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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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GI, Romanian troop die in Kabul bombing

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

An American servicemember and a Romanian soldier were killed Thursday in a Taliban suicide bomb explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, heightening Afghan government concerns that a U.S.-brokered peace deal with the insurgents is moving too quickly.

The name of the U.S. servicemember killed is being withheld until 24 hours after notification of his family, a NATO statement said. The Romanian Defense Ministry identified its soldier as Cpl. 3rd Class Ciprian-Stefan Polschi, 38, a married father of two on his third Afghanistan tour.

Polschi has been promoted posthumously to second lieutenant, a ministry statement said.

NATO's Resolute Support mission confirmed a suicide car bombing caused the two deaths near a neighborhood that includes NATO offices, the

U.S. Embassy and diplomatic missions.

At least 10 people died and another 42 people were wounded in the explosion, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told The Associated Press.

The Taliban claimed the attack targeted vehicles of "foreigners" as they tried to enter a heavily guarded area near where Afghan national security authorities and the NATO mission have offices.

While the victims were mostly civilians, U.S. Ambassador John Bass in his condemnation of the attack said "members of security forces" were among the dead.

The explosion at the checkpoint, which has been targeted in the past, follows a Taliban attack against a foreign compound late Monday that killed at least 16 people and wounded more than 100, almost all of them local civilians.

That attack claimed the life of a Romanian diplomat, ac-

ording to Romanian media.

Romania has sent more than 26,000 soldiers to Afghanistan, with 26 of those troops killed in action, according to the U.S.-funded news organization Balkan Insight.

The American servicemember killed Thursday became the 16th U.S. combat fatality this year in Afghanistan as the Pentagon prepares to draw down its forces there after 18 years of war.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the killings and criticized peace talks with the Taliban that have thus far excluded the Kabul government.

"Seeking peace with this group who is still pursuing the killing of the innocent people is meaningless," Ghani said in a statement, according to Tolo News.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has been in Kabul this week briefing the Afghan president and others on a U.S.-Taliban peace deal that he says

only needs President Donald Trump's approval to become a reality, the AP reported.

Khalilzad has said 5,000 U.S. troops would withdraw from five bases in Afghanistan within 135 days of a final deal. Between 13,000 and 14,000 U.S. troops are deployed to the country.

However, the Taliban reportedly want all of the approximately 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops out of Afghanistan immediately, while the U.S. seeks a withdrawal in phases that would depend on the Taliban meeting certain conditions, such as a cease-fire.

The Afghan government has questioned the deal, including in new comments Thursday as the latest attack occurred. The agreement was moving with "excessive speed," presidential adviser Waheed Omer told reporters, warning of difficult days ahead.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Iran plans faster centrifuges as nuclear deal fizzles

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran was poised Thursday to begin work on advanced centrifuges that will enrich uranium faster as the 2015 nuclear deal unravels further and a last-minute French proposal offering a \$15 billion line of credit to compensate Iran for not being able to sell its crude oil abroad because of U.S. sanctions looked increasingly unlikely.

Meanwhile, Iran released seven crewmembers from a detained British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero in a goodwill gesture and the mariners flew out of Iran, the ship's owner said.

Though Iran has yet to say officially what exact steps it will take as a deadline it gave Europeans to salvage the deal is to expire on Friday. Centrifuges that speed enrichment further shorten the time Tehran would need to have enough material available to build a nuclear weapon — if it chose to do so.

Under the deal, which has steadily unraveled after President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal of the U.S. from the accord last year, experts thought Iran would need about a year to reach that point.

Iran's atomic energy agency was to make an announcement Saturday detailing its next step, which President

Hassan Rouhani described as highly significant, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency and other Iranian media.

The U.S. has continued its effort to choke off Iran's crude oil sales abroad, a crucial source of government revenue. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who continues a whirlwind global diplomatic tour, insists his country will do everything it can to keep those sales going, though he described U.S. sanctions in an angry tweet Thursday as the equivalent of a "jail warden."

"We will sell our oil, one way or the other," Zarif told Russian broadcaster RT in a recently

aired interview. "The United States will not be able to prevent that."

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have been growing since Trump's pullout from the nuclear deal, which saw Tehran agree to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Trump subsequently reimposed old sanctions on Iran and created new ones, going as far as targeting Iranian officials like Zarif and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Meanwhile, oil tanker attacks struck near the Strait of Hormuz in recent weeks, attacks that the U.S. blames on Iran. Tehran denies it was involved.

DOD lists projects defunded to build wall

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's move to divert some \$3.6 billion from military construction coffers to fund 175 miles of border fencing will defund planned projects in 23 states, three U.S. territories and at bases in 20 other countries, the Defense Department announced Wednesday.

The Pentagon is confident that Congress will later provide another \$3.6 billion for the 127 planned construction projects worldwide from which funds were diverted to pay for sections of border wall to be built in Texas, Arizona and California as part of President Donald Trump's national emergency proclamation in February, a senior defense official said Wednesday. The Defense Department has no "Plan B" should lawmakers decide not to backfill those funds to build the defunded projects, said the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in affected states largely expressed dismay at the decision approved by Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Tuesday, which came months after Congress provided the Trump administration some \$1.375 billion for wall construction after the White House had requested \$5.7 billion.

