

In brief

UTAH
Aurora airline pilot arrested in "revenge porn" case

A United Airlines pilot from Aurora was arrested on suspicion of posting "revenge porn" of his ex-girlfriend for more than a decade, according to Cedar City, Utah, court records.

Andrew Hill, 36, was booked into the Iron County, Utah, jail just after 1 a.m. Tuesday on charges including pornography distribution, electronic communication harassment, stalking and online impersonation.

Hill, a United Airlines pilot, was arrested by Cedar City police at a California airport and flown back to Utah, the St. George News reported.

Hill's ex-girlfriend told police he had been making online profiles pretending to be her and posting nude images of her for more than a decade, according to the arrest affidavit.

The woman also reported random men were contacting her personal phone number and showing up at her workplace looking for sex.

Cedar City investigators tracked the IP address linked to the fake profiles to Hill's Verizon Wireless account, according to the affidavit.

Hill is in custody at the Iron County jail and is set to appear in court Monday.

— *Katie Langford, The Denver Post*

DENVER
Police find truck, looking for driver in hit-and-run

Denver police are searching for the driver of a white pickup truck involved in a hit-and-run crash that caused serious injuries Tuesday.

About 12:25 a.m. Tuesday, a white 2022 GMC Sierra pickup collided with a car and a bicyclist before fleeing the scene, according to a Medina Alert issued by the Denver Police Department and Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

CBI deactivated the Medina Alert about 1:10 p.m. Wednesday after police officers found the abandoned truck in southwest Denver.

Denver police investigators are still working to identify and locate the driver of the truck, police said in a noon update. No suspects have been arrested.

Police said the crash caused "serious bodily injury" to the bicyclist but had no updates on the crash victim's condition Wednesday afternoon.

The crash happened in Denver in the 7200 block of West Yale Avenue, and the truck was seen traveling east, away from the crash, police said in the Medina Alert.

Anyone with information about the driver or crash should call investigators at 720-913-7867.

— *Lauren Penington, The Denver Post*

Corrections

■ The Travel Quiz on page E11 Sunday included an incorrect answer. The Tiber River runs through Rome.

The Denver Post will correct all errors occurring in its news columns. If you find a problem with a story — an error of fact or a point requiring clarification — please call the city desk at 303-954-1201.

HEALTH

Dairy worker 5th person in U.S. infected with bird flu

Man who contracted virus in northeast Colorado had mild symptoms, recovered

By **Meg Wingerter**
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An unidentified employee of a dairy in northeast Colorado is the fifth person in the U.S. with a confirmed infection of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, but he had only mild symptoms.

The person, an adult man

who had direct access to infected cattle, developed conjunctivitis, or pink eye, after exposure to infected cows, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said Wednesday. He took an antiviral medication as a precaution and has recovered.

State officials haven't released any other details, including the name of the farm he works at or its location, how the avian flu virus may have hopped from cows to the employee or whether authorities tested other people who lived or worked with the man.

The first person who tested

positive for highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu in the United States was a poultry worker in western Colorado in 2022.

The current multistate outbreak linked to dairy cows infected one dairy worker in Texas and two in Michigan this spring.

All four prior cases were mild. (The virus got its name because it causes a high death rate among poultry.)

Normally, H5N1 circulates in wild birds, sometimes spilling over into chickens and other domesticated poultry. At some point in December or January, the virus made the leap to dairy cattle, and the current outbreak

has since spread to herds in at least 12 states, including Colorado.

Since testing is largely voluntary, no one can be certain if the virus has reached any other states.

The virus generally seems to cause mild symptoms in cattle but has proved to be deadly in domestic cats and some wild mammals. Right now, it isn't well-adapted to spread from person to person, but every time it infects someone, it gets another roll of the dice to pick up mutations that would allow it to get established in humans.

BIRD FLU » PAGE 4

VETERANS



HELEN H. RICHARDSON — THE DENVER POST

Dick Olson holds a collection of medals, honors and other items he made into a display for his late father, Air Force Maj. Richard Olson, at his home in Westminster on June 19. The elder Olson was wounded in a B-24 plane crash in 1944 but never received a Purple Heart.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS



COURTESY OF DICK OLSON

Richard Olson's B-24 crew.

Westminster man secures posthumous Purple Heart in tribute to WWII veteran father

By **Julianna O'Clair**
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World War II Air Force veteran Maj. Richard Olson never discussed his military service with his son, Dick Olson.

"I didn't have all that much time to be asking these questions while he was at home," Dick, a Westminster resident, told The Denver Post in an interview. "He was a distant father, and I imagine a lot of that came

from what happened to him during the war and in service."

