hander Alex Wood remained unbeaten by pitching four-hit ball over eight innings as Los Angeles extended its domination of host Cincinnati.

Royals 3, Angels 1: Lorenzo Cain hit two homers and drove in three runs, and Ian Kennedy retired the first 17 Los Angeles batters to end his 16-start winless skid in visiting Kansas City's sixth consecutive victory.

Cardinals 11, Orioles 2: Carlos Martinez struck out eight over six sharp innings, and visiting St. Louis hit a season-high five home runs in a rout of struggling Baltimore.

White Sox 11, Blue Jays 4: Melky Cabrera homered,

doubled and drove in five runs against his former team, leading Jose Quintana and Chicago over host Toronto.

Tigers 13, Rays 4: Nicholas Castellanos doubled, tripled and drove in four runs as the Detroit Tigers routed visiting Tampa Bay.

Marlins 5, Braves 0: Dan Straily pitched into the seventh inning, Christian Yelich drove in three runs and Miami beat host Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 5, Phillies 4: Gregor Blanco hit a tying two-run homer and Jake Lamb drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning to rally visiting Arizona over Philadelphia.

Cubs 9, Pirates 5: Anthony Rizzo almost led off his third straight game with a homer, losing his bid on a replay reversal, before helping key a six-run rally in the ninth inning

that sent Chicago over host Pittsburgh.

Indians 8, Twins 1: Carlos Carrasco pitched one-hit ball into the sixth inning, Jose Ramirez had three hits and Edwin Encarnacion homered as visiting Cleveland beat pitching-thin Minnesota.

Rangers 10, Mariners 4: Tyson Ross allowed just a pair of runs in his first start in 14 months and Carlos Gomez homered to help host Texas beat Seattle.

Red Sox 2, Astros 1: Mookie Betts hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, sending the Boston Red Sox over host Houston.

Rockies 10, Giants 8: Colorado rookie Antonio Senzatela battled through six innings to tie for the major league lead in wins, and help host Denver beat San Francisco for the seventh straight time.