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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Crewmembers tell of C-130H experience as replacement C-130Js arrive in Japan

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The 36th Airlift Squadron's old C-130H Hercules cargo planes seem to know their time in Japan is coming to an end.

The more-than-40-year-old aircraft began acting up when a pair of sleek, new C-130J Super Hercules visited Yokota last year and flew laps above the western Tokyo air base.

"The H-models started constantly breaking," loadmaster Senior Airman Tony Schoof said before a recent airdrop mission near Mount Fuji. "It was like the H's knew that the J's were coming and didn't want to work for us anymore."

Yokota got its first Super Herc last month and will have 14 by year's end. The old planes will be sent to Air National Guard units in the states.

Each Super Herc needs two fewer crewmembers thanks to automated navigation and engineering systems, and its Rolls-Royce engines provide more power, fuel efficiency and range. Still, the old aircraft holds a special place in the hearts of those who have crewed it.

Schoof, 25, of Yale, Mich., recently boarded a Herc known only by its tail number — 74-1659 — for one of its last missions in Japan before flying to its new home at Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, Ohio, in May.

A maintainer kissed the nose of the aircraft for good luck, and the Vietnam War-era plane's engines powered it west over the mountains beyond Tokyo.

Herc crews aren't assigned to individual aircraft. They fly whatever plane is ready. Most Hercs are known simply by tail number, but each has its own

character.

The only Yokota Herc with a name is called "Damian" because its serial number ends with 666, a reference to the horror movie of that name. That doesn't mean the aircraft is evil, though. "You have got to trust her and love her," Schoof said of Damian. "She will always get the mission done for you."

Each of the planes is slightly different and crews get to know their personalities, said Capt. Sarah Affalter, 32, a Yokota-based C-130H navigator from Lawrence, Kan. "They're old planes, so you know if I'm on this tail, this gauge always acts funny," she said.

The old Herc she and Schoof were on passed Mount Fuji and banked north around Japan's rugged east coast. Crewmembers went about their duties in the cockpit and the cargo hold filled with switches, cables and things that need to be adjusted on the go. Mechanical controls on the old planes are replaced by computers and digital systems on the Super Hercs.

"It is more hands-on" on the H-model, Schoof said.

From Fuji to Fiji

Herc 74-1659, launched in 1974, has been all over the Pacific during a decade at Yokota, participating in almost 1,500 sorties and drills in places like Alaska and Guam, dropping supplies to Micronesian islanders and bringing personnel, equipment and aid to Nepal after the 2015 earthquake.

Schoof has been on many of those missions and rated Operation Christmas Drop, an annual drill in which the Hercs parachute aid to isolated Pacific islands, the coolest thing he's done during two years in Japan.

"It's real-world, humanitarian and something we train for all the time," he said.

Flying in the Philippines during last year's Balikatan exercise was another highlight that included a stop at Clark Air Base, which was America's largest overseas facility before U.S. forces withdrew in 1991.

"You're going to an abandoned base. It's kind of cool seeing all the old buildings," Schoof said.

Mount Fuji filled the cockpit windows as the plane approached a rural drop zone, where the crew planned to launch a weighted pallet by parachute from the rear ramp.

The route was preplanned, but Affalter checked altitude, airspeed, wind strength and direction to make sure the drop was as accurate as possible.

Herc navigators stay alert during missions. "If we are off what we had planned, it's my job to recalibrate in flight," she said. "Sometimes we are a minute out from the release point and I'm making minor adjustments as we go."

Affalter expects to be the final navigator to leave Yokota when the last H-model leaves the base later this year. She isn't sure where she'll end up.

Crew community

The active-duty Herc community is a small one with planes based in Little Rock, Ark.; Dyess, Texas; Ramstein, Germany; and Yokota, which has the last H-models in the active-duty fleet.

Airmen from other units sometimes recognize Hercs they flew on more than a decade ago when they stop over at their bases, Schoof said.

A Yokota crew recently de-

livered a special plane to an Air National Guard unit in Ohio. Senior Airman Jeremy Jutba-Hake died of a heart attack after flying on the aircraft during Operation Christmas Drop in 2015, said Schoof, who wears a patch with the late airman's name on it.

"Jutba went to high school in Ohio, and we got to take his plane there, and it is going to continue the mission," he said.

The airdrop near Fuji was the last time Tech Sgt. Dusty Surber, 35, will serve as a flight engineer on a Herc.

The Townsend, Tenn., native, whose job is done by computer on the new plane, is heading to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., to fly on KC-10 refuelers.

He calculates aircraft performance based on payload and atmospheric conditions. In Nepal, for example, altitude limited performance, said Surber, who also participated in an earthquake-relief mission last year in Kyushu, Japan.

The Herc was flying low and straight when it reached the drop zone. It took microseconds for a brown chute to drag the cargo out of the plane to start its slow descent to the ground.

That airdrop mission was closer to home than some of the places Surber has flown on the Herc. He's been to Thailand, Indonesia, Guam, Bangladesh, Australia, Hawaii, the Philippines, Wake Island and Alaska.

The lack of automation on the planes means that the crew relies on one another to stay safe, he said.

"We have issues from time to time, but there are four engines," he said of the C-130H. "It's old technology, but it's good technology."

