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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy IDs 7 sailors killed in collision

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has named the seven USS Fitzgerald sailors who died after the destroyer collided with a cargo ship

Saturday off the coast of Japan.

A 7th Fleet statement issued Monday morning identified them as:

■ Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, of Palmyra, Va.

■ Petty Officer 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, of San Diego.

■ Petty Officer 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, of Weslaco, Texas.

■ Petty Officer 3rd Class Ngoc Truong Huynh, 25, of Oakville, Conn.

■ Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, of Elyria, Ohio.

■ Petty Officer 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, of Chula Vista, Calif.

■ Petty Officer 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, of Hallethorpe, Md.

The collision between the Fitzgerald and the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal happened about 2:20 a.m.

Saturday, about 64 miles southwest of Yokosuka near the Izu Peninsula, a Navy statement said.

The seven sailors who now have been declared dead were missing, and three others, including the ship's commander, were medically evacuated to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson and the two injured sailors have been released, the 7th Fleet announced on its Facebook page.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, 7th Fleet commander, said Benson's living area was among many spots on the ship that received significant damage.

Tributes reveal scale of tragedy

BY SETH ROBSON

AND LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Tributes are flowing for seven Navy sailors who lost their lives when the destroyer USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship off Japan on Saturday morning.

The scale of the tragedy was revealed in news reports from hometowns all across America.

In Ohio, the Chronicle-Telegram newspaper focused on Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, who'd followed his World War II veteran grandfather into the Navy in 1998. The Elyria, Ohio, native was three months short of retirement when he lost his life, the newspaper reported.

Daniel Kahle, of Chesapeake, Va., who deployed with Rehm on the USS Ponce to the Persian Gulf during Operation Iraqi Freedom, told the newspaper that his shipmate was "one of those guys that always had a smile on his face."

"The way I feel right now is shocked," his cousin, Brad Rehm, told the newspaper.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, of Chula Vista, Calif.,

enlisted in the Navy soon after graduating from high school, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

"There was never a time that Carlos wasn't making people laugh," Chase Cornils, a fellow cadet in Chaparral High School's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, told the newspaper. "He always had a cheerful attitude and a smile on his face. When I think of Carlos, I can only remember an extremely happy guy who was willing to help all of his friends."

Sibayan felt like the Navy was his calling, Cornils told the newspaper.

"I knew he was extremely excited to join and start his career in the Navy and serve our country," he said. "He wanted to start as soon as he could."

Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, from Palmyra, Va., was a volunteer firefighter with the Lake Monticello Fire Department and a graduate of Fluvanna County High School, according to ABC8 television news.

Classmates of Petty Officer 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, of San Diego, who attended Kubasaki High School on Okinawa, remembered him as a class clown who raised spirits on the tennis team.

"His cabin was destroyed," he said. "He's lucky to be alive."

Navy officials announced Sunday that search-and-rescue efforts had been suspended and that a number of remains

had been recovered, but they declined to provide further details pending next-of-kin notification.

The sailors were found in flooded berthing compart-

ments after search-and-rescue crewmembers gained access to spaces that were damaged during the collision, the 7th Fleet said Sunday.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steve Giordano were traveling to Yokosuka on Tuesday to meet with Fitzgerald sailors and family members, Naval Forces Japan said.

The pair also plan to visit other sailors and civilian workers from the base's repair and maintenance facilities to thank them for assisting with the Fitzgerald, the statement said.

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 Marinetrac.com. It had completed its circle at roughly the same time of the reported collision, according to the data.

There were no injuries or missing personnel reported on the ACX Crystal, a Japan Coast Guard spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

The coast guard initially announced that the collision happened at 2:20 a.m. after receiving a radio report at 2:25 a.m. from the container ship's crew that the accident had just occurred, the spokesman said. However, after investigating, the coast guard now believes the collision happened at 1:30 a.m.

Coast guard official Tetsuya Tanaka told The Associated Press the agency is trying to resolve what happened during that 50 minutes.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

Dunford downplays Russia airspace warning

BY JOHN VANDIVER,
SCOTT WYLAND
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

American forces operating in Syria or its airspace are capable of defending themselves, the top U.S. military officer said Monday after Russia threatened to shoot down foreign aircraft in its area of operation in the war-torn nation.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was aware of reports that Moscow had threatened to “target” U.S. military planes flying west of the Euphrates River in Syria on the day after a U.S. Navy F/A-18E Super Hornet shot down a

Syrian warplane.

Despite the Russians’ threat to discontinue using a hotline set up to ensure flight safety over Syria, Dunford said communications between the two nations had continued as of Monday morning.

“I’m confident that we are still communicating between our operations center and the Russian Federation center,” Dunford said in Washington.

“I’m also confident that our forces have the capability to take care of themselves.”

U.S. aircraft were being repositioned Monday after concerns about the contested battle space, said Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the Baghdad-based Operation Inherent

Resolve.

“As a result of recent encounters involving pro-Syrian Regime and Russian forces, we have taken prudent measures to reposition aircraft over Syria so as to continue targeting ISIS forces while ensuring the safety of our aircrew,” Dillon said.

