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Harvey evacuees return to devastation

Associated Press

CROSBY, Texas — Silvia Casas' eyes welled with tears Friday as she surveyed the damage from Harvey to what was once a working class, mostly Hispanic neighborhood near Crosby, Texas.

Large trees with their roots reaching into the air were pulled from the ground by Harvey's floodwaters. RVs were crumpled like tin cans. Entire houses were picked up and moved 20 or 30 feet from where they once sat, leaving piles of wood and splintered debris and PVC pipes sticking from the ground as the only reminder of once-familiar structures.

Near a 30-foot-high pile of debris, once houses and treasured belongings now stacked against a telephone pole, someone had hung a painting of the Virgin de Guadalupe from a tree branch. Around the corner, a sinkhole had swallowed two cars and was filled with brown, mucky water.

A neighborhood stray dog, fed by everyone, weathered the flood by standing on Casas' roof. Her cinderblock house was one of the few structures that wasn't thrown by floodwaters. But inside, a pile of furniture and splintered belongings sat in the middle of the floor, under a ceiling pocked with peeling paint.

Casas stopped to survey the outdoor kitchen that used to stand on the side of the house where several generations would gather.

"This is where we gathered as a family,"

she said before choking up and adding: "We're going to miss this place."

A week after Harvey roared into Texas, Casas and her family are among thousands of people seeing their devastated homes for the first time. An estimated 156,000 dwellings in Harris County, or more than 10 percent of all structures in the county where Crosby is located, were damaged by flooding, according to the flood control district.

The community where the Casas family lived doesn't have an official name. It is about 6.5 miles southwest of the Arkema Inc. chemical plant in Crosby that flooded earlier this week, causing a fire and explosion that evacuated a 1.5-mile radius around the plant.

Silvia and Rafael Casas said their family got no official evacuation warning when the floodwaters came last Friday. They were told to leave when they lost power, but the lights stayed on. Their home was in the area that was affected by the release of water from two dams that were in danger of overflowing.

"On Friday, someone, maybe with the city, came and told my parents they were going to open the dam, and that's it. They were supposed to come back and alert people when they opened it (the dam) up, but they never did," Rafael Casas said.

He said the person told him that someone would return and let them know whether to evacuate or cut off the power to this whole area, which would be a sign that they

should leave. "But they never came back and they never cut the power."

Luckily, the family decided to leave anyway.

Robey Bartee was happy to leave the George R. Brown Convention Center on Friday after spending six days there with thousands of other evacuees following Harvey. Bartee loaded his belongings into a relative's car for the 11-mile drive to the old, wood-frame house where he lived with his late wife in East Houston.

What he found was worse than he expected. The house reeked of spoiled meat that went bad while the power was off. The carpet squished with each step. A line of grass and debris showed about a foot of water filled his den and was deeper in a sunken bedroom. His furniture was wet. The wallboards were soft.

Hurricane Rita flooded the same house in 2005, he said, but Harvey was worse.

"This one just wiped me out," said Bartee, 66, a retired city employee. "I didn't completely have to start over on the first one. I was able to save a lot of things and pick up the pieces and go along. But this one here, I don't know what pieces to pick up."

There were bright spots: Both of his old cars started despite being submerged in water for days, and a neighbor had cold bottled water. But Bartee said he plans to go back to the shelter and to find another home, as much as he hates the idea.

Trump brings empathy to storm victims on 2nd visit

Associated Press

HOUSTON — President Donald Trump brought plenty of optimism and swagger to Texas on his initial visit to survey Harvey's devastation. He's getting a chance to return with empathy.

The president and first lady Melania Trump arrived Saturday morning in Houston, and their first order of business was to meet with people affected by the storm and flooding. The president and first lady helped serve lunch at a Houston shelter for people displaced by Harvey. Trump also said he was seeing "a lot of love" and "a lot of happiness" during his visit.

Those elements were missing from Tuesday's trip to Texas, which was criticized as being off-key for a presidential visit to discuss communities in crisis.

In Corpus Christi and Austin, Texas, last week, Trump sat with emergency responders and officials who were coordinating recovery efforts with his administration. The event was marked by Trump's impromptu speech to supporters outside a Corpus Christi firehouse — "What a crowd, what a turnout," he said — instead of images of the president consoling victims or walking among the damage caused by the storm.

Trump at that time kept his distance from the epicenter of the damage, in Houston, to

avoid disrupting recovery operations. Still, critics said he failed to adequately express compassion for the families of those killed in the storm's path or those whose homes were flooded. He raised eyebrows when he predicted his approach would be a model for future presidents to emulate.

"We want to do it better than ever before," he said. "We want to be looked at in five years, in 10 years from now as, 'This is the way to do it.'"

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders emphasized that Trump planned one-on-one time with victims on Saturday.

Lawyer: Officer lacked clout for 'Fat Leonard'

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK — A Navy commander charged with accepting gifts of food, drink and prostitutes in the service's long-running "Fat Leonard" corruption scandal was of too little value to conspire with the outsized contractor, his lawyer argued Wednesday during the military's equivalent of a preliminary hearing at Naval Station Norfolk.

Cmdr. Jason Starmer is the second servicemember to be charged by the military in the decadelong conspiracy that uncovered widespread corruption in the Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet.

