

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, June 18, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Bodies of 7 missing sailors recovered

BY TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy ended search-and-rescue efforts after a “number of sailors” were found dead in the aftermath of the USS Fitzgerald’s collision Saturday with a cargo ship off the Japanese coast.

“The search and rescue is over,” Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, 7th Fleet commander, told reporters gathered Sunday at Yokosuka near the destroyer, which was damaged above and below the water line on the starboard side near its bridge.

The collision between the destroyer and the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal happened at 2:20 a.m. Saturday, about 64 miles southwest of Yokosuka near the Izu Peninsula, a Navy statement said.

Seven Fitzgerald sailors were missing, and three, including the ship’s commander, were medically evacuated to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

Aucoin wouldn’t say exactly how many of the missing sailors’ bodies had been recovered, citing notification of the victims’ families.

“The families are being notified and are being provided support they all need at this difficult time,” he said. “The strength of my fleet are my people. This loss is something we all feel. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and those shipmates.”

The sailors were found in a flooded berthing compartment after search-and-rescue crew members gained access to spaces that were damaged during the collision, the 7th Fleet said in a statement Sunday.

A machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew rapidly flooded following the collision, Aucoin said.

“It was a significant impact to the side of the ship and you can’t see most of the damage,” Aucoin said.

The damage is mostly underneath the waterline, and it’s a large gash near the keel of the ship. The water flow was tremendous and so there wasn’t a lot of time in those spaces that were open to the sea.

“They had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface,” Aucoin said. “It was traumatic.”

An earlier 7th Fleet statement said the sailors had been found

and were being taken to Naval Hospital Yokosuka but did not state if they were dead. A later statement clarified that the sailors’ bodies had been found.

The ACX Crystal was heading east, not far from its Tokyo Bay destination, when it turned around and traveled in a circle, according to public data from the ship’s automatic tracking system posted on Marinetraffic.com. It had completed its circle at roughly the same time of the reported collision, according to the data.

Before 7th Fleet called off its efforts, a spokesman for Japan’s 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters told Stars and Stripes the agency searched the collision site on Sunday with two patrol ships and two helicopters.

The Japan Coast Guard has interviewed the ACX Crystal’s crew about the incident but has yet to speak with Fitzgerald personnel, the spokesman said. There were no injuries or missing personnel reported on the ACX Crystal.

About 400 ships pass each day through the shipping lane where the collision occurred, said the coast guard spokesman, who added that three sim-

ilar accidents happened there within the past five years.

The ACX Crystal appeared to be steaming briskly to Tokyo with only minor damage above the waterline, in comparison with the USS Fitzgerald when observed from Yokosuka Naval Base about 3 p.m. Saturday.

On Sunday, a group of accident investigators from the Japanese Transport Ministry found damage hidden under the waterline when it arrived in Tokyo, according to The Associated Press.

At 29,060 tons and 730 feet long, the cargo ship carried the bulk to severely damage the 8,315-ton Fitzgerald. Aucoin declined to speculate on which ship had the right-of-way or if they were following proper procedures at sea.

Aucoin said several investigations into the incident will be conducted, and he will appoint a flag officer to oversee a Judge Advocate General Manual Investigation. He added that the Navy intends to fully cooperate with Japanese authorities on their investigation.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erik Slavin and Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

## Fenton takes helm of Naval Forces Japan

BY TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Rear Adm. Gregory Fenton has taken command of Naval Forces Japan, which will be challenged with relocating six aviation units from Naval Air Station Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni later this year.

Fenton replaces Rear Adm. Matthew Carter, who moves to

Hawaii to become U.S. Pacific Fleet’s deputy commander.

Commander Naval Forces Japan supports naval ships in the region and oversees facilities at Yokosuka, Atsugi, Misawa Air Base, Sasebo Naval Base, on Okinawa and at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

“These facilities allow 7th Fleet to rapidly generate combat power from Japan,” said 7th Fleet Commander Vice. Adm. Joseph Aucoin, who presided

over Friday’s change-of-command ceremony. “They allow us to transfer large amounts of supplies, fuel, ordnance, personnel and all the other things a fleet needs.”

Fenton, citing the transfer of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125 from Atsugi to Iwakuni earlier this month, said the project is on track.

“Right now the U.S. and Japanese governments have agreed

to a timeline of the transfer,” he said. “We’ve seen part of that executed. So, the process has initiated and we fully intend to adhere to the timelines we’ve agreed to with the government of Japan.”

Fenton commanded the USS George Washington when it was forward deployed to Yokosuka and served as the Navy’s director of operations and plans before returning to Japan.

# US-backed Iraqi forces enter ISIS' last Mosul stronghold

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S.-backed Iraqi troops pushed into the last Islamic State stronghold in Mosul on Sunday, an Iraqi commander said, formally launching the final major battle of an eight-month campaign to drive the militants from Iraq's second-largest city.

The extremists are expected to make their last stand in the Old City, a densely populated quarter with narrow, winding alleys.

Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Rasheed Yar Allah, who commands army operations in Ninevah province, said Iraqi special forces, the regular army and Federal Police are taking part in the operation to retake the Old City, which began Sunday at dawn.