The Pentagon said Sunday’s strike against the Syrian fighter-bomber — a first in the 6-year-old conflict in that country — was done to protect U.S.-backed troops who were under threat from the aircraft.

Dunford said the incident occurred within the international laws of war, as an effort to protect coalition forces who are focused on fighting ISIS.

“The only actions we have

taken against pro-regime forces in Syria ... have been in self-defense,” he said. “We’ve communicated that clearly.”

The strike occurred after the Sukhoi SU-22 ground attack jet dropped bombs near U.S.-backed Syrian Defense Force fighters south of Tabqah. The aircraft “was immediately shot down by a U.S. F/A-18E Super Hornet,” the U.S. coalition said in a statement.

“The Coalition’s mission is to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria,” the statement said. “The Coalition does not seek to fight Syrian regime, Russian, or pro-regime forces partnered with them, but will not hesitate to defend Coalition or partner forces from any threat.”

Iran: Missile attack on ISIS a warning to others

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s ballistic missile strike targeting Islamic State in Syria served both as revenge for attacks on Tehran earlier this month and a warning that Iran could strike Saudi Arabia and U.S. interests, an Iranian general said Monday.

The launch, which hit Syria’s eastern city of Deir el-Zour on Sunday night, appeared to be Iran’s first missile attack abroad in over 15 years and its first in the Syrian conflict amid its support of embattled President Bashar Assad. It adds tensions in a region unsettled by a long-running feud between Shiite power Iran and the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Iran’s powerful Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary force in charge of the country’s missile program, said it launched six Zolfaghar ballistic missiles from the western provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan. The missiles flew over Iraq before striking what the Guard called an Islamic State com-

mand center and suicide car bomb operation over 370 miles away.

The Guard described the strike as revenge for attacks on Tehran earlier this month. Five Islamic State-linked attackers stormed Iran’s parliament and a shrine to revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on June 7, killing at least 18 people. But the missiles sent a message to more than just the extremists in Iraq and Syria, Gen. Ramazan Sharif of the Guard told state television in a telephone interview.

“The Saudis and Americans are especially receivers of this message,” he said.

The Zolfaghar missile, unveiled in 2016, was described at the time as carrying a cluster warhead and being able to strike as far as 435 miles away. That puts the missile in range of the forward headquarters of U.S. Central Command in Qatar, U.S. bases in the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet in Bahrain. The missile also could strike Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

US mulls new policy amid Afghanistan War setbacks

The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — As American military officials complete plans that are likely to send several thousand additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, a flurry of setbacks in the war have underscored both the imperative of action and the pitfalls of various approaches.

Further complicating the picture are questions about how to deal with neighboring Pakistan and balance separate fights against Afghan and foreign-based insurgents.

In the latest attack Sunday morning, Taliban fighters stormed a police base in southeastern Paktia province after detonating a suicide car bomb outside. At least five members of the nation’s security forces and several civilians were killed, officials said. The attack came one day after an Afghan army commando shot and wounded seven U.S. troops inside an army base in northern Balkh province.

Almost every week seems to bring alarming and embarrassing developments that cast

doubt on the ability of Afghan security forces to protect the public and make headway against the domestic Taliban insurgency and the more ruthless Islamic State. The Saturday shooting was one of several recent insider attacks that are raising new concerns about poor vetting and conflicting loyalties. Experts said attacks would be likely to increase if more U.S. troops arrive.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who was recently given authority by President Donald Trump to set troop levels in the Afghan conflict, said last week that the U.S. is “not winning” in Afghanistan and that the Pentagon will present its strategy plan next month. “We will correct this as soon as possible,” he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Analyst Michael Kugelman at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington said the new U.S. policy “can’t come soon enough, but deploying a few thousand new troops will do little to shift the calculus on the ground.”

\$500M found for 2nd LCS in '18

Bloomberg

The U.S. Navy has found \$500 million to buy a second littoral combat ship in next year's budget after scrounging that was required because the vessel was left out of the Trump administration's proposed budget sent to Congress last month.

About \$325 million will be freed up because the Navy has delayed the overhaul of an aircraft carrier that involves refueling its two nuclear power cores, according to officials who asked not to be identified. The White House will send the proposed budget amendment to Congress as soon as this week. An additional \$100 million will be shifted from the Navy's Infrared Search and Track program for installation on its F/A-18E/F fighters, and the rest from smaller programs.

The LCS, designed for mis-

sions in shallow coastal waters, has been criticized by the Pentagon's testing office, the Government Accountability Office and internal Navy studies that have questioned its costs, small crew and potential vulnerability in combat. But it retains Navy support and it would help President Donald Trump reach his pledge for a 350-ship Navy, up from today's fleet of 275 vessels that can be deployed.

Lawmakers added a third ship for the current year and are likely to support buying two in fiscal 2018 because that would guarantee shipyard work on both versions of the LCS. One is built by Lockheed Martin Corp. in Wisconsin and the other by Austal Ltd. in Alabama.