4th Marines mark anniversary of Corregidor battle of WWII

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CORREGIDOR, Philippines — Seventy-five years after the 4th Marine Regiment was virtually wiped out on Corregidor, members of the present-day unit have returned to mark the anniversary of the epic World War II battle.

On May 6, 1942, the island fortress in Manila Bay fell to Japanese forces, who had overcome resistance on the Bataan Peninsula a month earlier. The fall of Corregidor — not recaptured until 1945 — marked America's defeat in the Philippines and the Far East.

Eight hundred members of the 4th Marines, boosted by thousands of soldiers, sailors and Filipino troops, fought a bloody battle to hold the island. However, after tanks landed and the enemy prepared to overrun a U.S.-built tunnel complex sheltering wounded troops, Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, commander of U.S. and Filipino forces, surrendered.

Before they laid down their arms, the Marines burned their regimental colors, said 4th Marines commander Col. Kevin Norton, who brought 40 of his Camp Schwab, Okinawa-based Marines to Corregidor to mark the anniversary.

"We're here today to keep the story alive," he told the young Marines and a group of Americans and Filipinos gathered Saturday at the Pacific War Memorial dome. "The Marines who fought on Corregidor didn't carry the day, but their example inspired an entire generation which eventually would see victory in World War II, and it continues to inspire us today."

No Corregidor veterans made it back this year, but Norton visited one of them last month in Omaha, Neb. Warren Jorgenson, 96, was a private with Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, when he was shot in the hip and had to crawl off the line to seek aid from a Navy corpsman.

Told he was bleeding out, Jorgenson made his way toward shelter in the tunnel complex.

He survived capture, a trip to Japan in a hell ship and working in a mine as a POW, said Norton, who has been telling the veteran's story to his troops.

The modern-day 4th Marines spent two days hiking jungle trails and crawling through tunnels on Corregidor to get an idea of what their predecessors experienced.

4th Marines operations officer Maj. Jose Pereira, 48, of Boston, said there aren't many maps or plans that survived the battle, so exploring the island with the help of amateur historians was enlightening.

The battle for Corregidor was far more intense than most missions Marines do nowadays, the Afghanistan veteran added.

"The Japanese just bombed the hell out of [Corregidor] with aircraft," Pereira said.

American naval guns on the island were useless against the planes. U.S. forces in other parts of the Pacific, reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbor, couldn't help the trapped Marines on Corregidor, Pereira said.

Airman's photos are stolen for online scam

BY SETH ROBSON
AND MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The first hint that Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sam Aldrich was an unwitting player in a Facebook military romance scam was a doctored image of him with a Filipina woman he had never met.

Aldrich — a cybersecurity airman stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas — discovered in March that a scammer had obtained photos posted before 2014, when his Facebook profile was less secure.

The con artist, apparently based in the United Arab Emirates, used the images to create a fake account in the name of "Fred Aldrich," then posed as a U.S. airman to woo women overseas and trick them into sending money.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command warns people involved in online dating to proceed with caution when corresponding with those claiming to be U.S. soldiers serving overseas.

Ken Scar, 48, a reserve Army staff sergeant, discovered that his photos were being used in the scams when he got a late-night call from a woman who had fallen for one of them in 2014.

Since then he's found more than 120 fake Facebook profiles that combine his photographs with false identities.

"I don't have anything to hide, so I left my Facebook wide open," Scar said.

His mistake had opened the door to scammers in Pakistan and Nigeria to steal his photos. Last month, Scar made public a Facebook album of fake profiles and hopes it can help combat the scams.

Store gets backlash for copying, sexualizing Army gear

BY LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

An online army appears to have achieved victory after declaring war on Forever 21's new line of military-themed women's clothing.

The popular clothing chain recently removed some Army-inspired items from its website after people posted negative comments.

The items, priced from \$25 to \$40, were inspired by military physical fitness uniforms. A replica of the Army's gray PT shirt with an added slit down the back drew its share of fire.

"This is distasteful and offensive, taking part of an Army

uniform, cutting it up, and selling it for a 400 percent profit," one woman wrote on Forever 21's Facebook page. "Men and women put their lives on the line, honoring and defending our freedom, and have EARNED the right to wear these shirts."

Other people offered to take scissors to their own gray PT uniforms, which can no longer be worn after Sept. 30, and sell them for less than Forever 21's versions. A few male commenters submitted photos of themselves imitating images on the website after cutting up their old PT shirts.

The "Army Choker T-shirt dress" drew the most outrage.

The black garment, which

strongly resembles the Army's new physical fitness shirt but with gray lettering instead of gold and a V-shaped cleavage-revealing cutout, was marketed with the slogan: "Now you can sneak out of his barracks in style!"

Another person wrote: "Your recent release of clothing is unbelievable. You have taken the Army shirt and cut it up and hyper sexualized it, setting us female service members, wives of service members, and girlfriends of service members back hundreds of years of progress."

Forever 21 didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Feds fight suits over alleged sex abuse

The Kansas City Star

Lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by a former health care provider at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Leavenworth, Kan., are piling up, and an attorney for many of the plaintiffs said the federal government is putting up an unusual fight against the suits given the circumstances.

"They are definitely fighting hard on behalf of the VA," Dan Curry said.

Curry is one of several attorneys representing dozens of military veterans who are suing the U.S. government and Mark Wisner, a former physician as-

sistant at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center.