After Richard died, Dick turned to military archives, old photos and interviews with the surviving members of his father's B-24 Liberator airplane crew to learn about the veteran's journey.

Through his research, Dick discovered that his father, despite being seriously wounded in a plane crash before enduring months as a prisoner of war, had never received a Purple Heart.

For seven years, Dick worked to correct the oversight. In April, the Air Force agreed to posthumously award Richard a Purple Heart.

VETERANS » PAGE 4

LOTTERY

POWERBALL \$138 million
Wednesday:
2-26-33-55-57

Powerball: 22

Power Play: 2

MEGA MILLIONS \$162M

Tuesday: 4-8-19-31-45

Mega Ball: 11; Megaplier: 4

LUCKY FOR LIFE \$1,000

Wednesday:

10-11-23-35-42-16

LOTTO \$4.2 million

Wednesday:

9-14-15-17-25-33

Plus: 2-6-9-16-19-27

CASH 5 \$20,000

Wednesday: 1-11-13-26-28

PICK 3 \$2,500

Wednesday: 1-2-0 | 0-7-2

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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

Sheriff says vandals defaced historic site

By Lauren Penington
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The San Miguel County Sheriff's Office is offering two \$500 rewards for information on "punk-ass" vandals who defaced a historic site in southwestern Colorado. After a former sergeant from the sheriff's office discovered during the weekend that someone had graffitied the old mine and mill in Tomboy Basin — a historic site 5 miles east of Telluride — the sheriff took to social media.

"Sheriff (Bill) Masters is offering a \$500 reward to anyone who has information leading to an arrest of the 'punk-ass clown' who did this," the sheriff's office wrote in a post on Facebook, asking anyone with information to call dispatch at 970-728-1911.

Sheriff's officials believe the vandalism happened within the past month, and the sergeant happened to spot it, sheriff's spokesperson Susan Lilly said.

Lilly said they had received no tips or leads yet but that she hoped the social media traffic would lead deputies to a suspect.

The next morning, the "punk-asses" were at it again, this time tying a wire across two trees on the Wilson Mesa trail, the sheriff's department said on social media.

Wilson Mesa trail is on U.S. Forest Service land and is often used for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. The trail is also open to motorcycles from July 1 through Labor Day.

"The deputies removed the wire but believe this egregious act could happen again and would like people in the area to exercise caution," the social media post stated.

The sheriff's office is offering another \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of those involved.

As of Wednesday morning, deputies hadn't seen another wire hung in the area, but people should remain cautious, Lilly said.

"Clearly, this individual wants to cause harm and injure someone," Lilly said. "If he's done it once, it could happen again. ... It's very dangerous, and could easily cause serious injury or worse."

JULY FOURTH



ROSS D. FRANKLIN — ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Rori Chang of Glendale, Ariz., walks with her dog, Ava, as they leave the Maricopa County Animal Care & Control facility after Ava was microchipped on June 30, 2023, in Phoenix.

ThunderShirts, dance parties, anxiety meds can help dogs

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

PHOENIX» Rori Chang will be spending Fourth of July watching action movies from the comfort of her Glendale, Ariz., home, perhaps something from Marvel or a John Wick flick. But it's not for her. It's for her golden retriever, Ava.

"Playing movies with gunshots to cover up the fireworks works for some reason," said Chang, who stood outside in triple-digit temperatures last year to get Ava microchipped at a shelter in case she ran away from fireworks.

"Ava's a scaredy-cat of any loud noises," Chang said. "Her immediate reaction is to hide in corners, and after that she will literally paw at you wanting you to pet her the whole time."

Much of the U.S. may be looking forward to today for dazzling displays of fireworks and for setting off firecrackers and poppers with neighbors. Those with furry, four-legged family members — maybe not so much. They're searching for solutions to the Fourth of July anxiety that fireworks bring.

Pets' behavior can range from cowering in corners to running away from home. Trying to figure out what will soothe a dog can feel like an annual tradition in itself.

Without fail, Dr. Kelley DeGroff, a veterinarian in Phoenix, gets requests for anxiety medication from some pet owners starting two weeks before July 4. This past week, there have been two to three requests daily.

"I think it has to do with certain breeds. Obviously, hunting dogs are bred for that purpose, and they don't typically have any issues with it. But a lot of other dogs, it seems to trigger a fight-or-flight response in them," DeGroff said.

DeGroff prescribes a gum gel that helps with noise phobia or anxiety pills. She was expecting numerous requests for meds as late as Wednesday.