He is accused of violating general orders by accepting expensive dinners, drinks and prostitutes from September 2012 through April 2013 from contractor Leonard Glenn Francis, the disgraced owner and chief executive of Glenn Defense Marine Asia.

Starmer also faces charges of lying to investigators, conduct unbecoming an officer

and gentleman, patronizing a prostitute, adultery and graft.

According to a Navy biography, Starmer received extensive flight and foreign officer training from the service before being posted at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group in Bangkok, Thailand.

That's where he was serving as director of operations when he was introduced to Francis at a karaoke bar in Singapore in September 2012, Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent Jill Kelley said in phone testimony Wednesday. The advisory group organizes combined military exercises, education and training and foreign military sales and is responsible to the U.S. Pacific Command and the U.S. ambassador, according to its website.

Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 to presiding over a conspiracy involving "scores" of Navy officials, tens of millions of dollars in fraud and millions of dollars in bribes and gifts in return for lucrative contracts to provide services to ships while in southeast Asia, according

to the Justice Department. At least 20 other current or former Navy officials have been charged in the scheme.

Kelley said Francis deployed a "grooming process" by which he targeted people who would be susceptible to vices.

"He would spot and assess these individuals to see if they were willing to take these gifts," she said.

Coast Guard Lt. Robert Canoy, Starmer's attorney, said the officer's job was the overall planning of operations, not the day-to-day port services that Francis' company provided. Starmer was a "lowly O-4 at the time," he said, referring to the rank of lieutenant commander, and would have been of little value to Francis, he said.

Canoy also questioned government documents including meal receipts, text messages and emails that Navy prosecutor Cmdr. Angela Tang said prove Starmer knowingly accepted dinners, drinks and the services of prostitutes and acted on behalf of Francis and his company during a "taxi mafia"

strike. That strike blocked the company's contracted buses and prevented USS Nimitz sailors from returning to the aircraft carrier during a port visit in early May 2013, Kelley said.

But Tang said 7th Fleet leadership was angered over how the incident was handled. Kelley testified that Starmer asked someone to "lay off" the contractor, advocacy that Tang said was "to the detriment of the Navy."

On charges related to prostitution and making a false statement, Canoy said his client was not involved in the "exchange of money, and the word prostitution was never used" in text messages between Francis and Starmer.

Neither did NCIS agents directly ask Starmer if he knew the women were prostitutes during a November 2014 interview in which the commander admitted to the sexual encounters, Canoy said, referring to a transcript. Canoy said Starmer was told by Francis that the women were friends.

Suit: Marine families in SC not warned of contamination

The (Hilton Head Island, S.C.) Island Packet

Potentially thousands of former Laurel Bay residents were not warned of serious environmental contamination while living at the U.S. Marines' housing complex in northern Beaufort County, S.C., and are owed back rent and other damages, a lawsuit filed Thursday alleges.

Eleven former residents filed the suit in Beaufort County Circuit Court on behalf of themselves and "all other similarly situated," described in the suit as "thousands of former tenants who lived at Laurel Bay." The complex includes about 1,100 homes.

The suit alleges the defendants — private companies that manage Laurel Bay — were aware of multiple serious contamination problems at the housing site but that they failed to adequately inform the residents.

One cause of contamination: Underground storage tanks — once used to heat homes from the late 1950s to the late 1960s or early 1970s — were abandoned and then were "re-discovered during utility construction activities" in the late 1990s,

according to the suit. The tanks were in "severe disrepair and leaking remnant fuel oil in close proximity to Laurel Bay homes," the suit said.

Authorities have estimated that about 1,400 tanks were buried underground, though the exact number is unknown. In 2007, authorities began to remove the tanks. The Marine Corps claimed "all known" tanks had been removed as of September 2015.

Another cause of contamination was the extensive peeling of lead paint, the suit alleges. Notably, lead paint, which studies have linked to various health problems in children, was found in nine playgrounds at the housing complex, besides the outside of homes where paint had peeled off, the suit said.

In addition, although the pesticide chlordane was banned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1988, Laurel Bay management continued to use the chemical up to 1995, according to the suit. Laurel Bay homes also were especially susceptible

to mold growth, the suit stated.

The suit also alleges the defendants violated the South Carolina Residential Landlord Tenant Act and the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992.

Rob Metro, a Hilton Head-based attorney who is representing the plaintiffs, has been working since January with families who live or have lived in Laurel Bay. Metro was not immediately available for comment Friday.

In 2003, Tri-Command Managing Member LLC took authority over the Laurel Bay military housing complex in a 50-year lease agreement with the U.S. Navy, according to the suit. Tri-Command, now known as Atlantic Marine Corps Communities LLC, is one of the defendants in the suit. Another defendant is AMCC Property Management LLC, which served as the leasing agent for Laurel Bay families.

Representatives from the Atlantic Marine Corps Communities and AMCC Property Management were not available for comment Friday.

Soldier killed in crash off Yemen

By COREY DICKSTEIN
AND CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon identified the soldier missing from a Black Hawk helicopter crash Aug. 25 off the coast of Yemen as Army Staff Sgt. Emil Rivera-Lopez.

Rivera-Lopez was declared deceased after being previously listed as “duty status: whereabouts unknown,” the Pentagon said Friday in a statement.