Pentagon officials released the list of affected projects Wednesday after lawmakers and foreign allies were notified of those within their jurisdictions. Pentagon officials insisted all of the projects listed remained important to the Defense Department, which would seek future funding for every project that it listed for defunding this week.

The affected

Locations hit hardest by the fund transfers included Puerto Rico, which saw some \$400 million worth of projects — primarily construction of

buildings affected by 2018's Hurricane Maria — defunded.

In New York, \$160 million in planned projects at the Army's storied U.S. Military Academy at West Point were defunded, drawing condemnation from Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who called the decision a "slap in the face" to the military.

Virginia and North Carolina also saw large cuts. In Virginia, some \$90 million for four projects was defunded. North Carolina saw about \$80 million for projects defunded.

In Alaska, Pentagon officials diverted more than \$60 million of planned construction projects, including \$8 million from a planned extension of Fort Greely's missile field No. 1, a key component of U.S. missile defense capabilities.

The list of defunded projects also includes projects to build or upgrade nine Defense Department schools, including one at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, three in Germany, two in Japan and one in the United Kingdom.

Disapproving Dems

The Pentagon decision drew criticism from Democratic lawmakers, who accused the Trump administration of abusing power and circumventing Congress to pay for the president's border wall with military funds.

Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., said the Trump administration was "grossly irresponsible" for moving the funds from the Pentagon's coffers to pay for portions of the "vanity wall." The congressman, who is chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on military readiness, labeled Esper as Trump's "new pawn" for agreeing to divert the funds.

Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., said Trump was "stealing military construction funds" from needed projects, including at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland's 4th Congressional District, which Brown represents.

Projects diverted at Andrews included a child development center and an explosive ordnance disposal range.

"It is outrageous that President Trump is abusing his power to cancel military construction projects in Maryland and around the world in order to fulfill a campaign promise," Brown said Wednesday in a statement. "This will hurt morale, degrade readiness and make America less safe."

"President Trump should not build his ineffective, xenophobic vanity project on the backs of our servicemembers and military families."

The American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday evening issued a statement announcing it would seek court action to block the movement of funds from Pentagon construction projects to build the border wall.

The move was not met with universal disapproval.

Support group

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, supported the decision and urged other members of Congress to support backfilling the diverted \$3.6 billion.

"We continue to face a very real crisis at the southern border," Thornberry, the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "I regret that the president has been forced to divert funding for our troops to address the crisis. His initial requests to secure the border were not unreasonable, and Congress should have been able to come together to find a compromise."

Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., also expressed support for the movement of funds, though she also said she had lobbied the Pentagon to ensure Arizona military construction projects would not be delayed by the transfer. Only one Arizona project was defunded as a result — a \$30 million ground transport equipment building at the Army's Fort Huachuca,

which McSally said had already been delayed by environmental factors. McSally said top Army leaders ensured her the project would be completed in the future.

"We need to secure our border and protect our military. We can and should do both," McSally said.

"As soon as the emergency was declared, I went to the mat to fight for Arizona projects and succeeded by receiving assurances from the highest levels of the Department of Defense."

The wall projects approved by Esper would build about 175 miles of barrier — described by the Pentagon as pedestrian fencing — in border locations in Texas, Arizona and California.

In a note to members of Congress dated Tuesday, the defense secretary said the building of the barrier wall was "necessary to support the use of the armed forces" in their mission to support Department of Homeland Security operations on the border. The Pentagon has about 5,000 servicemembers deployed along the southern border with Mexico who perform duties including surveillance, vehicle maintenance, ferrying CBP officers around the border and busing migrants to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol stations.

Esper hinted that building the new barriers could mean fewer troops serving along the border in the near future. Pentagon officials said Tuesday that it would take at least 100 days before any construction would begin.

"These projects will deter illegal entry, increase the vanishing time of those illegally crossing the border, and channel migrants to ports of entry," Esper wrote in his memorandum. "They will reduce the demand for personnel and assets at the locations where the barriers are constructed and allow the redeployment of DOD personnel and assets to other high-traffic areas on the border without barriers."

Bahrain School limits homework to reading

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Children at the Department of Defense Education Activity's Bahrain School no longer have to do homework unless it's reading, school staff and parents have said.

Parents of kids at the DODEA elementary school were told at the start of the new school year that students will no longer be assigned traditional homework but should read at home for at least 20-30 minutes a day.

The change brings the school in line with a 2018 Bahrain Education Ministry decision that homework was to be "replaced by daily hands-on exercises implemented by students under teachers' supervision inside the classroom before the end of each lesson."

"This innovative approach is

compatible with the ministry's efforts to develop academic curricula to suit the requirements of the 21st century," the ministry said in a statement released in December.

But a senior official at DODEA insisted the decision to do away with homework was taken independently of any Bahraini mandates.

"Our staff met (in June) to discuss our school's current homework practices across all classrooms," elementary school principal Penelope Miller-Smith said.

They "read and discussed several journal articles regarding the purpose of homework and worked collaboratively to develop a ... schoolwide practice that would be consistent across grades and classrooms," Miller-Smith said.

