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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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N. Korea flaunts its long-range missiles

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea paraded its intercontinental ballistic missiles in a massive military display in central Pyongyang on Saturday, with ruler Kim Jong Un looking on with delight as his nation flaunted its increasingly sophisticated military hardware amid rising regional tensions.

Kim did not speak during the annual parade, which celebrates the 1912 birthday of his late grandfather, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founding ruler, but a top official warned that the North would stand up to any threat posed by the United States.

Choe Ryong Hae said President Donald Trump was guilty of "creating a war situation" on the Korean Peninsula by dispatching U.S. forces to the region.

"We will respond to an all-out war with an all-out war and a nuclear war, with our style of

a nuclear attack," said Choe, widely seen by analysts as North Korea's No. 2 official.

The parade, the annual highlight of North Korea's most important holiday, came amid growing international worries that North Korea may be preparing for its sixth nuclear test or a major missile launch, such as its first flight-test of an ICBM capable of reaching U.S. shores.

But if the parade signaled a readiness for war, North Korea has long insisted that its goal is peace — and survival — with the growing arsenal a way to ensure that the government in Pyongyang is not easily overthrown.

North Korea saw the toppling of Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Moammar Gadhafi in Libya — neither of whom had nuclear weapons — as proof of weapons' power.

"It will be the largest of miscalculations if the United States treats us like Iraq and Libya, which are living out miserable

fates as victims of aggression, and Syria, which didn't respond immediately even after it was attacked," said a Friday statement by the general staff of the North Korean army, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Also Friday, North Korea's vice foreign minister told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview that Trump's tweets — he recently tweeted, for example, that the North is "looking for trouble" — have inflamed tensions.

"Trump is always making provocations with his aggressive words," Han Song Ryol said.

U.S. retaliatory strikes earlier this month against Syria over a chemical weapons attack on civilians, coupled with Trump's dispatching of what he called an "armada" of ships to the region, touched off fears in South Korea that the United States was preparing for military action against the North.

Also, Pyongyang has ex-

pressed anger over the ongoing annual spring military exercises the U.S. holds with South Korea, which it considers a rehearsal for invasion.

But U.S. officials told the AP on Friday that the Trump administration had settled on a policy that will emphasize increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of China, North Korea's only major ally, instead of military options or trying to overthrow Kim's regime.

A U.S. military official, who requested anonymity to discuss planning, said the United States doesn't intend to use military force against North Korea in response to either a nuclear test or a missile launch.

Kim, wearing a suit and tie, was greeted Saturday with thunderous — and extensively practiced — applause as he stepped into view on a large podium, clapping to acknowledge the thousands of soldiers and civilians taking part in the parade at Kim Il Sung Square.

Official: MOAB killed at least 94 ISIS militants

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 94 Islamic State militants were killed by the largest non-nuclear bomb used in combat, an Afghan army spokesman said Saturday.

Maj. Sherin Aqa, head of public affairs for the 201st Corps in eastern Nangarhar province, where the GBU-43B Massive Ordnance Air Blast was detonated, said ISIS commanders are among the dead.

"Our latest reports indicate that four main commanders are among the 94 people killed,"

Aqa told Stars and Stripes.

He said there are still no signs of civilian casualties. An initial assessment said 36 militants had been killed.

The MOAB, referred to as the "mother of all bombs," targeted an ISIS tunnel complex in Nangarhar's Achin district, where the group has been operating for about two years.

"This was the right weapon against the right target," Gen. John Nicholson, commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, told a news conference Friday.

For four weeks prior to the bombing, Afghan special forces tried to penetrate the area, but they were unsuccessful due to

the difficult terrain and a belt of improvised explosive devices planted by ISIS fighters, Gen. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for Afghanistan's Defense Ministry said.

Afghans have since resumed offensive operations against ISIS, Waziri said.

The United States, as part of its counterterrorism mission in Afghanistan, has been helping Afghan forces battle the local ISIS branch known as Islamic State-Khorasan Province since last year.

Since then, the number of ISIS fighters has dropped to between 600 and 700 from

up to 3,000, according to U.S. officials.

