

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, September 4, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy updates policy on liberty in Japan

BY JAMES KIMBER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Navy officials in Japan have issued a new liberty policy with “several Okinawa-specific provisions.”

The update, which essentially aligns Navy rules with those in effect for Marines on Okinawa, was announced Wednesday in a joint message from Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin and Rear Adm. Matthew Carter, commanders of the 7th Fleet and Naval Forces Japan, respectively.

U.S. Forces Japan tightened liberty restrictions in July following a “negative

trend” of suspected criminal activity and other liberty incidents. Individual services were allowed to impose other limitations, which briefly included Navy bans on all alcohol consumption and nonessential off-base travel.

Sailors stationed on Okinawa are now required to carry liberty cards, and those visiting there on leave or temporary assignment must carry copies of their approved paperwork.

Sailors also are not allowed to stay overnight in the prefectural capital of Naha without command approval.

The update also clarifies guidance for those stationed in mainland Japan by

switching to terminology that classifies a sailor’s liberty status from Class A, B and C into liberty tiers used by the Okinawa-based Marines.

“This policy is part of our continued commitment to remind our Sailors that liberty is a mission, especially in Japan,” Aucoin said in a Navy statement. “Everyone should understand our mission requires us to be good ambassadors and neighbors. If we fail at this mission, it negatively impacts our ability to ‘fight tonight’ and carry out our nation’s business.”

A series of arrests earlier this year sparked one of the largest protests against the U.S. military in decades.

Attorney: Former Marine in murder case mentally ill

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The lawyer for a former Marine charged with raping and murdering a Japanese woman claims his client has long suffered from mental illness and hallucinations, setting the stage for a possible defense in a case that enflamed U.S.-Japanese relations.

Kenneth Franklin Gadson, a civilian employee at Kadena Air Base’s Mediatt cable and internet provider who goes by his Japanese wife’s surname of Shinzato, was charged by Japanese prosecutors two months after Rina Shimabukuro, 20, disappeared April 28. Gadson took police to the wooded area where her remains were found.

The brutal slaying horrified the Japanese, triggering an uproar of anti-American sentiment on the tiny island prefecture, where half of about 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan are based.

President Barack Obama apologized for the crime during his May visit to Japan following a strong rebuke from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

No trial date has been set. Defense attorney Toshimitsu Takaesu said that the case is slated to be heard by six jurors from Okinawa and a three-judge Naha District Court panel.

Gadson could face the death penalty if

convicted, though it is rarely imposed in Japan for single homicides.

During Japanese police questioning after surveillance video spotted his red SUV in the area where Shimabukuro vanished, Gadson confessed to strangling her, Takaesu and police say.

In an interview with Stars and Stripes, Takaesu said his client was questioned while under the influence of sleeping pills after a suicide attempt and has no recollection of confessing.

Officials from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service told Stars and Stripes they were contacting authorities to determine whether there were similarities to unsolved homicides in the area or near his previous duty stations.

The U.S. Marine Corps has said little about the case, although it provided a redacted copy of Gadson’s personnel records that contained no indication of mental illness.

Like the U.S., Japan takes mental illness into account in court proceedings. Japan’s penal code includes provisions for insanity and diminished capacity. An act of insanity is not punishable in the prison system, while an act of diminished capacity can lead to a reduction in punishment. Where the accused will be sent — prison or a mental hospital — is generally handed down with the verdict.

In the interview with Stars and Stripes, Takaesu said his client had long suffered

from “visual and auditory” hallucinations. “It is questionable how much he can discern is real. It seems that he watches what he does through a filter ... I will determine if we need to have a psychiatric evaluation on him after I obtain the necessary information” from Gadson’s hometown of New York City.”

Health care paperwork from Gadson’s youth, provided to Stars and Stripes by Takaesu, does not substantiate claims of hallucinations but paints a picture of a troubled youth, a broken home and a parent ill-equipped to rear him.

A “termination summary” from Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center Inc., dated Aug. 14, 1997, says Gadson had been a patient for more than four years. He was taken there by his mother for therapy after poor academic performance, disruptive classroom behavior, temper tantrums and defiance toward her.

Treatment ended when Gadson went into foster care in January 1997. The documents say he was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and socialized, nonaggressive, conduct disorder.

Conduct disorder is often associated with other mental problems, such as ADHD, which has been known to make the disorder worse and harder to treat, said a 2005 report drafted by a global team of experts in conjunction with the French National Medical Research Institute.

Search for missing US climbers called off

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The families of two well-known Utah climbers who went missing on an icy mountain peak in Pakistan have called off the search for them.

Jonathan Thesenga, a representative for one of the climber's sponsors, said Saturday that the families of Kyle Dempster and Scott Adamson made the "extremely difficult decision" based on how much time had passed and the continuously stormy weather.

Search team members as well as expert observers agreed the chances of finding any sign of the two were extremely slim, said Thesenga, global sports marketing manager for Utah-based Black Diamond Equipment, which was sponsoring Dempster.

According to Thesenga, the Pakistani military conducted exhaustive sweeps over the men's likely descent route with two helicopters. The aircraft also flew over where they were last seen. Saturday was the first day that the weather was clear enough for flyovers.

A rescue effort was launched Aug. 28 near northern Pakistan's Choktoi Glacier after the men failed to return to base camp on Aug. 26.