A member of the school staff,

however, said the Bahrain Education Ministry's homework policy was discussed at the meeting in June. A number of Bahraini nationals are enrolled at the school.

The DODEA school opted for a slightly modified version of the Bahraini policy to include a home reading obligation and interactive reading journal, officials said.

The new policy also specifies that students in fourth and fifth grade can be sent home with "any unfinished classwork as determined by the teacher."

Most parents were delighted with the new rule, although some have asked for resources for their kids to work on at home — homework, in other words.

"I want my kids to love learning and be lifelong learners, and working through a packet of worksheets in the evening

after a long day of school and after-school activities is not going to foster that," said Theresa Tamash, whose kindergarten and fourth grader attend the school. "I support the new policy 100 percent."

But, she added, she knew of parents who have asked teachers to direct them to educational websites or send home worksheets to prevent their kids from falling behind their peers in schools that still require homework.

Lucia Martinez said she thought it would have been better to reduce the amount of homework instead of doing away with it altogether.

Having a little homework helps her see her second and fifth graders' strengths and weaknesses better than if she only received reports from school, Martinez said.

Russia and India agree to more military cooperation

The Washington Post

MOSCOW — Russia and India agreed on Wednesday to work on military projects in what marks the second time in a week that Moscow has offered collaboration in the area of defense to a major regional power.

The proposal came during talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who are in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East for an economic forum.

Modi's visit comes exactly seven days after Putin hosted his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at an aviation show in Moscow, during which the two discussed fighter jet cooperation, a move that further irritated NATO member Turkey's fraying relationship with the United States.

Russia and India, historically allied countries who already build nuclear plants together

and have similar plans for Kalashnikov automatic rifles, did not give details on the military cooperation, but said the collaboration would "include establishing joint development and production of military equipment, spare parts and components as well as improving the system of after sales services," according to a joint statement.

India, like Turkey, has already agreed to purchase Russia's S-400 missile systems, which the United States says bans any military from participating in its F-35 program, and is also subject to sanctions.

Wary of China, India and the United States have grown closer in recent years, but warming ties did not stop the White House from expressing its strong opposition to India's purchase of the S-400 system. India has sought a sanctions waiver from the United States. First deliveries are expected next year.

British Prime Minister calls election refusal 'cowardly'

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson accused Britain's main opposition leader on Thursday of trying to dodge an election after rebellious lawmakers rejected the U.K. leader's call to trigger a snap poll and moved to block his plan to leave the European Union next month without a divorce deal.

Johnson remained determined to secure an election as the only way out of Britain's yearslong Brexit impasse.

His office said he would argue in a speech later that politicians must "go back to the people and give them the opportunity to decide what they want."

Johnson called Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn's refusal to endorse an election a "cowardly insult to democracy."

On Wednesday, Johnson asked Parliament to back an Oct. 15 election after lawmakers moved to block his plan to

leave the EU on Oct. 31 even if there is no withdrawal agreement to pave the way.

Parliament turned down his motion. Johnson needed the support of two-thirds of the 650 lawmakers in the House of Commons to trigger an election — a total of 434 — but got just 298, with 56 voting no and the rest abstaining.

Corbyn said Labour, the biggest opposition party, would vote for an early election only if the prospect of a no-deal Brexit was taken off the table.

"Let the bill pass and have Royal Assent and then we can have a general election," he said.

Labour economy spokesman John McDonnell said the party wanted an election but was still deciding on whether to seek one before the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline or to wait until Parliament had secured a delay to Britain's departure from the bloc.

Dorian rakes Carolinas as it moves north

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Hurricane Dorian raked the Carolina coast with howling, window-rattling winds and sideways rain Thursday, spinning off tornadoes and knocking out power to more than 200,000 homes and businesses as it pushed northward toward the dangerously exposed Outer Banks.

Leaving at least 20 people dead in its wake in the Bahamas, Dorian swept past Florida on Wednesday at a relatively safe distance, grazed Georgia overnight and then began hugging the South Carolina coastline with more serious effects.

It was a Category 2, blowing at 110 mph — a far cry from the Category 5 that mauled the Bahamas, but still dangerous — and about 1 million people were warned to evacuate in the Carolinas.

“Get to safety and stay there,” North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said. “This won’t be a brush-by. Whether it comes ashore or not, the eye of the storm will be close enough to cause extensive damage in North Carolina.”

At least two deaths were reported on the U.S. mainland, in Florida and North Carolina, both involving men who fell while getting ready for the storm.

The National Hurricane Center’s projected track showed Dorian passing near or over North Carolina’s Outer Banks on Friday, lashing the thin line of islands that stick out from the U.S. coast like a boxer’s chin.

Dorian was then expected to peel away from the shoreline.

“I think we’re in for a great big mess,” said Leslie Lanier, 61, who decided to stay behind and boarded up her home and bookstore on Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks, making sure to move the volumes 5 to 6 feet off the ground.

“We are thinking maybe we should have moved the books higher because of storm surge,” Lanier said.

“But we’re kind of to the point where we can’t do much more.”

The National Hurricane Center forecast as much as 15 inches of rain for the coastal Carolinas, with flash-flooding likely.

