

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## DOD extends Texas Guard border mission

BY ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — A deployment expected to end Monday was extended into November for 1,000 Texas National Guard troops serving along the U.S.-Mexico border, Pentagon officials said Thursday.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved the extension Sept. 16 at the request of the Department of Homeland Security, said Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell, a Pentagon spokesman.

“The request was simply an extension to the mission already being carried out by the Texas National Guard, and covers all aspects of it, to include

the number of troops,” he said.

About 750 of the soldiers provide operational, logistical and administrative support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection at two tents used as adult migrant holding facilities. One is located in the Rio Grande Valley city of Donna and the other is in Tornillo, near El Paso in west Texas.

Migrants are supervised by DHS law enforcement personnel, Mitchell said.

The remaining Texas National Guard members provide port-of-entry enforcement support at CBP-designated U.S. entry points and airports in Texas to enhance border security and improve the flow of

commercial traffic.

Officials at the Texas Military Department said soldiers will return from this mission, which is separate from the other missions conducted by National Guard troops at the border, on or about Nov. 15. The other mission, known as Operation Guardian Support, stretches across the southern border and is approved through the end of fiscal year 2020, Mitchell said.

Nearly 5,000 servicemembers are serving along the southern border in addition to the 1,000 Texas National Guard members, according to information released last month by the Pentagon. That includes

about 2,900 active-duty troops and 2,000 National Guard members.

The deployments began as a way to help Border Patrol agents deal with an increase in apprehensions along the southern border.

In May, more than 144,000 people were arrested at the border, according to data from CBP. They were primarily migrants from South and Central America seeking asylum. In August, apprehensions dropped to about 64,000 — the third consecutive month to have a decrease. Data on September apprehensions has not been released.

## US-Turkey patrols continue in Syria amid arguments

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. and Turkey conducted their third joint ground patrol in Syria on Friday even as disagreements between the two NATO allies over how to operate in the area have brought threats from Turkish leaders to launch a unilateral military intervention on its southern border.

Turkish and U.S. forces began conducting combined ground patrols in September to satisfy Ankara's calls for a buffer zone cleared of Kurdish militias.

“The two militaries are already executing concrete steps to address Turkey's security concerns,” U.S. European Command said in a statement announcing the most recent patrol.

The patrol comes three days after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lashed out at the U.S. for not doing enough to meet Ankara's demands for a more expansive safe zone in northern Syria. Erdogan wants the zone along its 300-mile border to extend about 20 miles inside Syria.

Turkey, which aims to settle some 2 million Syrian refugees in the safe zone, had called for an agreement to be reached by

the end of September, but Washington and Ankara remain at odds over how deep the zone should reach into Syria.

“We have not achieved any of the results we desired ... Turkey cannot lose even a single day on this issue. There is no other choice but to act on our own, east of the Euphrates,” Erdogan said Tuesday at a parliamentary ceremony in Ankara.

The U.S. agreed to the joint patrols in hopes they would reduce tensions with Turkey, a key NATO ally, and protect Kurdish militia fighters.

While the U.S. views Kurdish People's Protection Units that have operated near Turkey's border as key to fighting Islamic State militants, Ankara regards the group as a terrorist organization. The buffer area was a way for the U.S. to recognize Turkey's concerns and attempt to reduce the chances of direct conflict between Kurdish and Turkish forces.

The Syrian government, which is locked in a protracted civil war, has called for both countries to withdraw from inside its borders.

Syrian forces have the right to take countermeasures if they refused, the country's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem

warned last week at the United Nations in New York.

U.S. and Turkish forces have been working out of a joint operations center in the southern town of Akcakale, where troops plan their patrols and how to maneuver across the border in an area the U.S. describes as a “security mechanism” rather than “safe zone,” as the Turks call it.

The patrols have been “very, very effective,” U.S. European Command's Gen. Tod Wolters told Pentagon reporters Wednesday. “But we've still got a long ways to go. There's still lots of consultations ongoing and we expect this relationship to continue into the future. And we'll continue to improve with each and every subsequent patrol.”

The U.S. relationship with Turkey has been increasingly strained, not just over how far the safe zone should project into Syria, but also because of Erdogan's close ties to Moscow and Turkey's recent acquisition of Russia's sophisticated S-400 air defense system. The U.S. responded by kicking Turkey out of its F-35 fighter program and canceled plans to sell the aircraft to the long-time NATO ally.

# Navy ceases shave waivers for those with razor bumps

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy will no longer issue permanent shaving waivers for sailors diagnosed with razor bumps because whiskers can hinder the effectiveness of breathing devices, the service announced Friday.

“First and foremost, this change is about safety of our sailors and reducing the risk to mission and risk to force,” Rear Adm. Jeffrey Jablon, director of the Navy’s military personnel plans and policy division, told reporters Wednesday at the headquarters for the Navy’s chief of personnel in Arlington, Va.

Pseudofolliculitis barbae, or more commonly known as razor bumps, is caused when curly beard hair curves back into the skin after being shaved, causing inflammation. Servicemembers are required to shave every day, so troops susceptible to razor bumps will be affected,

Lt. Cmdr. Adam Cole, a spokesman for the chief of navy personnel, wrote in an email.