The militants have claimed responsibility for a number of high-profile attacks across Afghanistan, including the storming of a military hospital in Kabul last month that killed 50 people. The latest attack claimed by the group occurred on Wednesday when a suicide bomber blew himself up near the Afghan Defense Ministry killing five people.

On April 8, U.S. Special Forces soldier Staff Sgt. Mark R. De Alencar was killed in Nangarhar as part of American efforts to combat the group.

Navy investigates SEAL who appears in porn

BY CARL PRINE

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Navy Chief Special Warfare Officer Joseph John Schmidt III has been living dual lives.

As a member of the Navy SEALs, the 42-year-old boasts a chest of ribbons and medals during his 23 years in the military, including a valor citation for combat overseas. To his San Diego-area neighbors and Coronado shipmates, he's been the married father who has given pep talks to special-needs children in Los Angeles and toured the country recruiting for the elite Naval Special Warfare teams, even serving as the face of the SEAL program on its website.

Schmidt is also Jay Voom, the actor in at least 29 porn flicks during the past seven years, from "Apple Smashing Lap Dance" to "Strippers Come Home Horny From the Club."

He has spent most of his time in front of the camera engaging in sex with his wife — porn megastar Jewels Jade — for her website and film-distribution service. But he also has coupled with actresses Mena Li and Ashden Wells, according to marketing materials found by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* and confirmed by Jade.

Schmidt declined to comment for this story.

The Coronado-based Naval Special Warfare Command has launched an investigation, and a commissioned officer has been assigned to handle the case.

Major questions include whether Schmidt violated rules mandating that SEALs obtain advance approval from their commanders for outside work and whether the SEAL brass has been quietly condoning his film work. The investigation began only eight months before Schmidt had planned to retire, and disciplinary action could affect his rank and pension benefits.

"We have initiated a formal investigation into these allegations. There are very clear reg-

ulations which govern outside employment by (Naval Special Warfare) personnel as well as prohibitions on behavior that is discrediting to the service," said Capt. Jason Salata, a spokesman for the SEALs.

In an interview last week, Schmidt's wife of 15 years claimed that many high-ranking SEALs have long known about her husband's movies and seemed to tolerate his moonlighting. For example, she said, she was invited to the commandos' Coronado campus to sign autographs for troops after she was named a 2011 Penthouse Pet of the Month.

Navy officials said Schmidt did not fill out mandatory paperwork to seek clearance from his chain of command for work as a porn actor. The command did grant formal permission for Schmidt to sell herbal supplements as a side business.

The armed forces' rules for secondary employment have the force of a "punitive instruction," which means violators can be tried under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for lack of compliance.

The military has a long history of punishing active-duty service members and even veterans who do everything from writing unauthorized memoirs, to taking side jobs without permission, to engaging in work seen as detrimental to the military's reputation.

Like other military branches, the Navy bans activities that prejudice "good order and discipline or that is service discrediting," risk potential "press or public relations coverage" or "create an improper appearance."

For instance: After she posed nude in a 2007 *Playboy* magazine spread, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michelle Manhart received a formal reprimand, was removed from her position as a training instructor and was demoted.

During a 1980 probe of seven servicewomen who appeared naked in *Playboy*, investigators also discovered that a male Ma-

rine major had posed in *Playgirl*. The armed forces punished the women with involuntarily discharges and gave the major a formal reprimand, allowing him to remain in the service.

SEALs also are barred from employment that discloses secret tactics and techniques, markets the SEAL's active-duty status or involves a contractor doing business with the U.S. Department of Defense. Many high-profile SEAL misconduct cases have fallen into these categories.

In 2012, for example, the Navy formally reprimanded members of SEAL Team Six for helping Electronic Arts design the video game "Medal of Honor: Warfighter."

Similar nondisclosure rules extend into a SEAL's retired years. In 2014, former SEAL Matt Bissonnette was forced to repay the federal government \$4.5 million for writing an unauthorized, first-hand account of the slaying of terrorism mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Schmidt's unlikely entry into the skin trade turns on a very different kind of moonlighting gig he took while serving as a SEAL in Virginia.

He and his wife founded the Norfolk-based real estate company Schmidt and Wolf Associates in 2005, according to Virginia state documents. Within two years, losses at multiple rental properties created nearly \$1.8 million in personal debt, according to the couple's Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing.

