

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US, Japanese ships train in South China Sea

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Several U.S. and Japanese ships recently trained together in the contentious waters of the South China Sea.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter carrier JS Kaga linked up there on Friday to practice maneuvers, sail in formation and conduct replenishment-at-sea training, a Navy statement said.

The cruiser USS Antietam, the destroyer USS Milius and the JMSDF destroyers JS Inazum and JS Suzutsuki also took part in the drills.

The Ronald Reagan and the Kaga — one

of Japan's two new helicopter carriers — deployed from Yokosuka last month to patrol a region that is wrought with tension over China's militarization of artificial South China Sea islets and an ongoing dispute between Tokyo and Beijing over the sovereignty of the Japan-controlled Senkaku island chain.

Navy officials referred to the Ronald Reagan strike group's deployment as a "patrol," while the JMSDF described their two-month journey through the South China Sea and Indian Ocean as a "training mission." A JMSDF spokesman last month told Stars and Stripes he hoped the mission would contribute to a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region.

During Friday's drills, the Ronald Rea-

gan and Kaga hosted liaisons from one another's crews for discussions and training, the Navy statement said. Task Force 70 commander Rear Adm. Karl Thomas boarded the Kaga for a discussion with JMSDF Rear Adm. Tatsuya Fukuda, commander of Escort Flotilla 4, regarding "maritime unit cohesion."

"The teamwork and professionalism I have experienced by both [Task Force 70] and JMSDF sailors during this training operation has truly demonstrated how seamlessly we can integrate with our Japanese allies," Thomas said in the statement.

The Kaga is scheduled to return to Yokosuka in October. The Navy does not announce movement plans for its vessels.

Parents of child molested by Marine colonel seek \$25M

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Col. Daniel Wilson had been in Australia for less than a week when alarming allegations of a "sexual nature" began to surface in the winter of 2016.

He was recalled to his command at the Okinawa-based III Marine Expeditionary Force but was not investigated or reported, according to a 2017 Marine Corps Inspector General report.

With little fanfare, Wilson was shifted to the general staff at Camp Lejeune's II MEF. Within six months, he was accused of molesting the children of a junior officer.

During a court-martial last September, Wilson was convicted of the sexual abuse of a child, six counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and absence without leave. He was sentenced to 5½ years in prison and dismissed from service.

The parents are now seeking \$25 million from the Marine Corps for the pain and suffering

of their three daughters and for long-term mental health treatment. They blame former III MEF commander Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson for not holding Wilson to account for earlier transgressions, which later allowed the colonel to prey on their family.

"The Marine Corps failed to properly punish Wilson and hold him accountable for what he did in Australia," said Adrian Perry, the mother of the girl Wilson was convicted of molesting. "They didn't just fail our family. They failed every family in the Marine Corps when they chose to do that because really anybody could have been his prey, his next victim."

On Feb. 16, 2016, Wilson — who had been serving as chief of staff for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force — arrived in Australia to take over as officer-in-charge of the forward command element for Marine Rotational Force-Darwin. Wilson was counseled about the behavior that was expected of him before he was sent, the IG report said.

His counterpart in Australia,

navy commander Greg Mapson, said Wilson had a serious drinking problem.

By Feb. 22, Mapson and other Australian officers had lodged complaints about Wilson because of his behavior.

While Wilson settled in unscathed at his new assignment in North Carolina, Perry said her family's nightmare was just about to begin.

Her Marine Corps major husband had served under Wilson on Okinawa.

Perry said Wilson invited them to hang out at his house and do laundry. He was alone with their children on several occasions.

During one of these visits, Perry's 6-year-old daughter told her that Wilson had touched her inappropriately. The family left the house and reported the incident to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Later, her other two daughters made accusations against Wilson. One accused him of molestation and the other said he offered her alcohol. Wilson was later acquitted on those charges.

Perry felt her family couldn't

be the first one victimized by the colonel, so they told NCIS about Wilson's early relief in Darwin. That was the start of an investigation that ended with the IG report. They were shocked by what was uncovered.

On June 28, the Perry family filed three claims — one for each child — under the Federal Tort Claims Act, said Protect Our Defenders spokesman Brian Purchia. They are seeking \$10 million each for the younger girls who claimed they were molested and \$5 million for their eldest daughter, who suffers guilt for not protecting her younger sisters.

The Marine Corps has six months to pay or deny the request, said Don Christensen, a retired Air Force colonel now serving as president of the Protect Our Defenders Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ending rape and sexual assault in the military. After that six months, the family then has six months to file suit in federal district court.

Leader of Haqqani network dies after long illness

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The founder of the Haqqani network, an insurgent group known for high-profile attacks on both military and civilian targets in Afghanistan, has died after a long illness, according to a Taliban spokesman.

Jalaluddin Haqqani, once called “goodness personified” by U.S. politicians who backed him in his battles against the Russians in the 1980s, founded a Taliban-linked organization responsible for some of the insurgency’s most heinous attacks, including the 2017 truck bomb blast near the German Embassy in Kabul that killed

150 and injured 413.