Iraq state TV aired live footage showing thick, black smoke rising from the Old City, with the sound of gunfire rattling inside. It said leaflets were distributed urging civilians to leave through five "safe corridors."

Gen. Abdel Ghani al-Asadi, the head of Iraq's special forces, said he expects the extremists to put up a "vicious and tough fight." Al-Asadi said the troops "will be very careful" to protect the civilians in the densely populated area.

The International Rescue Committee called on Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition to "do everything in their power to keep civilians safe during these final stages of the battle for Mosul."

"With its narrow and wind-

ing streets, Iraqi forces will be even more reliant on airstrikes despite the difficulty in identifying civilians sheltering in buildings and the increased risk of civilians being used as human shields by ISIS fighters," said Nora Love, the aid group's acting country director.

Love warned that the assault could lead to even more civilian deaths than the hundreds killed so far in airstrikes across the rest of the city, as "the buildings of the old town are particularly vulnerable to collapse even if they aren't directly targeted."

Those who try fleeing to government-controlled areas risk being caught in the crossfire or targeted by ISIS snipers, Love added.

## Taliban kill at least 5 police

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban stormed a police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday after striking it with two suicide car bombs, killing at least five police, officials said.

Another nine police and nine civilians were wounded in the attack, said Sardar Wali Tabasim, spokesman for the police chief of Paktia province.

He said that one of the attackers detonated his suicide vest, and two others were shot dead by police as the attackers tried to enter the compound, which also houses the regional command for Afghanistan's eastern provinces.

The last attacker held out for hours inside of a dining hall as security forces worked to evacuate the kitchen staff sheltering nearby, Tabasim said. The gunman was eventually killed later in the afternoon, he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent out to the media.

One of the explosions was so strong it shattered windows up to 1.2 miles from the attack site, said Abdullah Hsrat, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Logar province, gunmen shot and killed the head of the police's criminal investigation department, said Salim Saleh, spokesman for provincial governor. He said a bodyguard was wounded in the attack late Saturday in Puli Alim, the provincial capital. An investigation is underway.

## Syrian and Iraqi troops meet at border

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian troops and allied militias met up with Iraqi forces at one crossing point along their shared border Sunday for the first time in years, in a step described as a major achievement by the Syrian military in their fight against Islamic State.

The development reported by pro-government media Sunday comes a day after Iraqi forces captured a border crossing point with Syria, al-Waleed, from the ISIS militants. It was not immediately clear if the Syrian forces reached a new point along their border with Iraq or whether it was the Iraqi forces that had moved northeast of their newly captured point.

The U.S.-led coalition said it was aware of the Iraqi forces' maneuvers along the border, which highlight Baghdad's resolve to fight ISIS. The maneuvers have no impact on the U.S. presence nearby, a coalition

colonel said.

A map by the Central Military Media, allied with the Syrian government, showed Syrian troops at the border with Iraq, northeast of al-Waleed border crossing point with Syria. The Lebanese al-Manar TV linked to Hezbollah, the militia fighting alongside the Syrian government, said Syrian and Iraqi troops linked up at the borders, after the Syrian army seized new territories in its campaign in the Syrian desert.

The Britain-based opposition war monitor group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Iraqi forces moved northeast of al-Waleed meeting up with pro-Syrian troops for the first time since 2015. The borders had been controlled by ISIS.

A Syrian general on the pro-government al-Ikhbariya TV channel said the campaign in recent weeks seized 9,600 square miles, reaching the Iraqi

borders, calling it a "qualitative operation."

The general said the meeting point for Iraqi and Syrian forces is northeast of Tanf, an area where U.S. troops and Syrian opposition fighters are based, and where they were recently encircled by the Iran-sponsored pro-Syrian forces.

U.S. Col. Joe Scrocca, a spokesman for the coalition, said the decisions of the Iraqi security forces are "theirs alone," but that they advise the U.S.-led coalition of their operations.

The head of the Observatory, Rami Abdurrahman, said the link between Iraqi and Syrian forces will allow Iraqi fighters, including pro-Iran militias, to move inside Syria, joining the Syrian government's campaign against ISIS strongholds in eastern Syria, Deir el-Zour. Syrian troops have been advancing against ISIS positions in the desert for weeks.



# Okinawa urges US not to tout Aha Falls

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The recent death of a teenage airman at Okinawa's Aha Falls — a spot popular with servicemembers and tourists for hiking and cliff-jumping — left some local officials searching for answers.

Shannon Purcell, 19, died May 6 after slipping and falling into the Tanaga Gumui basin, Japanese rescue and fire officials said. Her death is the latest in a stream of incidents at the picturesque watering hole — including a death in 2014, near drownings, numerous broken bones, and 10 falls since 2013 that caused injury and required rescue.

Officials from nearby Kuni-gami Village wanted to know why American servicemembers and tourists continue to flock

to the natural wonder in the middle of the northern jungle. They say they don't advertise the falls as a tourist attraction, park or recreational site, and signs warning of dangers are strategically placed. Locals, for the most part, avoid the area, they said.

"It is an area where no one should be," said Kuni-gami tourism official Kosuke Miyazato. "We wonder where American people get information on the falls. Somehow, I guess, that is why they continue to go there."

