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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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3 GIs hurt in Afghanistan insider attack

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three American troops were wounded Monday when an Afghan police officer opened fire at their convoy in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province, a defense official said.

A statement from NATO's Kabul-based Resolute Support mission said the servicemembers suffered "non-life-threatening injuries," and the attacker, an Afghan Civil Order police officer, was killed in the incident.

The statement did not identify the wounded as American; however, a defense official confirmed all three were U.S. troops. The official was not authorized to release the information publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The NATO statement said

coalition forces would review their defensive force posture following the incident, which appeared to be the second insider attack in recent months.

Two paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division, Spc. Michael Nance and Pfc. Brandon Kreischer, were shot and killed July 29 by an Afghan soldier.

"We are reviewing the incident (on Monday) with our Afghan security partners," the NATO statement read. "Resolute Support continuously assesses force protection measures and we adapt and adjust based on the environment."

On Twitter, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which they said killed 12 "invaders." A Taliban spokesman wrote that the attack Monday was conducted by a Taliban infiltrator who had "entered

enemy ranks long ago for carrying this type of attack."

That claim was disputed by a spokesman for American forces in Afghanistan. Army Col. Sonny Leggett, the top spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, wrote the Taliban's assertions were "more lies and false claims" in a tweet from his official account.

The Taliban routinely inflate the number of U.S. and coalition troops killed or injured in their attacks.

Some 20,500 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in action in Afghanistan during the 18-year war launched in the weeks following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. In 2019, 17 American troops have been killed in action in Afghanistan, marking the deadliest year for U.S. servicemembers since the

United States formally ended its large-scaled combat operations there in 2014.

The incident Monday comes as the future of American forces in Afghanistan appears unclear. President Donald Trump, who has long vowed to end American involvement there, abruptly ended talks with Taliban negotiators last month.

His decision came just before the sides appeared likely to sign an agreement that would pave the way for the U.S. to withdraw some of its about 14,000 troops in exchange for the Taliban to begin peace negotiations with the Afghan government and assurances the insurgent group would not provide terrorist organizations safe harbor.

Stars and Stripes reporter Phillip Walter Wellman contributed to this report.

US blames al-Qaida for civilian deaths during coalition raid

By J.P. LAWRENCE AND PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan said Monday that al-Qaida is to blame for most of the deaths during a night of heavy fighting and airstrikes that reportedly killed dozens of civilians in the country's south.

Local officials initially had blamed the raid carried out by U.S. and Afghan forces in Helmand province Sunday night for the deaths of 40 civilians, including women and children attending a wedding ceremony.

"We assess the majority of those killed in the fighting died from al-Qaida weapons or in the explosion of the terrorists' explosives caches or suicide vests," Lt. Col. Josh Jacques, a

spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, said via email. "The incident is under investigation with our Afghan partners."

At least 12 people at the wedding party in Musa Qala district were wounded, provincial council member Abdul Majid Akhundzada told Stars and Stripes. Precise casualty figures are difficult to come by because the area has long been under Taliban control.

U.S. and Afghan forces carried out the operation in the district in Helmand to neutralize a group of al-Qaida fighters who "presented an imminent threat," Jacques said.

"In the course of the operation, several foreigners associated with al-Qaida were detained, including multiple persons from Pakistan and one from Bangladesh," he said. "Because of heavy fighting, we

did conduct targeted precision strikes against barricaded terrorists firing on Afghan and U.S. forces."

Militants hid in people's houses during the raid, said provincial police spokesman Mohammad Zaman Hamdard. Only three women were among the dead, and three children were wounded, he said.

Two explosions ripped through the area during the incident, Hamdard said, adding that they may have been caused by bombs kept by militants.

The operations led to the deaths of 22 Taliban members and the arrest of 14 others, including five Pakistani nationals and one Bangladeshi, said an Afghan Defense Ministry statement.

"The foreign terrorist group was actively engaged in organizing terrorist attacks," said

the statement, adding that a large warehouse of the terrorists' supplies and equipment was also destroyed in the raid.

The raid comes a week after Afghan officials blamed the U.S. for killing at least 16 and wounding others, mostly civilians, in a drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province. The strike was targeting Islamic State militants, the U.S. said.

U.S. officials have promised greater battlefield pressure on Taliban militants following a breakdown in peace talks between the U.S. and the insurgent group, which harbored al-Qaida after the 9/11 attacks and has refused to renounce the terrorist organization founded by Osama bin Laden.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chad Garland and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

Pentagon to probe USAF on refueling boom

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon will investigate the Air Force's handling of the development of a remotely operated boom on its newest refueling tanker, which has been plagued by a host of problems.

The Defense Department's inspector general is expected to begin evaluating "whether the Air Force adhered to DOD and Air Force systems engineering processes" during the design and development of the refueling boom on the new Boeing KC-46A Pegasus, the IG's office said in a statement last week.

The IG investigation will center on Ohio's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base but could expand to other locations, the IG said in a memo to the Air Force auditor general.

Four serious technical flaws

have been found in the tanker, including two involving the boom — stiffness and problems with the remote vision system, which is used to guide the refueling arm.

The stiff-boom problem could "affect operations and cause damage to stealth aircraft" when the tanker is refueling the newer generation airframes, making them visible to radar, the Government Accountability Office said in a June report.