Of the more than 337,000 sailors in the Navy, about 6,000 each year are treated for the condition, according to Cmdr. Thomas Barlow, a dermatologist at Naval Medical Center San Diego. The Navy only tracks how many people are treated for the condition and not how many permanent waivers are issued, he said.

The condition occurs predominantly in African American men and is treatable, according to Navy documents. Treatment includes applying creams and allowing for sailors with shaving waivers, or “no-shave chits,” to grow out their beard hair not longer than one-quarter inch in length.

The change in policy regarding razor bumps, which goes into effect immediately, was prompted after two reviews by the Naval Safety Center — one in 2016 and then another in

2018 — to validate the original review’s findings. The research concluded beard hairs are a “personnel safety risk” for face seals of devices such as respirators, Jablon said.

The 2016 review looked at several studies and regulations for respirators. Research found the proper use of a respirator required a tight-fitting face seal of the device, and facial hair was shown to interfere with a proper seal.

The study also noted people who have razor bumps “will have (a) difficult time achieving a satisfactory fit-test due to the ‘non’ smooth nature of their skin.”

Sailors who previously received a permanent waiver must undergo a medical re-evaluation and new treatment plan within the next six months, according to the Navy.

Sailors will now only be able to obtain a temporary shaving waiver to help manage the skin condition.

## USNA: Stop throwing food, drinks at games

*Capital Gazette*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The U.S. Naval Academy is asking fans, alumni and others to stop throwing food and drinks at midshipmen as they march to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium ahead of home football games.

The request was made in a letter sent to alumni and posted on social media.

Naval Academy spokeswoman Cmdr. Alana Garas said the academy has asked fans to stop over the years but the tradition, which started with midshipmen handing out candy to children, has “gotten a little more than what it should be,” she said. In recent years, the tradition has expanded to include throwing or handing out larger food items like pretzels and hotdogs.

“We are still appreciative of what our fanbase is wanting to do and provide our mids with snacks,” Garas said. “We want our mids to engage with the public.”

## Dems: Food stamp changes would negatively impact vets

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Veterans could be disproportionately harmed by potential changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, Democratic House lawmakers argued Wednesday.

President Donald Trump’s administration is proposing changes to SNAP that would result in an estimated 3 million people losing food assistance — a savings of \$2.5 billion each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thirty-nine lawmakers signed a letter Wednesday to

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, arguing the veterans on SNAP could be negatively affected.

“(The) USDA should be doing more to increase SNAP participation for veterans who experience food insecurity, rather than proposing new restrictions that worsen hunger among those who have made great sacrifices for our country,” they wrote.

Rep. Mike Levin, D-Calif., orchestrated the letter. He’s chairman for the subcommittee on economic opportunity, which is part of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. It was also signed by Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of

the full committee.

The Democrats asked the USDA to send information about how many veterans would be impacted by the changes.

They cited a 2018 study from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a progressive think tank, that found nearly 1.4 million veterans live in households that receive food assistance. Florida was found to have the highest number of participating veterans at 120,000. Oregon had the highest percentage of its veterans on SNAP, with 13 percent.

Democrats also cited a study from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2015 that found high food insecurity among

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

“Previously undocumented, the problem of hunger among our newest veterans deserves attention,” the VA wrote at the time.

In July, the USDA first proposed to remove what the agency described as a “loophole” that allows states to raise the income level for food assistance eligibility. The federal policy, known as “broad-based categorical eligibility,” gives states flexibility to consider local economic factors.

Perdue said in a statement that the policy “has been used to effectively bypass important eligibility guidelines.”

# GI hailed for El Paso acts arrested for desertion

BY NEIL FOTRE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Fort Bliss, Texas, soldier who was hailed as a hero for saving children during the El Paso mass shooting was arrested Thursday for desertion, according to police.

Pfc. Glendon Oakley, 22, was arrested at about 2:19 a.m. by the Harker Heights Police on the 500 block of Central Texas Expressway, just outside of Fort Hood, Texas, according to a police report. Oakley was detained on a “military desertion warrant” issued by Fort Hood, which is more than 500 miles

east of Fort Bliss and is located near the town of Killeen, Texas.

Oakley grew up in Killeen, while his father was stationed at Fort Hood, according to a report by KWTX-TV.

Article 85 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice defines desertion as “any member of the armed forces who without authority goes or remains absent from his unit, organization, or place of duty with intent to remain away therefrom permanently.” Contrary to being absent without leave, or AWOL, desertion characterizes the servicemember as intending to remain absent. AWOL is a

temporary status in which the soldier is likely to return. A soldier’s status must be upgraded to desertion from AWOL after a predetermined amount of time has passed since the servicemember was originally reported as AWOL.

In August, during the mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Oakley was shopping at a nearby store in the Cielo Vista Mall, according to media reports at the time. A young child ran up to Oakley to inform him that there was a shooter at the Walmart. Oakley had said he heard gunfire and immediately went into combat mode, grabbing as many children as he

could to escort them to safety. Oakley was credited as a hero for escorting people to safety.

Oakley joined the Army in October 2017.