After the U.S. toppled the Taliban government in 2001, Haqqani served as the network’s military commander. He is believed to be among the first insurgents to adopt the tactic of suicide bombings, once seen as dishonorable among Afghan fighters, journalist Steve Coll wrote in the book “Directorate S,” which chronicled CIA activity in Afghanistan and Pakistan after 9/11.

In 2005, Haqqani refused a position in government from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, whom Haqqani sought to kill.

Haqqani’s son, Sirajuddin Haqqani, currently leads day-to-day operations for the network, which seeks to expel U.S. and coalition forces. The younger Haqqani is also

one of the key deputies to the Taliban’s supreme leader.

The network is run out of northwest Pakistan, where it retains the backing of elements of Pakistan’s security establishment, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a nonpartisan research group. Pakistani officials have denied backing the Haqqani network.

The Defense Department has taken final steps to cancel \$300 million in aid once earmarked for Pakistan “due to a lack of Pakistani decisive actions in support of” the U.S. efforts to end the Afghan conflict, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner said Sunday, according to The Associated Press.

Philippine navy extricates warship from shoal

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine navy extricated one of its largest warships from the shoal where it ran aground last week near a hotly disputed region in the South China Sea.

Two Philippine security officials told The Associated Press early Tuesday that tugboats were used to pull the BRP Gregorio del Pilar from the shallow fringes of Half Moon Shoal, which the Philippines calls Hasa Hasa, before midnight. The military later confirmed the successful extrication.

The frigate, which was being towed back to a Philippine port, ran aground during a routine patrol Wednesday night, damaging some of its propellers. Its more than 100 crewmembers were unhurt.

The barren shoal is on the eastern edge of the disputed Spratly archipelago, where tensions have run high in recent years

after China built seven disputed reefs into man-made islands and reportedly installed missile defense systems.

Philippine defense officials notified their Chinese counterparts after the accidental grounding of the Philippine navy frigate at the shoal, which Beijing claims, to avoid any misunderstanding, said the two Philippine officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said last week that China offered to help but that the Philippines would handle it.

A Chinese frigate ran aground on the shoal in 2012 and was pulled away by Chinese military ships.

Half Moon Shoal lies about 68 miles from the southern tip of the western Philippine island of Palawan and south of the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, where a Philippine navy transport ship was intentionally

grounded in 1999 and has since served as a Philippine military outpost.

China has repeatedly demanded the now-rusty BRP Sierra Madre be removed from Second Thomas Shoal, which is claimed by the Philippines and China.

A military report seen by the AP said the propellers of the BRP Gregorio del Pilar were damaged by the grounding. The crew reported, however, that the frigate was not taking in water.

At least four Philippine Navy and Coast Guard ships were deployed to secure the BRP Gregorio del Pilar and provide food and other supplies to its sailors. Tugboats were hired to extricate the ship and tow it to a Philippine port for repairs, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

The frigate is one of three former U.S. Coast Guard cutters acquired by the Philippine military and now are the Philippines’ largest warships.

Okinawa-based Marine accused of stealing donation box

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A “heavily intoxicated” Okinawa-based Marine was arrested Monday on accusations that he stole a donation box containing about \$50 for flood and landslide victims in western Japan.

Jonathan McKinley, 20, of Camp Hansen, is accused of taking the box from near a convenience store cash register while on leave in Kyoto, said Deputy Chief Kohichi Yama-

da, a Kyoto-Nakagyo Police spokesman.

McKinley, whose rank was unknown Tuesday, then entered an izakaya, or Japanese pub, presented the donation box to the staff and demanded food and drinks, Yamada said. After being refused service, he smashed the box on the floor, scattering its contents.

McKinley was arrested at the izakaya after getting into a fight with a friend, Yamada said. He was still in custody Tuesday, pending charges.

McKinley “has not admitted his charges as he does not remember stealing the box,” Yamada said.

Relief efforts are ongoing after rains in late June and July caused flooding and landslides that killed at least 220 people in 14 prefectures, Japan’s Yomiuri newspaper reported.

In July, more than 50 servicemembers from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni joined local volunteer efforts to clean flood-damaged homes.

Chaos, quarreling, protest mark beginning of Kavanaugh hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Quarreling and confusion disrupted the start of the Senate's confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Tuesday, with Democrats trying to block the proceedings over documents withheld by the White House while protesters interrupted the session in a persistent display of opposition.

In his opening remarks released ahead of delivery, Kavanaugh sought to tamp down the controversy over his nomination, which would likely shift the closely divided court to the right. He promised to be a "team player" if confirmed, declaring that he would be a "pro-law judge" who would not decide cases based on his personal views.

But Democrats raised objections from the moment Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, gaveled the committee to order. They want to review 100,000 documents about Kavanaugh's record being withheld by the White House as well as some

42,000 documents released to the committee on a confidential basis on the eve of the hearing, along with others not sought by Republicans on the committee.

For more than an hour, senators sparred while protesters repeatedly shouted at them.

"We have not been given an opportunity to have a meaningful hearing on this nominee," said Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., made several motions to adjourn, saying if the confirmation continued, "this process will be tainted and stained forever."