In Charleston, S.C., a historic port city of handsome antebellum homes on a peninsula that is prone to flooding even from ordinary storms, Dorian toppled some 150 trees, flooded out roads and brought down power lines, officials said.

Dorian apparently spun off at least one tornado in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., damaging several homes, and another twister touched down in the beach town of Emerald Isle, N.C., mangling and overturning several trailer homes in a jumble of sheet metal. No immediate injuries were reported.

In coastal Wilmington, N.C., just above the South Carolina line, heavy rain fell horizontally, trees bent in the wind and traffic lights swayed as the hurricane drew near.

At 11 a.m. Thursday, Dorian was centered about 50 miles southeast of Charleston,

moving north at 8 mph. Its hurricane-force winds extended about 60 miles from its center.

Hundreds of shelter animals from coastal South Carolina arrived in Delaware ahead of the storm. The News Journal of Wilmington, Del., said 200 were airlifted from shelters in danger of flooding. About 150 more were expected to arrive via land.

In an assault that began over Labor Day weekend, Dorian pounded the Bahamas with Category 5 winds up to 185 mph, obliterating entire neighborhoods and triggering a humanitarian crisis.

As it closed in on the Eastern Seaboard, Navy ships were ordered to ride out Dorian at sea and military aircraft were moved inland.

Florida and Georgia, where about 2 million people had been warned to clear out, were mostly spared since Dorian stayed offshore.

Mayor Jason Buelterman, of Tybee Island, Ga., said the beach community of 3,000 people came through it without flooding, and the lone highway linking the island to Savannah on the mainland remained open throughout the night.

“If the worst that comes out of this is people blame others for calling evacuations, then that’s wonderful,” he said.

Tybee Islander Bruce Pevey went outside to take photos of unscathed homes to text to neighbors who evacuated. The storm, he said, turned out to be “a bunch of nothing.”

Stanford sex assault victim reveals identity

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The woman who read a searing statement at the sentencing of the college swimmer who sexually assaulted her at Stanford University — causing a public outcry that led to the judge in the case being recalled — has revealed her identity.

For years, Chanel Miller was known in legal proceedings as “Emily Doe,” the woman assaulted while unconscious by Brock Turner outside an on-campus fraternity house. She identifies herself in a memoir, “Know My Name,” scheduled to be released Sept. 24.

The Associated Press does not usually identify victims of sex crimes, but Miller has identified herself. CBS will air an interview with her Sept. 22, and The New York Times published a story about the book Wednesday.

Miller’s author page on Penguin Random House’s website describes her as a San Francisco resident and a writer and artist with a degree in literature from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

A jury found Turner guilty of assaulting Miller while she was incapacitated by alcohol in January 2015.

The emotional victim impact statement Miller read at his sentencing went viral, serving as a rallying cry for victims of sexual abuse.

In it, she detailed how the assault and the aftermath affected her life.

“My independence, natural joy, gentleness, and steady lifestyle I had been enjoying became distorted beyond recognition. I became closed off, angry, self-deprecating, tired, irritable, empty,” Miller wrote.

Many people were enraged when Turner was sentenced to six months in jail in 2016 after his conviction for felony sexual as-

sault, more than a year before the #MeToo movement took off.

Judge Aaron Persky, who imposed the sentence, was recalled by voters in 2018, the first judge to be recalled in California since 1932.

“When people read her book, they will be impressed with her. They will be convinced that Judge Persky and Stanford University behaved very badly,” said Michele Dauber, a Stanford law professor who launched the recall campaign.

“Many victims of sexual violence are subjected to the same terrible treatment by courts and universities that Ms. Miller experienced,” she said.

To critics, Persky embodied an outdated judicial system that treated sexual assault too lightly and seemed overly concerned with the male attacker, in this case an athlete with a budding career.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Suspect found after phone left behind

WI LA CROSSE — Police in La Crosse didn't have to work too hard to track down a man suspected of stealing a wallet from a car.

Authorities said the man entered an unlocked vehicle and made off with the owner's wallet containing \$20 in cash and debit and credit cards. But it's what he left behind that led police directly to his door.

Officers were able to identify the 38-year-old suspect from selfies taken on his cellphone which he accidentally left in the vehicle.

Postal truck catches fire; mail destroyed

AZ PHOENIX — The U.S. Postal Service said some outgoing mail was destroyed when a mail truck suddenly caught fire in Phoenix.

The fire happened after the semi left the Daisy Mountain Station.

Postal Service officials said the carrier driving the vehicle escaped serious injury. However, an unspecified amount of mail in the trailer was damaged.

Officials: Woman took \$28K ring in swap

NJ NUTLEY — Authorities allege a woman stole a \$28,000 diamond ring from a New Jersey Costco store by replacing it with a much cheaper ring she had stolen from a different Costco.

Izaabela Kolano, 49, is facing a theft charge.

Authorities said the Nutley woman stole a \$2,000 diamond ring from a store in Wayne. She then traveled to the store in Clifton and asked to see the

other ring.

Kolano allegedly gave employees there the cheaper ring in return and left the store with the more expensive one.

Moose on campus is returned to wild

ND GRAND FORKS — A moose on the loose on the University of North Dakota campus was returned to the wild.