"The stiff boom deficiency is currently under contract with Boeing to implement a viable fix," Gen. Maryanne Miller, head of Air Mobility Command, said last week at the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber conference in Maryland. "This needs to be and remain a priority."

Eight months after the Air

Force took delivery of the Pegasus, the remote vision system deficiency still needs a solution that meets "critical performance parameters," Miller said. KC-46A boom operators sit near the cockpit and guide the arm using the remote vision system.

"The solution Boeing presents must meet all these parameters," Miller said. "This is a pass-fail requirement. As the air component commander to U.S. [Transportation Command], I can accept nothing less in support to the Joint and coalition warfighter."

The Air Force's portion of work to fix the tanker's flaws is expected to take years and cost more than \$300 million, the GAO said.

The tanker aircraft is unlikely to deploy to a combat zone for at least three years, Miller told

reporters at the conference last week. The KC-10 Extender and KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft may have to keep flying to fill the gap until then, she said.

The Air Force has banned cargo and passengers aboard the Pegasus after floor cargo restraints unlocked during recent test flights. The issue could cause cargo aboard the plane to become loose, potentially endangering individuals and damaging weapons system, the AMC said this month.

The Pegasus is the Air Force's choice to replace the more than 50-year-old KC-135 Stratotanker.

Boeing delivered its first KC-46A to the Air Force in January after considerable delays. The program, which aims to build 179 aircraft by 2027, was initially supposed to deliver aircraft by 2016.

US military helicopter dropped container on S. Korean building

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. military helicopter accidentally dropped a metal container unit being airlifted Monday in South Korea, damaging a building but causing no injuries, officials said.

The container was being carried via sling load by a 2nd Infantry Division helicopter when it fell onto a building in Yongin, just south of Seoul.

"By all accounts, it did cause property damage, but nobody was injured," said 2nd ID spokesman Lt. Col. Martyn Crighton. "Unit leaders are on the ground, and a thorough investigation has been launched to determine the circumstances and cause of the accident."

He said the initial thought was that the ISU-90 container fell because of an equipment malfunction but stressed the investigation was ongoing.

Local police and fire department officials said nobody was injured in the incident, which occurred about 2 p.m. in the city's Chuin district. Officials also said the

container apparently contained fuel pump equipment.

Crighton couldn't confirm the exact contents of the container but said there was no liquid fuel inside.

A city official, speaking on condition of anonymity according to department policy, said the building was run by an adzuki bean business but nobody was inside at the time.

Last month, Japan's Ministry of Defense asked U.S. military officials for inspections and maintenance on Marine Corps CH-53E helicopters on Okinawa after a Super Stallion lost a cabin window during a routine flight. No injuries or property damage was reported.

In December 2017, a 3-foot-by-3-foot window fell from another Okinawa-based Super Stallion and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to the Futenma base fence line. More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble that flew up during impact.

Trial ordered for SEAL, Marine charged in death of Green Beret

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The case against a U.S. Navy SEAL and a Marine who are charged in the hazing-related death of a Green Beret will go to trial.

The U.S. Navy said in a statement Friday that an admiral referred the charges against SEAL Tony DeDolph and Marine Mario Madera-Rodriguez to a court-martial hearing. No date has been set.

DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez are among four American servicemen charged in Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar's death. He died in 2017 while serving in the African country of Mali.

The Navy admiral declined to add sexual misconduct charges to the case despite a prosecutor's recommendation.

Prosecutors say the servicemen tried to embarrass Melgar over perceived slights. They say Melgar was placed in chokeholds meant to temporarily knock him unconscious before Melgar stopped breathing.

Russian PM says US' plan for Kaliningrad air defense 'idiotic'

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. general's comments about a plan to break through Russian air defenses in the military enclave of Kaliningrad if necessary were dismissed by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev as "idiotic," Russia's Tass news agency has reported.

Medvedev lashed out at statements made last week by U.S. Air Forces Europe chief Gen. Jeff Harrigian, who said countering Russian air defenses in Kaliningrad, which is wedged between NATO members Lithuania and Poland, is a top U.S. priority in Europe.

"If we have to go in there to take down, for instance, the Kaliningrad IADS (Integrated Air Defense System), let there be no doubt we have a plan to

go after that," Harrigian told reporters at a roundtable discussion in Washington last week, the Breaking Defense news website reported. "We train to that. We think through those plans all the time, and ... if that would ever come to fruition, we'd be ready to execute."

Medvedev said the Pentagon should be focused on its own air defense shortcomings rather than eyeing Russian activities in Kaliningrad. He also took a swipe at the recent failure of U.S. systems to protect oil installations in Saudi Arabia that were bombed earlier this month.

"On the one hand, there's no need to comment on all idiotic statements by American generals," Medvedev told Russian state media. "However, when this happens, I'm inclined to tell our counterparts, 'You'd better mind your own business

and take care of what's going on with your own anti-missile defense (systems) and those ABM systems produced by the United States,'" he said.

Russia's military buildup in Kaliningrad has been a longstanding concern for the U.S. and its European allies. Among their fears is that Russian air defenses and other weaponry could be used to isolate the Baltic states, all former Soviet republics and now members of the EU and NATO.

Medvedev called the attack on Saudi Arabia a "fiasco" that resulted from the failure of the U.S.-made Patriot missile defense system to protect oil installations there.