Three properties had both first and second mortgages, and bankruptcy records show the pair had resorted to using credit cards to finance loan repayments. Schmidt's Navy pay was less than \$60,000 per year at the time, according to the federal filing.

Jade appeared in dozens of porn films after her 2001 debut in "Escape to Sex Island," but she had left the industry by 2003 to become a wife and mother, attend school for a nursing degree and run the real estate firm.

As business losses deepened,

she became a stripper to make ends meet, logging long weeks in Las Vegas and sending money home. Then she reluctantly returned to making sex films for the cash, she said.

"It's helped our family. It got us out of a lot of financial issues we were going through," Jade said.

When the family rotated to Coronado in early 2009 for her husband's military service, she stayed in the porn business. Jade said it wasn't by choice. She discovered that once a woman becomes a name in the porn video and Internet trade, with millions of fans worldwide, she's spotted nearly everywhere she goes.

"Once you're recognized and you build a brand and you've got your fans who know who you are, when you go to try to find a job, you can't get another job," she said.

Jade said she tried to get a management job at a luxury hotel in San Diego last year. Before she finished her employment interview, a fan recognized her, the gossip quickly spread through that office and she realized she couldn't work there.

She's currently ranked 79th globally for brand recognition by FreeOnes, a website often used by porn directors to book stars based on their popularity.

To reduce the cost of running these side businesses, she and other porn actors rely on "content trade" — donating time to one another's self-made films. To further cut expenses, Jade said she recruited her husband to help out as an unpaid performer.

She alleges that many of his fellow SEALs watched the videos online.

"They knew about it at work," Jade said. "He got called in and they said, 'Look, keep it on the low, don't mention the SEAL name and blah, blah, blah.'"

"He was always pretty open about it with the command. I mean, honestly, all of his buddies knew about it. Everybody knew about it," she said.

Navy officer gets 20-year sentence

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK — The Navy will dismiss an officer convicted Friday and sentenced to 20 years for sexually assaulting two women in separate incidents, a subordinate on his ship and a Hampton University student.

Lt. j.g. Willie Jeter, 27, also will have to register as a sex offender. An all-male, five-member jury of officers concluded a four-day court martial at Norfolk Naval Station by convicting him of burglary, unlawful entry, conduct unbecoming an officer, communicating a threat and other charges.

Jeter also was convicted of sexual assault and extortion for a separate 2014 incident aboard the Norfolk-based USS Truxtun.

In the September incidents, a Hampton University student testified she fell asleep watching a movie and woke up to find Jeter wearing only black boxer shorts and an orange or purple T-shirt and masturbating.

Another student from a different building testified that the same night, after playing board games and drinking with female friends, she awoke to Jeter wearing only a T-shirt and boxers standing next to her bed masturbating. The woman said she thought she was dreaming and fell back asleep or passed out. When she reawakened, Jeter was in her bed assaulting her, she said.

In the Truxtun incident, Navy prosecutor Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Mayo said Jeter extorted sex from a junior enlisted sailor after he discovered her in a ship switchboard room having a sexual encounter with another man, in return for him not reporting her.

Jeter's attorneys countered that the Truxtun sailor lied about being assaulted to get out of trouble for being caught in the other encounter.

During sentencing, Jeter — who also was found guilty Friday of drunken driving in January on Joint Base Langley-Eustis — sobbed as he apologized to his victims, family and the court.

US launches qualification test of upgraded nuke bomb

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Scientists at Sandia National Laboratories are claiming success with the first in a new series of test flights involving an upgraded version of a nuclear bomb that has been part of the U.S. arsenal for decades.

Work on the B61-12 has been ongoing for years, and government officials say the latest tests using mock versions of the bomb will be vital to the refurbishing effort.

An F-16 from Nellis Air Force Base dropped an inert version of the weapon over the Nevada desert last month to test its non-nuclear functions as well as the plane's ability to carry the bomb.

With a mere puff of dust, the mock bomb landed in a dry lake bed at the Tonopah Test Range.

"It's great to see things all come together: the weapon design, the test preparation, the aircraft, the range and the people who made it happen," Anna Schauer, director of Sandia's Stockpile Resource Center, said in a statement.