Wisner is facing criminal charges of aggravated sexual battery and sexual battery in Leavenworth County District Court, after his April 3 court date was delayed to Aug. 28.

As of Friday, there were 37 federal lawsuits pending against Wisner and the government. Curry said he has enough cases in the works to push the number past 50.

Under the federal tort claims act, all the plaintiffs had to be denied an administrative settlement by the VA before they could take their case to court.

Curry said the U.S. Attorney's Office has filed to have at least 10 of the suits dismissed.

Curry said that's not unusual in lawsuits against private-sector employers, but it is unusual for a government agency with a former employee who has been criminally charged.

"It's rare in civil litigation to have a wrongdoer sitting in a jail waiting for his trial and then have the United States continuing to press a dissent," Curry said. "He did these acts ... and I think these veterans are all very credible, but what we're up against is just a battery of technical arguments."

Curry said the VA's potential liability should become clearer soon, as a trove of discovery documents is due to arrive soon.

The criminal charges against Wisner allege that he committed sexual abuse against patients between 2012 and 2014.

He voluntarily surrendered his license to practice as a physician assistant in February 2015. In doing so, he signed documents agreeing to the Kansas Board of Healing Arts' finding that he had "used his position ... to commit sexual battery crimes against veteran patients."

Price defends plan to cut Medicaid by almost \$1T

Associated Press

BRANCBURG, N.J. — Cutting nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid will give states the freedom to tailor the program to suit their needs, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said Sunday as he defended a narrowly passed House bill that aims to undo parts of the health care law enacted by the previous administration.

The bill's passage buoyed President Donald Trump, but the measure appeared headed for an overhaul in the Senate. Mick Mulvaney, Trump's budget director, said the House bill is unlikely to be the version that clears the Senate and ends up in front of the president.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, a moderate Republican whose vote will be critical in getting a bill to Trump's desk, voiced concerns about potential higher costs for older people and those with pre-existing conditions. She said the House bill was difficult to assess overall because it passed without an updated analysis by the Congressional Budget Office on how the measure would affect health care costs and coverage.

Collins said she expected the Senate would come up with a

"whole new, fresh approach" to replacing the Affordable Care Act, enacted under President Barack Obama.

The CBO's analysis highlighted an \$880 billion cut to Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for the poor and the disabled. The Obama-era law expanded Medicaid with extra payments to 31 states to cover more people. The House bill halts the expansion, in addition to cutting federal spending on the program.

But Price insisted Sunday, "There are no cuts to the Medicaid program," adding that resources were being apportioned "in a way that allows states greater flexibility."

Price said the changes will make sure that people who rely on Medicaid get the care and coverage that they need.

The House bill, passed 217-213, would end the law's fines on people who don't buy policies and would erase its taxes on the health industry and higher-earning people. It would dilute coverage requirements, like prohibiting higher premiums for customers with pre-existing medical conditions. The measure also would water down the subsidies that help consumers afford health insurance.

Trump gives some unions the red carpet treatment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says labor unions have an open door to his White House, but he's holding the door a little more ajar for some organizations than others.

Trump has put out the welcome mat for the nation's construction trades, with whom he's had relationships during decades of building office towers and hotels. Also invited in have been auto, steel and coal workers who backed him during the 2016 election.

But there's been no White House invitation for other unions representing the sprawling but shrinking pool of 14.6 million workers who collectively bargain with employers in the labor movement.

He has not courted all union leaders or advocated for all labor priorities. For example, he's against a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and has let linger a rule expanding overtime pay. Much like President Ronald Reagan did, Trump is pursuing not so much a labor agenda but one that appeals to those who share his "Buy American, Hire American" priorities and happen to be union members.

The White House says the president is "open to meeting

with various individuals and groups on how to improve the lives of all Americans."

But even among unions with favored status, there's skepticism about if he's for workers or the executives who hire them.

Trump got some boos and hisses during his address to the building trades union. And United Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones, with whom Trump feuded, raises an eyebrow at the talk coming from the White House.

"I don't think from our perspective, he's a friend of the working class person," Jones said, noting Trump's tax plan would benefit the president, and Trump campaigned on "getting rid" of a long-standing free trade deal with Canada and Mexico. "Trump always had some kind of relationship with the building trades. But for regular manufacturing? This is not a good time for working people."

Trump is picking and choosing among labor unions at a vulnerable time for the movement in American politics. Union membership declined 240,000 in one year to 10.7 percent of the workforce in 2016, about half as much as when the Census Bureau began collecting such statistics in 1983.

Philippines: Bomb part of feud; ISIS: it was attack

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A bomb explosion that killed two people in a Muslim community in Manila was sparked by a personal feud, Philippine police officials said Sunday, but Islamic State claimed its fighters were responsible.

Police said a package being delivered by a man exploded late Saturday in downtown Manila's Quiapo district, killing him and another man receiving it at a Shiite center. Police said four others were wounded.

Another explosive, either a homemade bomb or a grenade, went off more than two hours later near the scene of the first blast and wounded two policemen deployed to help secure the area and to investigate the bombing, according to authorities.

Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said the bombing apparently was set off by a personal feud, adding the package that contained the explosive was intended for a specific person who may have been the target of the attack.