Grassley denied multiple requests to postpone, defending the document production as the most open in history. He said the chaotic scene was something he'd "never gone through" in 15 past confirmation hearings.

More than two dozen protesters, shouting one by one, disrupted the hearing at several points and were removed by police. "This is a mockery and a travesty of justice," shouted one woman. "Cancel Brett Kavanaugh!" Others shouted against

the president or to protect abortion access. "Senators, we need to stop this!" called out one.

Struggling to speak over protesters, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said, "These people are so out of line, they shouldn't be in the doggone room." As patience thinned and tempers flared, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, denounced what he called the "mob rule."

As for the documents, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., quipped that senators would have had to read 7,000 pages an hour overnight just to review those dropped Monday evening.

The panel's top Democrat, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, of California, sought to provide context for the frustration coming from her side of the aisle.

"These are very unique circumstances. Not only is the country deeply divided politically, we also find ourselves with a president who faces his own serious problems," she said referring to the investigations of top administration officials. "So it's this backdrop that this nominee comes into."

Election security bill stalls

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just two months before the midterm elections, bipartisan legislation to try to prevent foreign hacking into U.S. election systems is stalled in Congress as the White House and some Republicans worry it could exert too much federal control over the states.

Supporters of the bill say the delay could embolden Russia, which targeted election infrastructure in at least 21 states in 2016.

A committee vote on the bipartisan bill was abruptly canceled two weeks ago after objections from some Republican senators and the states they represent. Also, Republicans and Democrats who are supporting the bill say they don't know when — or if — it will be taken up again in the few remaining weeks Congress is in session before the midterms.

The delay has some concerned that Congress could punt on the only piece of legislation that is designed to fix what went wrong in 2016 — and to prevent Russia or other countries from trying again. There is no evidence that the Russian targeting of state election systems was successful or changed any votes, but lawmakers, intelligence officials and elections experts say they believe Russia will return in 2018 and beyond with more sophisticated tools.

It also demonstrates Congress' struggle to develop a cohesive response to the Russian interference — especially as President Donald Trump has at times questioned whether it even happened.

The White House issued a lukewarm statement on the election security bill, neither endorsing nor opposing it but saying that "if Congress should choose to continue to pursue" the legislation, they want to ensure that it does not duplicate ongoing federal efforts to help states or violate the principles of federalism.

Trump: Sessions put GOP in midterm jeopardy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Showing his disregard for the Justice Department's independence, President Donald Trump tweeted that federal indictments against two Republican congressmen placed the GOP in midterm election jeopardy.

Trump again attacked Attorney General Jeff Sessions in the tweet, suggesting that the Justice Department consider politics when making decisions: "Obama era investigations, of two very popular Republican Congressmen were brought to a well publicized charge, just ahead of the Mid-Terms, by the Jeff Sessions Justice Department. Two easy wins now in doubt because there is not enough time. Good job Jeff. ..."

Trump has frequently suggested he views the Justice Department less as a law enforcement agency and more as a department that is supposed to do his personal and political bidding. Still, investigators are never supposed to take into account the political affiliations of the people they investigate.

Trump did not name the Republican congressmen, but he was apparently referring to the first two Republicans to endorse him in the GOP presidential primaries. Both were indicted on separate charges last month: Rep. Duncan Hunter, of California, on charges that included spending campaign funds for personal expenses and Rep. Chris Collins, of New York, on insider trading. Both have proclaimed their innocence.

The Hunter investigation began in June 2016, according to the indictment. The indictment into Collins lays out behavior from 2017. He was also under investigation by congressional ethics officials.

Hunter has not exited his race, while Collins ended his re-election bid days after his indictment. Both seats appear likely to remain in GOP hands, but the charges have raised Democratic hopes.

A spokeswoman for Sessions declined to comment, and the White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump did not have any public events Monday. He briefly exited the White House to a waiting motorcade, but then went back inside without going anywhere.

Typhoon Jebi slams Japan, floods airport

Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon slammed into western Japan on Tuesday, causing heavy rain to flood the region's main offshore international airport and strong winds to blow a tanker into a bridge, disrupting land and air travel. The storm left at least two people dead.

Jebi was the strongest typhoon to make landfall in Japan since 1993, according to Japan's Kyodo News service.

The storm was heading north across a swath of Japan's main island of Honshu toward the Sea of Japan. It was off the northern coast of Fukui on Tuesday evening with sustained winds of 78 miles per hour and gusts up to 110 mph, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

A man in his 70s died apparently after being blown to the ground from his apartment in Osaka prefecture, while a 71-year-old man died after being buried underneath a storage house that collapsed on him, officials said.

NHK national television said 126 people were injured in the storm.

In the hard-hit city of Osaka, high seas poured into Kansai International Airport, flooding one of its two runways and cargo storage and other facilities, forcing the airport to shut down, said the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

More than 700 flights were canceled, according to Japanese media tallies. High-speed bullet train service was suspended from Tokyo west to Hiroshima.

A 2,591-ton tanker that was mooring slammed into the side of a bridge connecting the airport to the mainland, damaging part of the bridge and the vessel. The tanker's 11 crewmembers were not injured and remained onboard, according to Japan's coast guard.