Thesenga said the two left base camp Aug. 21 to begin their ascent. Their cook, at base camp, spotted their head lamps about halfway up the peak on the second day. On the third day, though, snowy and cloudy temperatures rolled in that have socked in the area, he said.

Dempster, 33, and Adamson, 34, both of Utah, are two of the most accomplished alpinists of their generation. They were attempting a climb never before done on the north face of a peak known as Ogre II. It is part of a grouping of mountains called Baintha Brakk.

2 dead as Hermine moves north

Associated Press

Storm system Hermine spun away from the U.S. East Coast on Sunday, removing the threat of heavy rain but maintaining enough power to keep beaches at risk for dangerous waves and currents during the holiday weekend.

The National Weather Service said a tropical storm warning remains in effect for Rehoboth Beach, Del., which could experience wind gusts of up to 50 mph and life-threatening storm surges during high tide.

Virginia Beach also remained under a tropical storm warning Sunday, with the weather service describing conditions as "breezy to windy." No significant rainfall was expected for the area.

In New Jersey, tropical storm-force winds could whip up on Monday, and record flooding remained a threat south of the Atlantic City area.

The National Hurricane Center maintained its tropical storm watch for Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and said dangerous storm surges would continue from Virginia to New Jersey.

Hermine already caused two deaths, damaged property and left hundreds of thousands without electricity from Florida to Virginia. It spawned a tornado in North Carolina and closed beaches as far north as New York.

Hermine rose up over the Gulf of Mexico and hit Florida on Friday as a Category 1 hurricane before weakening to a tropical storm across Georgia.

By 8 a.m. Sunday, Hermine's top sustained winds remained at 65 mph as it moved east-northeast at 12 mph. The storm, expected to turn northward later Sunday, was centered about 295 miles southeast of Ocean City, Md.

Forecasters said Hermine could regain hurricane force later Sunday as it travels up the coast before weakening again by Tuesday.

Governors all along the coast announced emergency preparations.

And because sea levels have risen up to a foot due to global warming, the storm surges pushed by Hermine could be even more damaging, climate scientists said.

Michael Mann at Pennsylvania State University noted this century's 1-foot sea-level rise in New York City meant 25 more square miles flooded during Superstorm Sandy.

The winds and rain were so strong Saturday in North Carolina that all bridges to the Outer Banks were closed for several hours following a deadly accident over the intracoastal waterway.

Tyrrell County Sheriff Darryl Liverman told The Virginian-Pilot that high winds tipped over an 18-wheeler, killing its driver and shutting down the U.S. 64 bridge.

And on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks, a small tornado spawned by Hermine knocked over two trailers and injured four people, authorities said.

Earlier in Florida, a falling tree killed a homeless man.

Hermine's timing couldn't be worse for coastal communities hoping for revenue from Labor Day events.

"This weekend would normally be a parking lot," said Jim Derrick. His family businesses include a mini-golf course, a sea shell store, an indoor bounce house and an ice cream shop in Rehoboth Beach, where the beach was closed to foot traffic and swimming was prohibited Saturday.

Remains of boy missing since '89 found

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The remains of Jacob Wetterling, a boy kidnapped from a Minnesota road nearly 27 years ago, have been identified, authorities said, providing answers to a mystery that has captivated residents and sparked changes in sex offender laws.

A masked gunman abducted Jacob, 11, in October 1989 near the boy's home in St. Joseph. The Stearns County Sheriff's Office confirmed Saturday that "Jacob Wetterling's remains have been located" and the Ramsey County medical examiner and a forensic odontologist identified them Saturday.

Additional DNA testing will be conducted, and investigators are continuing to evaluate new evidence in the case, the sheriff's office said.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday that a person of interest in Jacob's abduction took authorities to a field in central Minnesota last week. The official said remains, which had been buried, and other evidence were recovered.

Jacob's mother, Patty Wetterling, sent a text message to KARE-TV earlier Saturday, saying that Jacob "has been found and our hearts are broken."

Jacob was riding his bicycle with his brother and a friend on

Oct. 22, 1989, when a masked gunman abducted him. Authorities said the man held on to Jacob and told the other boys to run. Jacob hadn't been seen since.

No one has been arrested or charged in his abduction. But last year, authorities took another look at the case, and were led to Danny Heinrich, a man they called a "person of interest" in Jacob's kidnapping.

Heinrich, 53, of Annandale, denied any involvement in the abduction, and was not charged with that crime. But he has pleaded not guilty to 25 federal child pornography charges and is scheduled to go on trial on those counts in October.

Galaxy Note 7 recalled over battery

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Samsung recalled its Galaxy Note 7 smartphones on Friday after finding some of their batteries exploded or caught fire.

The smartphones are being pulled from shelves in 10 countries, including South Korea and the United States, just two weeks after the product's launch. Customers who already bought Note 7s will be able to swap them for new smartphones in about two weeks, said Koh Dong-jin, president of Samsung's mobile business.

The recall comes at a crucial moment in Samsung's mobile business. Apple is expected to announce its new iPhone this week, and Samsung was counting on momentum from the Note 7's strong reviews and higher-than-expected demand.

Samsung said it had confirmed 35 instances of Note 7s catching fire or exploding. There have been no reports of injuries. The company estimated that about 1 in 42,000 units may have a faulty battery.