He is an automated logistics specialist assigned to 504th Composite Supply Company, 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade. Oakley has been deployed to Kuwait and returned months before the mass shooting in El Paso.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

## Academy classmates share poses with astronaut back

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

Air Force Lt. Col. Nick Hague was welcomed back to Earth from the International Space Station on Thursday by a phrase that’s familiar to him and his fellow Air Force Academy class of 1998 alumni: “We’re waiting on a classmate.”

The phrase describes “one of the ‘fun’ things at the academy,” said Kevin Divers, who put together the welcome-home video featuring himself and others from his graduating class waiting for Hague, academy-style.

“If one of your classmates was not present for formation, you would end up doing some physical activity while chanting, ‘We are waiting for our classmate,’ until they showed up,” Divers said by phone Wednesday. “So I decided to reach out to our classmates and get some ‘waiting for our classmate’ pictures for Nick, and found that the class of ‘98 is doing some pretty extraordinary things all over the world, not just in orbit.”

Forty-seven of Hague’s classmates sent in photos. Two had become U.S. citizens while he was in space, Divers said. One coached the under-18 U.S.

girls’ volleyball team to a world championship win.

A classmate from Estonia who now leads NATO’s cybersecurity division was at a training session with Olympic athletes. Images came in from Djibouti, Afghanistan, Malta and one undisclosed location.

The video, which can’t be shown for copyright reasons, shows the alumni doing push-ups and other physical tests like the “watching TV” pose, in which airmen assume the plank position, “resting on elbows, hands under chin, and when asked to change channels, you reach out and mime turning a TV knob,” explained Divers.

Some of Hague’s classmates held signs saying, “Waiting for my classmate, Nick.”

Hague’s classmates also sent him a message to mark his birthday in late September, which he celebrated on the ISS.

“We did this because, as a class, we wanted to show our support for him and let him know how much he is inspiring us and many, many more,” said Divers, who along with the others is still waiting for their classmate to return to Houston, which he is expected to do in the coming days.

## VA’s cemetery projects delayed, run over budget

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is at least \$17 million over budget and years behind schedule on projects to build new veterans cemeteries, a federal watchdog reported this week.

The National Cemetery Administration, part of the VA, plans to create new cemeteries across the country to provide veterans with “reasonable access” for burial — meaning that state or national cemeteries are within 75 miles of veterans’ homes. About 8% of the country’s veterans don’t have reasonable access, especially in rural areas, the VA said. The agency missed its goal of reducing that to 4% by the end of 2017, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released Tuesday.

The GAO found the VA “has made limited progress in implementing its plan to create burial access and is years behind its original schedule for opening new cemeteries.”

In one instance, a cemetery planned for San Francisco was set to open in 2015 but was pushed back until 2027, the report shows. A cemetery planned for Elko, Nev., was supposed to

be completed in 2017, but the VA now says only that it would open “in a future year.”

Other delayed projects are in Los Angeles; New York City; Indianapolis; Chicago; Rhineland, Wis.; Twin Falls, Idaho; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Machias, Maine; and Cedar City, Utah. The VA recently completed a new cemetery in Fargo, N.D., that was delayed five years.

Officials with the National Cemetery Administration told the GAO they “overstated” their expectations to complete the projects in 2017 and cited a lengthy process for requiring land, and designing and constructing the cemeteries.

The GAO also found issues with the VA’s cost estimates. The agency estimated seven rural cemetery projects would cost \$7 million total. By August 2018, the estimates had increased to nearly \$24 million.

In response to the report, Pamela Powers, VA chief of staff, wrote that she disagreed with the GAO. The National Cemetery Administration “has made significant progress in this regard,” Powers wrote. An estimated 503,961 more veterans will have access to state or national cemeteries by fiscal 2022, she said.

# Diplomats pushed Ukraine on Biden probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top U.S. diplomats encouraged Ukraine's newly elected president to conduct an investigation linked to Joe Biden's family in return for a high-profile visit with President Donald Trump. It soon escalated into what one diplomat feared was a "crazy" swap that risked vital U.S. military aid.

That's according to a cache of text messages released late Thursday by House investigators following a 10-hour interview with one of the diplomats, Kurt Volker, who stepped down as special envoy to Ukraine amid the Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

Trump said Friday the White House is preparing a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi formally objecting to the impeachment inquiry without an official vote.

He acknowledged that Democrats in the House "have the votes" to begin a formal impeachment inquiry, but said he is confident they don't have the votes to convict in the GOP-controlled Senate.

The pages of text messages released

Thursday lay out the raw contours of a potential quid-pro-quo exchange — Trump gets his political investigation of a top Democratic rival in return for granting a favor to Ukraine.

The text messages convey a distinct campaign among the three diplomats, who — apparently against some of their stated better judgment — appear to be trying to help Ukraine reset its relationship with Trump by pushing his interest in investigating his Democratic rival and the 2016 election.

Volker, in a text message on the morning of a planned July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, wrote: "Heard from White House — Assuming President Z convinces trump he will investigate / "get to the bottom of what happened" in 2016, we will nail down date for visit to Washington."