Elsewhere in Osaka, the Universal Studios Japan theme park and U.S. Consulate were both closed.

Gordon expected to hit US Gulf Coast as a hurricane

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Coastal residents from Florida to Louisiana hustled to prepare for a deluge as Tropical Storm Gordon grew stronger on a path to hit the central U.S. Gulf Coast as a hurricane Tuesday night.

Boaters evacuated to safe harbors, motorists left barrier islands and homeowners looked over yards that could soon be submerged in seawater. A number of schools called off classes, and red no-swimming flags flew along the shore as waves kicked up from the approaching storm.

Pensacola Water Safety Capt. Jake Wilson told WEAR-TV that the strong wind is bringing a lateral current "where it's just going to push you down the beach."

A hurricane warning was put into effect for the mouth of the Pearl River in Mississippi to the Alabama-Florida border. The

National Hurricane Center is predicting a "life-threatening" storm surge along parts of the central Gulf Coast, and as much as 8 inches of rain could fall in some parts of the Gulf states through late Thursday as the tropical weather moves over the lower Mississippi Valley.

By early Tuesday, the storm was centered 230 miles east-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River, with top sustained winds of 65 mph, forecasters said. It was moving at about 17 mph.

A storm surge warning has been issued for the area stretching from Shell Beach, La., to Dauphin Island, Ala. The warning means there is danger of life-threatening inundation. The region could see rising waters of 3 feet to 5 feet.

"The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast near and to the east of the landfall location, where the surge will be

accompanied by large waves," the center said.

In Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency Monday and said 200 National Guard troops will be deployed to southeastern Louisiana. In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency, as well, and said resources are being mobilized.

Pat Landry, who owns the Landry House Bed & Breakfast on Louisiana's Grand Isle, said Monday night that he was trying to pick up everything low in the yard in preparation for the storm surge. Grand Isle Mayor David Campardelle called for a voluntary evacuation of the barrier island. The mayor noted the ongoing construction on Highway 1, the lone road that connects Grand Isle to the rest of the state.

"If you leave, you have to leave before the road floods," Landry said.

20-hour airline routes becoming a reality

Bloomberg

The goal of a nonstop flight from Sydney to London — half the way around the planet — took a leap forward as the world's top plane makers convinced Qantas Airways they can make the 20-hour route a reality.

A year after Qantas Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce publicly challenged Boeing and Airbus to design a plane capable of making a viable direct flight from Sydney to London or New York, he said the manufacturers have succeeded.

"We're now comfortable that we think we have vehicles that could do it," Joyce said in an interview in Qantas' central Sydney offices.

Project Sunrise, as Qantas calls it, involves configuring an aircraft so that it can fly about 300 passengers and their luggage farther than any

regular service to date, with fuel in hand for unexpected headwinds and emergencies. If the first routes prove viable in 2022, direct connections from major cities in the Americas, Europe and Africa to Australia could follow.

Qantas and the manufacturers are dreaming up cabin interiors geared toward surviving such marathon flights. There's scope to incorporate bunks, child care facilities and even somewhere to work out, Joyce said.

"We're challenging ourselves to think outside the box," he said. "Would you have the space used for other activities — exercise, bar, creche, sleeping areas and berths? Boeing and Airbus have been actually quite creative in coming up with ideas."

Qantas is sizing up the long-range Airbus A350 against Boeing's 777X, and executives

from both manufacturers flew to Sydney to make presentations. Joyce plans to place an order next year and says neither supplier has its nose in front. Competition for the contract could help Qantas get the design and price it wants.

"We are looking at all the options to meet the Project Sunrise requirements but can't comment on the details of our discussions with Qantas," Airbus said in an email. Boeing said, "We are confident that we can meet the customer's requirements in terms of range and capability."

Airbus in April gave a glimpse of the future when it unveiled at a Hamburg, Germany, exhibition the sleeping modules that could slot into an aircraft's cargo compartments. The berths will initially be available on the A330 in 2020, and potentially on the A350, the company said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

GOP official resigns over racist posts

PA BEAVER — A central Pennsylvania Republican official who referred to black NFL players who kneel during the national anthem as “baboons” in a Facebook post has resigned.

Former Beaver County Republican Committee secretary Carla Maloney resigned Friday in a letter to the committee’s chairman. Maloney apologized for her “insensitive” posts and said she would “work to show everyone” who she is.

Maloney made the slur on her personal Facebook account in response to athletes who have knelt during the anthem to protest social injustice. In another post, she said “overpaid ignorant blacks” should “go to Africa.”

Man riding mower fires at police

SC CLIO — South Carolina law officials said local police were investigating a break-in early Monday when they encountered a man on a riding lawn mower across the street. The man approached officers while on the lawn mower and fired at them, police alleged.

Two officers from the Clio police department returned fire, striking the man. He was taken to a local hospital, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident at the request of the Clio police department.

Moose drowns after people crowd around

VT SOUTH HERO — Vermont wildlife officials said a moose drowned in Lake Champlain after people crowd-

ed around the animal to take its picture.