But dog owners shouldn't be asking so close to the holiday. A week before is best.

"That way, when they give you medication, you can do a trial dose beforehand so that you know what to expect and you know it's going to do what you want it to do," DeGroff said.

If you don't have time to obtain veterinarian assistance, she suggests calming supplements or a ThunderShirt, a wrap that is supposed to feel like a gentle hug for the dog.

Doggy day cares also are try-



GENE JOHNSON — ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

James Pelletier holds his dog, a papillon-Chihuahua mix named Lilly, at his Seattle home on June 30, 2023.

to offer more resources. The franchise owners of several Phoenix-area locations of Dogtopia, a nationwide company, have brought in two to three workers over the past couple years, according to marketing manager David Duran.

Today they will be extending pickup hours by an hour, to 11 p.m., if pet owners want to enjoy festivities a little longer. Even though the playrooms are mostly soundproof, employees will be having "dance parties" as well as calming music to help block out the sound of fireworks.

One fireworks seller has found a way to be part of the solution. Bille Jo Gonzales is now in her fifth year of selling CBD dog treats at Gonzo's Fire of Mines fireworks in Butte, Mont. She saw the treats made by local baker Heidi Johnson on Facebook and reached out.

"It helps my business because my business is actually creating the problem," Gonzales said.

It's a win-win situation that she thinks more fireworks vendors should consider.

"I'd say it's increased our business, and it's great for advertising," Gonzales said.

Unfortunately, dogs inevitably go missing nationwide every July Fourth. That's where shelters come in, picking up more strays than usual in the days after the holiday.

A city animal shelter in Great Falls, 155 miles north of Butte, last year installed a 24/7 microchip scanning device to help people find lost dogs' owners even when the shelter is closed.

In Arizona, Maricopa County's two shelters are currently over capacity, with 760 dogs — ideal capacity is 640 — so they will

be hard-pressed to receive any more. Unfortunately early celebrations have contributed to 50 to 60 canines coming in on some days, said Kim Powell, spokesperson for Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

It has gotten to the point where the holiday is something the shelter world "dreads all year long," Powell said.

The county usually starts planning for it in March. Now the shelters are offering free microchipping for the rest of the year. If you don't have time to get your pet microchipped, then at least write your contact information on their collar, Powell advises. Also, even if your property is enclosed, keep your dog on a leash.

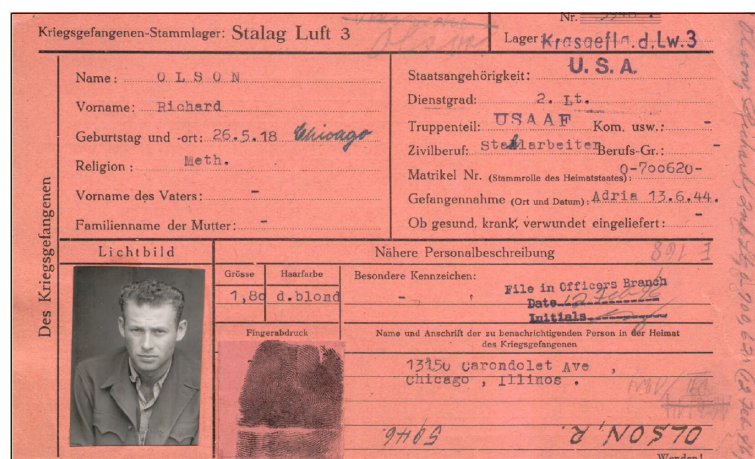
"When they get spooked, they're not thinking rationally, so it's best to just be with them, keep an eye on them," Powell said.

Seattle resident James Pelletier plans to make sure nothing happens to his 7-year-old papillon-Chihuahua mix, Lilly, by putting her in his home's basement apartment, which is almost like a "soundproof bunker." He will hang some blankets over the door. He foam-insulated a small window and will have a stereo playing "music that I probably can't stand for however many hours and/or days."

"There have already been folks setting things off, so we'll probably be ready to retreat downstairs this weekend," Pelletier said in a text last week.

For him, sanctioned fireworks shows aren't as big a problem as residents who incessantly set off illegal fireworks or firecrackers.

"Hopefully, people will use common sense with this stuff," Pelletier said.



COURTESY OF DICK OLSON

Richard Olson's identification card from his time as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III.

Veterans

FROM PAGE 2

The veteran was 22 years old when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in February 1941, according to his son.

The service was renamed the Army Air Forces in June of that year and became the Air Force in 1947.

"He grew up through the Depression and everything else," Dick told The Post. "I think he joined because he was looking for three square meals a day."