A few hours earlier, a Defense Department spokesman said his body had not been recovered since the crash — it’s not clear whether it was later found, resulting in the status change. Central Command referred questions to Army Special Operations Command, where a spokesman said he did not have that information on Saturday.

Rivera-Lopez, 31, was assigned to the elite 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment. The unit, known as Night Stalkers, specializes in flying difficult nighttime missions, often ferrying ground special operations troops into battle.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Rivera-Lopez enlisted in the Army in July 2006 as a Black Hawk helicopter repairer, serving with units in the 82nd Airborne Division’s Combat Aviation Brigade, including medevac, until May 2013, according to a biography provided by Lt. Col. Robert Bockholt, a Special Operations Command spokesman.

Rivera-Lopez joined the Night Stalkers in July 2013, first as a Black Hawk maintainer and squad leader, and later as a section sergeant and crew chief.

“We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Staff Sgt. Rivera-Lopez as we all mourn his loss today,” Bockholt said. “We are working closely with his family and will keep them in our prayers.”

The aviation regiment’s Savannah, Ga.-based 3rd battalion will hold a memorial ceremony to honor Rivera-Lopez at Hunter Army Airfield on Tuesday afternoon, according to a Facebook post by the Night Stalker Association’s local chapter.

In addition to Rivera-Lopez, five other soldiers were in the

Black Hawk when it crashed, about 20 miles off Yemen’s coast during a training flight.

The five other soldiers were rescued by nearby ships, Col. John J. Thomas, spokesman for Central Command, told *The Washington Post*.

Thomas told the *Post* that the Black Hawk was conducting hoist training. It was just feet above the water when it lost power and went into the water, quickly rolling over. The cause of the crash is under investigation, according to the Pentagon statement.

The Pentagon said the helicopter that crashed was not involved in a combat mission. The military has a small number of troops deployed in Yemen to aid the fight against an al-Qaida group in the country.

It has conducted ground raids against the terrorist group there this year, including an operation in late January in which Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William Owens was killed and an MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft was destroyed after it crashed.

Army video game tests tanks, guns

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

The Army is looking for a few good gamers in its ranks to test tanks and guns online before they’re built for the battlefield.

“Operation Overmatch,” now in development, is a video game not far removed from the first-person shooters that now have teens glued to their Xbox consoles. But the weapons in the game have roots in Army plans, and the tactics players develop for fun someday could be used for war.

“‘Operation Overmatch’ is a gaming environment within the Early Synthetic Prototyping effort,” the Army said. “Its purpose is to connect soldiers to inform concept and capability developers, scientists and engineers across the Army.”

The game is being put together by a group not known for entertainment — Training and Doctrine Command’s Army Capabilities Integration Center. The center focuses on how new weapons could impact battles.

But by getting soldiers to play, the service’s top thinkers can mine the brains of thousands of troops, many of them highly experienced in fighting overseas.

“Soldiers have the advantage of understanding how equipment, doctrine and organization will be used in the field — the strengths and weaknesses,” Michael Barnett, chief engineer at the Army Game Studio and project lead for “Operation Overmatch,” said in a statement. “And they have immediate ideas about what to use, what to change and what to abandon — how to adapt quickly.”

“Overmatch” players will join squad-sized units of eight soldiers joined over the internet. They’ll battle opposing squads of “advanced enemies with emerging capabilities in realistic scenarios,” the Army said.

In the game, troops will be able to pick from a mix of current and proposed weapons, vehicles and equipment. And the players will be watched by Army experts.

Military dogs increasingly precious tools

Bloomberg

War is hell for almost everyone who gets near it. This includes animals — especially the hundreds of dogs the U.S. military has sent to serve alongside soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere since Sept. 11. Now, the Pentagon is taking steps to make sure more of them come home.

The armed services have had dogs since about day one. At the moment, roughly 1,600 Military War Dogs (MWDs) are either in the field or helping recuperating veterans. That’s approximately one dog for every three U.S. soldiers currently in Afghanistan.

These animals are, however, an increasingly precious resource. With terrorists targeting public transportation and tourist sites all over the world, global demand for bomb-sniff-

ing dogs has surged. Canines with finely trained noses now fetch \$25,000 and up on the open market, where border patrol units, the State Department, and private security firms go for canine talent. Even the war on bedbugs scoops up some of the best noses in the business. And that’s just U.S. demand.

So, out of necessity, the Department of Defense is buying up lifelike canine mannequins to better train medics that care for furry soldiers when they fall. Since these dog dolls hit the market in January, the Pentagon has purchased about 80 of them from TraumaFX, an Atlanta-based unit of defense contractor KForce Government Solutions Inc. The company, which employs Hollywood movie designers, is bidding on an additional six proposals at the moment.

“We thought maybe we’d sell 50, but it has just grown overwhelmingly,” said KForce Vice President Carolyn Hollander, who added that the project was originally considered just doing the right thing — a “give back.”

The K9 Hero — Trauma’s proxy pooch — is fully articulated, weighs 50 pounds and costs about \$20,000. It has a pulse and an internal, inflating bag that mimics breathing, plus a host of potential afflictions. Push a button on a remote control and the rubbery pet even bleeds profusely. Next month, the company will deliver Hero’s successor, Diesel. Developed specifically for special operations forces dogs, the animatronic soldier has multiple gunshot wounds, amputable limbs, and bowels that bloat. It also barks and whimpers

Russians clearing out of Calif. consulate

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Acrid, black smoke was seen pouring from a chimney at the Russian consulate in San Francisco, and workers began hauling boxes out of the stately building in a historic area of the city Friday, a day after the Trump administration ordered its closure amid escalating tensions between the United States and Russia.