"I believe that they have to take care of this and not come up with idiotic ideas that have no chance of materializing," Medvedev said Friday.

Global postal union meets amid threat to pull US out

Associated Press

GENEVA — The effects of President Donald Trump's standoff with China could soon be coming to a post office near you — and higher shipping rates for some types of mail are the likely outcome.

The Trump administration is threatening to pull the United States out of the 145-year-old Universal Postal Union, complaining that some postal carriers like China's aren't paying enough to have foreign shipments delivered to U.S. recipients.

A showdown looms at a special UPU congress that is being held Tuesday to Thursday in Geneva.

The complaint centers on the reimbursement that the U.S. Postal Service receives for providing final deliveries of bulky letters and small parcels sent from abroad — usually ones not weighing more than about 4 pounds. Such mail can include high-value items like mobile phones, memory sticks or pharmaceuticals.

For consumers, the issue has largely been overlooked.

"Whatever happens, prices to ship via the postal network ... It's going to cost more," said Kate Muth, executive director of the International Mailers Advisory Group, which counts companies like eBay, DHL, Amazon, USPS or their affiliates as members. "The rates are going to go up."

Companies might have to decide individually how to manage such increased rates, either by swallowing the costs or passing them on to customers.

The administration complains that China and many other countries get to pay lower reimbursements because they're classified as developing countries, putting U.S. companies at a disadvantage. It wants postal services like USPS to set their own rates — and right away, not months from now.

Complaints made about US litterbug troops at popular island destination

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Local officials on Okinawa have appealed for visitors to stop littering on the tropical island prefecture's beaches after complaints surfaced recently on social media about U.S. servicemembers.

The issue was first raised on Labor Day, Sept. 2, when the Zamami Island beach patrol posted photos of litter to Instagram. Village officials said the trash was left by both Japanese and U.S. military visitors to the island.

The trash was left at both the beach and the port and included Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans, red Solo Cups and plastic exchange-brand water bottles

typically sold only at U.S. military installations.

"Starting [Aug. 30], there were Y-plate cars parked at the site, and many military-looking young groups and families were there," said Tatsuya Hata, chairman of Zamami Beach Patrol. "They all spoke American English and lived on Okinawa mainland. There were only a few Japanese groups at the site."

License plates that begin with the letter "Y" are reserved in Japan for Americans under the status of forces agreement.

Zamami is one of the Kerama Islands, which also include Tokashiki and Aka, approximately 20 miles west of Okinawa's main island. The islands are accessible by a 50-minute, high-speed ferry ride.

Litter being left by U.S. ser-

vicemembers on Zamami's beaches has increased in recent years as the overall traffic has increased since the island was named a national park in 2014, Hata said.

The most littered items are cigarette butts but also include food packaging, beer cans, broken camping supplies and plastic bottles, Hata said. He has seen some leave full bags of trash.

"Just because you cannot find a trash can, why would you leave it on the street?" he said.

Incidents involving U.S. servicemembers occur mostly during American holiday weekends and summer vacation, Hata said. Japanese offenders litter most during the Obon holiday, which takes place in mid-August.

At UN, Trump to face questions on Iran

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS—Faced with growing tumult at home and abroad, President Donald Trump began his three-day visit to the United Nations on Monday hoping to lean on strained alliances while fending off questions about whether he sought foreign help to damage a political rival.

Trump's latest U.N. trip comes after nearly three years of an "America First" foreign policy that has unsettled allies and shredded multinational pacts.

A centerpiece of this year's U.N. schedule was Monday's session on climate change. That was not on Trump's schedule — although he did briefly stop by to observe for about 15 minutes. His main event will be addressing a meeting about the persecution of religious

minorities, particularly Christians, an issue that resonates with Trump's evangelical supporters.

The Republican president arrived in New York on Sunday against a backdrop of swirling international tensions, including questions about his relationship with Ukraine, the uncertain future of Brexit, the U.S. trade war with China, stalled nuclear negotiations with North Korea and a weakening global economy.

The most immediate challenge may be Iran.

Trump will try to persuade skeptical global capitals to help build a coalition to confront Tehran after the United States blamed it for last week's strike at an oil field in Saudi Arabia.

Asked as he arrived at the U.N. building if he will meet soon with Iran President Hassan Rouhani, Trump replied:

"We'll see what happens. We have a long way to go; we'll see what happens."

Trump's fulfillment of a campaign promise to exit the Iran nuclear deal has had wide ripple effects, leading Tehran to bolster its nuclear capabilities and dismaying European capitals who worked to establish the original agreement.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in particular, has been trying to lead Trump back to a deal and has suggested that the U.S. president meet with Rouhani.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran spiked after a Saudi Arabia oil field was partially destroyed in an attack that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed on Iran and deemed "an act of war."

Now Trump will try to enlist wary world leaders in a collective effort to contain Iran.

"He needs to win over traditional allies to do what traditional allies do, to band together against common threats," said Jon Alterman, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The attacks last weekend in Saudi Arabia are precisely the kind of thing that the U.N. was intended to address, to create rules for international behavior and opportunities for collective action."

Ukraine also looms large on Trump's schedule. Even one week ago, a one-on-one meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy would have been seen largely as an afterthought.