University police said the wayward moose was released in a field near Grand Forks after wandering into Memorial Stadium on campus.

UND spokesman David Dodds said the gates to the football stadium were closed to confine the moose to the practice field until it could be safely removed and released.

Fashion exhibit to open in Baltimore

MD BALTIMORE — A fashion exhibition with nearly 100 examples of women's and men's clothing and accessories spanning four centuries is scheduled to open at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.

The public will get to see the installation starting Oct. 6. The organization said the clothing has connections to presidents, royalty and everyday Marylanders.

Among the pieces that will be on display is a gown worn to George Washington's inaugural ball.

Man pleads guilty to stealing from truck

KY LOUISVILLE — A Kentucky man pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$932,000 from an armored truck.

News outlets reported Mark Espinosa, 29, entered his plea a day before his jury trial was set to begin. His plea was part of a deal with federal prosecutors.

Authorities said Espinosa worked as a driver for GardaWorld.

Espinosa and another employee were doing a pickup in December 2018. Authorities say the other employee went inside and returned to see the truck and Espinosa were gone.

Bear found sleeping in lodge's restroom

MT BIG SKY — A black bear was found in a Montana lodge by visitors who were surprised to find him sleeping in a restroom.

KTMF-TV reported the bear was asleep on the countertop between two sinks at Bucks T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

Officials said the bear entered the restroom through a window and then could not get back out using the window or the restroom door, which was closed.

Officials said no one was injured and the bear was safely transported from the property.

World War II museum abruptly closes

MA NATICK — A World War II museum in the Boston suburbs abruptly closed.

The International Museum of World War II in Natick said on its website it closed after an individual acquired most of its collections.

The Boston Globe reported that billionaire Ronald Lauder, an heir to the Estee Lauder cosmetics empire, purchased the holdings for \$25 million in March 2018. Among the thousands of artifacts acquired were a Sherman tank and Adolf

Hitler's uniform.

Lauder told the Globe he wants to find a new home for the artifacts that will give them wider exposure.

Police seek woman in theft of antique violin

CT WINDSOR — Police in Connecticut released surveillance images of a woman they said may be involved in the theft of an antique violin.

The violin that dates to the late 1800s, as well as credit cards and other items, were stolen from the Windsor home July 29.

Windsor police released several surveillance images of a white woman with a distinct sun tattoo on the back of her neck they think was involved in the theft. The stolen credit cards were used at several businesses.

Tim Lawrence, who owns the violin, told WVIT-TV it originally belonged to his great-grandfather and had been passed down.

Heroin found in car that hit police vehicle

MO ARNOLD — A Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper was recovering from minor injuries after a car allegedly containing heroin struck the back of the trooper's car.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that a 30-year-old man was jailed in Arnold on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Highway Patrol arrest records said the man had 30 capsules of heroin in his car.

The accident happened on Interstate 55 in St. Louis County.

From wire reports

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Michigan big measuring stick for Army

MLive.com

Army finished last season ranked in the top-20 of the major polls. The Black Knights have won 10 consecutive football games, the second-longest active streak in the country. But coach Jeff Monken doesn't want anyone getting the wrong idea about the program.

Monken was asked at his weekly press conference on Tuesday if, during Friday's 14-7 victory over Rice, Army had to knock off the rust early in the game.

"You're like a lot of people," Monken said. "You think we're something we're not. Of the 85 guys on scholarship on Rice, we probably offered 80 of them. Of the guys we've got on our team, they offered none. Knocking rust off didn't have anything to do with it. Our guys were fighting their butts off, playing as hard as they could to try and win the game. That's what we've got to do to win here."

"I don't know where people got (mistaken) about Army football. We're just a bunch of tough kids; (we) play hard. We've got a lot of guys nobody else wanted. We've got some talented players in here, maybe some people missed on them. But it's not like we're busting at the seams with All-Americans. It takes everything we've got to win a game here."

Army will bring that mentality — and reality, at least as Monken sees it — to Michigan on Saturday.

The Wolverines, who beat Middle Tennessee 40-21 in their opener on Saturday, are ranked seventh in the country. Their roster is littered with four- and five-star recruits. Michigan is the winningest program in college football history.

"It's going to take us playing our very best to even give them a good look," Monken said. "That's how talented they are."

Monken, like most coaches, focuses on jersey numbers when studying tape. He won't concern himself with which Wolverines might be playing in the NFL one day.

"I'm sure they're not trying to figure out which of our guys are going into infantry and which are going to be driving tanks and whatever," he said.

Monken said he won't gear the game plan towards stopping any one player.

"Holy smokes, all 11 one-on-one matchups we're outmanned. We're outmanned in every one-on-one matchup. Like I said, we just try to prepare our schemes and do the best we can and hope it will be good enough."

Monken, who is in his sixth season at Army, was asked specifically about Michigan's Shea Patterson and Zach Charbonnet.

"The Patterson kid is a quarterback much like his coach — very smart, gets 'em in good plays, understands the protections and puts himself in position to get the throws off," he said. "There are a lot of things going on in front of him that he's directing, and helping guys pick up different looks from the defense — blitzes, sight-adjustment routes, things like that — and he does an amazing job with that."