The budget that Trump sent to Congress included the Navy's request for \$636 million to buy one vessel. The White

House Office of Management and Budget informed service officials after the submission that it would support a second vessel and asked the Navy to find funding for it.

The Navy is delaying an overhaul on the USS John C. Stennis by about 10 months, "which would apparently shift the need for this funding from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2019," Ron O'Rourke, the naval analyst for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, said in an email.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's seapower panel has scheduled a hearing on Navy shipbuilding on Wednesday, when the LCS plans are expected to be discussed. In addition, the House Armed Services Committee plans to start formal work this week on its version of the fiscal 2018 defense policy bill.

Destroyer to make port call in South Korea

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A guided-missile destroyer will make a port call to the South Korean island of Jeju on Tuesday ahead of joint maritime exercises, the Navy said amid tensions with the North.

The USS Dewey sails to the island off the peninsula's southern tip after assisting in search-and-rescue efforts following the USS Fitzgerald's collision with a merchant vessel off the Japanese coast Saturday.

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is the latest in a string of U.S. warships deployed off the divided peninsula as fears have grown that North Korea is making progress in its nuclear weapons program.

The Dewey will join the HMCS Winnipeg and HMCS Ottawa "for a routine port visit and planning meeting ... prior to the navies participating in a trilateral exercise with the (South Korean) Navy," a statement said.

Naval Forces Korea declined to provide specific dates for the exercises.

North Korea objects to the presence of U.S. ships and joint military exercises, which it alleges are a rehearsal for an invasion despite Washington's insistence that the drills are defensive in nature.

"We are honored to be guests in Jeju and we look forward to training with our (South Korean) and Canadian partners," said Cmdr. Anthony Webber, the Dewey's commanding officer. "This visit is important because with each engagement, we improve our cooperation and enhance our combined defensive capabilities."

The Navy said sailors aboard the Dewey will have the opportunity for recreational and sports activities while on the volcanic island, a popular vacation spot.

Navy pilot is part of NASA's newest astronaut class

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Navy pilot based in Japan is among 12 people selected from a record 18,300 applicants to train as a NASA astronaut.

Lt. Commander Matthew Dominick, 35, who flies F/A-18 Super Hornets with the Naval Air Facility Atsugi-based VFA-115 Eagles, got the news during a patrol aboard the USS Ronald Reagan.

The new class of astronaut candidates, which includes several others with U.S. military ties, was introduced on June 7 in Houston by Vice President Mike Pence.

Dominick received a Navy commission after earning a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of San Diego. He earned a Master's of Science in systems engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

The Colorado native met the late Neil Armstrong, a fellow Navy pilot and the first man to walk on the moon, during a deployment with VFA-143 to the Persian Gulf.

After a stint as a test pilot, he joined VFA-115 in Japan last year and is in his second patrol with the Ronald Reagan. He was supposed to be with the squadron another 18 months but will head to

Houston in May to begin two years of astronaut training.

Space training includes travel to the European Space Agency, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Russia. Astronauts learn Russian as part of their training, Dominick said.

The astronaut candidates learn about the systems on the International Space Station and fly T-38 jet trainers. They practice space walks using replicas of space-station components submerged in a giant pool, he said.

Piloting the Space Shuttle, which was retired in 2011, won't be an option for Dominick, but he's excited about some of the new rockets being developed, including Space X's Dragon, Boeing's Starliner and Space Launch System's Orion spacecraft.

A trip to Mars could be the trip of a lifetime for today's astronauts.

"I believe we need to be a multiplanet species," he said. "We need to take care of the Earth, but we need to live on multiple planets. That's the best way for us to survive."

Dominick didn't speculate on the prospect of encountering green men, but he seemed open to the prospect of alien life.

"The probability of life is small on one planet, but when you multiply it by something as big as the universe it seems quite possible," he said.

London fire believed to have killed 79 people

Associated Press

LONDON — London police said 79 people are now believed to have died in the fire that swept through a high-rise apartment building last week, making it the deadliest blaze in recent British history.

Authorities increased the count Monday after spending the weekend working with families to identify all those who are missing and believed to have died inside the 24-story Grenfell Tower, as well as the five victims that have been formally identified, Metropolitan Police Commander Stuart Cundy told reporters.

Flames engulfed the building in less than an hour early on Wednesday, trapping many residents.

London police late Sunday released photos of the devastation inside the building to show why the search for victims is taking so long. The search-and-recovery operation is likely to take many weeks, and some victims may never be identified because of the intensity of the fire, Cundy said.

Driver plows into crowd outside London mosque, injuring 10

Associated Press

LONDON — In an attack that British Muslims say was aimed directly at them, a man plowed a van into a crowd of Muslim worshippers outside a north London mosque early Monday, injuring 10 people.

London police said a man has been arrested on suspicion of terrorism.

Police said another man died at the scene, although he was receiving first aid at the time, and it wasn't clear if he died as a result of the attack or of something else.

British Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the attack "on innocent people" and declared Britain would stop at nothing to defeat extremism.

"Hatred and evil of this kind will never succeed," she said in a televised statement.