But Trump's meeting Wednesday with Zelenskiy will come just days after revelations that the president urged his Ukrainian counterpart in a July phone call to investigate the activities of the son of former Vice President Joe Biden.

'Game of Thrones' named top drama at Emmys

Associated Press

"Game of Thrones" resurrected the Iron Throne at Sunday's Emmy ceremony, ruling as top drama on a night of surprises in which "Pose" star Billy Porter made history and the comedy series "Fleabag" led a British invasion that overturned expectations.

"This all started in the demented mind of George R.R. Martin," said "Game of Thrones" producer David Benioff, thanking the author whose novels were the basis of HBO's fantasy saga.

Porter, who stars in the FX drama set in the LGBTQ ball scene of the late 20th century, became the first openly gay man to win a best drama series acting Emmy.

"God bless you all. The category is love, you all, love. I'm so overjoyed and so overwhelmed to have lived to see this day," said an exuberant Porter, who wore a sparkling suit and swooping hat.

Amazon's "Fleabag," a dark

comedy about a dysfunctional woman, was honored as best comedy and earned writing and top acting honors for its British creator and star, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, as well as a best director trophy.

"This is getting ridiculous," Waller-Bridge said in her third trip to the stage.

Her acting win blocked "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus from setting a record as the most-honored performer in Emmy history. "Fleabag's" showing denied a fond farewell for its final season.

"Nooooo!" a shocked-looking Waller-Bridge said as Louis-Dreyfus smiled for the cameras. "Oh, my God, no. Thank you. I find acting really hard and really painful. But it's all about this," she said, clutching her acting trophy.

In accepting the writing award earlier, she called the Emmy recognition proof that "a dirty, pervy, messed-up woman can make it to the Emmys."

Porter, a Tony and Grammy Award-winning performer, rel-

ished his groundbreaking moment. Quoting the late writer James Baldwin, he said it took him many years to believe he has the right to exist.

"I have the right, you have the right, we all have the right," he said.

English actress Jodie Comer was honored as best drama actress for "Killing Eve." She competed with co-star Sandra Oh, who received a Golden Globe for her role and would have been the first actress of Asian descent to win an Emmy in the category.

Bill Hader won his second consecutive best comedy actor award for the hit man comedy "Barry."

Peter Dinklage, named best supporting actor for "Game of Thrones," set a record for most wins for the same role, four, breaking a tie with Aaron Paul of "Breaking Bad."

"Ozark" star Julia Garner won the best supporting drama actress trophy.

British tanker held by Iran to be released

ISTANBUL — A British-flagged oil tanker held by Iran has been cleared for release, an Iranian government spokesman said Monday, potentially ending a months-long saga that had raised tensions between Iran and the West.

Iran seized the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz on July 19, just two weeks after an Iranian supertanker was detained off the coast of Gibraltar on suspicion of transporting oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions.

At the time, Iranian authorities said that the Swedish-owned Stena Impero had "violated maritime law" in the strait, a key waterway for global oil shipments, and would face judicial proceedings in Iran.

On Monday, government spokesman Ali Rabiei confirmed that authorities had completed all the legal steps necessary to release the vessel, but he said it was unclear when the ship would depart.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

350-pound firefighter sues over harassment

NY HAUPPAUGE — A Long Island firefighter is taking his colleagues to court for what he said was incessant teasing about his weight.

The New York Post reported that John Munro filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against fellow firefighters in the Suffolk County hamlet of Hauppauge.

The nearly 350-pound Munro said he was called names like “cow” and harangued for taking up two seats in the firetruck.

Munro, a volunteer at the Hauppauge Fire Department, seeks unspecified damages.

Elevator fails at reopened monument

DC WASHINGTON — The newly upgraded elevator at the Washington Monument stopped working just days after reopening to the public following a three-year renovation project.

The National Park Service said there was a “brief interruption in service” for about an hour Saturday.

Spokesman Mike Litterst said Park Service staffers resolved the issue and visitors who were at the top of the 555-foot stone obelisk were able to return to the ground floor using the elevator.

Woman runs own half marathon after mix-up

MA WORCESTER — A Massachusetts woman thought she was signing up to run a half marathon near her home, not across the Atlantic Ocean.

But after Sheila Pereira learned the Worcester City Half Marathon was actually

being held in Worcester, England, on Sept. 15, she decided to run 13 miles that day anyway.

The Boston Globe reported Pereira, 42, sent the English race organizers a screenshot of her running route. The runner’s fitness app showed she completed her own half marathon in two hours and five minutes.

After Pereira explained the mix-up, the Worcester City Half Marathon sent along a medal, a shirt and encouragement to participate in person in next year’s race.

State’s welcome sign is being auctioned

ID SHOSHONE — The Idaho Transportation Department is auctioning one of the state line “Welcome to Idaho” signs that was recently retired.

The 4- by 8-foot sign is covered in stickers, many left by people who pulled off the highway at the Idaho-Nevada border to snap pictures.

The department decided to replace the sign after the sticker buildup became too great.

The highest bid was \$510 on Thursday but quickly jumped to \$1,580. The online auction runs through Thursday.

The department has placed an alternative sign for people to leave stickers on.

Police dog captures suspected car thief

OR ROSEBURG — Nike was dogged and fast as it chased down a suspected car thief in Oregon.