Samsung didn't say customers should stop using their phones, or if explosions and fires could happen when the phone wasn't charging. Consumers who complained publicly said the problem came while the phone was being charged.

This summer, Samsung ran into a quality-control issue with another smartphone, a niche model called the Galaxy S7 Active. Consumer Reports found that the phone didn't live up to its water-resistance promises. Samsung said that relatively few phones were affected and that it had identified and fixed the manufacturing problem. Samsung said it would replace devices under warranty if they failed, but it declined to let customers swap phones otherwise or to issue a broader recall.

On the Note 7, after complaints surfaced online, Samsung found that a battery cell made by one of its suppliers caused the phone to catch fire. Koh wouldn't name the supplier.

US chemical weapons stockpile to be destroyed, as per treaty

Associated Press

DENVER — The U.S. Army plans to start operating a \$4.5 billion plant this week that will destroy the nation's largest remaining stockpile of mustard agent, complying with an international treaty that bans chemical weapons, officials said Wednesday.

The largely automated plant at the military's Pueblo Chemical Depot in southern Colorado will begin destroying about 780,000 chemical-filled artillery shells soon after the weekend, said Greg Mohrman, site manager for the plant. He declined to be specific, citing security concerns and possible last-minute delays.

"We've practiced a lot," Mohrman told The Associated Press last week. "Next week it gets real."

Robots will dismantle the shells, and the plant will use water and bacteria to neutralize the mustard agent, which can maim or kill by damaging skin, eyes and airways. At full capacity, the facility can destroy an average of 500 shells

per day operating around the clock. It's expected to finish in mid-2020.

The plant will start slowly at first and likely won't reach full capacity until early next year, said Rick Holmes, project manager for the Bechtel Corp.-led team that designed and built it.

Construction began in 2004, but until now the Army has been vague about the start date, citing the complexities of building and testing the facility and training the workforce.

The depot already has destroyed 560 shells and bottles of mustard agent that were leaking or had other problems that made them unsuitable for the plant. Those containers were placed in a sealed chamber, were torn open with explosive charges and were neutralized with chemicals. That system can destroy only four to six shells per day.

Irene Kornelly, chairwoman of a citizens advisory commission that Congress established as a liaison between the public and the plant operators, said her group had no remaining safety concerns.

The shells stored at the Pueblo depot contain a combined 2,600 tons of the chemical.

The Army stores an additional 523 tons of mustard and deadly nerve agents at Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. Blue Grass is expected to start destroying its weapons next year, finishing in 2023.

Mustard agent is a thick liquid, not a gas, as commonly believed. It has no color and almost no odor, but it got its name because impurities made early versions smell like mustard.

The U.S. acquired 30,600 tons of mustard and nerve agents, but it says it never used them in war. Nearly 90 percent of its original stockpile already has been destroyed, mostly by incineration. The Colorado and Kentucky depots are using chemical neutralization because residents and officials expressed concerns about vapor from incineration.

A 1925 treaty barred the use of chemical weapons in the wake of debilitating gas attacks in World War I, and the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention called for eradicating them.

Oil pipeline protest turns violent in ND

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — A protest of a four-state, \$3.8 billion oil pipeline turned violent Saturday after tribal officials say construction crews destroyed American Indian burial and cultural sites on private land in southern North Dakota.

Morton County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Donnell Preskey said four private security guards and two guard dogs were injured after several hundred protesters confronted construction crews Saturday afternoon at the site just outside the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

Tribe spokesman Steve Sitting Bear said protesters re-

ported that six people had been bitten by security dogs, including a young child. At least 30 people were pepper-sprayed, he said.

The incident occurred near an encampment where hundreds of people have gathered to join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest of the oil pipeline that is slated to cross the Missouri River nearby.

The tribe is challenging the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access pipeline, which crosses the Dakotas and Iowa to Illinois, including near the reservation in southern North Dakota. A federal judge will rule before Sept. 9

whether construction can be halted.

The tribe fears the project will disturb sacred sites and affect drinking water for tribal members on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and further downstream.

The protest Saturday came one day after the tribe filed court papers saying it found several sites of "significant cultural and historic value" along the path of the proposed pipeline.

Tribal preservation officer Tim Mentz said in court documents that the tribe was only recently allowed to survey private land north of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

Mother Teresa becomes a saint

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint on Sunday, praising the nun for having shamed world leaders for the “crimes of poverty they themselves created.”

During a canonization Mass that drew an estimated 120,000 people to St. Peter’s Square, Francis held up Mother Teresa as the model for a Catholic Church that goes to the peripheries to find poor, wounded souls.

The canonization was the highlight of Francis’ Holy Year of Mercy and may come to define his papacy, which has been dedicated to ministering to society’s most marginal.

Applause erupted in St. Peter’s Square before Francis finished pronouncing the rite of canonization, evidence of the admiration Mother Teresa enjoyed during her life and after her 1997 death.

At the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity group she founded in Kolkata, hundreds watching the Mass on TV clapped with joy when Francis declared her a saint. They gathered around her tomb, which was decorated with flowers, a single candle and a photo of the saint.

For Francis, Mother Teresa put into action his ideal of the church as a merciful “field hospital” for the poorest of the poor, those suffering both material and spiritual poverty.

In his homily, Francis praised her as the merciful saint who defended the lives of the unborn, the sick and the abandoned, recalling her strong anti-abortion stance, which often put her at odds with progressives around the world.