Scientists are planning to spend months analyzing the data gathered from the test.

More test flights are planned over the next three years, and officials with the National Nuclear Security Administration said the first production unit of the B61-12 — developed under

what is called the Life Extension Program — is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

The B61-12 consolidates and replaces four older versions in the nation's nuclear arsenal. It's outfitted with a new tail-kit assembly and other hardware.

The weapon is much different than the non-nuclear "mother of all bombs" used in Afghanistan last week to attack an Islamic State stronghold near the Pakistani border. The Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, or MOAB, isn't designed to penetrate like the B61-12 but rather create a large blast over the surface and it has to be ferried by a much larger plane given its size.

In Nevada, it took two passes before the pilot could drop the mock B61-12. A herd of wild horses had to be chased away on the first go-around.

With the run commencing, people gathered on balconies at the range despite knowing they would see only dust rising from the target miles away. A video feed showed the test bomb fall through the air after being released by the F-16.

Officials said it left behind a rather neat hole. Crews were able to dig the mock weapon out of the dirt so it could be packed up and returned to Albuquerque for further study.

Retired Army general charged with rape of a minor dating to the 1980s

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Army on Friday announced rape charges against a retired general for multiple assaults against a minor dating to the 1980s.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Grazioplene is charged with six charges of rape of a minor between 1983 and 1989, the Army announced. The criminal investigation remains open, according to the Army.

Grazioplene, in a brief interview by phone, declined to comment and expressed surprise that the Army had announced the charges. He is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Grazioplene, an armor offi-

cer, retired in 2005. As retiree, he is still subject to military law, the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The military has been rocked in recent months by a series of sexual scandals involving top officers. Grazioplene's is the most serious of the recent spate, which has involved top brass found carousing at strip bars, involved in extramarital affairs and involved in "swinging lifestyles."

The charges against Grazioplene carry the potential for life in prison and loss of pension, said Don Christensen, president of Protect our Defenders, an advocacy organization for victims of sexual assault in the military.

Christensen, the former top Air Force prosecutor, said the next step is for Grazioplene to face an Article 32 hearing, which will determine if Grazioplene's case goes to court martial.

Grazioplene, who lives in Gainesville, Va., joined the Army in March 1972 as an armor officer. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., a Ranger and was decorated for his service.

There are no plans to call him back to active duty to face the charges.

There is no statute of limitations on rape, Christensen said.

Ark. plan to execute 8 inmates upended

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A federal judge on Saturday upended Arkansas' unprecedented plan to execute eight inmates in an 11-day period, saying the men have the right to challenge prison procedures that could expose them to "severe pain."

The state still hopes to begin the executions Monday, and the attorney general's office promised an appeal to overturn Judge Kristine Baker's order. Arkansas' supply of one of its lethal injection drugs, midazolam, expires April 30, and Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he wants to use the state's supply before it spoils.

The Arkansas Department of Corrections has said in court filings it has no source for obtaining additional midazolam.

Another federal judge and the state Supreme Court had already granted stays to two of the eight inmates, reducing the number of executions to six within an 11-day period. Only Texas has executed six prisoners in a shorter time frame since the U.S. Supreme Court reauthorized the death penalty in 1976.

In her order, Baker said there was a significant possibility that the inmates could successfully challenge the state's execution protocol. She said that while the state demonstrated it does not plan to torture the inmates, the inmates had a right to challenge the method of execution in an attempt to show it "creates a demonstrated risk of severe pain."

She also noted that the execu-

tion team did not have antidotes on hand in case there was trouble with any of the drugs.

"The schedule imposed on these officials, as well as their lack of recent execution experience, causes concern," she wrote.

The Arkansas attorney general's office said the decision strayed from previous cases before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It is unfortunate that a U.S. district judge has chosen to side with the convicted prisoners in one of their many last-minute attempts to delay justice," said Judd Deere, an office spokesman. "Attorney General (Leslie) Rutledge plans to immediately appeal to the 8th Circuit and ask that today's injunction imposed

by the district court be lifted."

Under Arkansas' protocol, midazolam is used to sedate the inmate, vecuronium bromide then stops the inmate's breathing and potassium chloride stops the heart.

