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Husband goes on ax rampage over damaged action figures

MADISON - Police say a 34-year-old man who thought his wife damaged his action figures retaliated by taking an ax to the family's car, television, and laptop in the house. Madison Police Chief Mike Koval said the man called police just after 10 p.m. Friday and told them he had too much to drink and overreacted about his action figures. The man's name was not released. He was arrested and faces charges of disorderly conduct and felony damage to property. Police say he caused more than \$5,000 in damage. Police say the man struck the car's windshield so hard the ax got stuck.

Mott the Hoople plans first Milwaukee show in 45 years

For the first time in 45 years, Mott the Hoople is touring the United States.

And the first gig of the eight-city tour will be in Milwaukee.

The seminal English rock band — still featuring classic lineup members Ian Hunter on vocals and guitar, guitarist Ariel Bender and keyboardist Morgan Fisher — will be at the Miller High Life Theatre April 1.

The band actually played that same venue back when it was the Auditorium in 1974, their last Milwaukee show.

The show's promoter is Shank Hall owner Peter Jest, who has a history of bringing acts to town that haven't played Milwaukee in ages, including Patti Smith, Nick Cave, and the late Leonard Cohen.

Best known stateside for the song "All The Young Dudes" written by David Bowie, Mott has a long list of rock-band admirers, including Queen, the Clash, Def Leppard and regional faves and Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Cheap Trick.

Tickets, priced between \$38 and \$95, are available Friday at the box office, by calling (800) 745-3000 or visiting ticketmaster.com.

As enrollment continues to drop, UW-Whitewater becomes latest college to consider layoffs

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is looking at potential layoffs in the wake of a "drastic" decline in enrollment this fall that resulted in almost 500 fewer students than the fall of the year before.

Chancellor Dwight Watson, who is entering his second semester at the university's helm, wrote in a campuswide letter that the university's budget will need to shrink by \$12 million over the next two fiscal years to make up for the lost tuition revenue.

UW-Whitewater's enrollment has now declined 8% over the past three years. In fall 2016, the university peaked at 12,628 students, compared to 11,586 last fall.

That gap translates to \$11 million less in revenue for the university, Watson wrote, a loss that the campus' once-robust reserve dollars can't continue to sustain.

David Simmons, who chairs the university's faculty senate, said Watson made clear in a meeting with faculty senate leaders Monday that his letter was intended to start a conversation and he was open to collaboration in finding savings. He said the faculty plans to make clear what the impact of losses on the academic side of the university would mean.

"Academics is what universities do," Simmons said. "You can use all the metrics you want, but that's the case. Two-thirds of this cut is going to come out of academic affairs and there's no way around the effects that's going to have on our academic mission, period."

Union members approve contract with transit system

Bus drivers and mechanics voted Friday to approve a deal their union and the Milwaukee County Transit System has struck after nearly two years of contract negotiations. A majority of members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998, which represents drivers and mechanics, voted in favor of the agreement Friday, according to transit system managing director Dan Bohem.

Union leaders will soon sign the deal to make it official.

The union's contract expired March 31, 2018, and protracted negotiations between the union and transit system leaders have led to multiple rejected contract proposals and threats of strikes.

Negotiations were underway for 21 months. The agreement provides for a three-year contract with salary increases and signing bonuses, Boehm said in a statement.

Navy's Blue Angels returning to Milwaukee Air & Water show

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels aerobatic team is returning this summer to the Milwaukee Air & Water Show.

The Blue Angels last appeared in Milwaukee in 2017 for the air show at the city's lakefront. The Blue Angels also performed in the Milwaukee air shows in 2005 and 2010 and were scheduled to perform in 2014. Although the pilots were able to practice here in 2014, low ceilings on the days of the show kept them from performing for the hundreds of thousands lining the lakefront to see them.

The Milwaukee Air & Water Show will be held July 24-26.

Based in Pensacola, Florida, the Navy's flight demonstration team formed in 1946 and features six pilots — currently one Marine and five Navy pilots, flying F/A18 Hornet jets.

State Elections Commission Won't name vulnerable clerks

MADISON - Wisconsin election officials are refusing to name a handful of local clerks that testing showed may be vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The state Elections Commission asked all 2,700 local clerks to log into the state election system this summer. Commission staff in November said they detect five clerks using windows XP. Microsoft stopped supporting Windows XP in 2014.

The Associated press filed a records request seeking the clerks' names. The commission said in a letter Friday that releasing the names would invite hackers to disrupt election administration and chill discussions about system vulnerabilities.

The letter added that only four clerks were using Windows XP, not five as staff originally thought. They've all since received upgrades. Three used money from a \$7 million federal election security grant the state received in 2019.