Hundreds of Missionaries of Charity sisters

in their trademark, blue-trimmed, white saris had front-row seats at the Mass, alongside 1,500 homeless people and 13 heads of state or government and even royalty: Queen Sofia of Spain.

While big, the crowd wasn’t even half of the 300,000 who turned out for Mother Teresa’s 2003 beatification, thanks in part to security fears in the wake of Islamic extremist attacks in Europe. Those fears prompted a 3,000-strong law enforcement presence to secure the area around the Vatican and the closure of the airspace above.

While Francis is clearly keen to hold Mother Teresa up as a model for her dedication to society’s outcasts, he also was recognizing holiness in a nun who lived most of her adult life in spiritual agony, sensing God had abandoned her.

Francis has never publicly mentioned this “darkness,” but in many ways he has modeled his papacy on Mother Teresa’s simple lifestyle and selfless service to the poor.

In keeping with her spirit, he was treating 1,500 homeless people bused into Rome for the Mass to a pizza lunch in the Vatican auditorium afterward.

Born Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu on Aug. 26, 1910, Mother Teresa went to India in 1929 as a sister of the Loreto order.

In 1946, she received what she described as a “call within a call” to found a new order dedicated to caring for the “poorest of the poor.”

In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity, which went on to become a global order of nuns, priests, brothers and lay co-workers.

Soon after her death, she was put on a fast track for sainthood.

No Syria cease-fire deal yet for US, Russia

Associated Press

HANGZHOU, China — The United States and Russia came up short Sunday on a deal to end years of brutal fighting between Syria’s Russia-backed government and U.S.-supported rebels. Negotiations were to continue Monday, even as President Barack Obama doubted the diplomacy would pay off.

Russia and the U.S. have sought for weeks to secure a cease-fire between Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government and moderate rebels that would expand access for hundreds of thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire. The strategy has hinged on an unlikely U.S.-Russian militarily partnership against extremist groups operating in Syria.

But beyond the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, the two powers have conflicting views about who fits in that category.

A senior State Department official said the talks faltered on Saturday when Russia pulled back from agreement on issues the U.S. negotiators believed had been settled. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were consulting with their governments before talks resume on Monday.

U.S. officials have said that as part of a deal, Russia would have to halt offensives by Assad’s government, something it has failed to do over months of diplomatic efforts. And the U.S. must get rebels to break ranks with the Nusra Front, a task that grew tougher after its fighters last month successfully broke the siege of Aleppo, Syria’s largest city and the site of fierce recent fighting.

Negotiators had been hopeful a deal could come together while world leaders gathered in China.

Kerry said the two sides had worked through many technical issues but said the U.S. didn’t want to enter into an illegitimate agreement.

N. Korea seeks to modernize navy

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea is pouring “serious resources” into modernizing its naval forces, an effort that could eventually increase the threat to U.S. and South Korean vessels in the region, a U.S. think tank says.

Commercial satellite images show the North Koreans have been working aggressively since 2014 to upgrade training facilities, weapons systems and special operations capabilities at the Munchon naval base on the country’s east coast, the U.S.-Korea Institute’s 38 North blog said Thursday.

It is part of leader Kim Jong Un’s strategy to improve North Korea’s conventional military capabilities and special operations forces in parallel with its

nuclear and ballistic missile programs, experts said on a conference call to discuss the report.

Workers also are developing new ship-support facilities that “remained relatively untouched” during the regime of Kim’s father, Kim Jong Il, who died in 2011, the analysis said.

The upgrades could increase the Korean People’s Navy’s operational readiness and coastal defenses along with the ability of amphibious special forces to conduct operations against the South in wartime, it added.

They also could increase the navy’s ability to mount longer and more frequent naval patrols farther into the Sea of Japan.

Munchon is the largest naval facility on North Korea’s east coast and houses the headquarters of the 13th Naval

Command.

Significant projects include the testing and development by Navy Unit 155 of the single NONGO-class missile-armed patrol craft and the anti-ship KH-35 missile, according to the report, which was based on July 13 satellite images.

Tensions have spiked on the divided peninsula since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January, followed by a long-range rocket launch that sent a satellite into orbit earlier. That prompted a new round of toughened U.N. sanctions.

North Korea also has been angered by U.S.-South Korean war games that began on Aug. 22 and ended Friday.

The North’s Korean People’s Army again denounced the joint exercises known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Students treated after eating ghost peppers

OH WEST MILTON — Officials say several dozen Ohio middle schoolers apparently ate extra-hot peppers brought in by a student and were treated by medics after some had adverse reactions.

The Dayton Daily News reported emergency crews went to Milton-Union Middle School at lunchtime Friday after students ingested suspected ghost peppers. Five children were taken to hospitals.

School Superintendent Brad Ritchey said some students had teary eyes, blotchy skin or hives. A 911 caller reported two students vomiting.

Report: School officials allowed cheating

FL MIRAMAR — A Broward County School District investigation has found that Miramar High School officials allowed cheating, questionable grade changes and favoritism toward football players in 2014.

The (Fort Lauderdale) Sun Sentinel reported that the 3,000-page report, which recommends a demotion for the school's former principal and suspension for an assistant principal, was based on 80 witness statements and details problems.

The grades of nearly a quarter of the students in one graduating class were changed. The grades of at least three football players were changed to make them eligible to play.