An adviser to the Ukrainian president appeared to go along with the proposal, which entailed investigating Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company where Joe Biden's son Hunter served on the board.

"Phone call went well," wrote Andrey Yermak in a text to Volker later that day after the two presidents spoke. Yermak suggested several dates when Trump and Zelenskiy could meet in September.

But all that planning started to unravel when Zelenskiy's aide tried to lock in a date for the Trump meeting before putting out the statement on the investigations.

"Once we have a date we will call for a press briefing, announcing upcoming visit and outlining vision for the reboot of US-UKRAINE relationship, including among other things Burisma and election meddling in investigations," Yermak wrote two weeks later.

"Sounds great!" texted Volker.

Volker and the two other diplomats — William "Bill" Taylor, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, and Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union — discussed the statement Zelenskiy would issue in support of the investigation. As the negotiations progressed, Sondland said Trump "really wants the deliverable."

# Supreme Court to hear La. abortion law case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is adding an abortion case to its busy election-year docket, agreeing to take up a Louisiana law that could leave the state with just one clinic.

The justices won't hear arguments until

the winter and a decision is likely to come by the end of June, four months before the presidential election.

The high court in February indicated it would take a thorough look at the case when it agreed to block the law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have

admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The Louisiana law is virtually identical to a Texas law the Supreme Court struck down in 2016, when Justice Anthony Kennedy was on the bench and before President Donald Trump's two high court picks, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

# Airman credited with helping after Conn. B-17 crash

Associated Press

An airman with the Connecticut National Guard who was aboard a B-17 bomber that crashed at an airport helped other passengers escape the flames by using his fire-resistant gloves to open a hatch, officials said.

Seven people died when the plane, which had 13 people on board, crashed and burned after experiencing mechanical trouble at Bradley International Airport in Connecticut on Wednesday morning. Chief Master Sgt. James Traficante, command chief for the 103rd Airlift Wing and a trained C-

130 loadmaster, was trained in handling aircraft emergencies and brought his military-issued gloves on the flight. He was treated at a hospital and has been recovering at home, the Guard said Thursday in a statement.

Among the dead in the crash were the pilot of the plane, Ernest McCauley, 75, of Long Beach, Calif., who had more than 7,000 hours of experience flying a B-17. McCauley had flown for over 20 years with the educational group that owned the World War II-era plane and was also its safety officer, according to the National Trans-

portation Safety Board.

Five passengers were killed along with McCauley and the co-pilot, Michael Foster, 71, of Jacksonville, Fla., according to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Among the passengers killed was Gary Mazzone, 60, of East Windsor, Conn., who was a history and military buff, according to his son, Daniel Mazzone.

The wife of Robert Riddell, an insurance company analyst from East Granby, Conn., said she was devastated by the loss of her husband. Robert Riddell had posted a photo from inside

the plane just before takeoff.

Debra Riddell was at the airport and watched with dread as the plane struggled.

The other passengers killed in the flight were James Roberts, 48, of Ludlow, Mass.; David Broderick, 56, of West Springfield, Mass.; and Robert Rubner, 64, of Tolland, Conn.

The flight engineer, Mitchell Melton, 34, of Dalhart, Texas, survived with injuries. Five other passengers on the plane were injured along with Andrew Sullivan, 28, an airport employee who was on the ground near the site of the accident.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Deputy delivers baby after pulling over car

**FL** NAPLES — Officials say a Florida deputy who pulled over a car for speeding ended up delivering a baby instead of writing a ticket.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office posted on its Facebook page that Deputy Robert Pounds helped deliver the baby girl on the side of a Naples road early Tuesday morning.

Authorities say Pounds spotted a car doing 63 mph in a 45 mph zone and initiated a traffic stop. He approached the car, and the driver told him that his wife was in labor. As the baby's head crowned, Pounds called for an ambulance and grabbed a blanket from his patrol vehicle.

The ambulance arrived minutes after the birth, and rescue workers cut the umbilical cord. The mother and newborn appeared to be in good health and were taken to a nearby hospital.

## Moose rescued after getting stuck in pool

**NH** BEDFORD — A young moose that got stuck in a New Hampshire swimming pool has been successfully coaxed out.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department biologists and conservation officers were called to a Bedford home Tuesday to help remove the young bull. He was in the water for several hours.

They said he was unable to get himself out as the pool, so they put a set of wooden steps in the pool.

The department posted a video of the moose looking back and forth as the team held a rope and coaxed him out, before he stepped out and scampered away.

## City to pay panhandlers minimum wage for work

**AR** HOT SPRINGS — Six months after a federal judge struck down a Hot Springs ordinance that would have restricted panhandling, the city is rolling out a new program that will offer work to the homeless and panhandlers.

The Sentinel-Record reported the announcement of the Hope Works Initiative on Tuesday will pay participants minimum wage to pick up litter from roads and public areas. It's expected to start by the month's end.

City Manager Bill Burroughs says the program will help individuals connect to other support services offered by nonprofits and local churches. It will also direct participants to resources such as substance abuse treatment and mental health services.

The city is partnering with Jackson House, a local crisis center. They will staff and oversee the program.