Police said the 47-year-old white man who was driving the van that hit those leaving evening prayers at the Finsbury Park mosque has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. Police have not released his identity. He has been taken to a hospital as a precaution.

London Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said officers are investigating whether the death of the man getting first aid was a direct result of the attack, but it was too early to say for sure.

London police — already stretched by a series of tragedies, including a high-rise apartment fire Wednesday in which 79 people are presumed dead and a June 3 terrorism attack near London Bridge that killed seven people — said they are putting more officers on the street to reassure

the public. Muslim leaders called for calm.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim to serve in that position, urged residents to focus on their shared values and to stand together during this unprecedented period in the capital's history.

The attack on Monday hits a community already feeling targeted in the fallout from the London Bridge killings and other attacks blamed on Islamic extremists.

It also came as Muslims are celebrating the holy time of Ramadan.

"While this appears to be an attack on a particular community, like the terrible attacks in Manchester, Westminster and London Bridge, it is also an assault on all our shared values of tolerance, freedom and respect," Khan said. "The situation is still unfolding, and I urge all Londoners to remain calm and vigilant."

British security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with official policy, said hate crimes directed at Muslims have increased nearly fivefold in the wake of several attacks in Britain.

Counterterrorism officials said they were closely monitoring terrorist activity linked to far-right groups, but most of the recent attacks have been traced to individuals rather than groups.

Sky News reported that the mosque's imam prevented the crowd from beating the attacker until police arrived.

Toufik Kacimi, chief executive of the Muslim Welfare House, speaking to Sky News, said the attack clearly targeted Muslims leaving evening prayers during Ramadan.

Car rams police vehicle on Paris' Champs-Elysees

Associated Press

PARIS — A man on French authorities' radar was killed Monday after ramming a car carrying explosives into a police vehicle in the capital's Champs-Elysees shopping district, prompting a fiery blast, officials said. France's anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation.

No police officers or passers-by were hurt, the Paris police department said. It is unclear why the attacker drove into police, though officials said the incident apparently was deliberate.

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said the man was

killed after an attempted attack on a police convoy, saying that shows the threat is still very high in the country and justifies a state of emergency in place since 2015.

He said the current situation in France shows a new security law "is needed" and the measure would "maintain a high security level."

Two police officials told The Associated Press that a handgun was found on the driver, who they said was badly burned after the vehicle exploded. They identified the man as a 31-year-old man from the Paris suburb of Argenteuil who had an "S" file, meaning he was flagged

for links to extremism.

The attack was the second this year on the city's most famous avenue.

An attacker defending Islamic State fatally shot a police officer on the Champs-Elysees in April.

On Monday, police cordoned off a swath of the Champs-Elysees after the latest incident.

Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said the incident was apparently deliberate.

Police "pulled an individual out of the vehicle who had struck the car in front (of the convoy)" Brandet told reporters. "Large numbers of police

converged on the scene, firefighters to extinguish the fire."

A man could be seen lying on his stomach on the ground immediately after the incident, wearing a white shirt and dark shorts.

Eric Favereau, a journalist for the Liberation newspaper who was driving a scooter behind the gendarmes, said he saw a car blocking the convoy's path, then an implosion in the vehicle. Favereau wrote that the gendarmes smashed open the windows of the car while it was in flames and dragged out its occupant. Other gendarmes used fire extinguishers to put out the flames.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Famous flabby feline gets a new home

DC WASHINGTON — A tubby tabby named Symba needed an adoptive family — and to lay off the treats.

Happily, he's found a family. News outlets reported that the 6-year-old cat arrived last week at the Humane Rescue Alliance in Washington. WTTG-TV reported Symba tips the scales at 35 pounds. Symba's previous owner moved to an assisted living center and couldn't take him along.

The shelter tweeted Friday afternoon that Symba has been adopted. According to WJLA-TV, Symba was adopted by Kiah Berkeley and her fiancé, Peter Sorkin.

Lightning-sparked fire damages apartments

FL ORLANDO — A bolt of lightning started a fire that damaged 12 apartments in Florida.

Orlando Fire Department spokeswoman Ashley Papagni told the Orlando Sentinel that lightning struck the attic of one apartment in the complex Friday. The fire spread across the roof of the two-story apartment building. Papagni said two apartments had fire damage, six had smoke damage and four more had water damage. Eight adults were displaced by the fire. No injuries were reported.

Teens attack musical street performer

MA BOSTON — Three New Hampshire teenagers were charged with assaulting a popular street performer in Boston who plays music while dressed as a bear.

Police said "Keytar Bear" was attacked sometime around 4:40 p.m. Saturday near Fa-

neuil Hall. They said the juveniles ripped off his mask and hit him several times while yelling racial slurs at him and at witnesses who had tried to intervene.

According to police, a witness said one of the suspects slammed the musician's face into the ground and vandalized his equipment before taking off with his tips. The suspects were arrested and charged with assault and battery, affray and disorderly conduct.

Pastor searching for treasure now missing

CO GRAND JUNCTION — Authorities said a pastor from Grand Junction who has been reported missing in New Mexico was searching for a famous hidden treasure, the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reported.