Through its Aamaq media arm, ISIS claimed responsibility for the Quiapo explosion.

Polarized France votes for leader

The Washington Post

PARIS — After months of improbable twists in its campaign to pick a president, France hurtled toward a choice Sunday with voters opting between a far-right firebrand who wants to deconstruct modern Europe and a centrist political neophyte who has promised to revive it.

Under clouds and a cool spring rain across much of the country, voters from the chic cafe neighborhoods of Paris to the struggling postindustrial towns of the French countryside made their way to polling stations.

Pre-election surveys showed centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron enjoying a wide lead over populist challenger Marine Le Pen. But following a campaign studded with surprises, France was braced at least for the possibility of one more.

"I'm anxious," said Sylvie Dartigues, 47, a professional coach who cast her ballot amid the vaulted ceilings of Paris's 17th-century Place des Vosges, a former royal residence that also was home to Victor Hugo. "I absolutely don't want Marine Le Pen to be president. She represents everything that's against my values: racism, intolerance and no real plan for the country."

Ninety miles away, in the small northern city of Laon, Lionel Abenton, 66, said he had voted for Le Pen because she wants to crack down on immigration and shows "loyalty to the French people."

She also stands up to globalization, which, waving his hand down main street as he enumerated the stores that have closed, Abenton blamed for the decline of the city that has been his home all his life. "It's Europe that decides," he said ruefully.

Across France, voting was sluggish compared with previous elections. About 65 percent of the country had cast ballots by 5 p.m., down from the presidential contests in 2007 and 2012, when turnout at that hour was above 70 percent.

Polls in most places close at 8 p.m. local time, or 3 p.m. Eastern time. Exit polls, which have been accurate in past elections, are expected soon after balloting ends.

The election in a country beleaguered by chronically high unemployment and recurrent mass terrorist attacks will end in a historic decision no matter whom the majority among tens of millions of French voters select.

Both of the dominant two parties of France's Fifth Republic have been eliminated. Each of the two candidates who remain, Le Pen and Macron, has traced an outsider's path in seeking residence at the Elysee Palace.

Le Pen, 48, is the second-generation leader of a party long relegated to the French political fringe but now maneuvering to the heart of the country's unhappy political discourse with its attacks on immigration and the European Union.

Macron, 39, is a former investment banker and economy minister who bucked his ex-boss, President Francois Hollande, and launched a pro-European, pro-globalization movement that aims for the radical center by borrowing freely from both left and right.

His campaign has had to overcome all the usual challenges of a startup, plus some extraordinary ones — including the publication online Friday night of thousands of hacked campaign documents in a cyberattack that aroused suspicions of Russian meddling.

The outcome of Sunday's vote will have profound implications not only for France's 67 million citizens, but also for the future of Europe and for the political trajectory across the Western world.

Europe's powers-that-be are desperately hoping that France ignores Le Pen's siren call to take her country out of both the euro and the European Union. Her victory would be considered a possible death blow to decades of efforts to draw Europe more closely together.

82 Chibok girls freed for Boko Haram extremists

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — The 82 freed Chibok schoolgirls arrived in Nigeria's capital on Sunday to meet President Muhammadu Buhari as anxious families awaited an official list of names and looked forward to reuniting three years after the mass abduction.

The newly released girls arrived at the Abuja airport and were met by the Buhari's chief of staff, said presidential adviser Femi Adesina. The president was expected to meet with the schoolgirls later in the day.

The girls were freed Saturday in exchange for an unspecified number of detained suspected Boko Haram extremists,

Buhari's office said in a statement.

This is the largest negotiated release so far of the nearly 300 girls whose abduction in 2014 highlighted the threat of Nigeria's homegrown extremists who are linked to Islamic State. Before Saturday's release, 195 of the girls had been captive. Now 113 of the girls remain unaccounted for.

A first group of 21 girls were released in October as Nigeria announced it had begun negotiations with the extremist group. At the time, the government denied making an exchange for Boko Haram suspects or paying ransom.

The girls released in October have been reported to be in government care in Abuja for medical attention, trauma counseling and rehabilitation, according to the govern-

ment. Human rights groups have criticized the decision to keep the girls in custody in Abuja, nearly 560 miles from Chibok.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which along with the Swiss government mediated months of negotiations between Nigeria's government and Boko Haram, said the newly released girls soon would meet with their families.

The ICRC also tweeted what might be the first public image of the freed schoolgirls Sunday, showing a line of young women wearing shirts with the ICRC logo waiting to board a helicopter.

The ICRC said it had acted as a neutral intermediary to transport the freed girls into Nigerian government custody.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State to get 1st marker noting KKK terrorizing

SC YORK — The first historical marker in South Carolina to mention the Ku Klux Klan was unveiled Sunday at a York County church.

The plaque at Allison Creek Presbyterian Church discusses how the KKK terrorized Elias Hill and more than 150 other freed slaves during Reconstruction. There were beatings and lynchings.

The marker says Hill and the others eventually left the area for Africa.

County historian Michael Scoggins told The Herald of Rock Hill that it is the only official historical marker in South Carolina to reference the Klan and how it terrorized blacks.

Report: Sheriff's pilots poach fire rescue calls

CA SANTA ANA — Orange County officials said Sheriff's Department helicopters have been poaching rescue calls sent to the Fire Authority in a costly and potentially dangerous turf war.