Vandal damages Bieber sand sculpture at fair

NY GEDDES — Police are looking for the vandal who defaced a sand

sculpture of Justin Bieber at the New York State Fair.

State police told the Post-Standard of Syracuse that the sculpture apparently was vandalized Thursday night.

Bieber's likeness was part of a 200-ton sand sculpture depicting artists who performed at the fair's old grandstand, which was imploded in January.

Tarantulas looking for love, hikers warned

CA LOS ANGELES — Tarantulas are out looking for love, and hikers in Southern California's Santa Monica Mountains are warned to watch out for the hairy spiders.

Tarantula mating season has begun, and it will last through the end of October, the National Park Service said Thursday.

That means the giant arachnids will spend the next two months weaving webs just above ground, outside the female's burrow, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Because females typically stay inside, if a hiker comes across a tarantula on a footpath, it's probably a male on the lookout for a mate, experts say.

Though they have fangs and carry poison, tarantulas are not considered a serious threat to humans.

Giant airships set to arrive in Kenai in 2019

AK KENAI — New football field-sized airships are set to arrive in Kenai as part of an Alaska company's plan to boost transport to construction sites in remote areas of the state.

The (Kenai) Peninsula Clarion reported the hybrid airships from Lockheed Martin are expected to be housed at PRL Logistics' 60-acre facility in Kenai by 2019.

The egg-shaped aircraft can land on snow, ice, gravel and water, and each has space for 47,000 pounds of cargo and 18 passengers.

PRL President and CEO Ron Hyde said the environmentally friendly aircraft will provide low-cost solutions for moving freight and personnel where runways and roads aren't easily accessible in Alaska.

Tree gnawed by beaver fueled brief outage

PA SLIPPERY ROCK — West Penn Power officials said a beaver chewed through a large tree that was threatening to topple onto some power lines near Slippery Rock, about 45 miles north of Pittsburgh.

Company spokesman Todd Meyers said the damaged tree was spotted during a routine helicopter inspection of power lines earlier Thursday, so crews alerted residents about the need to shut off power briefly to down the tree.

Meyers said the resulting outage to about 10,000 customers lasted just a few seconds at 8:16 p.m.

Geese causing problems for high school

WV BECKLEY — A West Virginia school is dealing with some fowl problems.

So many geese are converging around Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley that Principal Ron Cantley said after-school activities have been diverted. Even walking outside without tracking bird poop into the building is a challenge.

Cantley told WVVA-TV that he is working with the Division of Natural Resources to try to get rid of 100-plus birds that roam the grounds. He said part

of the problem is that people feed the birds and they've lost their fear of humans.

A plan to get rid of the geese includes withholding food and harassing the birds so they will regain their fear and move on.

Police: Man stole dog outside restaurant

RI RICHMOND — A Rhode Island man is facing charges after police say he stole a dog from outside a restaurant while the animal's owner was distracted.

The Westerly Sun reported Craig Malo, 44, of Richmond, is charged with stealing an animal on Aug. 25 in the parking lot of the Dragon Palace restaurant.

Police said the dog's owner was making a phone call outside the restaurant when his 10-year-old bichon frise named Riley disappeared.

Riley was found unharmed.

Armless woman claims bias at theme park

AZ TUCSON — An Arizona woman who was born without arms says she was discriminated against by staff at Universal Orlando.

Jessica Cox told KGUN-TV on Friday that she was not allowed onto any rides during a recent visit to the Florida theme park.

Cox said she was given a pamphlet on the park's riding policy, which states a rider must be able to "continuously grasp with at least one upper natural extremity."

The theme park refunded her ticket but Cox was still upset.

She says the restrictions are too broad and has filed an administrative action against the state of Florida.

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Houston opens with upset of No. 3 OU

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Brandon Wilson went end line to end zone for a touchdown with an Oklahoma missed field goal and Houston beat the Sooners, looking every bit ready to compete in the Big 12.

Regardless of whether Houston ends up in the Big 12 if the conference expands, coach Tom Herman's Cougars made an opening statement that could have seasonlong ramifications.

Wilson provided the key play in the biggest regular-season nonconference game the Cougars have played in 25 years. When Oklahoma kicker Austin Seibert's 54-yard field goal attempt came up just short, Wilson reached up to catch the ball while barely keeping his feet in bounds. Reminiscent of Auburn's Kick Six against Alabama in 2013, Wilson came flying out of the end zone, hit the sideline and hurdled a teammate to score what went into the books as a 100-yard return that made it 26-17 with 8:28 left in the third.

No. 1 Alabama 52, No. 20 USC 6: Freshman Jalen Hurts threw two touchdown passes to

ArDarius Stewart and ran for two more scores.

The season-opening win came at AT&T Stadium — the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys — was also where the Crimson Tide started their 2012 and 2015 national championship seasons with victories.

Wisconsin 16, No. 5 LSU 14: Rafael Gaglianone kicked a 47-yard field goal with 3:47 left, and Wisconsin staved off LSU's desperate last-ditch drive at Lambeau Field.

LSU's frustration was on full display at the end of the game, when offensive lineman Josh Boutte was ejected for a flagrant foul after a blind-side hit on Wisconsin's D'Cota Dixon after the safety sealed the victory with an interception with 57 seconds left.

No. 2 Clemson 19, Auburn 13: Deshaun Watson passed for 248 yards, including 174 to Mike Williams in his return from an injury, and Clemson escaped with a victory over host Auburn.