## Lost dog found after three-state journey

**NM** LAS CRUCES — A lost dog who belonged to a Los Angeles-area family has been found in southern New Mexico following a three-state journey.

KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas, reports Bella was located in Las Cruces, N.M., after a college student took the young husky to an expo and discovered she was chipped.

New Mexico State University student Juan Treto said he had been taking care of the dog for six weeks after the dog showed up near his home. It turns out Bella had traveled around 700 miles from Southern California to southern New Mexico.

Bella's original owner, Jessica Smith, says her two daughters

had been heartbroken the dog was lost and thought they'd never see her again.

The dog has been reunited with the family.

## Man gets 15 years for setting fire to steal beer

**SC** GREENWOOD — A man who set a fire at a South Carolina Walmart to divert attention as he stole a case of beer has been sentenced to the maximum of 15 years in prison.

Solicitor David Stumbo said Russell Geddings, 34, pleaded guilty Tuesday to third-degree arson — the same day his trial was set to start.

Stumbo said Geddings set a clothes rack on fire at a Greenwood Walmart on Dec. 5, then stole the beer in the chaos.

Stumbo said in a statement no one was injured, but \$1.2 million worth of damage was done to the store and merchandise.

## Man takes Girl Scouts' 50 plastic flamingos

**OH** SPRINGFIELD — A Girl Scout leader in Ohio said someone took 50 plastic flamingos her troop was using to raise money.

Leader Jessica Husted provided the Springfield News-Sun surveillance footage of a man jumping out of a truck this weekend in Springfield, yanking the pink birds worth about \$200 from a lawn and riding away with them. Husted said the worst part was that the man marred the girls' efforts.

The 10- to 12-year-olds in Troop 30037 have been "flocking" homeowners' lawns with the birds to solicit donations for a trip to Savannah, Ga., Girls Scouts' birthplace. Homeowners can donate money, and the girls pick up the birds and place them in another person's yard of their choosing.

## Man accused of biting police dog after attack

**NM** RIO RANCHO — A New Mexico man is facing charges after authorities say he bit a police dog following an alleged ax attack.

The Albuquerque Journal reported Chris Gavalton was arrested last week after Rio Rancho police were called to a mobile home over reports of a fight between a man and a woman. Rio Rancho Police Capt. Andrew Rodriguez said Gavalton used an ax to batter the woman, causing "significant injury" to her hand.

Rodriguez said police sent in their canine Diesel after Gavalton barricaded himself inside his home. That's when police say Gavalton bit the dog.

Rodriguez said the bite didn't break Diesel's skin but the canine was placed on antibiotics.

Gavalton is charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

## Woman dies in portable toilet explosion

**FL** ST. AUGUSTINE — Investigators say they've identified a woman as the person who died when a portable toilet exploded and burned to the ground with her inside.

St. Johns County Sheriff's spokesman Chuck Mulligan said Tuesday that Denise Victoria McQuaig, 62, lived down the street from the portable toilet, which was outside of a home under construction. It exploded Saturday morning.

A neighbor called 911 Saturday morning after hearing a loud bang. The Florida Times-Union reported the portable toilet was in flames when firefighters arrived. Once they put out the fire, they found McQuaig's body. Mulligan said foul play isn't suspected.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Dodgers shut out Nationals in Game 1

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—The Dodgers overpowered the Nationals on the mound and at the plate, extending the dominance that led to a franchise-record 106 victories in the regular season right on into the playoffs.

Walker Buehler allowed one hit over six innings, Max Muncy drove in three runs and Los Angeles capitalized on mistakes to beat Washington 6-0 in Game 1 of their NL Division Series on Thursday night.

“Oh, they’re good. They’re really good,” Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. “That’s why they have been in the postseason so many years in a row.”

Buehler struck out eight, walked three and retired his final seven batters after earning the start over veterans Clayton Kershaw and Hyun-Jin Ryu, whose 2.32 ERA was the lowest in the majors this season.

“Walker, time and time again,

just knows how to temper, control his emotions and transfer that into the delivery, the execution of pitches,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Dodgers rookie Gavin Lux and Joc Pederson slugged pinch-hit solo homers in the eighth.

Nationals first baseman Howie Kendrick had two grounders roll under his glove, the second leading to the Dodgers’ second run in the fifth.

Washington’s Patrick Corbin stumbled through a rocky first inning. He issued four walks, joining Art Reinhart of the St. Louis Cardinals as the only pitchers to walk that many in the first inning they ever pitched in the postseason.

Reinhart walked four — including Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig — in the fifth inning of Game 4 of the 1926 World Series against the Yankees.

“That first inning was the game,” Roberts said. “That really set the tone.”

Corbin walked three in a row

with two outs in the 31-pitch inning. Yan Gomes was charged with a passed ball, too, and Muncy drew a free pass with the bases loaded to put the Dodgers in front.

“Walked a lot of guys, chased a lot of bad pitches,” Martinez said. “When you’re walking guys and not hitting, it’s tough to win ballgames.”

Corbin gave up two runs — one earned — and three hits in six innings. The left-hander struck out nine and finished with five walks.

“It just didn’t seem like he had his command,” Muncy said. “We did a really good job of not chasing balls out of the zone.”