Nike, named after the Greek goddess of victory and the namesake of the Oregon-based athletic shoe manufacturer, is a police dog.

According to Roseburg Police Sgt. Jeff Eichenbusch, Nike had his moment after Abigail Wal-

lace was seen allegedly driving a stolen car. Police stopped the vehicle using a tire-puncturing device.

Eichenbusch said Wallace and a passenger fled on foot. K9 Nike chased Wallace down an embankment and across a creek. Wallace apparently started to give up, so Nike was called back to his handler. Wallace began running again. This happened twice more.

The third time, Eichenbusch said, Nike made a biting capture. Wallace received superficial scrapes.

Postal service issues stamps of found T. rex

MT BOZEMAN — The U.S. Postal Service released two new postage stamps depicting a dinosaur whose fossil was discovered on federal land in Montana.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported that a Tyrannosaurus rex known as “The Nation’s T. rex” is now part of four designs on a pane of 16 new forever stamps that show the dinosaur in growth stages from infancy to adulthood.

Experts said the fossil was found by a family camping near the Fort Peck Reservoir and has been loaned to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for the next 50 years.

Money woes may force Reagan home to close

IL DIXON — Ronald Reagan’s boyhood home may have to close its doors due to financial woes.

The Ronald Reagan’s Boyhood Home and Visitor’s Center seeks donations to stay afloat, according to a WREX-TV report.

The center generates \$30,000 a year through tours and the gift shop, but operating expenses

cost about \$70,000 a year, creating a \$40,000 annual deficit, Patrick Gorman, the center’s executive director, said.

The house receives no government funding.

Police: 2 men with forging tools arrested

DE GEORGETOWN — Police in the Delaware community of Georgetown said two men were facing multiple charges after they were pulled over and officers found in the vehicle tools typically used to forge driver’s licenses and other documents.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported the arrests of Teddy Turenne, 39, of New York, and Joseph Pascall, 29, of Georgia. Police said the men were charged with possession of forgery devices, conspiracy and other counts.

Authorities said the men were stopped on suspicion of traffic violations, and a search of the vehicle yielded dozens of plastic cards, holograms with state seals and other items.

Llama undergoes 4-hour dental surgery

CO DENVER — A pack llama that absconded because of an abscess during a Yellowstone National Park guided trip last year underwent a four-hour operation to remove the malignant molars.

The Colorado Sun reported that Ike the runaway llama traveled from its Bozeman, Mont., home to Fort Collins, Colo., to root out the cause of its pain. There, it was treated at Colorado State University’s James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The abscess caused by a bacterial infection had likely bothered the llama for years.

From wire reports

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NFL roundup

Mahomes helps Chiefs hold off Ravens

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs won a showdown between two of the NFL's top offenses.

The Ravens made them work for it until the very end.

Mahomes threw for 374 yards and three touchdowns in another dazzling performance, Kansas City held quarterback Lamar Jackson in check most of the rain-soaked afternoon, and the Chiefs held on for a 33-28 victory over Baltimore on Sunday.

LeSean McCoy and Darrel Williams combined for 116 yards rushing and a score in place of the injured Damien Williams, while the Chiefs (3-0) stopped the Ravens three times on 2-point attempts.

The last came after Jackson scrambled for a touchdown with 2:01 to go. The conversion would have gotten the Ravens (2-1) within a field goal, but Jackson was shoved out of bounds short of the pylon.

Baltimore tried to get the ball back with a rare dropkick, but the Chiefs calmly called for a fair catch. Then they converted on third down moments later to run out the clock.

Saints 33, Seahawks 27: Teddy Bridgewater threw two touchdown passes in his first start in place of Drew Brees, and visiting New Orleans also scored TDs on defense and special teams.

With Brees out for several weeks following surgery to repair a ligament near his right thumb, the Saints (2-1) pulled off a stunner by taking advantage of Seattle's sloppiness, handing the Seahawks their first home loss in the month of September under Pete Carroll.

Rams 20, Browns 13: Cooper Kupp's comeback is complete. The Rams have another weapon.

The shifty wide receiver caught two touchdown passes from Jared Goff and visiting Los Angeles stopped Baker Mayfield four times from the

4-yard line in the final minute as the Rams hung on over the short-handed Browns, who were missing their entire starting secondary.

On the Browns' final drive, Mayfield, who was under pressure most of the night, tried to force a pass to receiver Damion Ratley on fourth down. Safety John Johnson III picked him off.

49ers 24, Steelers 20: Jimmy Garoppolo threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Dante Pettis with 1:15 remaining and host San Francisco overcame five turnovers for its first 3-0 start in 21 years.

The Niners gave the ball away four times in the first half and then lost a fumble again in the fourth quarter, but still managed to pull out the victory and spoil Mason Rudolph's first career start in place of the injured Ben Roethlisberger for the Steelers (0-3).

Giants 32, Buccaneers 31: The Daniel Jones era is off to a rousing start for the New York Giants.

The rookie quarterback threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for two TDs, including the go-ahead score with 1:16 remaining as the visiting Giants rallied from an 18-point halftime deficit.

Jameis Winston threw for 380 yards and put the Bucs (1-2) in position to pull out a dramatic win, but rookie Matt Gay's 34-yard field goal sailed wide right as time expired.