The newspaper said New Mexico State Police Lt. Elizabeth Armijo confirmed that family members told authorities Paris Wallace had gone to the Espanola area to search for a chest of gold rumored to be hidden in the mountains.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel said the rough terrain around Espanola is the southernmost territory targeted by adventurous individuals seeking the treasure of Forrest Fenn, who reportedly hid a chest full of gold and jewels somewhere in the Rocky Mountains worth at least \$1 million in 2010.

Corpse flowers in bloom draw crowds

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Plant lovers in Northern California got a rare treat as two corpse flowers bloomed for the first time in 10 years.

People were flocking to the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers after it issued a "stink alert" Thursday that the giant

plant from Sumatra was beginning to unfurl its frilly purple-and-green leaf. When it's blooming, the flower emits a stench likened to rotting flesh.

The plant was donated by a San Francisco man after it began to overtake his bathroom.

Escaped inmate easy to spot in jumpsuit

SC ORANGEBURG — Authorities said a jail escapee arrested in a downtown alley was easy to spot because he was still in his jail jumpsuit.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Lt. John Fischer said the officer spotted the man who was out of place with his attire around 10:35 a.m. Friday, about eight hours after his escape from the Orangeburg County jail. Fischer told The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg that Gregory Prezzy, 33, gave up peacefully.

Authorities said Prezzy had recently been sentenced to three years behind bars for a probation violation when he was able to slip out a malfunctioning door around 2:30 a.m. Investigators said Prezzy noticed the door didn't buzz to show it was locked when a guard left.

Vessels from around world converge on city

MA BOSTON — Majestic vessels from around the globe dazzled crowds as the ships sailed through Boston's inner harbor for the first time in 17 years.

Thick fog and rain didn't deter thousands of spectators from gathering at East Boston, Castle Island and areas around Boston Harbor, where they eagerly awaited the colorful procession of tall ships, dubbed Sail Boston, on Saturday. The start of the parade, initially slated

for 9 a.m., was delayed a few hours due to safety concerns

Secret Service trains in surf to save people

NC KITTY HAWK — The surf along North Carolina's Outer Banks is the training ground for Secret Service agents learning to rescue U.S. presidents and their families.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk reported that 10 agents responsible for protecting President Donald Trump, his predecessors and their families practiced ocean rescues off Kitty Hawk last week. The nine men and one woman spent two days learning to retrieve a victim under various situations and bring them to shore. The group then moved to the Coast Guard Air Station in Elizabeth City to work with rescue swimmers, jump from helicopters and wrestle victims into rescue baskets.

Suit alleges judge's novel defamed doctor

KY LEXINGTON — A Fayette County family court judge is being sued by a Lexington doctor who says he was defamed by the judge's nonfiction novel.

The lawsuit against Circuit Court Judge Tim Philpot says a character in the book, "Judge Z: Irretrievably Broken," closely resembles Dr. Jitander Dudee, who had a divorce case in front of Philpot. The Herald Leader reported the book tells of a judge who decides to hold a hearing to see if a couple's marriage is really "irretrievably broken." Dudee argues in the lawsuit that a character in the novel, Dr. Gupta Patel, represents him, citing details such as their Hindu names and that both were jailed during their divorce proceedings.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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US Open winner took long road to first major golf championship

Associated Press

ERIN, Wisconsin — The list of places Brooks Koepka had to go to win golf tournaments looks like a page straight out of a travelogue.

Spain. Scotland. Turkey. Japan.

On Sunday, he added Erin Hills in Wisconsin to the list — the stop that made all those frequent flier miles worth it.

The 27-year-old American, who had to leave his home country and join Europe's minor-league tour to get his career going, won the U.S. Open. He set aside the wind and the pressure to subdue Erin Hills after it finally got some teeth following three rounds of soft greens and prime scoring conditions.

The wind kicked up, but it didn't faze Koepka. He shot 5-under par and made only one bogey to finish at 16-under 272. That was four shots clear of Brian Harman and Japan's Hideki Matsuyama.

The only drama at the end was whether he'd make birdie on the par-5 18th to break Rory McIlroy's scoring record in relation to par.

Koepka settled for a tap-in par, but that didn't matter. He earned \$2.16 million, his nation's

championship and the comfort of knowing the far-flung trips to Kenya and Kazakhstan and India and beyond are all in the rearview mirror.

"To get to travel the world at 22, 21 years old, and do what you do for a living is pretty neat," Koepka said. "I'll go anywhere. ... I think it helped me grow up a little bit and really figure out that, hey, play golf, get it done, and then you can really take this somewhere. And I built a lot of confidence off of that."

His confidence in the final round came, in part, from a short conversation the night before with Dustin Johnson, a friend who had been through his share of close calls and heartbreaks before finally becoming a major champion at the U.S. Open last year.

Take the shots one at a time, Johnson told him.

Turns out, they think pretty much the same. Play the same, too.