The Orange County Register said that on April 29, a sheriff's pilot refused a direct order to stand down and allow a Fire Authority helicopter to rescue a 17-year-old boy from a beach cave. Instead, the sheriff's chopper airlifted the teen.

County Supervisor Todd Spitzer said he's met several times with the sheriff and the fire chief to discuss the issue, but it continues.

Doctor ordered to share phone passcode

MA WORCESTER — A former University of Massachusetts doctor charged

with photographing a woman in a bathroom stall has been ordered by a judge to share his cellphone passcode.

The Worcester Telegram reported the lawyer for Dr. Marcus Cooper is planning to file a motion to ask the judge to reconsider the order.

Cooper is facing charges after a 26-year-old medical student told campus police she saw a cellphone come over the stall door and heard the click of a picture being taken.

Campus police said Cooper told them he was texting and emailing when he accidentally walked into the women's restroom. Cooper has pleaded not guilty.

Live alligator found in suspects' vehicle

AR LITTLE ROCK — Little Rock police arrested three men and accused them of stealing a live alligator from a downtown nature center.

The three were charged early Thursday with commercial burglary, theft of property and criminal mischief. One also faces a charge of fleeing.

Police said that after the burglary at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, officers found the 3-foot-long alligator beneath a seat in the men's car. Still missing Thursday afternoon was a replica of a western diamondback rattlesnake.

Smitten with mistress, elected official jailed

MI NORTHPORT — An elected official in a small northern Michigan town is serving a 90-day jail sentence after he was accused of forging documents to impress an overseas mistress.

Charles Rogers is a member of the village council in Northport. Authorities said he created divorce documents with forged signatures of court officials and sent them to a woman in London.

The Traverse City Record-Eagle said the woman contacted Rogers' wife, who reached out to police. Rogers pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and began a jail sentence in February in Leelanau County.

Teen arrested over pot brownies at school

MA PLYMOUTH — Police in Massachusetts say a 13-year-old middle school student was arrested after giving marijuana-laced brownies to several classmates who became sick and were taken to the hospital.

Plymouth police said the boy was charged Friday with possession of marijuana and distribution.

School officials said five male students, ages 13 and 14, ate the brownies that morning at Plymouth South Middle School. They began having adverse reactions and were taken to the nurse, who sent them to the hospital for examination. The students are expected to be OK.

Unregistered contractor jailed over swindling

WA SEATTLE — An unregistered contractor was sentenced for accepting down payments for window installation for windows he didn't purchase.

The Washington state Department of Labor and Industries said April 28 that Bradley Tiehen, 43, of Edmonds was sentenced to eight days in jail and must repay three victims

nearly \$19,000.

The judge suspended 354 days of jail on conditions including that Tiehen not work as a contractor unless he registers with the state.

Tiehen pleaded guilty to two gross misdemeanor counts of unregistered contracting and had other charges dismissed as part of a plea deal.

Tree falls across 2 campers, killing girl

PA KIRKWOOD — Authorities say a tree fell across two campers in a Pennsylvania campground, killing a 10-year-old girl in one of the vehicles.

LNP newspapers reported that emergency crews in Lancaster County were called to Oma's Family Campground in Colerain Township on Sunday.

Quarryville fire chief Joel Neff said emergency personnel had to cut the tree and the camper to reach the trapped girl, but found her unconscious and not breathing. Neff called it "a freak accident."

Officer mistakenly shoots mother bear

NV INCLINE VILLAGE — Authorities say a Nevada sheriff's deputy accidentally shot a mother bear who was found with her three cubs in a neighborhood near Lake Tahoe.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office said the deputy intended to shoot a rubber round to scare the bear away but fired off a live round instead.

The wounded adult bear was taken to a veterinarian for evaluation and treatment.

Authorities said the bears were spotted near homes in Incline Village in Nevada.

From wire reports

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Always Dreaming splashes to victory

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A trainer and jockey accustomed to success. A headstrong horse with a mind of its own. Together, they harnessed their collective talents to win the Kentucky Derby.

Always Dreaming splashed through the slop for a 23/4-length victory Saturday, giving Todd Pletcher and rider John Velazquez their second victories in the race but their first together.

The New York-based duo has teamed up often over the years and is the sport's leading money winners. On their own, they were a combined 2-for-63 coming into America's greatest race.

Joining forces, they were unbeatable on a cool and rainy day at Churchill Downs.

"We have had a great relationship for a long time now, and we have won a lot of races together," Pletcher said. "This is the one we wanted to win together."

Sent off at 9-2 odds, Always Dreaming made it the fifth straight year that a Derby favorite has won, equaling the longest stretch since 1892-1896.

He was followed across the finish line by a pair of long shots: 33-1 Lookin At Lee and

40-1 Battle of Midway.

Always Dreaming ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:03.59 on the first off-track since Orb won in 2013. He paid \$11.40, \$7.20 and \$5.80.

"This is the best horse Todd and I have ever come to the Kentucky Derby with," Velazquez said. "Being behind me for 24 years together, a long time for him to still trust in me and give me the opportunity, it's not very often it happens in this business."

Lookin At Lee returned \$26.60 and \$18.20, while Battle of Midway was another five lengths back in third and paid \$20.80 to show.