No. 6 Ohio State 77, Bowling Green 10: J.T. Barrett threw six touchdown passes and host Ohio State rolled up a school-record 776 yards against

Bowling Green.

No. 7 Michigan 63, Hawaii 3: Wilton Speight threw three touchdown passes in the first half and host Michigan beat Hawaii in its most lopsided victory since 1975.

No. 13 TCU 59, South Dakota State 41: Kenny Hill accounted for five touchdowns after a shaky start in his TCU debut, KaVontae Turpin returned a punt 81 yards for a score and the Horned Frogs pulled away late in a victory over South Dakota State.

No. 14 Washington 48, Rutgers 13: Jake Browning threw for 287 yards and three touchdowns, John Ross caught two scooting passes and returned a kickoff for another score in his first game since the end of the 2014 season to help host Washington beat Rutgers.

Texas A&M 31, No. 16 UCLA 24 (OT): Trevor Knight threw for 239 yards and a touchdown and ran for two more scores, including one in overtime, to lead host Texas A&M in his debut with the Aggies.

No. 17 Iowa 45, Miami (Ohio) 21: Akrum Wadley ran for 121 yards and two touchdowns, LeShun Daniels added

83 yards rushing and two scores, and host Iowa won.

No. 18 Georgia 33, No. 22 North Carolina 24: Nick Chubb rushed for 222 yards in his return from a gruesome knee injury, including a 55-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter that clinched host Georgia's victory in Kirby Smart's debut as the Bulldogs' coach.

No. 21 Oklahoma State 61, Southeastern Louisiana 7: Jhajuan Seales caught two touchdown passes, helping host Oklahoma State rout Southeastern Louisiana.

No. 24 Oregon 53, UC Davis 28: Dakota Prukop threw for 271 yards and three touchdowns in his Oregon debut and the host Ducks overcame a rocky start to beat UC Davis. Prukop, a graduate transfer from Montana State, completed 21 of 30 passes for the Ducks.

No. 25 Florida 24, UMass 7: Luke Del Rio threw two touchdown passes in his first career start, and host Florida beat UMass and extend the nation's longest winning streak in season openers to 27.

Navy pulls QB out of stands to top Fordham

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Malcolm Perry marched into the stadium wearing his Navy dress whites. Plucked from the stands at halftime, he wound up in a much different uniform.

From question mark to quarterback, Perry quickly became the buzz of college football.

Navy found an unlikely replacement after starter Tago Smith was injured Saturday, with Perry running seven times for 30 yards in a 52-16 win over Fordham.

Listed down on the depth chart, Perry had been sick most of the week. The freshman was OK to play in the junior varsity game Friday.

But with Smith and backup Will Worth all set, Perry was held out. That let him enter the stadium with the traditional "Brigade of the Midshipmen."

Perry was sitting with his classmates

when Smith went down with a knee injury in the second quarter.

Perry made his debut with 38 seconds left in the third quarter. He later put together a 90-yard drive in the fourth quarter that led to a field goal. He didn't throw a pass.

"I thought he did really well for a guy that wasn't supposed to suit up," coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "He was in the brigade, so went and got him.

"He had been sick all week, too, and didn't take any reps. So, we tried to keep things really simple for him," he said. "It's not the scenario you want. But we had to do what we had to do."

Smith served for three years as a backup to record-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds before getting this chance to start.

Smith flawlessly ran Navy's triple-option offense until he was hurt on a 22-yard run with 14:17 left in the half.

In just over one quarter, Smith ran for 97 yards on 10 carries with a pair of

touchdowns.

Smith's status was uncertain following the game. Niumatalolo was overcome with emotion when talking about the injury.

"He's just a great kid," he said. "He really symbolizes who we are, hasn't said [anything] for three years and came to work every day," he said.

Air Force 37, Abilene Christian 21: Ronald Cleveland rushed for a score and caught a 62-yard TD pass as Air Force got its 13th straight win at home.

Cleveland plays a hybrid position in the Air Force's triple-option offense. His 33-yard TD run in the second quarter began a spurt of 21 straight points to help the Falcons (1-0) pull away from pesky Abilene Christian (0-1). The sophomore entered the game with one career carry.

Quarterback Nate Romine guided the offense in his return from a knee injury that sidelined him most of last season. He finished with two TD passes.

Serena sets Grand record

Associated Press

NEW YORK — So about that inflamed right shoulder that was supposed to hinder Serena Williams at the U.S. Open as she seeks a record 23rd major title: It sure seems to be just fine.

“Definitely feels solid,” Williams said.

Not sure? There’s plenty of evidence. No need to take her word — or her coach’s — for it.

Look at the way Williams beat 47th-ranked Johanna Larsson 6-1, 6-1 on Saturday to reach the fourth round at Flushing Meadows and collect the 307th Grand Slam match victory of her career, surpassing Martina Navratilova for most by a woman in the Open era and equaling Roger Federer for most by anyone since 1968.

Williams reached 121 mph on a serve. She had a half-dozen aces, bringing her total last week to 31. She faced only one break point — her first of the tournament — and saved it. She smacked seven return winners. She compiled a 24-5 total edge in winners.

“Tennis-wise, I think it was very satisfying in all aspects. It’s not perfect, of course,” said her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. “But for someone who didn’t play much matches in the last two months, I think she’s competitive.”