Cody Bellinger walked with two outs and scored on an error by Kendrick in the fifth that made it 2-0. Third baseman Anthony Rendon made a diving stop on Chris Taylor’s single down the line, but his throw to first wasn’t in time and Bellinger went to third.

Muncy’s grounder rolled

through Kendrick’s legs for an error, scoring Bellinger, and Taylor got thrown out at the plate to end the inning.

“I wouldn’t change anything about the way I tried to make that play. Just one of those times you just miss it,” Kendrick said. “You never want to let your teammates down or do anything that could give the other team the advantage.”

In the fourth, Muncy singled leading off. Corey Seager followed with a hit that got past a diving Kendrick at first and rolled into right, sending Muncy to third. But then Corbin settled down and retired the next three batters to end the inning.

“Mechanically, was rushing a little bit. Was cutting my fastball,” Corbin said. “Later on was able to get back to my sinker and everything else felt good after that.”

Muncy added a two-run single with two outs in the seventh, extending the lead to 4-0.

## Cards prevail in NLDS opener against Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Back in the playoffs for the first time since 2015, the St. Louis Cardinals look as gritty as ever.

The Atlanta Braves also started down a familiar path.

Marcell Ozuna and Kolten Wong each hit two-run doubles in the ninth inning as the Cardinals overcame shaky defense and a wild finish to extend Atlanta’s postseason misery, holding off the Braves 7-6 in Game 1 of the NL Division Series on Thursday night.

The Cardinals fell behind 3-1 — hurt by their normally reliable defense. But Paul Goldschmidt homered in the eighth, sparking a two-run outburst that tied it at 3. In the ninth, the Cardinals blew it open against Braves closer Mark Melancon.

Dexter Fowler and Tommy Edman singled before Goldschmidt walked on four pitches to load the bases with one out. Melancon got ahead of Ozuna with two quick strikes, only to give up a liner just inside the third-base bag that put St. Louis ahead for the first time.

Wong finished off Melancon with another

two-run double, this one down the right-field line.

“These are fun, exciting games,” said Matt Carpenter, who came through with a pinch-hit bloop single off Melancon to tie the game in the eighth. “Every out, every pitch is important. There’s a lot of adrenaline involved, but that’s what you play for, that’s why you’re here.”

During a run of nine playoff appearances from 2004-15, the Cardinals were known for their postseason heroics, most notably rallying for a dramatic World Series win over Texas in 2011.

This team looks ready to follow in that mold.

The Braves are stuck in a nightmare that seems to repeat itself every October.

Atlanta has lost nine straight playoff series and is just one away from tying the Chicago Cubs’ record for postseason futility — 10 postseason losses in a row between 1908 and 2003. Atlanta has not won a postseason series since 2001, and hasn’t even led a series since going up 2-1 on San Francisco in the 2002 NLDS. The Giants won the next two games to advance.

To their credit, the Braves didn’t go qui-

etly in their half of the ninth.

Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a two-run homer off Carlos Martinez, and Freddie Freeman added a solo shot. But Martinez got the final two outs to claim the win and put the Cardinals ahead in the best-of-five series going into Game 2 Friday.

“We’ve played all season expecting to win those type games,” Freeman said. “You give up that kind of lead, it’s tough to swallow.”

The Braves snapped a 1-1 tie in the sixth when Dansby Swanson slashed a wicked one-hopper that bounced off the chest of third baseman Edman. The ball deflected to shortstop Paul DeJong, who had a chance to get a force at second base for the third out. But the throw to Wong was a bouncer, the ball shooting off his glove for an error as two runs scored.

Wong also messed up an attempted backhanded toss for an error in the first, helping the Braves grab a 1-0 lead.

It was totally uncharacteristic for a Cardinals team that led the majors during the regular season with just 66 errors and a .989 fielding percentage.

In the end, it didn’t matter.

## Mets fire Callaway after two seasons

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mickey Callaway went 11-1 in his first 12 games as manager of the New York Mets. After that, nothing ever seemed to go smoothly for him again.

Following more than a year on the hot seat, Callaway was fired Thursday by the Mets after missing the playoffs in both his seasons at the helm.

The move came four days after New York wrapped up an 86-76 campaign that marked a nine-win improvement over his 2018 debut. But a strong second half wasn't enough to save the embattled Callaway, who had one year remaining on his contract.

New York went 46-26 following the All-Star break and made an unlikely charge into the National League wild-card race, only to be eliminated during the final week.

"I feel unfulfilled. I feel we left some games on the field that we should have won, and we didn't fulfill what we really had as a goal, which was get to the postseason," chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon said on a 30-minute conference call with reporters. "We're not playing October baseball, and that's what it's about."

The Mets became the seventh team seeking a new manager this offseason, joining the Angels, Cubs, Giants, Padres, Pirates and Royals.

Joe Girardi, the former Yankees and Marlins skipper, and Houston Astros bench coach Joe Espada have been mentioned as potential replacements for Callaway.

"The goal is to have the best person, regardless of his résumé," general manager Brodie Van Wagenen said.

Van Wagenen said the Mets had already "spent a good amount of time" identifying an "expansive list of potential candidates" as they begin a "thorough and deliberate process."