Pletcher won his first Derby in 2010 with Super Saver; Velazquez won the following year with Animal Kingdom.

Going into his 17th Derby, Pletcher saddled the post-time favorite for the first time. Much had been made of his 1-for-45 Derby record.

"It's becoming a little more respectable now," said Pletcher, whose 48 starters tied D. Wayne Lukas for the most in Derby history. "It felt like I really needed that second one."

Velazquez used his colt's speed out of the gate to get good position early in a chaotic start that saw several horses, including Mc-

Craken and Classic Empire, banged around. He steered Always Dreaming into an ideal trip behind pacesetter State of Honor, with mud flying in all directions on a surface that resembled creamy peanut butter.

"We got wiped out at the start. McCracken came and nearly knocked us," said Mark Casse, who trains Classic Empire. "The track is impossible."

On the final turn, Always Dreaming took command as State of Honor faded. Despite chasing a quick early pace, Always Dreaming was still full of run. No other horses threatened him down the stretch and Velazquez furiously pumped his right arm as they crossed the finish line.

"I got a good position with him early and then he relaxed," Velazquez said. "When we hit the quarter pole, I asked him and he responded. He did it himself from there."

Pletcher had his hands full in the days leading up to the Derby when the colt's behavior was less than a dream.

"I think he really came in here and knew it was game time, and he was ready to go," Pletcher said. "The most important thing to do is bring the best horse to the Derby, and that's what we were able to do."

US gold medalist bobsledder Holcomb dies

Associated Press

Steven Holcomb was simultaneously ordinary and remarkable.

America's best bobsled pilot was a self-described computer geek who would rub elbows with Hollywood stars. He was never exactly in the best of shape, yet was a world-class athlete. He attempted suicide years ago, then revealed his story with hopes of helping others. He was a man who nearly went blind, then became an Olympic gold medalist.

His life was the epitome of a bobsled race, filled with twists and turns.

It came to a most unexpected end Saturday in Lake Placid, N.Y., when he was found dead in his room at the Olympic Training Center — sending shock waves through the U.S. Olympic community, and devastating those who had known Holcomb for the entirety of his

two-decade career in sliding.

The three-time Olympian, three-time Olympic medalist and five-time world champion was 37.

"The only reason why the USA is in any conversation in the sport of bobsled is because of Steve Holcomb," said U.S. bobsled pilot Nick Cunningham, who roomed next to Holcomb in Lake Placid. "He was the face of our team. He was the face of our sport. We all emulated him. Every driver in the world watched him, because he was that good at what he did. It's a huge loss, huge loss, not just for our team but for the entire bobsled community."

No cause of death was immediately announced. However, officials said there were no indications of foul play after the preliminary parts of an ongoing investigation were completed. USA Bobsled and Skeleton said it was believed Holcomb died in his sleep.

An autopsy was scheduled for Sunday. Funeral arrangements are expected to be finalized in the coming days.

"USA Bobsled and Skeleton is a family and right now we are trying to come to grips with the loss of our teammate, our brother and our friend," federation CEO Darrin Steele said.

Holcomb was a native of Park City, Utah, and his signature moment came at the 2010 Vancouver Games when he piloted his four-man sled to a win that snapped a 62-year gold-medal drought for the U.S. in bobsled's signature race.

Holcomb also drove to bronze medals in both two- and four-man events at the Sochi Games in 2014, and was expected to be part of the 2018 U.S. Olympic team headed to the Pyeongchang Games.

"The entire Olympic family is shocked and saddened by the incredibly tragic loss today of Steven Holcomb," U.S. Olympic

Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said. "Steve was a tremendous athlete and even better person, and his perseverance and achievements were an inspiration to us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve's family and the entire bobsleding community."

Holcomb was still one of the world's elite drivers, finishing second on the World Cup circuit in two-man points and third in four-man points this past season.

The final victory of his career was last December in Lake Placid. He won 60 World Cup medals in his career, 10 more at the world championships and three in the Olympics, making him one of the most decorated pilots in the world.

Holcomb was an Eagle Scout and served as both a member of the Utah Army National Guard and the Army World Class Athlete Program.

Bellinger leads Dodgers over Padres

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — At some point Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger will cool off. Won't he?

"It's crazy," Bellinger said. "But I'm going to keep my foot on the gas pedal and go from there."

Bellinger hit a grand slam and drove in five runs, and Los Angeles beat the San Diego Padres 10-2 on Saturday night.

Clayton Kershaw (5-2) allowed a run and five hits in 7¹/₃ innings, striking out nine and walking four.

But it was Bellinger stealing the spotlight again, as he continues his torrid pace.

"It's amazing," Kershaw said.

Bellinger, who went deep twice in Friday's win, hit his first career slam in the Dodgers' five-run ninth. He has five homers and 14 RBIs in 11 games since he was called up on April 25.

"He's just got such a good feel," Dodgers

manager Dave Roberts said. "It's on the bases, playing defense and at the plate."

Bellinger's slam came on a 95 mph 0-2 pitch that was somewhere around his neck.

"I haven't seen too many people put a barrel on that, let alone hit a home run," Kershaw said. "It was pretty impressive what he is doing. He's just an all-around good baseball player. It's pretty special."

Padres manager Andy Green couldn't believe Bellinger got on top off Miguel Diaz's offering.