Charbonnet was Michigan's leading rusher (90 yards on just eight carries, including a 41-yard scamper) on Saturday. "That kid is really special," said Monken. "It's not going to be too long (before) that guy has 199 in a game. I hope it's not against us this Saturday. He's a talented guy and is going to have a heck of a career, I'm sure."

Meanwhile, Monken could have an experienced ball carrier return to the field. Senior fullback Connor Slomka missed the opener. He is Army's leading returning rusher behind quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr.

"I hope we'll see Connor," Monken said. "He's going to practice this afternoon. Had a pulled muscle, and sometimes those are a lot more debilitating than other times. He's been working really hard to come back. We'll see him today and the rest of the week; hopefully, he'll be ready. I hope we can run the ball more effectively than we did on Saturday. ... If we can do that consistently and control the clock...we'll give ourselves a much better chance."

Army's triple-option offense is unique, but Monken pointed out a couple of coaches who should help Michigan prepare.

The first is defensive coordinator Don Brown. "He's coached against us before in this offense," Monken said. Brown was the head coach at Massachusetts in 2006 when his team faced Navy, where Monken was an assistant at the time.

Monken also mentioned Michigan defensive analyst Nate Woody, who was Georgia Tech's defensive coordinator last season. Georgia Tech also ran the triple option. Woody coached against Monken each season from 2010 to 2013 as well, when Monken was the head coach at Georgia Southern and Woody was a defensive coordinator at Wofford and then Appalachian State.

"He's faced the option and knows it as well as anybody in the country," Monken said of Woody.

"They've got plenty of guys to put together a plan against us in terms of their defense. We'll have a real challenge on our hands."

To open last season, Army went to Oklahoma and forced overtime before losing. The Sooners were ranked fifth at the time and ended their season in the playoff.

Monken views Saturday's game against Michigan in much the same way.

"It's an opportunity to measure ourselves against the very best in college football."

Briefly

Michigan State fined \$4.5M in Nassar case

WASHINGTON — The Education Department said Thursday it was fining Michigan State University a record \$4.5 million for failing to respond appropriately to sexual assault complaints against Larry Nassar, a former sports doctor at the school who also worked at USA Gymnastics.

The fine is the largest ever levied under the Clery Act, which requires universities to

report crimes on campus.

Nassar is serving effective life sentences for possessing child pornography and molesting young athletes.

Berkshire captures World Long Drive title

THACKERVILLE, Okla. — Kyle Berkshire won the World Long Drive Championship on Wednesday night, beating two-time champion Tim Burke with a 406-yard drive at WinStar World Casino and Resort.

South Africa's Chloe Garner won the women's title, beating three-time champion Philis Meti of New Zealand with a 347-yard drive on her fifth attempt.

Coyotes sign Keller to 8-year extension

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Hockey teams, except on rare occasions, typically wait until a player has a decent-sized body of work before making a long-term commitment.

The Arizona Coyotes saw enough in two productive seasons from Clayton Keller to lock him up before he becomes a restricted free agent.

The Coyotes signed Keller, the seventh overall pick in 2017, to an eight-year contract extension on Wednesday with an average annual salary of \$7.15 million, ensuring the playmaking right wing will remain in the desert through the 2027-28 season.

From The Associated Press

Nadal grinds out late-night quarterfinal win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rafael Nadal kept pulling away in his U.S. Open quarterfinal, then getting reeled back in by Diego Schwartzman.

In the first set, Nadal led 4-0 before Schwartzman got to 4-all. In the second, Nadal went up 5-1 before Schwartzman made it 5-all.

It took more than two hours just for those two sets. Eventually, both were claimed by Nadal. And so, ultimately, was the match and a berth in a 33rd Grand Slam semifinal for Nadal, who prevented Schwartzman from reaching his first by winning 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 after 12:30 a.m. Thursday in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

“Like a lion in the ... jungle. He’s big. He’s a fighter. He knows how to play the important moments, every single time,” Schwartzman said. “I’ve played him eight times and every important moment, he played better than me.”

No wonder Nadal is 8-0 against the guy.

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic are both out of the bracket, but Nadal is still around, meaning at least one member of the Big Three is in the semis at a 62nd consecutive major tournament. That trio has combined to win the last 11 Slam trophies

— and Nadal is going to be heavily favored to make that 12.

None of the other men left has played in a major final, let alone won one. Nadal, though, is closing in on a fourth championship at the U.S. Open and his 19th at all majors, which would move him within only one of Federer’s record for men.

On Friday, Nadal will play No. 24 Matteo Berrettini, a 23-year-old from Rome who is Italy’s first male semifinalist in New York since 1977. Berrettini barely got there, edging No. 13 Gael Monfils 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (5) on Wednesday.

The other men’s semifinal will be No. 5 Daniil Medvedev of Russia vs. 78th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

Dimitrov won a five-setter Tuesday night against Federer, who was hampered by an issue with his upper back. Medvedev won his quarterfinal in four sets against Stan Wawrinka, who had built a big lead in the fourth round against Djokovic when the defending champion stopped because of pain in his left shoulder.

A year ago, it was Nadal whose body broke down: He retired from his semifinal against runner-up Juan Martin del Potro because of a bad knee.