"He's going to overpower golf courses, and he's got a great demeanor," said Bill Haas, who finished tied for fifth. "He's just like Dustin, I would say. They're very much a similar player, where nothing seems to bother them. And it's no surprise."

Tied for the lead with six holes left, Koepka made an 8-foot par putt on 13 that gave him confidence in his putting stroke. He followed that up with birdies on the next three holes.

Only Matsuyama displayed that kind of scoring ability Sunday. But he started the day six shots out of the lead. His round of 66 was over

Quick hits

ERIN, Wis. — A brief look at Sunday's final round of the U.S. Open at Erin Hills:

The winner: Brooks Koepka shot a 5-under 67 to finish at 16-under 272 and match Rory McIlroy's tournament record for most shots under par.

Runners-up: Hideki Matsuyama had the low round of the day at 6 under, to finish in a second-place tie with Brian Harman at 12 under.

Star search: Neither Rickie Fowler nor Justin Thomas threatened Koepka. Fowler finished at 10 under, in a tie for fifth place. Thomas followed his 63 on Saturday with a 75 and tied for ninth.

See ya next year: Qualifiers Xander Schauffele and Trey Mullinax finished in the top 10 and get an automatic entry into next year's U.S. Open.

U.S. three-peat: Koepka is the third straight American champion of the U.S. Open, following Jordan Spieth and Dustin Johnson. It's the first time since 1998-2000 (Lee Janzen, Payne Stewart and Tiger Woods) that Americans have won three straight.

Key statistic: Though wind made Erin Hills play tougher Sunday than any of the three previous days (1.926 shots above par), 31 players still finished the tournament under par, a U.S. Open record.

Noteworthy: Koepka is the seventh straight first-time major winner. That's the longest streak since nine straight from the 2010 U.S. Open through the 2012 U.S. Open.

Next year: Shinnecock Hills, June 14-17, 2018.

— Associated Press

nearly 90 minutes before Koepka strolled to the 18th green, with the tournament all but wrapped up.

"I learned a lot this week," Matsuyama said. "Hopefully, though, in the future, in majors, I can play in the either last or next-to-last group to give myself a better chance."

Other than him, nobody made a charge.

Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas were the popular favorites. But Thomas followed his record-setting 63 with a 75, and his hopes were essentially dashed after three bogeys over the first five holes. Fowler shot 72 and finished at 10 under, in a tie for fifth. It's a score that would've won all but two of the previous 116 renditions of the U.S. Open.

But not this one.

George puts Indy on notice

Associated Press

The Indiana Pacers' timeline for making a decision on star forward Paul George just kicked into overdrive.

George's camp has informed the Pacers that the four-time All-Star intends to leave in the summer of 2018 when he becomes a free agent, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday night. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because neither side publicly discusses unresolved personnel matters.

George has spent all seven of his NBA seasons in Indiana, emerging as one of the league's top players. He averaged a career-high 23.7 points and shot 46 percent last season, but the seventh-seeded Pacers were swept by Cleveland in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. The steady decline in competitiveness of the franchise, and LeBron James' dominance of the conference, has led George to look elsewhere as he nears free agency next summer.

The Pacers' chances of keeping George also took a big hit when he was not voted to one of the three All-NBA teams after this season. Had he been voted in, George would have qualified for a super-max contract worth about \$210 million over five years, a staggering sum that may have been too much to turn down. Instead, the Pacers are able to offer him around \$177 million.

George's declaration puts the Pacers on the spot. They can either try to trade him this summer in hope of getting a package of players and draft picks that can at least help them try to make up for the loss of a foundational star, or they can try to keep him for this season, make some other moves around him to improve the roster and hope they can change his mind.

Arenado caps cycle with three-run homer

Associated Press

DENVER — With one dramatic swing, Nolan Arenado gave the Colorado Rockies a thrilling victory and finished off his rare feat at the plate.

Arenado completed the cycle with a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Rockies stunned the San Francisco Giants by rallying for a 7-5 win Sunday.

Arenado hit the first pitch he saw from All-Star closer Mark Melancon (1-2) into the left-field seats to cap a four-game sweep. The slugger was mobbed at home plate by teammates, with a frenzied sellout crowd chanting “MVP! MVP!”

“It’s probably one of the best moments in my career,” Arenado said. “I’ve hit some big homers but by far the best, obviously, for the cycle. I’ve never done it. I feel like I’ve been kind of close but I’ve always needed a triple and I ain’t getting that. Today is a great day.”

Arenado became only the fifth player in major league history to complete the cycle

by hitting a game-ending home run. The last to accomplish it was teammate Carlos Gonzalez, who did it on July 31, 2010, against the Chicago Cubs, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

“I remember watching Carlos do that,” Arenado said. “Now I know how he feels.”

With the best record in the National League, the surprising Rockies (46-26) have won five straight overall and nine in a row against the Giants. They are 20 games above .500 for the first time since 2009.

“The fans and the people of Denver are starting to get a hint that we’re for real,” Arenado said.

Colorado had a 3-2 lead in the top of the ninth but gave up three runs to trail 3-5 before scoring four in the bottom half.