The workers were hurrying to shut Russia's oldest consulate in the U.S. ahead of a Saturday deadline.

The order to leave the consulate and an official diplomatic residence in San Francisco — home to a long-standing community of Russian emigres and technology workers — escalated an already tense diplomatic standoff between Washington and Moscow, even for those who have long monitored activities inside the closely monitored building.

"There is finally the realization by the

administration that Russians have been involved in intelligence operations at this consulate, which they have been doing for decades," said Rick Smith, a veteran FBI special agent who previously headed the bureau's Russian counterintelligence squad in San Francisco. "It's almost 50 years of history and part of a tit-for-tat, but this is more like a hammer."

In a statement posted on Facebook, the Russian consulate said the closure would hurt both Russian and American citizens needing its services. The consulate issued more than 16,000 tourist visas to American citizens last year, it said.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova claims U.S. "special services" intended to search the consulate Saturday. She said the U.S. also plans to search apartments in San Francisco used by Russian diplomats and their families. Zakharova said that involves the families leaving their apartments for 10 to 12 hours

so officials can search.

The State Department isn't commenting specifically on whether officials plan to search the premises. But the State Department said that as of Saturday, access to the consulate will be granted only with its permission.

It had no comment on the black smoke coming from the embassy in San Francisco, which triggered a visit from the San Francisco Fire Department.

Firefighters who arrived at the scene were turned away by consulate officials who came from inside the building. An Associated Press reporter heard them tell firefighters that there was no problem and that consulate staff were burning unidentified items in a fireplace.

American counterintelligence officials have long kept a watchful eye on Russia's outpost in San Francisco, concerned that people posted to the consulate as diplomats were engaged in espionage.

US says diplomats in Cuba suffered attack on health

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mysterious incidents affecting the health of American diplomats in Cuba continued as recently as August, the U.S. said Friday, despite earlier U.S. assessments that the attacks had long stopped. The U.S. increased its tally of government personnel affected to 19.

The new U.S. disclosures came the same day that the union representing American diplomats said mild traumatic brain injury was among the diagnoses given to diplomats victimized in the attacks. In the most detailed account of the symptoms to date, the American Foreign Service Association said permanent hearing loss was another diagnosis, and that additional symptoms had included brain swelling, severe headaches, loss of balance and "cognitive disruption."

At the State Department, spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. was continually revising its assessments of the scope of the attacks as new information was obtained. She

said the investigation had not been completed.

"We can confirm another incident, which occurred last month and is now part of the investigation," Nauert said.

U.S. officials previously had said that the attacks, initially believed to be caused by a potential covert sonic device, had started in fall 2016 and continued until spring 2017. Nauert had said at least 16 Americans associated with the U.S. Embassy in Havana had been affected, but that the "incidents" were no longer occurring.

U.S. investigators have been searching to identify a device that could have harmed the health of the diplomats, believed to have been attacked in their homes in Havana, but officials have said no device had been found.

In Canada, a government official said that the Canadian government first had learned in March 2017 that one of its citizens was affected.

Both the U.S. and Canadian officials demanded anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment publicly.

Trump mulls decision on young immigrant program

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Midday protests. Urgent pleas. Furious campaigning. A president torn.

President Donald Trump stood at the center of a frantic lobbying campaign Friday as he neared a decision on the fate of hundreds of thousands of young people brought into the country illegally as children.

After months of dragging his feet, the president Tuesday will announce his plans for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which has given nearly 800,000 young immigrants the ability to work legally in the country and a reprieve from deportation.

Despite his fiery pledges during the presidential campaign to end the program, Trump has spent the past week mulling his choices, going over his options again and again, according to several people with knowledge of the deliberations. The people spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss private conversations.

House Speaker Paul Ryan and a number of other legisla-

tors are urging the president to hold off on scrapping the program to give them time to come up with a legislative solution to protect those now covered by the program.

Republican leaders have worried that Trump would rescind legal status for the so-called dreamers since his first day in office. Some congressional GOP lawmakers spent Inauguration Day urgently trying to reach senior White House officials about the matter after hearing rumors that Trump could roll back the deportation protections as one of his first moves.

Trump had railed against the Obama program during the presidential campaign, slamming it as an illegal "amnesty" that he would end immediately.

Instead, the new president left the protections in place, overruling top advisers including former chief strategist Steve Bannon and policy aide Stephen Miller. The advisers continued to press the matter occasionally in recent months, but Trump always put off the decision for another time.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Politics, disaster add fuel to Zozobra fire

NM SANTA FE — High anxiety about White House politics, hurricane flooding and even the threat of nuclear war with North Korea is adding an extra spark to the annual burning of a giant, ghostly marionette that serves as an effigy to gloom.

The ritual burning of Zozobra was expected to attract tens of thousands of revelers Friday to a Santa Fe city park for a mixture of wholesome and ghoulish fun.

Inside the six-story puppet are reams of crumpled, handwritten notes about recent troubles and travails that people hope to leave behind in the past.