A look at U.S. military social media and tourism websites showed that some military groups have not only advertised the falls as a tourist attraction and recreational site, but have also taken servicemembers there on trips where they jumped off the rocks into the water.

Private tourism websites aimed at Americans on Okinawa

also have advertised the spot.

"It is regrettable to learn that an official U.S. military website advertises the falls," said Kuni-gami Village mayor Hisakazu Miyagi when alerted to the sites by Stars and Stripes. "In response to this latest accident, I would like to urge the U.S. military to take thorough measures and not advertise the spot on official sites."

Those sites include a map of Okinawa in the 2016 Okinawa Guide released by Marine Corps Community Services Okinawa listing the falls as a "tourist spot."

On the Okinawa BOSS Torii Station Facebook page, which is officially administered by the U.S. government organization, a post from 2015 shows soldiers jumping off the rocks into the water below at an officially sanctioned trip to the falls.

"More photos of BOSS sol-

diers relaxing and spending their Saturday at Aha Falls," the post reads.

BOSS stands for the U.S. Army's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

U.S. military officials declined to comment about advertising the dangerous spot.

After Purcell's death, Kuni-gami officials reached out to the U.S. military and requested the site be placed off limits to American servicemembers, their families and support civilians, said Masanori Yamashiro, of the Kuni-gami Village tourism office.

The U.S. military in Japan expects servicemembers to honor the wishes of the local community and any restrictions placed on the falls, U.S. Forces Japan spokesman Lt. Col. Ken Hoffman said.

## N. Korean defects by swimming to South

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — A North Korean man defected to South Korea on Sunday after swimming south with plastic foam pieces on his shoulders to help keep him afloat, the military was quoted as saying.

It was the second such rare defection across the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula in less than a week. South Korean officials have said the number of North Korean defectors has been on the rise, but most travel via China and other countries first.

South Korean marines found the man, in his early 20s, around 2:30 a.m. Sunday near an observation post on the northern part of the Han River just west of Seoul in Gimpo, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The military said he was discovered at a particularly

narrow stretch in the river after swimming south buoyed by the plastic foam pieces, according to Yonhap. He reportedly screamed, "Don't kill me. I am here to defect," after he was spotted by a South Korean marine.

Most defectors come to the South after first escaping to China and transiting through other countries. Once they arrive in South Korea, they are automatically granted citizenship after a three-month transition period for re-education and debriefing.

But some do manage to cross over. On Tuesday, a North Korean soldier crossed the Military Demarcation Line in the central sector of the DMZ and said he wanted to defect, military officials said. Two of four North Korean sailors recently rescued in the sea off the peninsula's east coast also reportedly said they wished to defect.

## Marines show off sea skills during NATO exercises

BY MARTIN EGNASH

*Stars and Stripes*

NATO forces completed a mock amphibious assault in northern Poland as part of Exercise Baltic Operations, giving U.S. Marines a rare chance to practice a skill that has languished over the years: a shoreline assault.

The Baltic beach landing, conducted Wednesday, showcased Marines in a fast-paced show of force as they moved to secure an area around Ustka, Poland.

After years of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, where amphibious operations took a backseat, Marines were eager to show their amphibious capabilities.

"Many Marines, due to the ops tempo over the last decade, have not had the opportunity to be aboard a ship, or conduct an amphibious landing," U.S. Marine Corps Maj. William Diaz, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, battalion executive officer, said.

Marines participating in BALTOPS, a U.S.-led exercise that

concluded Friday after two weeks of operations around the Baltics, had the opportunity to practice a skill that is fundamental to being a Marine, Diaz said.

The exercise, which involved a dozen NATO members, aimed to bolster the ability of allies to fight together, with a heavy focus on sea power.

Some critics, however, have argued that the days of amphibious assaults as an essential battlefield tactic are over. Cheap missiles and precision weapons have forced ships to deploy amphibious assault groups further out at sea, which mean the Marines have a longer and more dangerous way to travel to their targets on the beach.

Italian Navy Commander Fernando Cianci, the Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO amphibious operations planner, said he still believes there is a role for the amphibious assault in modern warfare. It is an essential instrument in NATO's arsenal, he said.



## Bombing at Colombian mall kills 3, injures 9

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — A bomb rocked one of the busiest shopping centers in Colombia's capital Saturday, killing three people, including a 23-year-old French woman, and injuring nine others.

Witnesses told of being evacuated from movie theaters and stores after the blast in a second-floor women's restroom at the upscale Centro Andino in the heart of Bogota's tourist district. Ambulances and fire-trucks rushed to the scene, and the injured were taken to a hospital, where two later died.

Police said a bomb from an undetermined explosive had caused the destruction.

Mayor Enrique Penalosa called it a "cowardly terrorist bombing," and attention immediately focused on the National Liberation Army, which is the last rebel movement still active in Colombia. The group, known as the ELN, carried out a spate of recent attacks in Bogota, but leaders denied involvement in the latest bombing.

Penalosa said the French victim, identified as Julie Huynh, had been in Bogota the past six months volunteering at a school in a poor neighborhood. He said she was preparing to return to France in the coming days in the company of her mother, who was with her in Bogota.