"I think we're looking for strong leadership. We're looking for a voice that can keep our clubhouse culture going in the right direction, can keep this team unified and that can accelerate our path here," Van Wagenen said. "I think at the end of the day, it's less about any shortcomings for Mickey and it's more about the upside opportunities that we feel like some of the other potential candidates may bring to us."

While the persistent Mets certainly made strides this year, it's no surprise Van Wagenen wanted to make a change and bring in his own choice to manage the team. The 44-year-old Callaway was hired under previous GM Sandy Alderson and retained after Van Wagenen, a former player agent, took the job nearly a year ago.

# QB Wilson spectacular as Seahawks hold off Rams

Associated Press

SEATTLE — For all the other times when Seattle's Russell Wilson was the best player on the field and made highlight plays, this was different.

It could have been the stage of prime time or facing a division nemesis in the Rams. Or the circumstances of building an early lead, losing it and then rallying once more in the fourth quarter.

Whatever the reason, Seattle received a performance from Wilson that'll be hard to top.

"It was one of the best, I think," Wilson said.

Wilson's 5-yard touchdown pass to Chris Carson on fourth-and-goal with 2:28 left gave Seattle the lead, and the Seahawks held on for a 30-29 win over the Rams on Thursday night when Greg Zuerlein's 44-yard field goal with 11 seconds left was wide right.

Seattle earned a needed win against its NFC West foe after losing six of the past eight to the Rams. And while there were contributions from plenty of others, Wilson orchestrated a memorable night.

Whether it was his throws from the pocket or when he was forced to improvise, Wilson was at his best. It was one stunning play after another from Seattle's star, continuing the best start to a season in his career.

Even his opponents were left in awe.

"Russell Wilson is playing out of his mind right now," Rams safety Eric Weddle said.

Wilson was 17-for-23 for 268 yards and four touchdowns, and rushed for another 32 yards. He had touchdown passes of 13 yards to Tyler Lockett and 40 yards to DK Metcalf in the first half. He threw a 10-yarder to David Moore in the third quarter and he had a final answer after the Rams had taken a 29-24 lead.

Wilson led Seattle 60 yards in 12 plays, helped during the drive by a roughing-the-passer call on Clay Matthews. After stalling inside the 10, Seattle faced fourth down at the 5. Wilson scrambled as he had all night, buying enough time to find Carson open in the corner of the end zone.

The running back scared nearly all of the 69,000 in attendance by juggling the pass before gaining control. Carson said he lost the pass in the stadium lights, which led to the juggle.

"I thought Russell played one of the best games I've ever seen him play," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Seattle appeared to wrap up the victory

when Tedric Thompson made a juggling interception of Jared Goff's pass while lying on the turf with 2:08 left. But the Rams forced Seattle to punt and took possession at their own 7 with 1:38 left.

In just seven plays, Goff had the Rams to the Seattle 30 after a 28-yard strike to Gerald Everett. The Rams stalled and a 9-yard pass to Everett on third-down set up Zuerlein's attempt. The snap was good, but the kick stayed just to the right.

Zuerlein had hit three field goals earlier in the game.

"It's one kick. He's made a lot of big kicks for us. He's going to continue to make a lot of big kicks for us," Rams coach Sean McVay said.

Goff finished 29 of 49 for 395 yards and one touchdown just days after throwing for a career-high 517 yards and tying an NFL record with 45 completions in a loss to Tampa Bay. Everett had seven catches for 136 yards, and Cooper Kupp had nine grabs for 118 yards and a TD.

"We had some things that didn't go our way where we didn't finish drives but we were moving the ball really well," Goff said.

Carson finished with 118 yards rushing on 27 carries. The touchdown was his only reception.

"Everyone kept their composure. Everyone was so poised and stayed in the moment," Seattle tackle Duane Brown said. "We were always very optimistic and had all the faith in the world and big time players stepped up."

**Lockett's catch:** Lockett's toe-tapping TD catch in the first quarter was as improbable as it gets. According to NFL statistics, the catch had a 6.3% catch probability, the most improbable completion of the past two seasons.

"It doesn't get any more on time or on the money with his footwork there," Wilson said.

**Gurley's mistake:** Todd Gurley was a featured part of the Rams' offense early and finished with 51 yards on 15 carries, but the run game vanished during most of the second half.

"I thought he had some really good, hard-earned yards against a really good defensive front," McVay said.

Gurley also fumbled for the first time since Week 3 of last season. The fumble was ripped out by Jadeveon Clowney, who also recovered the ball. It was Gurley's first fumble in 338 offensive touches. He had gained 1,915 yards from scrimmage and 20 touchdowns between his two fumbles.

## NHL roundup

# Sabres upend Penguins

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Conor Sheary scored twice against his old team and Carter Hutton stopped 26 shots in the Buffalo Sabres' 3-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night in the opener for both teams.

Rasmus Dahlin also scored to help Buffalo give Ralph Krueger a victory in his Sabres coaching debut. Buffalo beat Pittsburgh in regulation for the first time since April 23, 2013.