"The pitch that Bellinger hit out, up above his head practically, you tip your cap on that swing," Green said.

It was the second time Kershaw defeated the Padres this season as he improved his career-mark against them to 16-6. In his last six starts against San Diego, he is 4-0 while giving up three runs in 40²/₃ innings.

The Dodgers beat the Padres for the fifth time in six games, a span in which

they have outscored them 41-14.

Ryan Schimpf had a pinch-hit solo homer in the eighth off Kershaw, and Jabari Blash scored with two outs in the ninth on third baseman Justin Turner's throwing error.

Clayton Richard (2-4) gave up five runs and seven hits while striking out five with a career high-tying six walks.

"I think it's one of the most disappointing outings I've had," Richard said. "I didn't attack the strike zone much. I put us in bad situations."

The Dodgers scored three runs in the fourth inning on four singles and a walk. Bellinger's single scored Turner. Franklin Gutierrez scored on Austin Hedges' erratic throw on a failed pickoff attempt at third, and Yasiel Puig finished the scoring by driving in Bellinger with a soft single to center.

Los Angeles extended the lead to 5-0 in the fifth on Enrique Hernandez's two-run double into the left-field corner.

Ex-Cub Castro helps Yankees top Chicago

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Starlin Castro got the ball back from his long drive in the fourth inning.

They used to keep his home-run balls in the bleachers at Wrigley Field. Not so much anymore.

Castro drove in three runs against his former team, Aaron Hicks tied a career high with four hits and the New York Yankees pounded Brett Anderson and the Chicago Cubs 11-6 on Saturday night.

"To come back here and hit a homer is pretty fun," Castro said. "It feels really good to come in here and compete against my ex-team."

Hicks connected for a three-run homer in the eighth inning as the AL East leaders (19-9) earned their fourth straight win, extending their surprising start. Jordan Montgomery (2-1) pitched into the seventh for his first road win in his fifth major league start.

"As guys come in, they're doing the job," manager Joe Girardi said. "We don't ever know where the offense is going to come, but you feel it'll come from more than just one spot in the order."

Castro, a three-time All-Star with the Cubs before he was traded to the Yankees in December 2015, hit an RBI double in New York's five-run first. He drove a 3-1 pitch from reliever Felix Pena deep into the bleachers in left for a two-run shot in the fourth, giving the Yankees an 8-0 lead.

As per the custom on visiting home runs at the Friendly Confines, a fan threw the ball back on the field.

"I spent really good times in Chicago, now I feel good," Castro said. "I feel good here."

Nationals 6, Phillies 2: Ryan Zimmerman homered, drove in three runs and led Washington over host Philadelphia.

A.J. Cole (1-0) allowed a run in six innings in his first start of the season and helped the Nationals win their fourth straight game.

Indians 3, Royals 1: Carlos Santana and Francisco Lindor hit back-to-back home runs with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Cleveland over host Kansas City.

Kelvin Herrera (1-1) gave up the home runs in a span of three pitches. Santana took a 2-0 pitch out to right-center. Lin-

dor hit his eighth, which landed in the Indians' bullpen.

Pirates 2, Brewers 1 (10): Josh Harrison singled home Giff Ngoope with one out in the 10th inning to lift host Pittsburgh.

Mets 11, Marlins 3: Asdrubal Cabrera doubled to spark a five-run first inning against fill-in starter Odri-samer Despaigne (0-1), then joined host New York's long injury list when he hurt his left thumb and was forced to leave a rout of Miami.

Orioles 6, White Sox 5: Dylan Bundy pitched six effective innings to earn his fourth straight victory, Trey Mancini homered and drove in three runs and host Baltimore beat Chicago.

Rockies 9, Diamondbacks 1: Tyler Anderson matched a career high with 10 strikeouts, Mark Reynolds homered for the second consecutive game and host Colorado routed Arizona.

Reds 14, Giants 2: Adam Duvall, Patrick Kivlehan and Eugenio Suarez each hit a solo home run in the first three innings, and host Cincinnati set a season high in runs for the second straight game with a rout of San Francisco.

Mariners 8, Rangers 2: Danny Valencia drove in two during host Seattle's seven-run seventh inning.

The Mariners sent 11 batters to the plate during their biggest inning of the season, getting five hits, a walk and a hit by pitch.

Red Sox 11, Twins 1: Rick Porcello pitched seven sharp innings and got some rare run support for his first victory since Opening Day, and Chris Young homered twice to lead Boston over host Minnesota.

Athletics 6, Tigers 5: Adam Rosales hit a two-run single off closer Francisco Rodriguez with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting host Oakland.

Angels 2, Astros 1: Andrelton Simmons singled in a run with one out in the ninth inning, helping host Los Angeles break a three-game losing streak.

Cardinals 5, Braves 3: Mike Leake won his fourth straight decision, Matt Carpenter and Matt Adams homered and St. Louis beat host Atlanta.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 1: Logan Morrison and Colby Rasmus hit two-run homers and Jake Odorizzi pitched seven strong innings for host Tampa Bay.

Durant powers Warriors to 3-0 lead

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Golden State Warriors gave another big example why they signed Kevin Durant during the offseason, and why others around the NBA were dismayed with the addition.