Huynh worked with a French-backed charity, Proyectar Sin Fronteras, helping people displaced by Colombia's long conflict gain the skills and expertise needed to rebuild. A member of the group declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press, but the group posted on its web page a black ribbon in memory of Huynh.

The ELN, which is engaged in long-running peace talks with the government, rejected accusations it was behind the attack.

# Fires in Portugal kill dozens

Associated Press

AVELAR, Portugal — Raging forest fires in central Portugal killed at least 62 people, many of them trapped in their cars as flames swept over a road, in what the prime minister on Sunday called "the biggest tragedy of human life that we have known in years."

The country has declared three days of national mourning.

Nearly 60 other people were injured, including four firefighters and a seriously injured minor, Interior Ministry official Jorge Gomes told state broadcaster RTP.

A lightning strike is believed to have sparked the blaze in the Pedrogao Grande area after investigators found a tree that was hit during a "dry thunderstorm," the head of the national judicial police told Portuguese media.

Dry thunderstorms are frequent when falling water evaporates before reaching the ground because of high temperatures. Portugal, like most southern European countries, is prone to forest fires in the dry summer months.

"This is a region that has had fires because of its forests, but we cannot remember a tragedy of these proportions," said Valdemar Alves, mayor of Pedrogao Grande. "I am completely stunned by the number of deaths."

Authorities had previously said that temperatures of 104 degrees Fahrenheit in recent days might have played a part in the inferno about 95 miles northeast of Lisbon. Approximately 700 firefighters have been trying to put out the fires

since Saturday, Gomes said.

A huge wall of thick smoke and bright, red flames towered over the tops of trees near houses in the wooded region. Local resident Isabel Brandao told The Associated Press that she had feared for her life.

"Yesterday, we saw the fire but thought it was very far. I never thought it would come to this side," she said. "At 3:30 a.m., my mother-in-law woke me up quickly and we never went to sleep again. We were afraid the fire would reach us."

RTP showed terrifying images of several people on a road trying to escape the intense smoke, which had reduced visibility to a few yards. A young man shared a bottle of water with a distraught woman as she stumbled down the road.

Gomes said at least 30 people were killed when their vehicles were engulfed by flames on a road between the towns of Figueiro dos Vinhos and Castanheira de Pera, and three others died from smoke inhalation in Figueiro dos Vinhos. The rest of the bodies were found outside of the cars or in the forest, the official said, adding that fire-fighting crews were having trouble battling the fire, which was "very violent" on at least two of its four fronts.

The European Union said it had activated its civil-protection efforts responding to a call for assistance by Portuguese authorities. EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides expressed his condolences for the victims in a statement, saying the "EU is fully ready to help."

## Majority expected for Macron's party

Associated Press

PARIS — French voters are casting ballots Sunday in the final round of parliamentary elections that could clinch President Emmanuel Macron's hold on power, as his fledgling party appears set to rout mainstream rivals and to turn politics as usual on its head.

Pollsters say that after its dominant performance in last week's first-round vote, Macron's Republic on the Move party could win up to 450 seats Sunday in the 577-seat National Assembly, the powerful lower chamber.

If the steamroller effect continues for Macron's party, half of whose candidates are women and the other half new to politics, France will have a chamber of representatives like few others, fulfilling the

president's wish to renew a political class dominated by career politicians.

The mandate would also give Macron, 39, a free hand to move fast with promised legislation, notably on changing labor laws to make hiring and firing easier.

That prospect worries both rivals and some voters, and makes turnout critical. A healthy participation rate might dampen the expected victory of Macron's party.

At midday, turnout appeared to be lagging. The Interior Ministry said just 17.8 percent of voters had cast ballots, down from 19.2 percent at the same time during the first round, and 21.4 percent at the same time during the second-round voting in the last parliamentary elections in 2012.

Less than half the 47.5

million-strong electorate turned out to vote June 11, a record low that especially punished the once-feared far-right National Front party of Marine Le Pen, runner-up to Macron for the presidency.

Candidates from the conservative party, the Republicans, are expected to form the largest opposition group, with between 70 and 110 seats, according to pollsters, with other parties sharing the rest.

The Socialists, who dominated the outgoing Assembly with 314 seats but were flattened under the unpopularity of former President Francois Hollande, could win as few as 20 seats.

Macron's party has 513 candidates vying for 573 seats. Four seats were won outright in the first-round vote.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## U2 concert spurs vacation extension

**NY** ORCHARD PARK — Students in a New York school district will squeeze an extra day out of summer vacation thanks to the rock band U2.

The band is playing a concert at New Era Field in Orchard Park on Sept. 5. That was to be the first day of class in the suburban Buffalo district.

Instead, district officials say schools will open Sept. 6 because of the expected traffic increase.

The district says on its website that the first day of school already means transportation delays as students figure out where to find their buses and drivers learn their routes. The superintendent recommended the one-day delay.

## Here's your chance to see a loon chick

**NH** MOULTONBOROUGH — A webcam will live stream the hatching of loon chicks on a lake in New Hampshire.

The Loon Preservation Committee's webcam has been streaming since the first egg was laid May 21. The chicks were expected to hatch as soon as Saturday because a pair of loons will incubate their eggs for 28 days. Viewers from 141 countries and every state have tuned in to watch — with as many as 7,000 views per day. The stream on Friday showed a loon sitting on the nest, getting up several times to reveal two brown eggs.