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New study suggests seaweed influx will continue in Florida

MIAMI - The clumps of brown seaweed that smell like rotten eggs are causing disruptions along Florida's Atlantic beaches won't be going away anytime soon, a study released Friday found.

The University of South Florida report suggests the pungent, slimy seaweed, known as sargassum, is on track to continue to be just as bad for coastal regions as in the past. Researchers discovered in satellite images that acres of this type of seaweed stretched across surface waters from West Africa to the Gulf of Mexico. They estimated that it weighed more than 20 million tons.

"The oceans are connected across the regions and we are going to see more sargassum coming to the Florida coast," said Mengqiu Wang, a member of the university's team. "It is not fatal, it is not poisoning tides; it is more of a public nuisance and can cause some public health concerns."

Denver Zoo Giraffe born in Milwaukee dies after surgery

A 2-year-old male giraffe that was born at the Milwaukee County Zoo died after a medical procedure Friday at the Denver Zoo, where it had arrived in September.

The reticulated giraffe, named Kazi, died due to complications following castration, "a common practice in zoos to decrease male giraffes' competitive, aggressive nature," the Denver Zoo said on its website.

The procedure was a success, but "Kazi developed abnormal breathing as he was recovering from anesthesia and then stopped breathing altogether," the Denver Zoo said.

Kazi arrived in September from the Milwaukee County Zoo to be a companion for another male giraffe at the Denver Zoo named Dobby.

Kazi was born at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Sept. 2, 2017, weighing 152 pounds and measuring 5 feet 10 inches. He was born to 7-year-old Ziggy and 12-year-old Bahatika. He was Ziggy's second calf.

Potential listeria contamination leads to recall of apples

AURORA, Ill. - A county health department in Illinois says a Michigan company voluntarily is recalling nearly 2,300 cases of Apples due to potential listeria contamination.

Kane County health officials said Friday that North Bay Produce of Traverse City also is recalling two bulk bins of apples.

Recalled varieties include McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Jonathan, Fujim Jonamac, and Red Delicious. The Recalled apples were shipped Feb. 9-15 to wholesalers, retailers, and brokers in Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin.

They were sold in plastic bags under Great Lakes and North Bay Produce Pure Michigan brands. They also were sold unbundled in clear plastic bags, white paper tote bags, and individually from retail displays.

Listeria usually causes mild illness but can be dangerous to pregnant women or people with weak immune systems.

A year after limo crash killed 20, memorial is unveiled

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. - A memorial to the 20 people killed when a stretch limousine blew through an intersection at the bottom of a long hill and barreled into an earthen embankment a year ago was unveiled Saturday at the crash site in upstate New York.

On a cold, foggy day, family members and first responders got a private first look at the memorial featuring 20 stones in a semicircle. The public is welcome Sunday.

They joined a gathering of about 100 people, including Christian clergy members, a rabbi and an imam, for the hour long ceremony.

Each stone features a plaque bearing the name of a person killed in the Feb. 16, 2019, crash near a country store in Schoharie, New York. The 17 passengers, including four sisters, were on a birthday outing when the limo crashed. The driver and two pedestrians were also killed.

Suspect identified in Georgia shootings that killed 4

ROCKMART, Ga. - Authorities in Georgia are on the lookout for a gunman they say killed four people and wounded a man in a pair of shootings.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation tweeted early Friday that 27-year-old Daylon Delon Gamble is armed and dangerous and wanted on four charges of murder for the shootings Thursday night in Rockmart, about 45 miles northwest of Atlanta.

Rockmart Police Chief Keith Sorrells said officers found the bodies of two men and two women in homes that were just blocks apart. Their names have not been released.

The GBI says a wounded man was flown to an Atlanta hospital; no word on his condition. State police say Gamble fled in a stolen truck that has since been recovered.

Striking LA teachers reach settlement with district

LOS ANGELES – A tentative deal announced Tuesday could end the six-day teachers' union strike in the nation's second-largest school district.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District reached an agreement with the United Teachers Los Angeles in the early hours of Tuesday morning after a 21-hour bargaining session. Teachers are scheduled to vote on the agreement Monday, so the earliest they would return to work would be Tuesday.

The agreement includes a 6 percent raise for teachers, smaller class sizes and more nurses and counselors at schools, said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of the union. "This is much more than just a narrow labor agreement," he said.

The walkout created chaos in schools responsible for the education of nearly 500,000 students. Mayor Eric Garcetti, a Democrat, joined the talks, which were held at City Hall.

"This is a historic agreement," Garcetti said. "It's time for a new day in public education in Los Angeles."

Besides its massive scope, the strike has been closely watched nationwide because it raises issues about public education.