Fish and Wildlife Officer Robert Currier told WCAX that the moose swam across the lake from New York to South Hero on Saturday. He said it made it onto land, but was forced back into the water, likely feeling threatened by onlookers. The moose succumbed to exhaustion and drowned.

Currier said people should keep their distance from moose. He said the animals respond to threats by leaving an area or getting aggressive.

City eyes traffic safety after 5 swan deaths

FL LAKELAND — A Florida city is evaluating traffic safety after five of its signature swans were struck and killed by motorists.

In a report by The Ledger, Lakeland Police spokesman Gary Gross said distracted driving appeared to be to blame for the swans’ deaths during a three-week period.

A sixth swan was injured. About 70 swans live on Lakeland’s Lake Morton.

City officials and nearby residents plan to meet Thursday to discuss ways to slow or reduce traffic along the shoreline.

Dog saves family as bear breaks into home

NC BLACK MOUNTAIN — A woman said her dog died after warding off a bear that broke into her family’s North Carolina home.

WRAL reported Saturday that the incident occurred in Black Mountain, a town outside Asheville in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Tiffany Merrill said she thought she was going to die when the bear broke in. She yelled to her children to shut their doors.

Her dog, Pickles, which weighed only five pounds, “started barking and got the bear’s attention and got the bear outside, and he saved my life.”

Merrill said she couldn’t save her dog.

Man charged after shooting at ‘ghost’

CT TOLLAND — A Connecticut man who told police he was a paranormal investigator faces several charges after firing shots in his house at what he said may have been a ghost.

Christain Devaux, 25, of Tolland, faces charges including the illegal discharge of a firearm, making a false statement to police, second-degree reckless endangerment, misusing an emergency call and disorderly conduct.

Police said Devaux put two bullet holes in his wall on July 26, initially reporting the incident as an attempted break in. He later told police he believes the intruder was actually a spirit.

Dispensary selling pot-infused beers

NV LAS VEGAS — A Las Vegas marijuana dispensary has begun selling a variety of pot-infused beers made without alcohol.

The Las Vegas Sun reported Two Roots Brewing Co. released its line of marijuana beers Thursday at the Las Vegas ReLeaf Dispensary.

The dispensary is offering Two Roots’ lager, stout, new west IPA, blonde ale and wheat beers.

Michael Hayford, CEO of Two Roots’ parent company, Lighthouse Strategies, said the 10-ounce cans contain relatively low amounts of THC, the psychoactive compound that gives marijuana users a high.

Officials work to coax sea lion back to water

AK ANCHORAGE — Wildlife officials came up with a new plan to coax a Steller sea lion back to the ocean after it has been shuffling through neighborhoods in the southeastern Alaska city of Sitka since Friday.

The Anchorage Daily News reported officials were planning to construct a passageway of tarps and boards to keep the animal from seeing people, hoping the blinds will put him at ease and direct him back to sea.

The adult male sea lion was first spotted on a road in Sitka on Friday morning. It then wandered to various locations and was observed in a wooded area on Japonski Island on Sunday.

Julie Speegle, a spokeswoman with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said the sea lion is “likely stressed, dehydrated and hungry.”

Police say man fled in stolen patrol car

KS KANSAS CITY — Authorities arrested a man who is accused of stealing a patrol car in Kansas City, Mo., and fleeing into Kansas City, Kan.

Police in Kansas City, Mo., said in a news release that an officer first approached the man because he had been spotted walking in traffic. The news release said that while the officer was trying to determine whether the man needed help, he jumped into the officer’s patrol car and fled.

Police pursued the vehicle into Kansas City, Kan., where the man drove onto a road that was under construction. Police said the man got out of the car and ran before being taken into custody.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

On a mission to provide credible reporting and daily news to America’s military, wherever they serve.

Mobile apps available: www.stripes.com/apps.

NFL teams weigh risks when sitting stars

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott never lobbied publicly for a few snaps once the Dallas Cowboys decided to sit their healthy star running back for the entire preseason.

Frank Gore actually got two plays with the Miami Dolphins, and the 35-year-old going into his 14th season wanted more. Coach Adam Gase wouldn't have it.

"I heard about it during the game that he wasn't real happy," Gase said after the third preseason game, when starters usually get their most action before sitting in the finale. "When we went three-and-out, I'm kind of going, 'You got a catch, so does this count? He has a carry and a catch. Can I get him out of the game?'"

Sending able-bodied starters into the regular season without a game-speed snap isn't all that unusual, nor is the inevitable hand-wringing and second-guessing every time an important player gets injured in an exhibition game.

It's all part of the age-old balance of getting players ready for that first big hit or full-speed burst while protecting important pieces of Super Bowl

hopes. The regular season starts Thursday night with Atlanta visiting defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia.

"It's kind of hard to say you shouldn't or should play in them," said Cowboys receiver Cole Beasley, who nursed a sore groin most of training camp but got 13 snaps in Dallas' third preseason game. "You can get hurt in a regular-season game just like those. It's just football, man. It happens."

Several teams rested at least one offensive starter throughout the preseason. The Los Angeles Rams didn't play 10 of their 11, the exception being right guard Jamon Brown because he will be suspended for the first two games and needed extra work.