In her order, Baker cited troubled lengthy executions in Alabama, Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma that used the drug. Some states have barred the use of the drug, and courts have reached different decisions on what inmates would have to do to suggest alternative means of execution.

The judge also faulted the state's policy of not letting lawyers have access to the inmates at the time of their deaths and said the inmates could raise challenges about the drugs to be used.

Train carrying 1,200 gets stuck in tunnel for 3 hours

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A train with about 1,200 passengers became stuck in a tunnel between New York and New Jersey for nearly three hours on Friday, and the chaotic scene escalated to pandemonium when Amtrak police used a stun gun to subdue a disruptive man in a station, sparking a stampede.

It was the latest in a series of recent rail problems plaguing

the metropolitan area.

The New Jersey Transit train became disabled in the Hudson River tunnel late Friday afternoon, when Amtrak was experiencing overhead power problems. A New Jersey Transit spokeswoman said the train finally reached New York's Penn Station in the early evening.

The overcrowded train station erupted in panic when Amtrak police used a Taser to subdue

a man who was causing a disturbance. New York police said the use of the Taser led to false rumors of gunshots at the station. People screamed and ran, leaving the station strewn with abandoned bags. The nearby Macy's department store was briefly locked down. Sixteen people suffered non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

Amtrak said Friday night the subdued man, who wasn't a pas-

senger from the disabled train, was in police custody.

The loss of power in the tunnel caused delays of an hour or more on Amtrak and New Jersey Transit. It happened three weeks after the derailment of an Amtrak train at Penn Station and a week after a New Jersey Transit derailment shut down eight of 21 tracks there and disrupted travel in the region for days. No injuries were reported in any of the incidents.

Vice president aims to reassure allies during trip to Asia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has labeled North Korea a "problem" country and says it will be dealt with through a broad — and vague — set of options. It may be up to his vice president, Mike Pence, to fill in the details when he arrives in Asia.

Pence will be diving into a tense standoff along the Korean Peninsula with visits to South Korea and Japan beginning Sunday. His travels to the

Asia-Pacific region come amid indications that North Korea is potentially preparing its sixth nuclear test in a decade or a significant missile launch, such as its first flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Trump, who has proven to be unpredictable on foreign policy, has responded to the recent concerns over North Korea with a swagger that suggests a new, tougher stance. Asked about North Korea this week, he told reporters: "North Korea

is a problem. The problem will be taken care of." He has repeatedly declared that if China, North Korea's dominant trading partner, isn't willing to do more to squeeze the North, the U.S. might take the matter into its own hands.

The remarks came with a show of military might, as an aircraft carrier heads to waters off the Korean Peninsula. However, military officials have said the U.S. doesn't intend to use military force against North

Korea in response to either a nuclear test or a missile launch.

Tough rhetoric aside, Trump's advisers have chosen a policy that appears to hew to that of the Obama administration.

After a two-month policy review, officials settled on a policy dubbed "maximum pressure and engagement," U.S. officials said Friday. The administration's immediate emphasis, the officials said, will be on increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of Beijing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police corral horse loose on city streets

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police used carrots to corral a horse that got loose and blocked traffic at an intersection in Philadelphia's Fishtown neighborhood.

Police believe the animal got loose from the city's Fairmount Park stables. Officials there didn't immediately return a call for comment.

The horse was seen galloping through the city streets before being captured by police at Girard Avenue and Richmond Street about 7:15 a.m. Friday.

Officers used carrots to attract and calm down the horse, so they could put him in a trailer.

Chick-fil-A store seeks stolen cow costumes

CA FOLSOM — A California Chick-fil-A franchise is waiting for its cows to come home after thieves absconded with three mascot costumes from a storage shed last week.

The shop posted news Tuesday on Facebook of the April 9 theft from a store in the city of Folsom. The post pleaded with customers to help find the kidnapped cows.

James Daack, the store's hospitality director, said Thursday they just want the cows back with no questions asked.

The Chick-fil-A fast-food chain, based in Georgia, specializes in chicken sandwiches. Its ads feature crafty yet spelling-challenged cows that urge customers to "Eat Mor Chikin."

Some commenters on Facebook called the theft "beefnapping" and said that stealing cows is called "rustling."