Pinch-hitter Hunter Pence connected on a go-ahead homer for last-place San Francisco, which has dropped six consecutive games and nine of 11.

Melancon retired his first batter, but three singles produced a run and brought up Arenado, who tripled in the first, sin-

gled in the fourth and had an RBI double in the sixth. He hit a 91 mph fastball for his 15th homer and first career cycle.

“I was ready first pitch and I was just trying to get the ball to the outfield, really,” Arenado said. “Luckily, I got a pitch middle-in and I was able to do some damage with it.”

It was his second game-ending homer in the majors and the eighth cycle in club history.

Carlos Estevez (4-0), called up from the minors before the game, struck out one batter in the ninth for the win.

Trevor Story and Pat Valaika went deep in the seventh to give Colorado a 3-2 edge after Brandon Crawford’s two-run homer in the fifth put the Giants ahead.

Rockies reliever Jake McGee came on in the ninth but issued a one-out walk to Gorkys Hernandez. Pence hit an 0-1 fastball into the left-center seats for his first career pinch-hit homer, and Crawford added an RBI single later in the inning.

MLB roundup

Bogaerts’ homers lift Price, Red Sox over Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — David Price wasn’t great on Sunday night, and he didn’t have to be. The best strike Boston threw to home plate came from left field, anyway.

Xander Bogaerts went deep twice for the first multihomer game of his career and had four RBIs, Andrew Benintendi threw out a runner trying to score and the Red Sox beat the Houston Astros 6-5.

Bogaerts had just two homers entering Sunday’s game. He ended an 0-for-14 skid when he connected off Joe Musgrove (4-6) to make it 1-0 with two outs in the first inning.

A two-run shot by Bogaerts in the sixth put the Red Sox up 3-2. Jackie Bradley Jr. added a two-run double later that inning.

The Astros cut the lead to 6-5 on an RBI single by Carlos Beltran with one out in the eighth inning. Jose Altuve was thrown out at home on that play by Benintendi, and then Yuli Gurriel struck out looking to end the

inning and was ejected after arguing the call.

An inning later, catcher Christian Vazquez caught Houston’s Derek Fisher stealing to end the game.

“Bogey offensively is the difference in this one, but our ability to throw the baseball on the defensive side is what preserved this win tonight,” manager John Farrell said.

Indians 5, Twins 2: Edwin Encarnacion homered twice, Trevor Bauer pitched seven strong innings and Jose Ramirez had his sixth straight multihit game as Cleveland completed a four-game sweep at Minnesota.

Dodgers 8, Reds 7: Logan Forsythe and Justin Turner homered, Kenta Maeda (5-3) pitched five strong innings and drove in two runs, and Kike Hernandez made a spectacular game-saving catch as visiting Los Angeles held on to beat Cincinnati.

Cubs 7, Pirates 1: John Lackey and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and

Anthony Rizzo homered among his three hits to lead visiting Chicago past Pittsburgh.

Orioles 8, Cardinals 5: Ubaldo Jimenez was stellar in his first start since May 22, Mark Trumbo homered for the second consecutive day and host Baltimore beat St. Louis.

Athletics 4, Yankees 3: Khris Davis hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the third that held up to back rookie Jharel Cotton’s first win since May 4, and host Oakland completed a four-game sweep of slumping New York.

Diamondbacks 5, Phillies 4 (10): Rey Fuentes hit his first major league home run in the 10th inning, lifting visiting Arizona over Philadelphia.

Brewers 2, Padres 1: Jimmy Nelson struck out 10 in his first career complete game and host Milwaukee got home runs from Hernan Perez and Manny Pina to edge San Diego.

Rays 9, Tigers 1: Logan Morrison homered twice and Steven Souza Jr. hit his first career grand slam as visiting

Tampa Bay beat Detroit to split a four-game series.

Mariners 7, Rangers 3: Kyle Seager drove in three runs with three doubles, Christian Bergman pitched effectively into the sixth inning and visiting Seattle beat Texas.

Mets 5, Nationals 1: Jacob deGrom hit his first major league home run and shut down a bruising Washington lineup on three singles for eight dominant innings, giving host New York a win that prevented a four-game sweep.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 3: Kendrys Morales and Russell Martin each homered to help host Toronto beat Chicago.

Braves 5, Marlins 4: Brandon Phillips’ single drove in Johan Camargo from third base in the ninth inning to give host Atlanta a win over Miami.

Royals 7, Angels 3: Jason Vargas earned his 10th win, most in the majors, and Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer as visiting Kansas City beat Los Angeles.

College World Series roundup

Faedo dominant as Gators shut out TCU

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The Detroit Tigers' brass must have been smiling after the performance Alex Faedo put on at TD Ameritrade Park. The Florida Gators sure were.

Faedo limited TCU to two singles and struck out 11 in seven innings Sunday night, and Florida posted its first College World Series shutout since 1991 with a 3-0 win.

The Tigers' first-round draft pick this month had at least one strikeout each inning and retired 10 in a row before turning the game over to closer Michael Byrne to start the eighth.