## Man gets 72 years for killing his grandfather

**CO** AURORA — A Colorado judge sentenced an Aurora man to 72 years in

prison for beating his 84-year-old grandfather to death.

Arapahoe County District Judge Phillip Douglass handed down the sentence on Friday, saying Jason Vanbommel, 34, was unremorseful over the December 2015 death of Frans Vanbommel.

Prosecutors said Jason Vanbommel was arguing with his grandmother over the shrimp she planned to prepare for dinner when Frans Vanbommel told him to be respectful. The grandson then punched the elderly man in the head and kicked him in the ribs. Frans Vanbommel died in a hospital a few days later.

## Animal abuse registry goes live in Cleveland

**OH** CLEVELAND — Cuyahoga County says its new animal abuse registry has gone live.

It's an online public service tool that lists individuals convicted of felony animal abuse within the county that includes Cleveland and prohibits them from buying, adopting or harboring companion animals inside county limits.

The searchable registry on the county sheriff's website is designed to help organizations and individuals offering pets for adoption find them safe and caring homes. Users could include animal shelters, humane societies, dog kennels, animal rescue agencies and pet stores.

## Man with ALS begins Appalachian Trail hike

**MA** ADAMS — A Massachusetts man who was diagnosed with ALS is setting out to hike 600 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Rick Marks, of Winchester, planned to begin his trek Saturday at Mount Greylock in the town of Adams and to hike

to Mount Katadhin in Maine by early August to raise money for ALS research. He was diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disease in October but said he decided to keep up his lifelong passion of hiking.

Marks hopes to spread awareness of the disease and to raise \$50,000 for ALS ONE, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that supports ALS research.

Marks plans to provide updates on his blog throughout the trip.

## Survivor of '03 plunge dies in Niagara Falls

**NY** NIAGARA FALLS — A man who survived a plunge over Niagara Falls without protection in 2003 has died after he went over again, this time inside an inflatable ball.

Police told the Syracuse Post-Standard the body of Kirk R. Jones, 53, was found in the Niagara River by the U.S. Coast Guard on June 2.

Detective Sgt. Brian Nisbet, of the New York State Park Police, said Jones became the first person to survive an unprotected plunge over the falls in October 2003.

Nisbet said investigators believe Jones attempted to go over the falls inside a 10-foot ball on April 19. The empty ball was recovered by the Maid of the Mist tour boat.

## Man gets 20 years for fatality during chase

**FL** PANAMA CITY — A Florida man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the death of his passenger in a drunken-driving crash.

The Panama City News Herald reported that Brian Helms, 35, was sentenced after pleading no contest Thursday to DUI manslaughter and several other charges.

Authorities said Helms was

fleeing police and driving more than 100 mph on a Panama City Beach street in September 2015 when he ran a red light and hit a delivery truck. The crash killed his passenger, Tiffany Quimby, 38, and injured two men in the truck.

Helms and Quimby were suspects in a grand theft at a Wal-Mart two days before the crash. A police officer tried to pull Helms over, but he sped away.

## Flown-in fish fill far-flung ponds

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire's remote ponds are once again stocked with fish that were raised in hatcheries and then flown in via helicopter.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department finished its annual aerial stocking program recently. The department uses a helicopter to deliver upward of 100,000 brook trout fingerlings from its hatcheries to nearly 50 remote ponds from the Sunapee Region north to Pittsburg.

## 2 guilty in killing of pelicans, cormorants

**SD** WEBSTER — Two South Dakota men were sentenced for illegally shooting and killing more than 200 pelicans and double-crested cormorants.

Brant Nelson, 66, and Kirk Nelson, 63, both of Webster, pleaded guilty in federal court to taking, killing and possessing migratory birds.

U.S. District Judge William Gerdes sentenced the men to 36 months of probation and ordered them to pay nearly \$11,000 in restitution. They were fined \$500 each and had their hunting privileges suspended for three years.

From wire reports

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# Celtics agree to trade top pick to 76ers

Associated Press

Philadelphia and Boston have agreed in principle on a trade where the 76ers would acquire the chance to take Markelle Fultz with the No. 1 pick in Thursday's NBA Draft, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The Celtics will get the No. 3 pick, plus an additional first-rounder in either 2018 or 2019, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday night because the trade has not been formally approved by the league. The agreement between the Celtics and 76ers was struck not long after Fultz worked out for Philadelphia.

Once the trade goes through, Philadelphia will own the NBA's No. 1 selection for the second straight season.

Fultz — donning a Philadelphia cap as he arrived at the team's practice facility — visited the 76ers in a hastily arranged get-to-know-you session, with the workout and meeting with team officials on his itinerary. That visit was essentially the final hurdle to clear before Boston and Philadelphia could decide to actually consummate the trade.

"I don't really pay attention to everything that's going on," Fultz said. "I'm truly blessed to be in this position. Whatever happens, I'm looking forward to taking my talents to wherever I go."

Barring any other changes before Thursday, the first four spots in this year's draft order would mirror the first-four from last

year: Philadelphia at No. 1, the Los Angeles Lakers at No. 2, Boston at No. 3 and Phoenix at No. 4.