While Sean McVay preferred to get third-year quarterback Jared Goff some playing time, he didn't want it to be behind backup offensive linemen because it was more important to the coach to rest the veteran starters up front.

Plus, McVay is counting on familiarity with 10 returning starters, including running back Todd Gurley, from a unit that led the Rams to the playoffs last season.

"I've been around a lot of

players that have gone through preseasons where they haven't played and seemed like they were ready to go," McVay said. "I think the reason that we felt like this was best was because of the continuity that we did have, specific to the offense."

Coaches who sit healthy stars in the preseason will say they believe their practice tempo gets them ready. Cowboys right guard Zack Martin, a Pro Bowler in each of his first four seasons, would slightly disagree, even after a preseason scare with a knee injury in the second game against Cincinnati that ended up not being serious.

"You need those reps," Martin said. "You're in training camp. Obviously those are good reps, but you're going against the same guys, the same defense. Just the fact that you get to see new guys, new moves, new defenses. That's a big part of it. I think that's huge."

Receiver Julio Jones and running back Devonta Freeman sat the entire preseason for the Falcons despite being healthy.

Pittsburgh receiver Antonio Brown didn't play while nursing a minor injury and Odell Beckham Jr. sat out for the

New York Giants coming off a broken left ankle that sidelined him most of last season.

It appeared Tennessee was protecting Delanie Walker before revealing that the 34-year-old tight end sustained an undisclosed injury during joint practices with Tampa Bay and was unavailable for the final three exhibitions.

"I am very confident that I'll be ready," said Walker, a three-time Pro Bowler. "I have been playing 13 seasons, and I've played in a lot of preseason games. So when you only get like five plays in a preseason game, I don't know if that helps you or not."

Stephen Jones, executive vice president of personnel for the Cowboys and owner/general manager Jerry Jones' son, doesn't think it helps. Even without a name being mentioned, he knew the question was specifically about Elliott, his third-year back who led the NFL in rushing as a rookie in 2016.

"I'm sure every back is different," Jones said. "I've read quotes from other backs in the league that they don't think they need it. I don't know what five snaps does in a preseason game."

Jobless Kaepernick new face of Nike ads

Associated Press

Colin Kaepernick has a new deal with Nike, even without having a job in the NFL.

Kaepernick's attorney, Mark Geragos, made the announcement on Twitter, calling the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback an "All American Icon" and crediting attorney Ben Meiselas for getting the deal done. Kaepernick also posted a Nike ad featuring his face and wrote: "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything. #JustDoIt"

Kaepernick already had a deal with Nike that was set to expire, but it was renegotiated into a multi-year deal to make him one of the faces of Nike's 30th anniversary "Just Do It" campaign, according to a person familiar with the contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Nike hasn't officially

announced the contract.

The source says Nike will feature Kaepernick on several platforms, including billboards, television commercials and online ads. Nike also will create an apparel line for Kaepernick and contribute to his Know Your Rights charity. The deal puts Kaepernick in the top bracket of NFL players with Nike.

The NFL and Nike extended their partnership in March to run through 2028. Nike provides all NFL teams with game-day uniforms and sideline apparel that bears the swoosh logo.

Last week, Kaepernick scored a legal victory in his grievance against the NFL and its 32 teams when an arbitrator denied the league's request to throw out the quarterback's claims that owners conspired to keep him out of the league because of his

protests of social injustice.

Kaepernick contends the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams. His case hinges on whether owners worked together rather than decided individually to not sign Kaepernick.

A similar grievance is still pending by former 49ers teammate Eric Reid, a Pro Bowl safety who joined in the protests.

Meanwhile, the league and players union still haven't resolved whether players will be punished this season if they choose to kneel or demonstrate during the national anthem.

But the league and union put that on hold after the Miami Dolphins faced backlash for classifying the protests as conduct potentially detrimental to the team — putting players at risk of fines or suspensions.

Hokies hammer Seminoles in opener

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Virginia Tech and coach Justin Fuente notched another season-opening victory against a ranked team.

Florida State and Willie Taggart delivered the program's most inept offensive performance at home in a decade, hardly the start Taggart had hoped for with the Seminoles.

Needless to say, it was easy to tell which Atlantic Coast Conference heavyweight looked like a title contender Monday night.

Josh Jackson threw two touchdown passes, one early and another late, and the 20th-ranked Hokies handled No. 19 Florida State 24-3 in the rain to spoil Taggart's debut in Tallahassee.

"It certainly wasn't perfect by any means, but to play as intelligent as we did, I am proud," said Fuente, who beat then-No. 22 West Virginia to open 2017.

Florida State looked dysfunc-

tional and disorganized most of the night, finishing with five turnovers, a blocked punt that was returned for a touchdown and a missed field goal. It was the first time the Seminoles failed to score a touchdown at home since losing 12-3 to Wake Forest on Sept. 20, 2008.

"Tough loss," said Taggart, a former head coach at Oregon, South Florida and Western Kentucky. "Not what any of us expected. We didn't play a good game at all. It was very sloppy. It's hard to win a football game with five turnovers.