"There have been historic great pitchers come through, Rosenblatt and now TD Ameritrade, and tonight has to go down as a great, great performance in the College World Series history," TCU coach Jim Schlossnagle said.

Faedo, who mixed his slider with a mid-90s fastball during his dominant 106-pitch performance, has been part of seven of the Gators' nine shutouts this season. This shutout was Florida's second in its 36 all-time CWS games and first in Omaha since a 5-0 win over Florida State 26 years ago.

TCU's Jared Janczak (9-1) struggled in his four innings. Byrne worked out of two mini jams and earned his 17th save.

JJ Schwarz, Christian Hicks and Nelson Maldonado each drove in runs for the Gators (48-18).

Florida is in the CWS for the sixth time in eight years and TCU (47-17) for the fourth year in a row. This was the first time they've met.

Louisville 8, Texas A&M 4: Louisville had an early five-run lead against Texas A&M and national player of the year Brendan McKay was on the mound in Omaha. It should have been game over, right?

"We knew Texas A&M wasn't going to fold," coach Dan McDonnell said.

The Aggies didn't. They pulled within a run in the sixth inning before Sam Bordner shut them down with three innings of no-hit relief, and the Cardinals went on to win.

"It wasn't the best game of the year, but we understand now — as we've seen two on TV and played in one — that these games aren't always the cleanest," McDonnell said. "There's too much competition. Everybody is playing too hard. It's not supposed to be smooth and easy."

The Cardinals (53-10) used six singles and a walk to build a 5-0 lead in the second inning against Corbin Martin (7-4). Texas A&M chipped away against McKay (11-3) to make it 5-4 before Bordner entered and continued to flash his postseason domi-

nance. The sophomore has given up no runs and one hit in his last 11 innings over four appearances.

"I think Sam's been the X factor, a little under the radar," McDonnell said. "When you're in that first out-of-the-bullpen or middle relief role, it's just not as sexy, and you don't get as much attention. But clearly Sam's been hot all year."

With Bordner doing his thing, the Cardinals added two runs in the bottom of the sixth and another when Colby Fitch doubled in the eighth for his fourth RBI.

Louisville had gone 0-5 over its last three appearances in Omaha. The Aggies (41-22) have lost seven straight CWS games and face going two-and-out for the third straight time.

"Very proud of our guys finding themselves down 5-0 after two," Texas A&M coach Rob Childress said. "From that point on you have to be perfect to have a chance to beat McKay and to beat a team like Louisville, and we certainly had a shot."

McKay lasted five innings, matching the shortest outing of the season by the first college player taken in the draft. The No. 4 overall pick by Tampa Bay allowed four runs on eight hits. He walked two and struck out six.

Larson holds off Elliott on late restart

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Three times, Kyle Larson needed to outrace the rest of the contenders on late restarts.

That's a task he's proven he can handle at Michigan International Speedway.

Larson took control on a restart with five laps remaining and held off Chase Elliott on Sunday for his second NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season. The finish was similar to the race at Michigan last August, when Larson took the lead on a restart with nine laps left en route to his first Cup win.

Larson won this year at Fontana and has five second-place finishes. He also was second in the All-Star race, which doesn't count in the standings.

"We've been so close to so many other wins," the 24-year-

old Larson said. "This is our second Cup win of the year, but we've had six second-place finishes. All in all, it's a good season so far and we'll continue to keep building on what we've got."

It was the third Cup win of Larson's career and 14th by Chip Ganassi Racing. Elliott was second in both Michigan races last year, and again this time. He's winless in 56 career Cup races, but he's fifth in points in 2017.

"We had a couple of opportunities to get the lead, and unfortunately, it just didn't work out, but we'll move on. Congratulations to Kyle," the 21-year-old Elliott said. "He had a fast car today and we'll try to go get 'em next week."

Joey Logano finished third. He beat Elliott in last June's

race at MIS. Then Elliott was leading the August race comfortably before a yellow flag gave Larson a boost.

This time, there were three cautions toward the end. The first was for debris, and Larson beat Kyle Busch on the inside for the lead on the restart with 15 laps to go.

Then Clint Bowyer went into the wall, bringing out another caution flag. Larson was first off that restart too, only to be slowed by another caution after a multicar incident on the backstretch that included Danica Patrick being knocked off the track and into the wall.

Finally, with five laps remaining, the race restarted, and Larson took the lead on the outside. He won by 0.993 seconds in his No. 42 Chevrolet.

Martin Truex Jr. won the

first two stages of the race but finished sixth, ceding the points lead to Larson. Truex has 10 stage victories this year. Nobody else has more than four.

Truex and Larson were 1-2 in the points standings coming into the race, and Truex was second to Larson in qualifying Friday. Their dominance carried over to the race Sunday, at least at the start. They were the only drivers to lead during the first half of the 200-lap, 400-mile race.

Denny Hamlin, who won Saturday's Xfinity event, finished fourth Sunday, followed by Jamie McMurray and Truex. Busch ended up seventh, followed by Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jimmie Johnson, who started at the back after going to his backup car, finished 10th.