Worries this year are combustible mix of disenchantment with politics and preoccupation over natural and manmade disaster.

Object at beach still a mystery after removal

RI WESTERLY — Questions are still swirling after a mysterious object was removed from the waters off a Rhode Island beach.

The circular metal object was taken out of the waters off East Beach in Westerly by an excavator on Thursday, and it's much bigger than originally thought.

Peter Brockmann, president of the East Beach Association, told The Westerly Sun he hopes someone who sees a media report about the object knows what it is.

Before it was removed, the best guess was that it was what is called an acoustic Doppler profiler to monitor currents. That device is around 4 or 5 feet long.

But the object removed Thursday is about twice that size.

Heavily tattooed escaped inmate found

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire authorities said an escaped inmate with tattoos covering his shaved head, face, neck, chest, arm and hands was arrested in Pennsylvania three days after he failed to return to a halfway house.

The U.S. Marshals' New Hampshire Joint Fugitive Task Force said Eric Judkins, 42, was found at a residence in Howard, Pa., on Thursday night. He was arrested without incident, as was another man wanted on a probation violation.

Judkins was serving part of a 27-month sentence for assault on a fellow inmate in federal prison.

Authorities said the assault happened while Judkins was serving a 17-year sentence for a 1999 bank robbery.

Retired officer steps off with marching band

OH TOLEDO — A retired police officer with multiple college degrees has re-enrolled as a freshman at the University of Toledo for the opportunity to step off with the school's marching band.

WNWO-TV reported grandmother Virginia Todd, 59, took to the field with her clarinet Thursday night for Toledo's football season opener.

Todd spent 21 years with the Oregon Police Department outside of Toledo and is now an attorney, a coroner's office death investigator and a full-fledged member of the Rocket Marching Band.

She said her young band mates accepted her with open arms and have helped her out as she re-learned her march-

ing band skills after training for three months and attending a nine-day band camp.

Todd says Toledo created a special program that allowed her to re-enroll as a freshman.

Village holds festival celebrating Bigfoot

NM JEMEZ SPRINGS — A New Mexico village was to hold a festival in connection with a legend Bigfoot is roaming around the Jemez Mountains.

The Los Alamos Monitor reported the village of Jemez Springs was slated to host the Bigfoot BBQ & Blues Fest on Saturday to celebrate rumors the ape-like creature hangs around the area.

Event organizer Felix Nunez said he didn't want to hang his hat on Bigfoot's existence. But he said there are unexplainable and fascinating audio and video clips.

The gathering was to feature anthropologist and Bigfoot expert Christopher Dyer.

Professors get grant for 'fake news' detector

PA UNIVERSITY PARK — Two Penn State professors received \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop technology that will enable digital devices to weed out "fake news."

The university said Dongwon Lee, a professor of information sciences and technology, and S. Shyam Sundar, a communications professor, are working on the project.

The professors plan to investigate "characteristic indicators of fake news" and develop complex formulas that will enable digital devices to recognize those indicators and purge stories that contain them from digital devices.

Yellow lobster joins aquarium's collection

MA BOSTON — A rare yellow lobster has made its debut at the New England Aquarium, posing for a photo op with fellow oddly colored crustaceans.

The lobster was donated to the Boston aquarium by a Salem seafood company. They marked its arrival by showing it off with other lobsters in unusual shades, including blue and orange, and one they call the Halloween lobster — black on one side and orange on the other.

The aquarium said the incidence of yellow lobsters in the wild is estimated to be about 1 in 30 million.

Suspect swims out to sea in escape attempt

NC SURF CITY — Authorities in Surf City, N.C., say a fleeing suspect swam out to sea before being arrested more than three hours later at a neighboring town's beachfront.

Surf City police said in a news release that an officer stopped a driver Wednesday and spotted "illegal contraband."

They said the driver jumped into the ocean, and police used a drone to follow the swimming suspect. It recorded video footage of a shark swimming about 60 feet from him before it turned away. The drone lost sight of him after an hour, more than 4,000 feet offshore.

After a sea and air search by multiple agencies, Zachary Kingsbury, 20, of Lynnwood, Wash., was arrested near a beach access point in North Topsail. He faces multiple drug charges.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Kershaw impressive after return from DL

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — It's almost as if Clayton Kershaw hadn't been away at all.

The Los Angeles ace was sharp in his first start in five weeks, holding the San Diego Padres to two infield singles in six innings in a 1-0 victory Friday night that snapped the Dodgers' season-high five-game losing streak.

Kershaw (16-2) hadn't started since July 23, when he was pulled after two innings with a strained lower back that landed him on the disabled list.

"Efficiency-wise I think it was as good as I could have expected," said Kershaw, who was targeted for five innings or 75 pitches, and threw 70. "I really didn't pitch any differently. I was throwing early strikes where they had to swing the bat."

The lefty struck out seven and walked none. The only hits he allowed were Manuel Margot's soft grounder to second opening the first and Yanger-

vis Solarte's grounder to short opening the fifth.

Was he surprised?

"You never truly really know until you get back on a big-league mound and get big-league hitters out," he said.

Remarkably, the Padres didn't hit a single ball to the outfield. Three relievers each threw a perfect inning, with Kenley Jansen pitching the ninth for his 36th save. Brandon Morrow struck out the side in the seventh.