"We have to play much better. That's on all of us, starting with me."

The Hokies were good at the start and even better with the game on the line.

Jackson connected with Eric Kumah over the middle with less than 6 minutes to play. Kumah bounded through three arm tackles and raced 49 yards for the game-sealing score. Jackson also opened the game with a 10-yard touchdown pass

to Damon Hazelton in the corner of the end zone. Jackson lofted a pass that cornerback Levonta Taylor looked lost trying to defend.

Jackson completed 16 of 26 passes for 207 yards. Kumah finished with four catches for 86 yards.

Kumah also scored on special teams, scooping up the team's 75th blocked punt since 1987. It was fitting since former Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, known for his "Beamerball" brand of special teams, was on hand as an honorary captain.

The outcome probably shouldn't have been too surprising since the Hokies finished 9-4 in Fuente's second season and returned a number of key players, including Jackson. The Seminoles are coming off a 7-6 season and are still getting acclimated to a new coaching staff and new schemes on both sides of the ball.

"I saw a lot of guys ticked off in the locker room, a lot of guys crying," Taggart said. "We'll

see how guys come back and respond. ... You have to do it quick."

Little went right for Florida State all night:

■ Receiver Nyqwan Murray fumbled on the team's opening possession, giving Virginia Tech great field position and leading to a field goal.

■ Ricky Aguayo missed a 32-yard field goal early in the second quarter.

■ Murray appeared to score on a 30-yard pass from Deondre Francois later in the second. Instead of challenging the call, the Seminoles hurried to the line and were flagged for a false start. FSU had to settle for a short field goal.

■ Logan Tyler had his punt blocked by Chris Cunningham at the 3-yard line. Kumah scooped it up and scored, putting the Hokies up 17-3.

■ Taggart went for it on fourth-and-3 at the Virginia Tech 21. Francois' pass fell incomplete.

Alabama makes it official: Tagovailoa named starter

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Nick Saban made official what anybody who watched No. 1 Alabama's opener likely assumed: Tua Tagovailoa is the Crimson Tide's starting quarterback.

The top-ranked Tide's coach didn't wait for the question to be asked Monday before saying Tagovailoa will start Saturday against Arkansas State, but even he acknowledged it wasn't much of a secret.

He said two-year starter Jalen Hurts will still play a role.

"I think everybody knows that Tua's going to start this game and we're going to use Jalen's skill-set in the future to help however we feel that he can benefit the team," Saban said. "I just want to be clear with everyone that I have done this in the past where we don't say who the starter's going to

be for the first game and we give both quarterbacks an opportunity to play in the game, which is exactly what we did in this game. Not a whole lot different than what we've done in the past."

It was just amplified this time because of the circumstances. Hurts has a 26-2 record as a starter and has led the Tide to a pair of national championship games.

Tagovailoa was the hero of the title game against Georgia in January after entering for the second half, guaranteeing a quarterback battle during the offseason. The sophomore from Hawaii was terrific in his first start in a 51-14 victory over Louisville. He was 12-for-16 passing for 227 yards and two touchdowns while running for a third score.

"We make all of our decisions here based on winning," Saban

said. "Whoever we feel will give us the best opportunity to go out there and win, that's who we're going to play. Obviously, it's how you practice, how you prepare. I said it at the beginning, who wins the team.

"In our opinion, the one player did a little better job of that so he got the opportunity to start and we got the opportunity to play both guys and look and see how they performed and we're going to continue to try to help both players improve and get better."

It had become a touchy subject for Saban after repeated questions about the starter leading up to the game. Saban got testy with an ESPN reporter following a postgame question about the decision.

Saban called sideline reporter Maria Taylor and apologized.

Taylor simply asked: "What answers did you have about

your quarterbacks after watching them both play tonight?"

Taylor was part of the ESPN crew for Monday night's game between No. 20 Virginia Tech and No. 19 Florida State. She declined to comment when asked about Saban's remarks the past two days.

Saban is taking pains to avoid seeming critical of Hurts.

"If I get asked to vilify a player and make another one a crown prince publicly, I might not respond to that, and I need to learn a better way to respond to that," he said. "And I will in the future. And I pray every Sunday that I never get angry. But it was a time and circumstance thing for me. I was a little upset by the way we finished the game, the penalties we had, the mental errors that we had. So it was totally my responsibility and we apologize for it."

Millman bounces Federer from US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Federer served poorly. He volleyed poorly. Closed out sets poorly, too. And now he's gone, beaten at the U.S. Open by an opponent ranked outside the top 50 for the first time in his illustrious career.

Looking slow and tired on a sweltering night in Arthur Ashe Stadium, the No. 2-seeded Federer double-faulted 10 times, failed to convert a trio of set points and lost 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3) in the fourth round to John Millman in a match that concluded at nearly 1 a.m. on Tuesday.

To Federer, it was all about the heat and the humidity. With the temperature in the 80s, even with the sun down, and the humidity at about 75 per-

cent, he was unable to summon his usual verve.