This time, on a muggy night with the hu-

midity above 50%, the left-hander raised some concern by having a trainer come out to rub a cream into his left forearm during a changeover early in the third set. At the next changeover, Nadal flexed his right forearm and was visited again by the trainer, took a salt pill and guzzled some drinks, then shook that arm between points.

Afterward, Nadal said he had dealt with cramps late in the second set and early in the third.

“And then I took some salt, that’s all, and then it was over. The body is in good shape, I think. Not big problems,” Nadal said. “Just, of course, a little tired. Long day.”

Still, Nadal managed to play his best when it mattered the most against the 20th-seeded Schwartzman, an Argentine serenaded by loud choruses of “Ole! Ole! Ole! Ole!” by an audience that included former San Antonio Spurs star Manu Ginobili. Nadal came up with a service break in the last game of each of the opening two sets, then the last one he would need made it 4-2 in the third and he broke yet again to end it.

“I don’t know how,” Schwartzman said, “but this guy is improving every time.”

Now Nadal becomes Berrettini’s problem.

Greece next as US routs Japan in World Cup basketball

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — The U.S. finally got to enjoy an easy night at the World Cup.

There might not be many more of those.

Jaylen Brown scored 20 points, Kemba Walker added 15 and the U.S. rolled past Japan 98-45 Thursday in the Group E finale. And now, the stakes get higher with the Americans set to face Greece — and NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo — in a second-round opener on Saturday in Shenzhen, China.

“They were very serious tonight and they respected the Japanese team very much,” U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. “They didn’t take anything for granted and they played hard. So I was pleased with their performance.”

Harrison Barnes scored 14 points while Joe Harris and Donovan Mitchell each had 10 for the Americans (3-0), who are bidding for an unprecedented third consecutive World

Cup title. The 45 points allowed were the fewest yielded by any team in the first round of this World Cup, the 53-point margin was the third biggest so far in the tournament and Mitchell thought it was the best defense the Americans have played this summer.

“From the jump, I think for the full 40 minutes,” Mitchell said. “We’ve had games where we played 30 minutes of great defense or 35 and kind of let up a little bit. I think for a whole game, to really lock in and set a tone, it was really impressive.”

Yudai Baba scored 18 for Japan (0-3), which will play in classification games the rest of the way. Rui Hachimura, Japan’s best player and the No. 9 draft pick this year by the Washington Wizards, was held to four points on 2-for-8 shooting.

“I’ve got no excuse,” said Japan guard Yuta Watanabe, who scored nine points. “This is the way we are right now.”

A U.S. program that is accus-

tomed to blowout wins, particularly when it has NBA players, hadn’t enjoyed one yet in six games against international competition this summer. The biggest victory margin before Thursday was 21 in the World Cup opener against the Czech Republic, and the U.S. came into the group finale with a plus-59 scoring differential in four exhibitions and two World Cup games.

This one, two days after the Americans needed late-game heroics to beat Turkey 93-92 in overtime, was drama-free.

It was 13-0 before Japan scored, 23-9 after a quarter, 56-23 at halftime and 73-25 midway through the third quarter when Hachimura got loose for a dunk and his first points of the night. Somehow, matters could have been even worse for Japan: The U.S. missed seven of eight shots during one first-quarter stretch and finished shooting 48% for the game.

“I think we’ve got a lot of room for improvement,” Brown

said.

The Japanese missed their first six shots, and went 5:48 without a field goal until center Nick Fazekas rattled in a short jumper.

Japan doesn’t play the U.S. often, and when the matchup happens it’s one-sided. The Americans are 3-0 against Japan in the Olympics, winning by a combined 183 points (98-40 in 1956, 125-66 in 1960 and 99-33 in 1972). The teams hadn’t previously met in World Cup play.

The Americans held a 58-33 rebounding edge. Harris replaced Jayson Tatum in the starting lineup. Tatum is out with a sprained left ankle and isn’t scheduled to be reevaluated again until Monday.

Marcus Smart (left quad strain) also missed the game, so the U.S. was down to 10 healthy players and two of its four Boston Celtics.

Gallen takes no-hitter into 7th as D-backs sweep Padres

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Even before Manny Machado singled into right field, Zac Gallen knew it wasn't his night to throw a no-hitter.

The rookie right-hander took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning, Ketel Marte hit a grand slam for his 30th homer and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the San Diego Padres 4-1 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

The 24-year-old Gallen (3-4) struck out eight, walked one and allowed one hit on 103 pitches while lowering his ERA to 2.50. Arizona is 5-1 in his starts since acquiring him from Miami on July 31.

"I took a look at the pitch count and I knew it probably wasn't going to be possible," Gallen said. "I just tried to get it going as long as I could."

Gallen pitched seven hitless innings in the minor leagues earlier this season, but that was as close as he'd ever been to a no-hitter.

"Another night of outstanding pitching and it carried us throughout the entire night," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. "I was probably the most nervous guy in the stadium, because I was trying to figure out how I was going to take him out of a game if he had a certain pitch count."

Marte's slam off Luis Perdomo set up Gallen for the victory and gave the surging Diamondbacks their ninth win in 10 games.