That sounds like bad news for upcoming opponents, starting with 52nd-ranked Yaroslava Shvedova, who advanced to the round of 16 in New York for the first time by beating Zhang Shuai 6-2, 7-5.

Monday’s other fourth-round women’s matchups will be Williams’ older sister, Venus, vs. No. 10 Karolina Pliskova, No. 5 Simona Halep vs. No. 11 Carla Suarez Navarro, and No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska vs. Ana Konjuh. Venus Williams advanced comfortably Saturday night by beating No. 26 Laura Siegemund 6-1, 6-2. In that half of the draw, only the players with the last name Williams have won a Grand Slam title; the sisters could meet in the semifinals a year after Serena eliminated Venus in the quarters.

Two past men’s champions, Andy Murray and Juan Martin del Potro, moved into the fourth round.

There’s only one American man left: Jack Sock, who faces No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Sunday. That’s because 19-year-old qualifier Jared Donaldson’s run ended with a straight-set loss to 37-year-old Ivo Karlovic, the oldest man to reach the fourth round in New York since Jimmy Connors was 39 in 1991.

Officers threaten boycott of 49ers

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The Santa Clara police chief vowed Saturday to continue providing a safe environment at San Francisco home games after the union representing his officers threatened to boycott policing the stadium if the 49ers don’t discipline Colin Kaepernick for criticizing police and refusing to stand during the national anthem.

Chief Michael Sellers said in a statement that he will urge union leadership to put citizens’ safety first.

Kaepernick’s “blanket statements disparaging the law enforcement profession are hurtful and do not help bring the country together,” Sellers said. “As distasteful as his actions are, these actions are protected by the Constitution. Police officers are here to protect the rights of every person, even if we disagree with their position.”

In a letter sent to the 49ers, the police union complaining that Kaepernick’s “inappropriate behavior” has “threatened our harmonious working relationship.”

“The board of directors of the Santa Clara Police Officer’s Association has a duty to protect its members and work to make all of their working environments free of harassing behavior,” the letter reads.

It was the latest in the flurry of heated responses — both negative and positive — that Kaepernick has gotten since his silent protest became the talk of the NFL and much of the nation last week.

The quarterback has cited racial injustice and police brutality among the many reasons for his protest and said he plans to continue into the regular season.

Bradford trade overshadows cutdowns

Associated Press

Trades overshadowed cuts Saturday as NFL teams got down to the 53-man limit for the regular season.

Minnesota made the biggest noise with a major strike, replacing injured quarterback Teddy Bridgewater by acquiring Sam Bradford from Philadelphia in a deal as stunning for its timing as for who was involved.

Bradford, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2010 by the Rams, was ensconced as the Eagles’ starter and signed a lucrative two-year contract. But the Vikings, sensing they still could contend for the NFC title after winning the NFC North last year, parted with a first-round pick next year and a fourth-rounder in 2018 for, basically, one season of Bradford as a starter. When, that is, Bradford has learned Norv Turner’s offense.

“This was not part of the blueprint, but we have to take advantage of opportunities that are presented to us,” Eagles personnel boss Howie Roseman

said. “We did not go into this wanting to trade Sam Bradford, but after the offer they made, we felt this was the best move for our football team.”

With the NFL Draft being staged in Philadelphia in April, was a nice added touch for the Eagles to get a first-rounder, which they previously lacked.

Another former first-rounder was dealt, but Justin Gilbert hardly has a track record in the NFL. The eighth overall selection in 2014 went from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, which has issues at cornerback. All Gilbert brought back to the Browns in a rare trade among division rivals was a sixth-round draft pick in 2018.

Kansas City traded cornerback Marcus Cooper to Arizona for an undisclosed draft pick, then sent wide receiver Rod Streater and an undisclosed pick to San Francisco for another undisclosed selection. San Francisco sent safety L.J. McCray to Seattle for an undisclosed draft pick in another intradivision deal. The Seahawks also picked up safety Dewey McDonald from Oakland for a

conditional 2017 draft choice.

Minnesota made history in April when it selected wide receiver Moritz Bohringer of Germany, who became the first player in NFL history drafted straight from Europe. But he was released Saturday.

Among those released were Broncos quarterback Mark Sanchez, who immediately reached a deal with Dallas; Denver teammates RB Ronnie Hillman and DT Henry Melton; Ravens RB Justin Forsett, a Pro Bowler two years ago; Packers G Josh Sitton, a starter for the last seven seasons and a three-time Pro Bowler; Arizona DT Red Bryant and LB Donald Butler; WR Cecil Shorts III and safety Antonio Allen by Houston; RB Daniel Thomas by Miami; Jets CB Dee Milliner, a 2013 first-rounder; and Redskins DL Cullen Jenkins.

Houston activated three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt (back) and OT Duane Brown from the physically unable to perform list.

Cleveland signed punter Britton Colquitt, who was released by Denver.

Gausman, O's shut out Yankees

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles have put the New York Yankees in a precarious situation.

Kevin Gausman outpitched CC Sabathia for the second time in seven days, Adam Jones homered and the Orioles got their third straight shutout against New York, 2-0 on Saturday night.

Baltimore will seek to complete a three-game sweep on Sunday. The Orioles won 8-0 on Friday night and also beat the Yankees 5-0 in Gausman's previous start.