Krueger last coached in the NHL in 2012-13 when his Edmonton Oilers had 19 wins during a shortened 48-game regular season. Buffalo went 33-39-10 under Phil Housley last season.

Sheary, who played on two Stanley Cup champion teams with the Penguins, has four goals and six points in four games against his former club.

**Bruins 2, Stars 1:** Brett Ritchie scored on his first shift against his former team barely a minute into the game and visiting Boston beat Dallas to open defense of its Eastern Conference title.

**Lightning 5, Panthers 2:** Reigning NHL MVP Nikita

Kucherov had a goal and an assist, Kevin Shattenkirk and Pat Maroon scored in their debuts with their new team, and host Tampa Bay opened the season with a victory over Florida.

**Hurricanes 4, Canadiens 3 (SO):** Dougie Hamilton scored in the shootout, Petr Mrazek stopped three shots in the tiebreaker and host Carolina beat Montreal in the teams' opener.

**Rangers 6, Jets 4:** Brett Howden broke a tie with 4:09 remaining and host New York beat Winnipeg in a wild season opener.

**Predators 5, Wild 2:** Ryan Ellis and Filip Forsberg each had a goal and an assist and host Nashville rallied with four third-period goals to beat Minnesota.

**Avalanche 5, Flames 3:** Mikko Rantanen had two goals less than a week after agreeing to a contract, and Joonas Donskoi also scored twice in his debut to help host Colorado beat Calgary.

**Ducks 2, Coyotes 1:** Cam Fowler scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period, John Gibson made 32 saves and host Anaheim beat Arizona in Dallas Eakins' debut as coach.

## Naser wins women's 400M

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Faster than anyone else since 1985, Salwa Eid Naser stormed past Shaunae Miller-Uibo to win the women's 400 meters at the world track championships Thursday.

Competing for Bahrain, Naser took the lead on the second turn and held off Olympic champion Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas to win in 48.14 seconds.

That time was faster than anyone had run since Marita Koch of East Germany set the world record at 47.60. Koch's world record was set in an era when her government routinely doped its top athletes with vast

quantities of steroids. Koch never failed a drug test during her career and has said she has a clean conscience.

Just 45 minutes after Miller-Uibo's race, her husband, decathlete Maicel Uibo of Estonia, settled for another family silver after Germany's Niklas Kaul dominated the final two events to pass him for gold. Kaul, the youngest decathlon world champion ever at 21, threw the javelin nearly 7 meters better than anyone else.

Kaul, was third before the final event, the 1,500 meters. He beat Uibo by 15 seconds, to win gold with a points total of 8,691, 87 more than Uibo.

## Sports briefs

# Blues, Schenn agree on 8-year, \$52M extension

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues have signed Brayden Schenn to an eight-year contract extension worth \$52 million, locking up one of their top centers after their run to the Stanley Cup championship last season.

The 28-year-old Schenn was acquired in a trade with Philadelphia in 2017 and put up a career-high 28 goals the following season and 70 points overall as he was named an All-Star. Last season, Schenn had 54 points in the regular season and 12 more in the playoff run.

Schenn, a Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, native in his ninth full NHL season, has 154 goals and 218 assists in 588 regular-season games and eight goals and 18 assists in 50 career post-season games.

## Browns' Landry out of concussion protocol

BEREA, Ohio — Browns star receiver Jarvis Landry has cleared concussion protocol and is practicing.

Landry sustained a head injury in the third quarter of Sunday's 40-25 win over Baltimore.

Landry's return means quarterback Baker Mayfield could have his full complement of wide receivers for Monday night's game at San Francisco.

Rashard Higgins is back after missing three games with a knee injury, and Antonio Callaway is back following a four-game league suspension for a substance abuse violation.

In other NFL news:

■ Jets quarterback Sam Darnold has been ruled out for New York's game at Philadelphia on Sunday as he continues to recover from mononucleosis.

Luke Falk will make his second straight start. The Jets also re-signed quarterback David Fales to serve as Falk's backup.

## IOC president: Salazar doping case 'worrying'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The doping case of banned track coach Alberto Salazar is "very worrying" and raises questions about Olympic race results being affected, IOC President Thomas Bach said Thursday.

The International Olympic Committee wants more information from the World Anti-Doping Agency about the long investigation by American officials which ended in Salazar's four-year ban this week during the track world championships. Bach said the IOC will ask WADA for information on which athletes have been investigated and the scope of evidence gathered.

"We are confident that WADA is looking into this anyway," the German lawyer said.

The allegations against Salazar included possessing and trafficking testosterone, but did not directly implicate runners from his Nike Oregon Project training center.

Salazar was removed on Tuesday from the track worlds in Doha, Qatar, where NOP runners have won two gold medals.

## Mystics' Delle Donne has herniated disk

WASHINGTON — Washington Mystics star Elena Delle Donne has a herniated disk in her back.

The league's MVP left Game 2 of the WNBA Finals on Tuesday night after playing only a few minutes in the first quarter because of back spasms. She didn't return, and an MRI revealed the herniated disk Wednesday. Delle Donne is undergoing treatment and the team said it would update her status.

The series is tied 1-1, with Game 3 at Connecticut on Sunday.