Fultz's rise has been rapid. In 2014, he was playing junior varsity basketball in high school. Barely three years later, he's almost certainly going to become the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft — and if he gets to start his pro career by calling Philadelphia his new home, he'll be living roughly a 2½-hour drive from his hometown of Upper Marlboro, Md.

"It would be pretty cool. Just being with a young team," Fultz said. "The upside of it would be crazy. I'm close to home, so my family can come out and just show love. This city has great fans."

The 6-foot-4 guard averaged 23.2 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.9 assists in 25 games during his lone college season at Washington, excelling on a team that finished 9-22 and lost its final 13 games. Fultz led the Pac-12 in scoring and finished No. 6 among all Division I players, and was the top freshman scorer in the country.

Over the past 10 seasons, only two other freshmen had a better scoring average in college: Kevin Durant for Texas in 2006-07, and Michael Beasley for Kansas State in 2007-08.

Durant and Beasley were both No. 2 draft picks.

Fultz is apparently going to get taken one spot better.

"I'll do whatever it takes to help any team I go to win," Fultz said.

Philadelphia had the No. 1 draft spot three previous times, taking Doug Collins in 1973, Allen Iverson in 1996 and Ben Simmons a year ago.

The 76ers have a top-three pick for the fourth straight year: No. 3 Joel Embiid in 2014, No. 3 Jahlil Okafor in 2015 and Simmons in 2016. But with Fultz, Philadelphia — which has asked its fans to endure some very dismal stretches over the past few years — would likely expect to turn a corner toward respectability.

Philadelphia went 28-54 this past season, after winning 19, 18 and 10 games respectively in the previous three seasons.

Last season's improved win total came with Okafor (50), Embiid (31) and Simmons (0) combining for 81 appearances, as Philadelphia's trend of being snakebitten by injuries continued. Embiid and Dario Saric will finish in the top three when rookie of the year results get announced on June 26, and Simmons is expected to be ready for next season after recovering from foot surgery.

Embiid posted a photo on Saturday of he and Saric standing in front of a locker — already bearing Fultz's name.

"Embiid, he and I have been talking before when I was in college," Fultz said. "He's a cool guy. He's giving me tips and pointers and he's pretty funny, so when I saw that it was pretty cool. I'm pretty happy that the players here want me to come here."

## Briefly

## Ward stops Kovalev in rematch to remain undefeated

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Andre Ward vowed he would leave no doubt this time around. He didn't, turning the tables on a big puncher and stopping Sergey Kovalev in the eighth round Saturday night to win their light heavyweight title rematch.

The undefeated Ward turned the fight around with a big right hand that wobbled Kovalev, then swarmed all over him. Kovalev was in the neutral corner and Ward was landing shots to the body when the Russian sat on the ring rope and referee Tony Weeks signaled an end to the bout at 2:29 of the eighth.

"I knew this time it was going to be different," Ward said.

In a lot of ways it was the same, until Ward — who was knocked down in the first fight — showed he was a big puncher, too, with a right hand that made Kovalev's right leg wobble and signaled the beginning of the end to the bout.

The fight had been close, with Kovalev (30-2-1) winning the early rounds before Ward (32-0) began making adjustments and Kovalev began tiring. Both fighters complained of dirty tactics and Weeks spent a lot of his time breaking up clinches.

Kovalev complained that Ward hit him with two low blows

in the final exchange, forcing him to sit on the first rope.

"Why stop the fight?" he said. "I could have continued to fight."

### FIFA invites debate on 60-minute game clock

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Soccer's rule-making panel wants debate on moving to 60-minute games and stopping the clock when the ball is not in play.

Playing two halves each of 30 minutes' actual playing time would be a "radical change" to the Laws of Football, the FIFA-supported International

Football Association Board acknowledged.

It features in a five-year strategy document of talking points and proposals with three goals — to increase respect, playing time and attractiveness of the game.

"The aim of this document is to generate discussion and take a 'fresh' look at how the Laws could make the game better," IFAB said in the document.

Any changes would take years to enact after discussions and trials overseen by IFAB, which revises soccer's laws annually and comprises officials from FIFA and the four British soccer federations.



# Thomas shoots record 63, trails by 1

Associated Press

ERIN, Wis. — Justin Thomas managed to stand out in a U.S. Open where par is going out of style.

All it took was a 9-under 63, the lowest round to par in a major long known as the toughest test in golf. Thomas capped off his record day on the 667-yard 18th hole at Erin Hills with the prettiest 3-wood he ever hit, stopping 8 feet away on a green where some players struggled to land a wedge.

He made the eagle to get his name in the record book Saturday.

The lead, however, belonged to Brian Harman.

Harman closed with two birdies and three tough pars for a 5-under 67 that gave him a one-shot lead at 12-under 204.

"Yeah, 12 under, I'd have about a 10-shot lead in most Opens," he said.

Not this one.

Not even close.

Erin Hills again lacked enough wind to be the stern test the U.S. Open wants, and it showed. There were 18 rounds in the 60s on Saturday. Going into the final round, 42 players were still under par.

"Usually when you shoot even in a U.S. Open and you're one off the lead, you're not six down afterward," J.B. Holmes said.