Time is running out for New York in its bid to snag an AL wild-card spot. If the Yankees don't start hitting right now, they can start thinking about 2017.

"You don't ever want to go through this during the course of the season," manager Joe Girardi said. "So (Sunday's) game is probably the most important game of the year."

Gausman (7-10) allowed two hits and two walks over six innings to win his fourth straight start. He struck out eight and permitted only one runner past second base.

The right-hander threw seven shutout innings in New York last Sunday and is 2-1 with an 0.80 ERA in five starts against the Yankees this season.

"Just trying to mix in all my pitches and keep them off balance," Gausman said. "I think a lot of their guys are obviously looking for a fastball against me, so if I can throw my off-speed pitches for strikes and kind of put that thought in the back of their minds, I can have success."

Zach Britton, the third Baltimore reliever, worked a perfect ninth for his 40th save in 40 opportunities.

The victory moved the third-place Orioles within two games of the top spot in the AL East.

Giants, Bumgarner edge Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Madison Bumgarner facing Jake Arrieta had an October feel to it, and the San Francisco Giants performed like they belong in the postseason.

Bumgarner outpitched Arrieta with 10 strikeouts over six innings, and San Francisco pounced on rare miscues by the Chicago Cubs in a 3-2 victory.

Bumgarner (14-8) allowed two runs and five hits in his fourth victory in his last five starts. San Francisco, trying to catch Los Angeles in the NL West, rebounded from a pair of one-run losses in the first two games of the four-game set against the major league leaders.

"We're going up against a team that, I don't think they've clinched yet, but they're going

to be there," Bumgarner said. "And we're planning on being there. So it's a playoff-type of matchup."

The Giants had a major league-best 57-33 record at the All-Star break. But they are just 16-29 since that point, leaving them looking up at the Dodgers and clinging to the top spot in the wild-card race.

"It was one we definitely wanted and needed," catcher Buster Posey said. "It was good to score some runs off Arrieta and then for our bullpen to hold the lead."

Arrieta (16-6) was charged with three runs — two earned — and four hits in six innings in his first loss since July 30. Chicago had won five in a row overall.

"A little bad luck, a little missed execution," Arrieta said.

The Cubs had one last chance when pinch hitter Anthony Rizzo led off the ninth with a walk against Will Smith. Rizzo advanced on a sacrifice by Dexter Fowler, but the big first baseman was caught off second on the play.

"That's huge," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "Heart of the order up, man on second, it's a different game."

Kris Bryant then hit a soft lineout to shortstop Brandon Crawford, handing Santiago Casilla his 30th save.

The sputtering Giants had dropped three of four and eight of 12 overall.

"Right now as bad as it seems, we're still in a better spot than we were in 2014," Bumgarner said of their last World Series title season.

Rangers top Astros again

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Rangers' closest competitors in the AL West right now are the Houston Astros, and Texas hasn't let it be much of a competition.

Adrian Beltre and Nomar Mazara each homered, Derek Holland pitched his third straight quality start since coming off the disabled list and the Rangers beat the Astros 12-4 on Saturday for their seventh straight victory.

AL West-leading Texas is 13-2 against the second-place Astros this season and 37-19 against the division.

After trailing 1-0, the Rangers got their major league-high 42nd come-from-behind win. They've won eight of nine and scored at least 10 runs in each of their past three games.

Mets 3, Nationals 1: Curtis Granderson and James Loney came through with big hits to back Robert Gsellman, and host New York got another gritty start from an unheralded rookie in its banged-up rotation.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 5: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Matt Duffy's three-run double highlighted a five-run sixth inning and last-place Tampa Bay beat AL East-leading Toronto for the second straight game.

Royals 5, Tigers 2: Eric Hosmer hit his career-high 20th homer, Yordano Ventura pitched into and out of trouble and host Kansas City snapped a three-game losing streak.

Indians 8, Marlins 3: Trevor Bauer overcame a shaky first inning and pitched into the ninth,

Francisco Lindor was 4-for-4 and Cleveland beat visiting Miami.

Reds 9, Cardinals 1: Zack Cozart hit a pair of doubles during run-scoring innings that included St. Louis misplays, and Cincinnati sent the visiting Cardinals to their third straight loss.

Twins 11, White Sox 3: Miguel Sano and Trevor Plouffe each homered during an eight-run third inning, and host Minnesota went deep four times.

Dodgers 5, Padres 1: Rich Hill pitched six sparkling innings, Yasmani Grandal hit a three-run homer and Los Angeles beat visiting San Diego.

Brewers 7, Pirates 4: Struggling rookie Orlando Arcia had three hits, including a tiebreaking single in Milwaukee's four-run eighth inning, to extend host Pittsburgh's losing streak to five games.

Red Sox 11, Athletics 2: Rick Porcello didn't allow a baserunner until Jake Smolinski's one-out double in the sixth on the way to his majors-leading 19th victory, and Boston routed host Oakland yet again.

Braves 6, Phillies 4 (10): Adonis Garcia scored the winning run in the 10th inning after homering twice earlier in the game, and visiting Atlanta beat Philadelphia.

Angels 10, Mariners 3: Kole Calhoun and Albert Pujols both homered twice, Mike Trout also went deep and Los Angeles beat host Seattle.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 4: Chris Owings had a career high-tying four hits, Jake Lamb homered and visiting Arizona beat Colorado.