Russian security officer dead, 5 injured in Moscow shooting

MOSCOW - An unidentified gunman opened fire Friday outside the Moscow headquarters of Russia's top security agency, killing one officer and wounding five others, officials said.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, said the assailant was acting alone and didn't enter its building. Earlier, it said the assailant had been "neutralized" — a term usually used by Russian officials when an assailant is killed.

The Health Ministry said that five other people were wounded in the shooting, including two security officers who were badly injured by the gunman. One of the wounded is a civilian, said Svetlana Petrenko, a spokeswoman for Russia's main criminal investigation body.

The FSB, which is the main successor agency to the Soviet-era KGB, wouldn't give further details or comment on the attacker's motives.

The FSB said the shooting occurred near its main headquarters on Lubyanka Square, less than one kilometer from Red Square.

Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the president had been informed of the shooting that came shortly after the Russian leader's annual news conference.

Pakistan charges 250 lawyers with treason

LAHORE, Pakistan - Pakistan on Thursday leveled "treason" charges against 250 lawyers who were part of a mob that stormed a hospital in the eastern city of Lahore the previous day, kicking and punching doctors and staff and trashing equipment and property, police said. Three patients at the hospital died when physicians and medical staff who fled the mob left them unattended for several hours, officials said.

The exceptionally high level of charges reflects the authorities' frustration over the violence. The incident drew nationwide condemnation and the government says those linked to the violence will be tried in anti-terrorism courts and the maximum punishment will be sought for them, the AP reports.

The mob of about 500 lawyers—apparently angered over alleged misbehavior by some of the hospital doctors toward one of their colleagues the month before—stormed the Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Friday, punching and beating doctors and other staff. They also smashed windows, doors, and medical equipment at the only government-run heart hospital in the province of Punjab.

Police say they had to use tear gas to disperse the mob. The situation took several hours to bring under control. It wasn't immediately clear how many of the charged 250 lawyers are in custody. "We have arrested some lawyers and no one linked to the attack on the hospital will be spared," said Zulfikar Hameed, the city's police chief.

Under Pakistani laws, assaults on government buildings and other property can carry the charge of treason.

Death toll rises as firefighters search mud after dam collapse

BRUMADINHO, Brazil - Brazilian firefighters moved over treacherous mud - sometimes walking, sometimes crawling - as they searched Friday for survivors or bodies after a dam collapse that buried an iron ore mining company's buildings and inundated nearby neighborhoods with ore waste.

The confirmed death toll rose to 60, with 292 people still missing, according to the fire department in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais, where the dam is located. In an ominous sign, no one was recovered alive Thursday, a stark difference from the first two days of the disaster, when helicopters whisked people out of the mud.

Sudan's ex-strongman gets 2 years for corruption

KHARTOUM, Sudan - A court in Sudan convicted former President Omar al-Bashir of money laundering and corruption on Friday, sentencing him to two years in a minimum security lockup. The verdict was the first in a series of legal proceedings against al-Bashir, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s.

The verdict came a year after Sudanese protesters erupted in revolt against al-Bashir's authoritarian rule. During his three decades in power, Sudan landed on the U.S. list for sponsoring terrorism, and the country's economy was battered by years of mismanagement and years of American sanctions.

Al-Bashir has been in custody since April, when Sudan's military ousted him after months of nationwide protests.

Sudan's military has said it would not extradite him to the ICC. The country's military-civilian transitional government has not indicated whether it will hand him over to The Hague.

Samoa measles epidemic worsens with 24 children now dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - Authorities say a measles epidemic sweeping through Samoa continues to worsen with the death toll rising to 25, all but one of them young children.

Samoa's Director General of Health Leausa Take Naseri said more than 140 new cases of people contracting the virus have been recorded within the past day, bringing the total to about 2,200 cases since the outbreak began last month. He said there are about 20 critically ill children who remain in hospital intensive care units.

Samoa declared a state of emergency nine days ago, closing all its schools, banning children from public gatherings and mandating that everybody get vaccinated. Teams of people have been traveling the country administering thousands of vaccines.

The government also shut down a private clinic and is investigating how hundreds of vaccines were taken without authorization and then sold for a fee.

In all, 679 people have been admitted to Samoan hospitals with the disease, accounting for two-thirds of all recent hospital admissions. A majority have been discharged, with about 183 remaining in hospitals.

Death toll in Mexican pipeline fire rises to 109

MEXICO CITY - The death toll in a massive fire at an illegally tapped pipeline in Mexico has risen to 109 after 10 more injured people died at hospitals.

Mexico's Health Secretary Jorge Alcocer said Friday that the latest victims who were severely burned died between Wednesday and early Friday. He said hospitals continue to treat about 40 injured victims.