Winston threw TD passes of 21, 3 and 20 yards to Mike Evans to help Tampa Bay build a 28-10 halftime lead. His 44-yard completion to the Giants 9 set up the last-second field goal try by Gay, who also missed an extra point and had another blocked.

Texans 27, Chargers 20: Deshaun Watson threw for 351 yards and hit Jordan Akins with two of his three touchdown passes, and J.J. Watt had two of the Texans' five sacks of Philip Rivers.

Keenan Allen caught 13 pass-

es for a career-high 183 yards and two touchdowns from Rivers, who passed for 318 yards in the host Chargers' second straight loss.

Panthers 38, Cardinals 20: Kyle Allen threw for 261 yards and four touchdowns in place of the injured Cam Newton, and Christian McCaffrey ran for a 76-yard touchdown.

McCaffrey had 24 carries for 153 yards, including the 76-yard score, which came in the third quarter when he darted straight through the middle of host Arizona's defense.

Allen outplayed Arizona's Kyler Murray, who was his former college teammate at Texas A&M.

Lions 27, Eagles 24: Matthew Stafford threw a touchdown pass to Marvin Jones, Jamal Agnew returned a kickoff 100 yards for a score and visiting Detroit held on.

The Eagles had a chance after Malcolm Jenkins blocked Matt Prater's 46-yard field goal try with 1:53 left. On fourth-and-5, Darren Sproles caught a pass for a first down but got called for Philadelphia's third offensive pass interference. Carson Wentz's deep pass to J.J. Arcega-Whiteside fell incomplete with 41 seconds left.

Cowboys 31, Dolphins 6: Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Amari Cooper before running for another score, and host Dallas pulled out of a first-half funk as huge favorites.

The Dolphins had a great chance to lead at the break as 22-point underdogs. Kenyan Drake fumbled on first down from the Dallas 7-yard line in the final minute of the second quarter. DeMarcus Lawrence recovered to preserve a 10-6 lead.

Packers 27, Broncos 16: Aaron Rodgers threw for 235 yards and a touchdown, Aaron Jones tied a career high by running for two scores and Preston Smith matched a career high with three sacks.

Host Green Bay got to Joe

Flacco six times and forced three turnovers to lead the Packers (3-0) to the win despite being dominated in time of possession 35:34-24:26.

Bills 21, Bengals 17: Frank Gore scored on a 1-yard run with 1:50 remaining in rallying host Buffalo. Tight end Dawson Knox set up the score by bowling over two Bengals for a 49-yard gain. And cornerback Tre'Davious White sealed the win by intercepting Andy Dalton's tipped pass on third-and-5 from Buffalo's 28 with 12 seconds remaining.

Colts 27, Falcons 24: Jacoby Brissett threw two touchdown passes in the first half and Marlon Mack scored on a 4-yard run in the fourth quarter as host Indianapolis held off Atlanta.

The Falcons rallied from a 20-3 halftime deficit to get within three on Matt Ryan's 10-yard touchdown pass to Julio Jones with 4:11 to play. But the Falcons opted to kick deep and never got the ball back.

Patriots 30, Jets 14: Tom Brady threw a pair of touchdown passes and host New England didn't allow an offensive touchdown for the third straight week.

Sony Michel and Rex Burkhead each added a rushing touchdown for the Patriots.

Vikings 34, Raiders 14: NFL rushing leader Dalvin Cook cruised past the 100-yard mark for the third straight game, while Kirk Cousins rebounded from his rattled performance the week before with a turnover-free afternoon to lead host Minnesota.

The defense had plenty to do with the victory, too. An interception by Harrison Smith of an overthrow by Oakland's David Carr set up the second of two touchdowns by Adam Thielen to give the Vikings a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter. Eric Wilson had two of Minnesota's four sacks.

Cook had 16 carries for 110 yards and a score in just three quarters.

Youngster QBs step in, step up

Associated Press

Oh, the moans and groans in Nawlins.
The consternation in Steeltown.
The woe is me refrains in Carolina's Queen City.

The joke's on me attitude in Jax.
And the Big Apple's tabloid screams.
Maybe all of that dread and disgust will quiet down, at least for a week. Hey, folks, the new guys at quarterback did pretty darn well for your teams.

Teddy Bridgewater was steady in place of Drew Brees, guiding the Saints to victory in Seattle, as tough a place to win as any.

Kyle Allen, probably most famous in the NFL for once being a teammate of Kyler Murray's at Texas A&M, was a revelation in place of Cam Newton as the Panthers got their first win of the season, in Arizona.

Carolina coach Ron Rivera wasted no time Monday ruling out quarterback Newton for a second straight game due to a lingering mid-foot sprain. Rivera said there is "no timetable" for Newton's return and that the 2015 league MVP will continue to receive treatment.

Gardner Minshew is making Jaguars fans wonder why he was a sixth-round draft pick, stepping in for Nick Foles and looking like a starter (and future star).

Daniel Jones, the guy who caused Giants general manager Dave Gettleman to be vilified for drafting the Duke QB sixth overall last April, looked worthy of a No. 1 overall pick. He stepped in for what the TV announcers were calling a New York legend, the benched Eli Manning, and lifted the team to last-minute victory at Tampa.

Only Mason Rudolph, replacing Ben Roethlisberger (elbow surgery) for the Steelers, didn't get a win among the newcomers. But he didn't embarrass himself at all — and had Pittsburgh in position to beat San Francisco.