Kershaw improved to 3-0 against San Diego this season and 17-6 lifetime. He's won a career-high 12 straight decisions, the longest active streak in the majors. He hasn't lost since May 1.

"I didn't expect him to be that sharp, quite honestly, but with him, you can never underestimate him," manager Dave Roberts said. "The sharpness of all his pitches, fastball both sides of the plate, slider, introducing the curveball early, he was on point. Competitive, obviously, efficient."

Kershaw felt he could have returned two weeks ago, but Roberts said the team "slow-played things. We were very conservative. The effort level, the adrenaline, the way we made him reach all those markers, we expected him to be like this."

The Dodgers, who have MLB's best record at 92-41, snapped their longest losing streak since April 2016.

"It's nice to shake hands," Roberts said.

San Diego rookie Dinelson Lamet (7-6) pitched well, other than giving up three singles in the sixth, when the Dodgers scored the game's only run. He allowed one run and six hits in six innings while striking out 10 and walking three.

Lamet allowed singles to Justin Turner and rookie Cody Bellinger opening the inning and retired the next two batters before Chase Utley hit an RBI single to center.

"I think for the long term it's exciting," San Diego manager Andy Green said about Lamet.

"You lose a game short term, but to see somebody square off against Clayton Kershaw, and for the most part match him, you can't ask for anything more from him. One pitch to Utley that he hits into center field there, and outside of that he was really good today. So we're pleased with that."

Lamet said it was "a pleasure" to face Kershaw. "It definitely motivated me. I knew that I was going to have to give my best effort and knew he was going to make pitches so I had to do the same," he said through a translator.

"It's something that I was preparing, leading up to this game. Once I knew I was going to face the Dodgers and against a lineup with a lot of lefties, and there have been moments where I've had a few struggles against lefties, so I knew I needed to bear down and focus on that and really focus on getting guys out early in the count."

MLB roundup

Walker fans 10 to help Diamondbacks win 8th straight

Associated Press

DENVER — Taijuan Walker struck out a career-high 10, Daniel Descalso homered and the surging Arizona Diamondbacks started a key weekend series with a 9-5 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Friday night.

The Diamondbacks won their eighth straight and increased their lead to 4½ games over the Rockies for the first NL wild-card spot. Milwaukee beat Washington on Friday to pull within 1½ games of Colorado for the second wild card.

The Rockies fanned 12 times in losing for the third time in four games.

Indians 3-10, Tigers 2-0: Mike Clevinger pitched six sharp innings and visiting

Cleveland swept a day-night doubleheader, routing Detroit for its ninth straight win. The AL Central-leading Indians won the opener on Francisco Lindor's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 1: Doug Fister (4-7) dominated for seven innings and visiting Boston backed him with three home runs to beat the New York and extend its AL East lead.

Orioles 1, Blue Jays 0 (13): Jonathan Schoop doubled home Manny Machado in the 13th inning as host Baltimore outlasted Toronto.

Cubs 2, Braves 0: John Lackey (11-10) pitched seven crisp innings, Javier Baez's daring baserunning paid off again and host Chicago beat Atlanta for its fifth straight win.

Brewers 1, Nationals 0: Jimmy Nelson (11-6) scattered three singles and struck out 11 over seven innings, and host Milwaukee beat Washington.

Royals 7, Twins 6: Mike Moustakas homered for the first time since mid-August, Brandon Moss also went deep and visiting Kansas City held off Minnesota.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1: Philadelphia was shut out for seven innings by major league newcomer Dillon Peters but rallied for two runs in the ninth and extended host Miami's losing streak to five.

Reds 7, Pirates 3: Adam Duvall drove in two runs to lead visiting Cincinnati over Pittsburgh.

Rangers 10, Angels 9: Carlos Gomez scored the go-

ahead run in the eighth inning on a wild pitch and host Texas moved up in the AL wild-card race, holding off Los Angeles.

Mariners 3, Athletics 2: Mike Leake (1-0) overcame a shaky beginning to throw seven innings in his debut with his new team, and host Seattle snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Oakland.

Rays 3, White Sox 1: Logan Morrison hit his 34th homer and drove in three runs, Blake Snell (3-6) pitched into the seventh inning to win his third straight decision and visiting Tampa Bay topped Chicago.

Cardinals 11, Giants 6: Kolten Wong hit a tiebreaking single during a six-run ninth inning that sent visiting St. Louis over San Francisco.

Midshipmen, Black Knights win openers

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Lane Kiffin's debut at Florida Atlantic lasted nearly six hours, featured three lightning delays and ended with almost no one left in the stands.

It was unforgettable.

It was also unsuccessful.

Zach Abey ran for 235 yards and two touchdowns, and Navy spoiled the start of Kiffin's era at FAU by topping the Owls 42-19 in a bizarre game that ended at 1:47 a.m. Saturday. It took more than three hours to play the fourth quarter with the delays — and when the game ended, even the cheerleaders were long gone and cleaning crews were already at work inside the stadium.

Navy scored five touchdowns on a six-possession span at one point, turning what was a brief 10-7 FAU lead into a rout. And even though the game seemed decided by the time weather interrupted play, Kiffin wouldn't concede — so the teams waited it out.