The victims were gathering gasoline from an illegal pipeline tap in the central state of Hidalgo a week ago when the gas ignited, littering an alfalfa field with charred bodies.

About half of those who initially survived have since died of their injuries.

A total of 14,894 illegal taps were found throughout Mexico in 2018. Experts have long said that workers and union officials of the state-owned oil company, Pemex, have been involved in the massive fuel thefts.

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Suzuki signs with Mariners

Ichiro Suzuki, who may become a future unanimous Hall of Famer, made his comeback attempt official Wednesday by signing a one-year, minor-league contract with \$750,000 if he makes the Seattle Mariners' roster, an official with direct knowledge told USA TODAY Sports.

Suzuki, 45, would be the centerpiece on the Mariners' opening-day roster, which can be expanded to 28 players, when it opens the season in Japan against the Oakland 's on March 20. Suzuki's last major-league game was last May when the Mariners transitioned him from the playing field to be "assistant to the Chairman." Suzuki, who was hitting just .205 in 47 plate appearances, still traveled with the team and never announced his retirement.

Suzuki, surely a first-ballot Hall of Famer with his 4,367 career hits in the major leagues and Japan, says he would like to continue playing until he's 50.

U.S. trailing Presidents Cup

Tiger Woods looked good as ever playing in the Presidents Cup.

As captain, his American team found itself in foreign territory — trailing for the first time in 14 years.

An inspired International team shook off an opening four balls loss to Woods and Justin Thomas by getting big shots and key putts from rookies and veterans alike. It won the other four matches, never trailing in three of them, and wound up with the start it needed in a bid to win for the first time since 1998.

The International won the opening session 4-1, its best start ever and first time it led after any session since 2005.

Even the normally stoic Hideki Matsuyama showed just how much this week means, fist-pumping his way to victory. Matsuyama holed a 25-foot birdie on the 17th for a 1-up lead with C.T. Pan, leading to the final victory of the session over Patrick Reed and Webb Simpson.

"We have to earn the cup," Woods said, perhaps a reminder that history only goes so far inside the ropes. "It's a long week. We're not out of it yet."

Woods is the first playing captain since the first Presidents Cup in 1994, and it was his first time playing since 2013. It was his 25th victory in the Presidents Cup, one short of the record held by Phil Mickelson.

NHL probes Flames coach

The NHL said Friday it is investigating allegations Calgary Flames coach Bill Peters directed racial slurs toward Akim Aliu when he and the Nigerian-born player were in the minors a decade ago.

The NHL called the alleged behavior "repugnant and unacceptable." The league added it will have no further comment until it looks into what happened more thoroughly.

Aliu tweeted Thursday that Peters "dropped the N bomb several times toward me in the dressing room in my rookie year because he didn't like my choice of music." Aliu said he "rebelled against him," and Peters responded by asking Chicago Blackhawks executives John McDonough and Stan Bowman to send Aliu to a lower minor league level.

The tweet did not name Peters, but referred to a "protege" of fired Toronto coach Mike Babcock, who is now in Calgary. Babcock has been a mentor to Peters since Babcock coached him in college.

Rugby

South Africa won the Rugby World Cup for a record-tying third time, using its power at the set piece to control before scoring two clinical late tries through its wingers in a 32-12 victory over England in Yokohama, Japan

Siya Kolisi led the Springboks out as captain to make it a poignant and transcendent night for a country still trying to fully emerge from the apartheid era. Kolisi became the first black player appointed as the team's captain last year.

WNBA

Elena Delle Donne put forth a gutsy effort, playing through a back injury, and Washington beat the Connecticut Sun, 94-81, and moved within a victory of winning the franchise's first title.

The league's MVP has a herniated disk that is pinching a nerve in her back and was questionable to play in Game 3. She finished with 13 points, hitting 5 of her 6 shots and played 26 minutes.

Delle Donne provided an emotional lift for her team, and Emma Meesseman and Kristi Toliver carried the offense. Meesseman had 21 points, including nine to start the fourth quarter, and Toliver added 20 points and 10 assists. Washington will try to close out the series on Sunday night in Connecticut.

Basketball

The Chicago White Sox and left-hander Dallas Keuchel have agreed to a \$55.5 million, three-year deal, a person familiar with the negotiations said.

Keuchel's deal includes a vesting option for 2023 that would bring the total value to \$74 million. The 31-year-old Keuchel won the American League Cy Young Award with the Houston Astros in 2015 but struggled to find work last offseason as a free agent. He signed a roughly \$13 million, one-year deal with the Atlanta Braves in June and went 8-8 with a 3.75 ERA for the National League East champions.

Agent Scott Boras negotiated the deal for Keuchel and has earned his players \$936.5 million in contracts this offseason.

