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WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1 rescued from downed jet

Law experts say U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran may be war crimes

Thao Nguyen and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

One crew member of a U.S. F-15E fighter jet that went down over Iran on April 3 has been rescued, according to a U.S. official.

President Donald Trump has been briefed on the jet, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a state-

ment without providing details.

CBS News first reported the crew member's rescue.

The status of the other crew member from the two-seater fighter jet was unclear.

News outlets including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported that a search and rescue operation was ongoing.

The regional governor promised a

commendation for anyone who captured or killed the pilot, according to the semi-official Iranian news agency ISNA. Iranian news agencies said U.S. helicopters were flying low on apparent search missions and carried videos of residents shooting at them.

President Trump vowed in an April 1 address to hit Iran "extremely hard" over

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People stand outside a damaged residential building April 3 in Karaj, Iran. AJID SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

"To give this access to the kids and through it you can start to create a better life ... that's what we do."

Sandy Oxx RhodySquash coordinator



Liam Barahona, right, hits the ball with RhodySquash's coach and director, Omar El Kashef, on March 17.

WINNING COMBINATION

After-school program uses squash to build life skills

Lynne Sullivan
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

At first glance, it looks like a regular after-school program. Kids trickling in off buses. Snacks are being made and offered. Some quiet time for homework. A book discussion. Plans for community service.

And then, "Pop. Pop-pop-pop."

It's the sound of squash balls echoing off the walls of the De Ramel Family Squash Center at the Newport County YMCA in Middletown.

A bunch of kids playing squash as



Kailey Varao, a coordinator for RhodySquash, helps Salah Fajri with his math homework. PHOTOS BY LILY SPEREDELOZZI/SPECIAL TO THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

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Surfers join rescue team

Organization tries to save birds on RI coast

Jack Perry
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Congress of the Birds staff member Hannah Proulx was happy that she had a wetsuit when she jumped into a Barrington pond in early March to save a bird entangled in fishing line.

The water was cold, Little Echo Pond felt like a "submerged marsh," and the ringed-neck duck was elusive, making Proulx swim about 100 feet across the pond to get it.

"She made me chase her to the other end," Proulx said.

The suit that kept Proulx warm and dry was a recent gift from a Rhode Island surfer who'd retrieved an injured loon in December and realized that the local bird rescue would benefit from having wetsuits for cold-water rescues.

Chris Budnick, of South Kingstown, spent more than \$2,000 this winter buying wetsuits, boots and gloves for Proulx and Congress of the Birds Executive Director Sheida Soleimani.

Budnick is also helping the non-profit rescue recruit surfers to expand and improve the organization's efforts to save birds along the Rhode Island coast and surrounding waters.

It will be called the Congress of the Birds Surf and Rescue Team.

Harsh winter took a toll on birds

With two major storms and extended cold, ice and long-lasting snow that blocked many birds from getting food, Congress of the Birds had its busiest winter ever, according to Soleimani. At one point, Congress of the Birds had more than 90 birds in its care. "It was like nothing I've ever seen," Soleimani said.

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