"Was just one of those nights where, I guess, I felt I couldn't get air. There was no circulation at all. I don't know, for some reason I just struggled in the conditions tonight. It's one of the first times it's happened to me," the 37-year-old Federer said. "It's uncomfortable. Clearly just keep on sweating more and more and more and more as the match goes on. You lose energy as it goes by. But John was able to deal with it better."

It's only the second time in Federer's past 14 appearances at the U.S. Open that he's lost before the quarterfinals. He is, after all, a five-time champion at the tournament, part of his men's-record haul of 20 Grand Slam titles.

"In all honesty, Roger's a hero of mine. I look up to him," said Millman, an Australian who is 29. "I felt a little bit guilty today, because he didn't have his best day, and that's for sure. I know that. I'm very aware he didn't have a great day in the office. Probably, to beat him, I needed him to have an off-day and I needed to have a decent, good day."

So much for that highly anticipated matchup between Federer and 13-time major champion Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals. Instead, it'll be the 55th-ranked Millman, who had never made it past the third round at a Slam until last week, taking on No. 6 seed Djokovic.

Hours before, Djokovic left the court for a medical timeout — the second time during the

tournament he's sought help from a doctor because of harsh weather — during what would become an otherwise straightforward 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 victory over 68th-ranked Joao Sousa of Portugal.

"I'm not 21 anymore. That was 10 years ago. I still don't feel old. But at the same time, there is a little biological clock that is not really working in your favor," Djokovic said. "Sometimes, you just have to survive."

He reached the quarterfinals for an 11th consecutive appearance in New York as he bids for a third U.S. Open championship and 14th Grand Slam trophy.

The other quarterfinal on the bottom half of the draw will be a rematch of the 2014 U.S. Open final: No. 7 Marin Cilic against No. 21 Kei Nishikori.

MLB roundup

Yelich's fielder's choice scores game-winner for Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Christian Yelich beat out a throw at first to avoid a double play, allowing Milwaukee's winning run to score in the ninth.

Game over, but the jubilant Yelich kept going — and turned across the outfield — before the rest of the happy Brewers finally caught up with him in short left.

Yelich's fielder's choice with the bases loaded in the ninth allowed Keon Broxton to score from third, and the Brewers opened an important three-game series with the Chicago Cubs with a 4-3 win Monday.

The .315 hitter hit a 1-2 fastball from Jesse Chavez at diving third baseman Kris Bryant, who touched third for the second out before firing to first. The speedy Yelich reached safely just before the throw landed in the glove of the outstretched Anthony Rizzo.

"I saw him catch it and I saw him go to third, so I just started busting it, man," Yelich said.

The second-place Brewers, looking to make the playoffs for the first time since 2011, pulled within four games of the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Mets 4, Dodgers 2: Pinch-hitter Brandon Nimmo slugged a go-ahead, three-run homer in the ninth inning, rallying visiting New York past Los Angeles in Jacob deGrom's latest stellar no-decision.

Athletics 6, Yankees 3: Mark Canha homered and Matt Chapman hit an RBI double to back Trevor Cahill, leading host Oakland past New York in a matchup between two teams in the AL wild-card race.

The A's jumped on CC Sabathia early and pulled within 3½ games of New York for the first wild card.

Mariners 2, Orioles 1: Erasmo Ramirez allowed one run in 5⅓ innings, and the Seattle bullpen shut down visiting Baltimore the rest of the way.

Royals 5, Indians 1: Jakob Junis allowed two hits in seven shutout innings, Ryan O'Hearn homered twice and visiting

Kansas City won its season-high sixth straight.

Rockies 9, Giants 8: Pinch-hitter Noel Cuevas delivered a go-ahead, two-run single in the eighth inning and host Colorado rallied after squandering a five-run lead.

White Sox 4, Tigers 2: Matt Davidson hit a two-run, game-ending homer as host Chicago scored three times in the bottom of the ninth for its eighth win in 11 games.

Astros 4, Twins 1: Alex Bregman homered for the third straight game and Yuli Gurriel also went deep to help host Houston win its third straight.

Nationals 4, Cardinals 3 (10): Bryce Harper hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning, then delivered a sacrifice fly in the 10th that lifted host Washington past St. Louis.

Red Sox 8, Braves 2: Ian Kinsler drove in three runs and Boston continued its inter-league success, beating host Atlanta in a matchup of division leaders.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 2:

Franmil Reyes homered twice and had four RBIs, Bryan Mitchell pitched five effective innings and visiting San Diego knocked off Arizona.

Angels 3, Rangers 1: Matt Shoemaker pitched five scoreless innings in his first start for visiting Los Angeles in more than five months, and Taylor Ward snapped a scoreless tie with his seventh-inning homer.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 1: Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman got roughed up early in his return from the disabled list, and Ji-Man Choi added a solo homer to lead visiting Tampa Bay.

Pirates 5, Reds 1: Trevor Williams continued his stretch of strong starts by pitching 6⅔ scoreless innings, and Adam Frazier had a career high-tying four hits, including a solo home run to lead host Pittsburgh past Cincinnati.

Marlins 3, Phillies 1: Visiting Philadelphia mustered only four hits and no walks against Jose Urena and two relievers in a road loss to last-place Miami.