In the 116 previous U.S. Opens, only six players had ever reached 10-under par or better, never in the same tournament. By the end of a wild and wide-open Saturday, five players were double digits under par.

Brooks Koepka made three birdies over his last seven holes for a 68 and joined Thomas one shot out of the lead.

Also at 11 under was Tommy Fleetwood, who was poised to take the lead until his pitch came up short, his next shot went 60 feet down a slope on the back of the 18th green and he turned potential birdie into bogey and settled for a 68.

Rickie Fowler, on the verge of being left behind, rallied with three straight birdies and shot 68. He was 10 under, only two shots behind.

"It's going to be a really cool day for someone tomorrow," Fowler said. "I'm looking forward to my shot at it. I've been there a handful of times and had some good finishes. But I'm looking forward to getting

the job done."

Thomas finished in style, and it had nothing to do with his hot pink pants. He had 310 yards to the hole when he hit 3-wood that could have led to big trouble if he went too far long or left. "Oh gosh, Jimmy, be good," he said to caddie Jimmy Johnson when the ball was in the air, and it was close to perfect.

Thomas poured in the eagle to become the 29th player with a 63 in a major championship.

"The finish was awesome. I'd love to have another one of those," Thomas said.

He might need one at this rate. About all that save Erin Hills from another onslaught was a forecast for the strongest wind of the week. Regardless of the weather, it didn't take long for the 24-year-old Thomas to understand the significance of his record round.

"That means I'm a part of history," he said. "It means I have a lot better chance to win the tournament than I did when the day started. I felt like I've been playing pretty well all week, and didn't have quite the numbers to show for it. Obviously, today I definitely had something to show for it."

Thomas, a major away from

joining the young elite in golf, only added to a year of low numbers. He made an eagle on his final hole at the Sony Open in January to shoot 59, and he went on to break the PGA Tour's 72-hole scoring record.

The U.S. Open didn't seem to faze him, and he delivered a variety of big shots that led to his sensational finish.

He rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt on No. 5 from the edge of the green that broke so severely that he stood with his toes facing the hole and rapped the ball toward his left foot. It took a hard turn to the right and rolled in. In the hay left of the 12th fairway, he gouged it out with a 9-iron and watched it roll to 10 feet.

And with the tees moved up on the 15th hole to make it reachable, Thomas hit a 3-wood that rolled off the back slope of the green to 6 feet. He two-putted for birdie, and he rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th.

Of the five other players who shot a 63 in the third round at a major, none went on to win. Most of them had to come from far back going into the weekend, and it was difficult to put together two good rounds.

## Fleury among players available to Vegas

Associated Press

Three-time Stanley Cup champion goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, Nashville forward James Neal and Anaheim defenseman Sami Vatanen were among the high-profile players made available on Sunday for the Vegas Golden Knights to select in the NHL expansion draft.

Now it's on Golden Knights general manager George McPhee to pore over the list of unprotected players and select one from each of the NHL's 30 teams by Wednesday.

Fleury was left unprotected by Pittsburgh after he agreed to waive the no-movement clause in his contract. The Penguins instead protected Matt Murray a week after the second-year goalie led them to win their second consecutive championship.

The Predators were put in a bind by exposing Neal, a 10-time 20-goal-scorer,

because they elected to protect a fourth defenseman.

Vatanen was the odd-man out in being left unprotected from a deep and talented group of Ducks defensemen. The fifth-year player, however, won't be ready for the start of the season after having surgery to repair a shoulder injury.

Neal wasn't the only high-profile player left exposed by the Predators, who are coming off their first Stanley Cup Final appearance. Other notable Nashville players unprotected were forwards Pontus Aberg and Colton Sissons.

Other notable forwards left unprotected were: Minnesota center Eric Staal, a nine-time 20-goal-scorer, Los Angeles forward Dustin Brown and Montreal's Tomas Plekanec. As for defensemen, Buffalo's Zach Bogosian and Dallas' Dan Hamhuis are available.

There's also a wealth of proven goaltenders available given that teams were required to expose at least one. Aside from Fleury, other goalies exposed are Florida's Roberto Luongo, Detroit's Peter Mrazek and Philadelphia's Michal Neuvirth.

The unprotected list includes players eligible to become restricted or unrestricted free agents, which the Golden Knights have the option to sign over the next three days. Any pending free agent signed would count as Vegas' expansion-draft selection from that player's team.

McPhee has said he's had contact with all teams and was expected to have several trades in place. In exchange, McPhee was intent on stockpiling draft picks to help spur the franchise's growth through youth.

Those deals won't be formally revealed until Wednesday.

# Indians sweeps into first in AL Central

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Cleveland Indians have had the Twins right where they wanted them for this pivotal midseason series.

In Minnesota, actually.

Lonnie Chisenhall hit two home runs in the second game after Jose Ramirez went deep twice in the opener, and the Indians took over first place in the AL Central by sweeping a doubleheader from the Twins with 9-3 and 6-2 victories on Saturday.

"It was fun. It's a long day, but I thought our guys carried the enthusiasm through-out," Indians manager Terry Francona said.

The Indians have won seven straight games in Minnesota and are 7-2 this season overall against the Twins, whose 38-day stretch in first place ended in anticlimactic fashion. They're 14-23 this year at Target Field, the worst home record in the major leagues.