Plus, in Indianapolis, this stuff isn't new for Jacoby Brissett, but his name certainly belongs high on the list of quarterbacks — eight teams already have them — who were not considered the starter last month and now are in charge of their teams.

Yes, one-quarter of the league, as injuries, ineffectiveness and in one case, a retirement (Andrew Luck), created a sea wave of change that still could turn into a tsunami.

There's no guarantees the likes of Marcus Mariota, Case Keenum, Jameis Winston or even Andy Dalton, despite his solid performances in Cincinnati's 0-3 start, will remain behind center.

And that's not even considering more injuries that often come, no matter how much NFL rules try to protect the passer.

Russia fears Olympic ban

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — The World Anti-Doping Agency is giving Russia three weeks to explain possible signs of tampering with data from its doping laboratory, an accusation which Russian officials fear could lead to a ban from next year's Olympics.

WADA heard about the possible tampering at its executive committee meeting Monday in Tokyo. Turning over the data was a key requirement for the reinstatement of Russia's anti-doping agency, and WADA has formally opened a compliance procedure that could lead to a new ban if the data was manipulated.

The computer files were critical to prosecuting cases against athletes alleged to have cheated at the 2014 Olympics and other major events.

"The situation is very serious," Russian Olympic Committee president Stanislav Pozdnyakov said in a statement.

He added that if Russia can't either refute the claim or identify potential suspects, "then the Russian Olympic team's prospects of taking part in the Games in Tokyo next year could be under threat."

Russia was already required to send an officially neutral, smaller-than-usual squad of "Olympic Athletes from Russia" to last year's Winter Olympics as a punishment from the International Olympic Committee for doping offenses. However, the IOC has since signaled that it considers

the matter closed.

When asked about the data investigation Tuesday, the IOC said it "fully respects this process" and WADA's jurisdiction.

The data was handed over to WADA in January after Russia breached an earlier deadline of Dec. 31, 2018. Before then, it was stored in a sealed-off area of the laboratory under the control of Russian law enforcement.

The data has been used to support suspensions against 12 Russian weightlifters, including 10 former world or European championship medalists, and cases in the winter sport of biathlon. WADA said it would continue to pursue cases while this latest review is ongoing.

The International Weightlifting Federation said it will "urgently liaise with WADA" about how to continue its cases.

WADA has been criticized for reinstating RUSADA under terms less stringent than the original roadmap. But director general Olivier Niggli told The Associated Press he stood by the decision.

"I believe it was actually a very important decision and absolutely the right decision," Niggli said. "I'm convinced that we would not have the data if we had not taken that decision, so we would not even be talking about it today."

Niggli conceded the tampering could force WADA to drop some of the cases, "but there will be a good number of cases which can still move forward."

Newgarden wins championship

Associated Press

MONTEREY, Calif. — Josef Newgarden wrapped up his second IndyCar championship and burst into tears — an odd reaction for a steely-nerved race car driver who rarely shows emotion.

The outburst of emotion took him by surprise and shocked his fiancée, who had never before seen tears from Newgarden.

"I never cry. Ever. Even my fiancée is a little disturbed," said Newgarden. "And it was a good cry."

It was nearly two hours after his championship drive Sunday around Laguna Seca Raceway and Newgarden was still a bit emotional. Talking about the moment he collapsed into his crew members arms, choking back tears, he again nearly broke down.

"It just feels like a big weight. A big weight has been lifted," Newgarden said.

He won his second championship in three years with a smooth drive in the IndyCar season finale, where he played it safe and

watched rookie Colton Herta dominate to the win.

Newgarden needed only to finish fourth or better to give Roger Penske his 16th IndyCar title. His drive clearly indicated he wouldn't get aggressive and risk throwing it away, settling in for an eighth-place finish to beat teammate Simon Pagenaud by 25 points in the championship race.

It wasn't the way he wanted to race, though.

"I knew the points in my head, I can tell you that, I knew exactly where we were," Newgarden said. "I was very aware of what was going on. I thought we were going down a rabbit hole and it wasn't the hole for us to go down. We were shadowing (Alexander) Rossi, that's what we were doing. I just really tried to stay around him all day, and I wasn't sure we were going down the right hole."

The championship gave Team Penske a season sweep of the crown jewels of IndyCar; Pagenaud won the Indy 500 in May for Penske's record 18th win.

Astros wrap up AL West

Associated Press

HOUSTON — George Springer, Justin Verlander and the Houston Astros put a check mark in the September box.

Amid the celebration of clinching their third straight AL West title, they already were thinking ahead to what they might achieve in October.

“You can’t ever take the first goal for granted,” Verlander said. “I know everybody says we’re going to win the World Series, but you can’t do that without this first. So, step one complete. Now we have the divisional round coming up and we’ll ... prepare for that and try to win 11 games.”

Springer hit a career-high three homers, Verlander posted his MLB-leading 20th win and the Astros secured the division crown in grand fashion, routing the Los Angeles Angels 13-5.

A crowd at Minute Maid Park that was cheering from Verlander’s first pitch got even louder as Springer homered three times in the first four innings. The Astros kept breaking away and improved to 102-54, a half-game ahead of the New York Yankees for the best record in the majors.