Olson later became the co-pilot of a B-24 bomber in the 484th Bombardment Group combat unit. A week after D-Day, while stationed in southern Italy, his crew was shot down over the Adriatic Sea by eight German fighter planes while flying to Munich.

"They lost an engine, and they couldn't keep up with the rest of the bombers, so they had to turn around to go back," Dick said. "Two of the gunners were killed on the plane. And then the plane was set on fire and I think they had two more engines shot out."

"But there was a big fire in the bomb bay, so they had to get out of the plane. So they did, and everybody bailed out, the ones that were still alive."

Shell fragments struck Olson's leg and he sustained a back injury that left him with chronic pain.

Most of the men landed on the Italian coastline northeast of Venice, according to conversations Dick had with B-24 crew member John Hassan. He was transferred to two other POW camps and after 10 months, Olson was liberated on April 29, 1945, from Moosburg, Germany.

"He just said it was a very dull existence and of course they were hungry all the time," Dick told The Post. "There was not a whole lot to do there. They played sports, and the American Red Cross supplied them with books and board games and sporting equipment and different things to keep their morale up."

Olson stayed in the Air Force for 16 years after his liberation from the POW camp and became a major, father and husband before leaving the military in 1961, according to his obituary.

"My parents split when I was about 13," Dick said. "He moved away from the household, and they got divorced."

After the divorce in 1969, Dick saw Richard three more times before the veteran passed away in 1996 from multiple myeloma.

"I was always interested in his Air Force career. And since he never talked about these other

guys, I wanted to find them and talk to them myself," Dick said.

He connected with John Hassan, the navigator in Richard's B-24 crew, in 1997. "Going through some of his papers, I found a phone number for John and called him up and started looking for all the other crew members also," Dick said. "I eventually did make contact with the ones that were living or family members for the ones who had passed away."

"John was my dad's best friend on the crew, and we became really good friends," Dick added. "He pretty much had a photographic memory, so that's how I know an awful lot about that crew."

While researching the crew, Dick helped the plane's bombardier, Walter Chapman, get a Distinguished Flying Cross he should have been awarded decades prior.

Like Chapman, Olson was also missing an award: a Purple Heart for sustaining a wound in the line of duty.

"There was mention of everything else, like the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medals," Dick said. "All the ribbons and medals that he was entitled to, except for the Purple Heart."

Olson's capture as a POW right after the B-24 crash meant his wounds went undocumented. In 2017, Dick decided to file a claim with the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and prove that his father had been wounded. "I thought to myself, this is unfinished business, I've got to see if I can get this thing."

After an extensive filing process, the Board for Correction rejected Dick's request in 2020.

Brian Schenk, founder of Midwest Military and Veterans Law, agreed to work with Dick pro bono, and together they took the Board for Correction to federal court, determined to prove that Olson had been wounded during active duty.

"Dick Olson's father was a war hero, and he had such extreme humility that he himself never sought a Purple Heart," Schenk told The Denver Post.

"I thought to myself, the old man went through the wringer, and he deserves to have this," Dick said. "I told the Air Force in the letter that I wrote with my first application that I'm doing it for his legacy and for posterity. People should know that he was injured fighting for his country."

On April 23, Dick won his case, and the Board for Correction agreed to grant Olson a Purple Heart Award.

"He would have been real happy to wear this purple heart," Dick said. "I think he would have been pretty proud of the fight we put up to make this happen."

Bird flu

FROM PAGE 2

State epidemiologist Dr. Rachel Herlihy said people who don't interact closely with cattle or birds are at low risk. To protect themselves, people shouldn't touch sick or dead animals, and if they have to, they should wear gloves, goggles and an N95 mask, and they should wash their hands afterward.

"Right now, the most important thing to know is that people who have regular exposure to

infected animals are at increased risk of infection and should take precautions when they have contact with sick animals," she said in a news release.

The department also advised against drinking raw milk. Pasteurized milk and fully cooked beef and chicken are safe.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture reported 25 cattle herds in the state have tested positive for H5N1 since April, with 21 still under quarantine. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a slightly different count, showing 27 herds affected in Colorado since the outbreak began.

If the USDA's numbers reflect the true situation, Colorado would have the second-highest number of infected herds, behind Idaho, despite not being a top dairy-producing state. But testing is required only when moving herds across state lines, so no one knows how many infected herds have gone unrecorded around the country.

If you work with animals that may be infected and develop flu-like symptoms or eye inflammation, call the state health department at 303-692-2700 to arrange for testing and medication, if needed.