"We knew what we needed to do when we came in here," Chisenhall said. "They were in first place, and we had to beat them."

Soundly, so far. The Indians have out-

scored the Twins 23-6 over the first three games of the series.

"These guys are swinging well," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "They're probably playing with house money tomorrow a little bit, so I'm sure they'll be loose."

Austin Jackson hit a solo shot in the nightcap against Twins starter Adalberto Mejia (1-3) in the fourth inning, before Chisenhall homered to put the Indians in front. Following a 75-minute rain delay, Chisenhall crushed a three-run drive against Tyler Duffey for a 5-1 lead in the fifth inning and his 10th home run of the season in just 118 at-bats.

Francisco Lindor went deep in the eighth, too, giving the Indians six home runs for the day against a depleted Twins pitching staff that sent out rookies into starting roles for the first three games. The split-admission doubleheader, created by a rainout here on April 19, didn't help a bullpen with the worst ERA in the major leagues, either.

"When we made mistakes today, they hit them over the fence. They made mistakes, and we hit them to the track for the most

part," Molitor said.

Ehire Adrianza drove in two runs in the opener for the Twins, and Joe Mauer hit an RBI double before Brian Dozier homered in the nightcap. That was about it for the offense on this weak weekend.

"I hate to, but sometimes you've got to tip your cap to the other team," Dozier said. "They beat us in every facet of both games."

**Red-hot Ramirez:** Ramirez has two or more hits in five straight games. He's 8-for-13 with two doubles, two homers, four runs and four RBIs in the series.

"He's kind of playing with a vengeance, you can tell," Francona said.

**Decisions, decisions:** The rain stopped Mike Clevinger's start in the second game after four innings, so reliever Nick Goody (1-1) was credited instead with the win, the first of his career after 56 appearances.

Zach McAllister (1-0) pitched two hitless innings in the first game for the victory. He worked in relief of starter Ryan Merritt, who made his season debut with four innings, seven hits and three runs allowed before being sent back to Triple-A.

## MLB roundup

# Meyer helps Angels snap KC's winning streak

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Everyone could see the potential. Alex Meyer could fire a fastball in the mid-90s, drop a curve to buckle knees. The Washington Nationals took him as the 23rd player in 2011 draft and everyone waited.

If success did not come quickly, there was no denying he looked like a pitcher ready to deliver in the Los Angeles Angels' 9-0 victory over Kansas City on Saturday that snapped the Royals' six-game winning streak.

"This is one of those games you hope for, where he bottles the stuff with command," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He was in the zone with terrific stuff all afternoon."

Bolstered by home runs from Cameron Maybin, Albert Pujols and Luis Valbuena, Meyer (3-3) threw six scoreless innings to do his part in a two-hit

shutout.

"We'd heard he was erratic with his command," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "But he threw the ball very well."

"You don't see a lot of breaking balls like that. Those 5 o'clock shadows didn't help, but they were the same for both teams."

**Athletics 5, Yankees 2:** Ryon Healy went deep twice for his third multihomer game in two weeks and Matt Joyce also hit a long ball as host Oakland beat New York.

**Nationals 7, Mets 4:** Trea Turner hit a leadoff homer and Washington backed Stephen Strasburg (8-2) with three long balls, beating New York to stay undefeated at Citi Field this season.

**Padres 7, Brewers 5 (11):** Cory Spangenberg and Chase d'Arnaud each hit solo home runs in the 11th inning, lifting San Diego over host Milwaukee in yet another slugfest.

**Pirates 4, Cubs 3:** Gregory Polanco broke out of a slump with a two-run homer, Andrew McCutchen hit his 12th home run of the season and host Pittsburgh edged Chicago.

**Astros 7, Red Sox 1:** Jose Altuve hit a solo homer, Carlos Beltran had a two-run shot and three RBIs, and host Houston beat Boston.

**Orioles 15, Cardinals 7:** Jonathan Schoop homered twice and drove in four runs, Manny Machado went deep in a seven-run second inning against Adam Wainwright and host Baltimore beat St. Louis.

**Dodgers 10, Reds 2:** Yasiel Puig hit two of the Dodgers' four homers, powering Los Angeles to a victory that took the edge off host Cincinnati's latest honor for its banned hits king.

**Rockies 5, Giants 1:** Kyle Freeland tossed six solid innings, Tony Wolters drove in two runs and host Colorado beat San Francisco again.

**Rangers 10, Mariners 4:** Mike Napoli hit two home runs, connecting along with Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo in the sixth inning to power host Texas past Seattle.

**Diamondbacks 5, Phillies 1:** Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run double and also made a key catch, boosting Arizona over host Philadelphia for its sixth straight victory.

**Rays 3, Tigers 2:** Chris Archer pitched six strong innings, Daniel Robertson drove in two runs and scored a third, and Tampa Bay bounced back to beat host Detroit.

**White Sox 5, Blue Jays 2:** Todd Frazier and Matt Davidson hit consecutive home runs to lead visiting Chicago.

**Braves 8, Marlins 7 (10):** Brandon Phillips drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning, Matt Adams had four RBIs and host Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Miami.