Springer, the MVP of the 2017 World Series, had two chances to tie the big league record for home runs in a game. He popped up with the bases loaded in the fifth and grounded out in the seventh.

The 36-year-old Verlander (20-6) yielded six hits and two runs in five innings to reach 20 wins for the second time in his career and the first since winning the AL MVP and Cy Young Award in 2011 when he went 24-5 for Detroit. This year’s AL Cy Young front-runner struck out five to leave him six strikeouts shy of becoming the 18th pitcher in MLB history to reach 3,000.

MLB roundup

Indians tie Rays for 2nd wild card

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians have overcome injuries and setbacks throughout the season and remained in the playoff race. The outcome will be decided in the final week.

Cleveland moved into a tie for the second AL wild card with a 10-1 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday night. The Indians matched the Tampa Bay Rays with six games to play. Both teams are 92-64 and two games behind Oakland, which leads the wild-card race.

The Indians, playing their final home game, took advantage of the Athletics and Rays both losing Sunday. Cleveland had an off-day Monday before the final stretch.

“We’re kind of at the point of the year where we better win regardless,” Cleveland manager Terry Francona said. “I’d be lying if I said I was rooting for them to win, but we better win every game we can.”

The Indians are embracing the challenge of what lies ahead, starting Tuesday with three games in Chicago against the White Sox and three in Washington.

The Phillies (79-75) are six games out in the NL wild-card chase with eight games left. They open a five-game series at Washington on Monday night. The Nationals and Brewers are tied for the top spot.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2: Paul Goldschmidt hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning and St. Louis clinched a playoff spot by rallying past Chicago for its first four-game sweep at Wrigley Field in almost a century.

NL Central-leading St. Louis qualified for the postseason for the first time since 2015 and stayed three games ahead of Milwaukee. It was the fifth consecutive win for the Cardinals, who came back for a 9-8 victory Saturday on consecutive homers by Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong against Craig Kimbrel in the ninth.

The time, Chicago manager Joe Maddon sent a dominant

Yu Darvish (6-8) back to the mound for the ninth to go for his first complete game since 2014. But the result was the same in the Cubs’ fifth consecutive one-run loss.

Brewers 4, Pirates 3: Eric Thames hit two home runs and host Milwaukee took a combined perfect game into the seventh inning to beat Pittsburgh and match Washington atop the NL wild-card standings.

Orlando Arcia connected for the Brewers, but the shortstop also let a line drive tip off his glove with one out in the seventh for a hit that ended the perfect game bid in Milwaukee’s regular season home finale.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 4: Hyun-Jin Ryu hit a home run and pitched seven solid innings, Cody Bellinger hit a grand slam and host Los Angeles reached the 100-win mark.

Los Angeles joined Houston and the New York Yankees to give the major leagues three 100-game winners for the third straight season. Before 2017, the only years with three 100-win teams were 1942, 1977, 1998, 2002 and 2003.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 3: Luis Severino (1-0) struck out nine over five scoreless innings for his first win of the season, and New York hit three home runs as it beat Toronto in its regular season home finale.

New York (102-55) moved 47 games over .500 for the first time since its record-setting 114-victory season in 1998. The AL East champions clinched home-field advantage in the AL Division Series starting Oct. 4 and are competing with Houston for the top record in the AL.

Twins 12, Royals 8: Nelson Cruz hit his 400th career home run, Miguel Sano connected twice and host Minnesota powered past Kansas City to remain four games ahead of Cleveland for the AL Central lead.

Kansas City joined Baltimore, Detroit and Miami with 100 losses, only the second time in major league history there have been four 100-loss teams in one season.

Rangers 8, Athletics 3:

Willie Calhoun hit two of visiting Texas’ five homers and the Rangers slowed Oakland’s wild-card push.

The A’s had won 10 of 11 but couldn’t stretch their two-game lead over Tampa Bay for the top AL wild card.

Red Sox 7, Rays 4: Nathan Eovaldi (2-0) pitched six gritty innings, Christian Vazquez hit a three-run homer and Boston beat playoff-contending host Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay dropped into a tie with Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

Marlins 5, Nationals 3: Three relievers each gave up an extra-base hit in a seventh-inning meltdown, and visiting Washington’s streak of 11 consecutive wins against Miami ended in a loss that dropped the Nationals into a tie with Milwaukee for the top NL wild card.

Giants 4, Braves 1: Rookie Logan Webb allowed only two hits and one run in six innings, Evan Longoria drove in two runs with two hits and San Francisco beat Dallas Keuchel (8-7) and host Atlanta.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 4 (10): Rookie Seth Mejias-Brean hit a two-run homer with no outs in the 10th inning and San Diego beat visiting Arizona to give interim manager Rod Barajas his first win since taking over for the fired Andy Green.

Mets 6, Reds 3: Michael Conforto homered to cap a four-run first inning and visiting New York gave its faint playoff hopes a boost. J.D. Davis and Brandon Nimmo also connected for the Mets, who remained 4½ games behind Milwaukee for the second NL wild card.

Tigers 6, White Sox 3: Willi Castro hit his first major league homer, one of four connections by host Detroit in a win over Chicago. Jeimer Candelario, Gordon Beckham and Victor Reyes also went deep.

Orioles 2, Mariners 1: Chris Davis homered off Marco Gonzales (16-12) in the seventh inning to carry Baltimore past visiting Seattle.