Machado broke up Gallen's no-hitter with a line drive with one out in the seventh. Diamondbacks right fielder Jarrod Dyson set up as if he was going to try to throw out Machado at first base, but he bobbled the transfer.

With the Chicago Cubs idle Wednesday, the Diamondbacks moved within three games of the second NL wild card.

Craig Stammen (7-7) took the loss after issuing two walks that turned into runs on Marte's slam, the second of his career. Starter Chris Paddack pitched 5¹/₃ scoreless innings and allowed four hits with eight strikeouts.

Wil Myers homered in the ninth, his 16th of the season, for the Padres' only run. The Padres got the tying run up to bat in the ninth, but Archie Bradley got Hunter Renfroe on a broken-bat groundout for his 12th save and stranded runners at second and third. San Diego had just three hits.

Bradley has converted eight straight save opportunities.

MLB Roundup

Judge, Yanks power past Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge hit a go-ahead, two-run homer to keep up his power resurgence, Gleyber Torres added his 34th home run and the New York Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 4-1 Wednesday night to move 43 games over .500 for the first time since 2009.

Judge is hitting .317 with eight homers and 12 RBIs in his last 15 games. He connected off Lance Lynn (14-10) in the third inning to become the fifth Yankees player with 20 homers this season.

Torres homered in the fourth, tying Gary Sanchez for the team lead and joining Joe DiMaggio as the only Yankees to hit 34 homers at age 22 or younger. The home run was the 200th off the Rangers this season.

New York improved to 92-49, including 11-2 when using Chad Green as an opener.

Green pitched two innings and Luis Cessa (2-1) followed with three. Cory Gearrin allowed a ninth-inning homer to Rowned Odor.

Lynn dropped to 0-4 in his last six starts. Texas matched its season worst of five games under .500 at 68-73.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 3: Joc Pederson hit a leadoff homer and a two-run shot to give his team the National League record with 250 long balls this season, and host Los Angeles beat skidding Colorado to complete a three-game sweep.

Pederson, on a powerful tear at the plate, socked five homers and a double in a string of six at-bats that dated back to Sunday. He sat out Tuesday, one day after crashing into the outfield wall to make a catch.

The Dodgers reduced their magic number to four to clinch their seventh straight NL West title. Los Angeles surpassed the previous NL home run mark of 249 set by Houston in 2000. The Dodgers slugged 12 homers in the series while outscoring the Rockies 28-15.

Athletics 4, Angels 0: Sean Murphy homered for his first hit in his major league debut, Marcus Semien added a two-run shot two batters later and host Oakland blanked Los Angeles.

Murphy connected off Jake Jewell in the fifth inning and replays showed his proud parents cheering and celebrating in the stands.

Red Sox 6, Twins 2: Mookie Betts homered on the first two pitches he saw, collecting four hits and five RBIs in all, and Eduardo Rodriguez (17-5) allowed only five singles in seven shutout innings to help host Boston beat Minnesota.

The Red Sox won for the 12th time in 17 games and remained 5¹/₂ back in the race

for the second AL wild card. The AL Central-leading Twins, who had won seven of eight, fell to 5¹/₂ games ahead of second-place Cleveland in the division.

Giants 9, Cardinals 8: Kevin Pillar had four hits, including a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and visiting San Francisco rallied to cool off St. Louis.

Brandon Crawford and Mike Yastrzemski also homered for the Giants, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Pillar had three RBIs, including his homer off Giovanni Gallegos (3-2).

Indians 8, White Sox 6: Shane Bieber struck out nine over seven innings to snap a three-game losing streak, and Franmil Reyes hit a two-run homer as host Cleveland beat Chicago.

Bieber (13-7), the All-Star Game MVP, allowed two runs and six hits in winning for the first time in five starts since Aug. 9. The right-hander also earned his first victory over the White Sox in three outings this season.

Mets 8, Nationals 4: Justin Wilson and his team's bullpen held on this time, rookie Pete Alonso hit his major league-leading 45th home run and visiting New York bounced back from a brutal loss to stop Washington.

A day after a trio of Mets relievers was tagged for seven runs in the bottom of the ninth inning in an 11-10 loss to the Nationals, three pitchers combined to close with 3¹/₃ scoreless innings.

Reds 8, Phillies 5: Relief pitcher Michael Lorenzen hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to lead host Cincinnati past Philadelphia.

The Phillies had their three-game winning streak snapped and slipped three games behind the idle Cubs for the second NL wild card.

Royals 5, Tigers 4: Jorge Soler extended his team record with his 40th homer, Hunter Dozier and Alex Gordon had three hits each, and host Kansas City beat Detroit.

The Royals are the last team in major league history to have a player hit 40 home runs in a season. Previously, Mike Moustakas held the club record with 38 in 2017.

Pirates 6, Marlins 5: Bryan Reynolds' two-run bloop single capped a three-run ninth inning as host Pittsburgh rallied past Miami.

Elias Diaz started the winning rally with a leadoff homer against Jose Urena (4-8) that drew the Pirates within a run. Pinch-hitter Kevin Kramer walked and went to third on Adam Frazier's double before Reynolds flared a single into left-center to give the Pirates their fifth win in six games.