Durant had 38 points and 13 rebounds and the Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 102-91 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

The Jazz played their best game of the series and kept three All-Stars in relative check, but the former MVP put on a show.

"That's one of the reasons why we welcomed him here,"

Warriors acting coach Mike Brown said. "It's tough to try to control a guy who's 7 feet that can play out on the perimeter and have the ball. Especially when he's as good as he is in the pick-and-roll game."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr did not travel with the team as he continues to deal with back issues. He was at Duke University on Friday seeing a specialist and owner Joe Lacob told Bloomberg Radio that Kerr had a "spinal cord leak" procedure on his back.

Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson were a combined 7-for-29 from the field and 3-for-15 from three-point range, leaving Durant to lead the

Warriors.

The Jazz led 75-74 early in the fourth quarter, but the Warriors went on a 10-4 run and never trailed again. Curry and Durant hit back-to-back threes to give Golden State a 92-84 lead with 3:04 left.

"I'm going to try to say this as humble as I can, but I've been doing this for so long," Durant said, "and every time I get out the bed and we have a game that day, I feel like I can go out there and score. It's the other things that I try to do — defensively, helping my teammates, get them open shots, moving, setting screens.

"Scoring and stuff is not easy, but it's what I do the best. When

I try to do the other things ... I feel like it opens up my scoring a little bit more."

Curry finished with 23 points on 6-for-20 shooting.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 29 points. Rudy Gobert added 21 points and 15 rebounds.

Game 4 is Monday night in Utah.

"Myself and the other 19,000 people in the arena and everybody watching on TV saw the same thing I saw," Curry said. "(...) We're smart enough basketball players to know what's going on at that moment and try to make the right decision and let a talented scorer like he is ... let him do what he does."

Capitals avoid elimination with rally in third

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was quiet in the Washington Capitals' locker room during the second intermission as they stared down the prospect of the end of their season and last best chance at a Stanley Cup potentially being 20 minutes away.

A few minutes into the third period, the players made their home rink very, very loud.

Nicklas Backstrom changed the course of the game with the tying goal and Evgeny Kuznetsov and Alex Ovechkin scored 27 seconds apart as the Capitals came back to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 in Game 5 Saturday night to avoid elimination. As Sidney Crosby gave the Penguins a boost with a return from his latest concussion, Braden Holtby had his strongest performance of the season, stopping 20 shots to help force a Game 6 back in Pittsburgh on Monday night.

"After second: 'No panic, nobody talk a lot because everybody concentrate and that's what we need,' Ovechkin said. 'You see how we respond.'"

On the brink of elimination and trailing a Pittsburgh team that went 37-1-1 in the regular

season and 6-0 in the playoffs when up after two periods, the Presidents' Trophy-winning Capitals finally responded like the Cup contenders everyone thought they should be. With the slogan "Own the big moments" a reminder of how they didn't do so a year ago in their second-round loss to the Penguins, Washington's best players came to play when the moment was its biggest.

"That's just what we need in these tight games," said Andre Burakovsky, who scored the tying goal in the first period and had another good game after replacing Ovechkin as the top-line left winger. "We need our best players to step up and do the hard work and be the difference makers. I think that's what they were tonight."

In the process, the Capitals finally solved Pittsburgh goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, who allowed four goals on 32 shots after putting up a .937 save percentage in the first four games of the series. The three third-period goals came on five shots over a span of 5:02, including Kuznetsov's goal from a super-sharp angle.

"They finish first in the league, there's a reason for it,"

Fleury said. "The last [win is] always the hardest to get. Disappointing but move on."

Capitals players said there was no shortage of belief despite being down 2-1 after two on Penguins goals by Carl Hagelin and Phil Kessel, and Game 5 following a similar script of more shots but fewer goals. Now there's no shortage of belief about getting the series back to Washington for a potential Game 7 on Wednesday.

"We came back and hopefully we build off this now," said Backstrom, who executed a perfect give-and-go with Burakovsky on his goal. "You've just got to win on Monday. Same scenario as today. We've just got to take one game at a time and you have to reset here and, hopefully, we can get some confidence off this win."

Senators 5, Rangers 4 (OT): Kyle Turris scored 6:28 into overtime to lift host Ottawa to a 3-2 series lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Derick Brassard tied the score with 1:26 left in the third period for the Senators. Mark Stone, Mike Hoffman and Tom Pyatt also scored and Craig Anderson stopped 29 shots. It

was Ottawa's fifth overtime win of the postseason, including a double-overtime victory here in Game 2.

Jesper Fast, Nick Holden, Ryan McDonagh and Jimmy Vesey scored for the Rangers, and Henrik Lundqvist finished with 32 saves.

Michael Grabner appeared to win it for the Rangers less than 5 minutes into overtime, but it was disallowed because his redirection came on a high-stick.

Turris then knocked in the rebound of his own shot through Lundqvist's five-hole to put the Senators one win away from returning to the conference finals for the first time since 2007.

Game 6 is Tuesday in New York.

Ottawa trailed 2-0 less than 5 1/2 minutes into the game, before scoring three times to take the lead midway through the second period. McDonagh tied it for the Rangers late in the second and Vesey gave them the lead with 7:12 remaining in the third.

With Anderson pulled for an extra skater, Brassard tied it with the puck deflecting in off the back of Rangers defenseman Brandon Smith's right skate.