"I don't know any other way to do it," Kiffin said. "I thought we were still going to win. ... I would never do anything different, and I would never walk into the locker room with the players and tell them we would do it different."

Joshua Walker rushed for two scores for Navy (1-0). Abey also threw for a touchdown for the Midshipmen, who outgained the Owls 526-326.

Daniel Parr threw a 95-

yard touchdown pass to Willie Wright for FAU (0-1), a play that gave the Owls a brief lead in the second quarter. Parr finished 19-for-30 for 281 yards and two touchdowns, the other being a 62-yarder to DeAndre McNeal.

Army 64, Fordham 6: At West Point, N.Y., The biggest cheer at Michie Stadium Friday night wasn't for a play, even though there were several highlights in the Black Knights' lopsided win over the Rams.

An announcement that curfew was pushed back two hours to 1 a.m. will do that to a stadium jammed with cadets already enjoying a lopsided win.

"I'm going back to sleep anyway," laughed senior quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw.

Bradshaw rushed for two touchdowns and gained 128 of his 177 yards in the first half of the opener for both teams.

The nation's No. 2 rushing offense last year, Army's triple option didn't disappoint, churning for 513 yards without completing a pass. Eight different players scored a touchdown for Army, including Darnell Woolfolk, who had 95 rushing yards.

Preseason All-American Chase Edmonds — Fordham's career rushing leader who went for three touchdowns on 126 yards in a 37-35 upset here two years ago — was held to a touchdown on 42 yards. Quarterback Kevin Anderson was 26-for-38 (233 yards) for the Rams.

Top 25 roundup

No. 8 Washington gets off to slow start, pulls away

Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — If No. 8 Washington wants to get back to the college playoffs, the Huskies are going to have to pick it up after a less-than-impressive opening victory over Rutgers.

On the other hand, if the Scarlet Knights continue to play the way they did against the defending Pac-12 champions, they are going to surprise some teams.

Dante Pettis woke up Washington just before halftime with his sixth career punt return for a touchdown and Jake Browning threw two second-half touchdown passes in a tougher-than-expected 30-14 victory Friday night.

Browning, who was the conference's offensive player of the year last season after throwing 43 touchdowns, was frustrated.

"We got a standard that we try to play to and that's not the standard at all," said Browning, who completed 17 of 30 passes for 284 yards. "So, yeah, we're going to have a

long week of practice. Friday game, so we got an extra day and we'll be ready."

The Huskies, who led Rutgers 24-0 after the first quarter of a 48-13 home win a year ago, were in danger of going to the locker room down 7-3 when Pettis fielded Ryan Anderson's punt down the middle of the field and scored on 61-yard return that put Washington in front 10-7 with 3:50 left in the half. Pettis tied former California star DeSean Jackson's Pac-12 career record for punt returns for scores.

"Whenever a punter is backed up, for some reason they always boom the ball, so he kicked it 55, 60 yards or something," Pettis said. "I misjudged it a little bit, and then dropped it, didn't really panic, looked straight up the field and my guys did a great job of just clearing everybody out."

Anderson said his punt was supposed to go out of bounds and he did not execute trying to rush it.

A senior receiver, Pettis actually set up the Huskies' first

three scores this season. His 51-yard catch set up the first of three field goals by Tristan Vizcaino and his catches of 10 and 24 yards ignited an early third-quarter drive that Browning capped with a 7-yard swing pass to halfback Lavon Coleman for a 17-7 lead.

"I think any explosive plays get the sideline going, gets everybody feeling good about what's going on," said Pettis, who also returned a punt for a touchdown against Rutgers last season. "So it doesn't matter if it's a long run, catch, whatever. I think any time there's a big play it's good for us."

No. 9 Wisconsin 59, Utah State 10: Badgers coach Paul Chryst delivered some motivational words to his team at halftime of their season opener.

It probably wasn't the cleanest of speeches given the way ninth-ranked Wisconsin played most of the first half against the visiting Aggies.

Whatever Chryst said worked. Wisconsin found its footing in the second half, pulling away in dominating fashion

for a 59-10 win on Friday night.

The Badgers trailed 10-0 late into the second quarter before taking off after halftime.

"We came out slow and coach Chryst definitely fired us up at halftime ... He just gave some inspirational words at the half. I won't go into great detail about it," tight end Zander Neuvillie said with a smile.

Neuvillie caught one of the career-high three touchdown passes from Alex Hornibrook, freshman Jonathan Taylor ran for 87 yards and a touchdown on nine carries in providing a second-half spark and the defense forced four turnovers.

Star tight end Troy Fumagalli caught the go-ahead touchdown early in the third quarter, while Neuvillie and Quintez Cephus made highlight-reel scoring grabs.

"There (are) a lot of lessons in that game for us," Chryst said. "Certainly a number of areas that we've got to clean up to be the best team we can be."

Shapovalov, 18, advances to 4th round

Associated Press

NEW YORK — So, Denis Shapovalov, do tell: It can't really be the case that 18-year-olds like yourself never get tired, right?

"No, it's true. We don't," the Canadian joked Friday after becoming the youngest man to reach the U.S. Open's fourth round since Michael Chang in 1989.

Shapovalov needed to go through three qualifying matches just to get into the main draw at Flushing Meadows, so he has played a half-dozen times in an 11-day span.