Man accused of assault with knife, TV

SD PIERRE — A South Dakota man is accused of assaulting a boy with a television and a knife.

The U.S. attorney's office in South Dakota said Charles Gay, 20, faces charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Gay has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities say Gay in 2015 seriously injured a juvenile male with a knife and a television in Kyle.

If convicted, Gay faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release, plus \$100 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund. A trial in the case is set for June.

Deputies: 1 home hit 3 times by burglars

NC KINSTON — Deputies in Lenoir County said a local residence has been burglarized for the third time in the past six months.

The Lenoir County Sheriff's Office told WITN-TV in Greenville that deputies were called at about 2 a.m. to a home off N.C. Highway 11 south of Kinston.

Capt. Christopher Cahoon said two men broke into the home and demanded money from a woman inside the residence. The suspects got away with an undisclosed amount of cash. The woman wasn't hurt.

Cahoon said the same home was broken into last November and again in January. The home-owner was in the house on one of those occasions.

Man dies after being hit with bottle in bar

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Police said a man is dead after another man hit him

over the head with a beer bottle while they played pool at a Florida bar.

St. Petersburg police told news outlets that Vincent Hollingsworth, 62, began arguing with Marion Stephens, 32, on the night of April 9 and hit him multiple times with a pool cue.

They said Stephens came up behind Hollingsworth and hit him with the bottle. Police said bouncers tried to separate the men, but Stephens got around them and hit Hollingsworth several more times. Hollingsworth fell, hitting his head on the pool table.

Medics took Hollingsworth to a hospital, where he died early the following day.

Stephens left the bar in a cab, but officers arrested him last Monday. He faces a manslaughter charge.

Daughter of cop killed on 9/11 joins force

NY NEW YORK — The daughter of a New York Police Department officer killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks has been sworn in as a member of the force.

Brittney Roy, of Massapequa Park on Long Island, was sworn in Thursday along with 473 other recruits at the city's police academy in Queens.

Her father, Sgt. Timothy Roy, was assigned to the NYPD's surface transit enforcement division. He was working in Brooklyn courts when the terrorists flew two planes into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Roy, 36, rushed to Lower Manhattan to help. He was last seen near the South Tower before it collapsed. His body was found the following March.

Brittney Roy, now 22, was 7 when her father died. She says she always dreamed of becoming a police officer.

Trucker locks would-be thief in meat freezer

IN BATESVILLE — Southeastern Indiana police said a man who allegedly tried to steal meat from a truck at a highway rest stop ended up locked inside the truck's sub-zero refrigerated trailer.

The Ripley County Sheriff's Department said the truck's driver locked the suspect inside the trailer, which was loaded with frozen meat stored at minus 10 degrees.

Officers called to the scene Wednesday freed the man from the deep freeze after hearing him beating on the trailer's door at an Interstate 74 rest stop near Batesville, about 60 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

The suspect, Malcolm Denton, 51, of Shelbyville, faces charges of theft and unauthorized entry of a vehicle.

Robber who aborted given time served

PA EASTON — A down-and-out Pennsylvania purse snatcher told a judge he changed his mind halfway through the crime, and was sentenced to the time he has served in jail since the aborted January robbery.

Steven Dowling, 60, told a Northampton County judge on Tuesday that the woman fell because she pulled on her purse and he let her keep it, saying, "It kind of hit me right then: 'I'm not doing this.'" The Upper Black Eddy man said he was too broke to pay his bills and too proud to ask his family for money before he tried to steal the purse, telling the judge, "It was something stupid to do from being cold and hungry."

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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White Sox play three Garcias in outfield

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — If Chicago White Sox manager Rick Renteria wanted to get Garcia's attention in the outfield on Friday night, he had to be more specific.

Renteria put together a lineup of Avisail Garcia in right field, Leury Garcia in center field and Willy Garcia in left field for the series opener against the Minnesota Twins, the first time in major league history that a team has started three outfielders with the same last name.

Willy and Leury Garcia are from the Dominican Republic and Avisail is from Venezuela. They are not related.

"That will be fun," Willy Garcia said through a translator before hitting a double in his first big league at-bat during a

2-1 victory over the Twins. "We know each other. We are Latinos. I think it's going to be something very special."

There have only been three games in major league history in which an outfield has been filled with players of the same name, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Brothers Felipe, Matty and Jesus Alou all appeared in the outfield for the San Francisco Giants in three games in September of 1963, but they never started together. Each time, one was added as a defensive replacement late in the game.

"That's pretty cool," Renteria said. "It's kind of a coincidence, but it's a neat little point of history now."

The White Sox claimed Willy Garcia off waivers from the Pittsburgh Pirates in January, and he hit .423 with two home

runs in seven games for Triple-A Charlotte before being recalled to take the place of Melky Cabrera, who is on paternity leave. Garcia wore a wide smile on his face as he prepared to take the field for the first time and laughed when asked about the comfort of being surrounded by two other Garcias in the outfield for his debut.

"That's going to make this game more special because it's something that is happening for the first time in the major leagues," Willy Garcia said.

Special — and maybe a little confusing.

"If someone calls out for us by our last name, for Garcia, we're not going to know who they are calling for," Willy Garcia said. "Some people can do that just to have fun and make jokes, but that will be fun for us."

Willy Garcia went 1-for-4 in

his debut — he was thrown out trying to stretch his double into a triple. Avisail Garcia had two hits to extend his season-opening hitting streak to nine games and Leury Garcia got a hit and scored a run.

Less than a week after Spaniard Sergio Garcia won his first golf major at the Masters, these three outfielders put the Garcia name back in the headlines. In a season in which the White Sox plunged into rebuilding mode after trading ace Chris Sale and outfielder Adam Eaton during the winter, they welcomed the attention for the quirky bit of history.

"I know there's a little buzz about that," Renteria said. "I guess we'll take it, whatever positive we can get out of it, absolutely."

Dodgers' Kershaw outduels former teammate Greinke

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They were teammates and friends with the Los Angeles Dodgers. They faced each other as opponents for the first time on Friday night.

Clayton Kershaw outpitched Zack Greinke, leading the Dodgers to a 7-1 victory against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Greinke spent three seasons with Kershaw in Los Angeles, going 51-15 with a 2.30 ERA before signing a \$206.5-million, six-year deal with the Diamondbacks prior to last season.

"We got pretty close, and our kids are around the same age and were close," Kershaw said. "It was a little weird."

Kershaw (2-1) allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked one in 8¹/₃ innings. In his last 10 games at Dodger Stadium, Kershaw is 9-0 with a 0.47 ERA.

"I hope I can pitch the same way no matter where it is," Kershaw said.

Greinke (1-1) lasted just five innings. The 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner was charged

with five runs and 10 hits.

Braves 5, Padres 2: Ender Inciarte hit the first home run in baseball's newest stadium, local product Nick Markakis drove in the first two runs and Atlanta beat San Diego in the regular-season debut for SunTrust Park.

Before a sellout crowd of 41,149 that included former President Jimmy Carter, Commissioner Rob Manfred and one-time home run king Hank Aaron, the Braves won their second straight game after a 1-6 start.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 4: Home plate umpire Dale Scott sustained a concussion when he was hit in the face mask by a foul tip from Baltimore slugger Mark Trumbo, casting a shadow over visiting Baltimore's victory.

Scott recoiled after the ball struck the bottom of his mask and staggered backward before going down on one knee in the eighth inning. Once his neck was immobilized on a spinal board, Scott was lifted onto a cart and driven off the field.

Scott will miss the rest of the series.

Mariners 2, Rangers 1: Felix Hernandez pitched 7¹/₃ innings for host Seattle, and Mitch Haniger settled for a clutch RBI single instead of an apparent home run.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2: David Freese and Francisco Cervelli each drove in two runs, and visiting Pittsburgh stopped a four-game skid.

Yankees 4, Cardinals 3: Masahiro Tanaka pitched into the seventh inning, Aroldis Chapman escaped his own jam for his third save in three days and host New York got its fifth straight win.

Giants 8, Rockies 2: Johnny Cueto pitched seven effective innings for host San Francisco, and Brandon Crawford and Chris Marrero homered.