"It's been a long ride," said Shapovalov, who was born in Israel to Russian parents and moved when he was a baby to Canada. "It feels like I have been here a month already."

There will be a first-time Grand Slam finalist at the U.S. Open now that 2014 champion Marin Cilic exited in the third round — and the entertaining-on-court, engaging-off-it Shapovalov is one of those who still have a shot at getting that far.

Just 2½ months after his runner-up finish at Wimbledon, the No. 5-seeded Cilic

bowed out with 80 unforced errors in a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-4 loss to No. 29 Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

Not much later, Shapovalov advanced when Kyle Edmund of Britain retired in the fourth set because of an injured neck.

"It's never great to win this way," Shapovalov said. "Hopefully, it's nothing too serious."

Neither he nor Schwartzman had ever been to a major's fourth round before, nor had another of the afternoon's winners, 35-year-old Paolo Lorenzi of Italy, who actually began his Grand Slam career with an 0-13 record.

As it is, Cilic was the only owner of a major title on the entire bottom half of the draw when the tournament began.

"That's right: A few surprises and lots of withdrawals," Schwartzman noted. "This is the moment to take advantage."

That part of the bracket originally included three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray, but he withdrew because of a hip injury, part of a depleted-at-the-outset field also missing Novak Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka, Kei Nishikori

and Milos Raonic.

"It's kind of a transition time for the ATP," Shapovalov said, "but I think there is a lot of talent coming up."

His next opponent is No. 12 Pablo Carreno Busta, the highest-seeded man remaining in that half. The Spaniard earned a spot in the U.S. Open's fourth round for the first time by easily eliminating Nicolas Mahut 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Carreno Busta will be the first man at any Grand Slam tournament in the Open era, which began in 1968, to face four qualifiers.

No. 17 seed Sam Querrey is the only American man left after beating Radu Albot of Moldova in four sets. He will face No. 23 Mischa Zverev, who eliminated 10th-seeded John Isner 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Friday night. Maria Sharapova then continued her successful return to Grand Slam tennis by beating 139th-ranked U.S. wild-card entry Sofia Kenin 7-5, 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

Shapovalov is an up-and-coming player who won the Wimbledon junior title just last year. He made his Grand Slam main-draw debut there this July, losing in the first round,

but has taken significant strides since.

At Montreal last month, he became the youngest man ever to reach the semifinals at a Masters event, and he grabbed attention this week by knocking off No. 8 seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a finalist at the 2008 Australian Open.

"The month of August," Shapovalov said, "has been absolutely life-changing for me."

He is a crowd-pleaser, someone who plays a fluid, aggressive game featuring a big lefty forehand and a one-handed backhand — and he shows plenty of emotion while he's at it. He also plays wearing a baseball cap with its band tightened to an extreme degree, drawing plenty of attention on social media.

Women's winners Friday included No. 3 Garbine Muguruza and No. 13 Petra Kvitova, a pair of Wimbledon champions who will meet in the fourth round. Also advancing were Venus Williams and Sloane Stephens, who is coming back from left foot surgery in January and is back in the fourth round in New York for the first time since 2013.

Costa Rica puts US World Cup hopes in jeopardy

Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. — With another stunning home loss, the United States' hopes of reaching an eighth straight World Cup berth are in peril.

Marco Urena took advantage of defensive mistakes to score in the 30th and 82nd minutes, giving Costa Rica a 2-0 win on Friday night that brought the Americans' resurgence under coach Bruce Arena to a crashing thud.

"There's no time to feel sorry for ourselves, and we're not," U.S. captain Michael Bradley said. "We've got three games to play like our lives depend on it, and we will."

Urena dribbled around defender Tim Ream, then caught

Tim Howard leaning and beat the goalkeeper to the far post for the opening goal. The lone forward in a 5-4-1 formation, Urena doubled the lead with a shot from 18 yards after David Guzman intercepted a poor pass by Geoff Cameron.

"On the night, we didn't make any plays that mattered. We were probably outplayed in most positions on the field and made some critical errors," Arena said. "They outplayed us and outcoached us tonight."

Mexico leads the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region with 17 points and clinched Friday night, and Costa Rica is second with 14.

"It's not complete yet but this is a very important step," Costa

Rica coach Oscar Ramirez said through a translator.

The U.S. is third with eight points, ahead of Honduras on goal difference. Panama has seven points, and Trinidad and Tobago three.

"It's going to be a battle amongst the remaining four teams," Arena said.

The top three nations qualify for next year's tournament in Russia, and the fourth-place team advances to a playoff against Asia's No. 5 finisher.

"It puts more pressure on us," Howard said, "but we're still right in the thick of it."

The Americans have lost two home games in a World Cup cycle for the first time since 1957 and likely will need points

on the road to qualify. They play at Honduras on Tuesday and close the hexagonal next month at home against Panama and at Trinidad and Tobago. American forward Jozy Altidore is suspended for Tuesday's game after an 80th minute yellow card for pushing Johan Venegas.

The U.S. opened the final round with a 2-1 home loss to Mexico and a 4-0 rout at Costa Rica, causing the USSF to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann and bring back Arena, the Americans' coach from 1998-2006. The U.S. had been 9-0-5 since Arena's return, winning home qualifiers against Honduras and Trinidad and gaining draws at Panama and Mexico.