Rays 10, Red Sox 5: Logan Morrison hit a grand slam for visiting Tampa Bay and Shane Peterson homered in his first big league at-bat since 2015, two of the career-high four homers allowed by Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello.

Marlins 3, Mets 2: J.T. Realmuto hit a game-ending RBI double with two out in the ninth, and Miami snapped visiting New York's five-game winning streak.

Tigers 7, Indians 6: Miguel Cabrera hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning after being brushed back in the first, and the Tigers handed host Cleveland its sixth loss in seven games.

Astros 7, Athletics 2: Nori Aoki homered and drove in two runs to help visiting Houston to its third straight win.

Royals 7, Angels: Danny Duffy pitched seven innings for host Kansas City, and Mike Moustakas hit a two-run homer.

Brewers 10, Reds 4: Eric Thames homered for the second straight night and drove in three runs, helping visiting Milwaukee to its fourth straight victory.

Nationals 3, Phillies 2 (10): Daniel Murphy hit a game-ending RBI double, sending host Washington to the win.

Thunder guard Westbrook changing focus

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shortly after the Thunder wrapped up their regular-season finale, Russell Westbrook grew weary of talking about individual accolades.

The Thunder guard happily answered questions about Oscar Robertson's MVP endorsement, and he answered a few questions about his record 42 triple-doubles in the regular season before his mood soured. When he was asked about winning his second scoring title in three years, he hesitated, then simply replied: "Next question."

Westbrook understands none of that matters now.

He is squarely focused on what's ahead: the Thunder's playoff series with Houston that begins Sunday night — and postseason success.

"The group of guys that we have, especially going into the playoffs — we've got to make sure we come ready to play, because we know they're (Houston) going to be ready," he said.

Westbrook has gone into most of the high-stakes games in his career with Kevin Durant and Serge Ibaka at his side. But Du-

rant left for Golden State in free agency last summer, and Ibaka, one of the league's best defensive players for much of his career in Oklahoma City, now plays for Toronto.

Westbrook will have to help one of the youngest teams in the NBA get acclimated to playoff basketball. He said there won't be any special conversations about what to expect.

"Just play, man," Westbrook said. "Best thing you can do. It's what I did. Just go out and compete at a high level, and the game will tell you what to do. Obviously, the stakes are higher, but at the same time, still got to put the ball in the hole. Still the same basketball, same court. I just go out and compete."

Still, this journey will be much different for Westbrook.

"I think he's excited from a leadership role to try to help guys that don't have that kind of experience, haven't been through it or are going through it for the first time, to try to help those guys," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I think he'll be the same as he always is. As the season's gone on, I really haven't seen a whole lot of

change in Russell from the first day of training camp to now."

Westbrook doesn't want to talk about the triple-doubles, but they are a critical component for the Thunder. Oklahoma City went 33-9 this season when Westbrook registered a triple-double and 13-26 when he didn't. The Thunder are 4-1 all-time in the playoffs when Westbrook gets a triple-double.

He's facing another player who gets triple-doubles in bunches. James Harden, Westbrook's former teammate in Oklahoma City, collected 22 this season.

It's the most intriguing first-round series of the playoffs.

Westbrook said the fact that Oklahoma City is matching up Harden does add a little something to the matchup. They are the front-runners for the MVP award, and they last played together for the Thunder in 2011-12, when Oklahoma City lost to Miami in the NBA Finals.

"It's definitely cool," Westbrook said. "It's a great experience. Something that we can talk about later on down the line. Definitely, it's good."

The Thunder have played relatively well against Harden

this season, holding him to 20.5 points per game on 34 percent shooting in the four meetings. Westbrook said there are other threats for the Rockets, who set the NBA record for 3-pointers made this season. Harden, Lou Williams, Eric Gordon, Ryan Anderson, Patrick Beverley and Trevor Ariza each made at least 110 3-pointers this season.

"Obviously, they're a great offensive team," Westbrook said. "Transition, they do a great job of getting threes. You've got to protect the 3-point line."

Westbrook has lit up the Rockets, averaging 36.3 points, 9.0 rebounds and 9.3 assists in four meetings, but Houston has won three of the four games.

Westbrook averaged 34.6 minutes per game in the regular season and shouldered a large amount of the load for the team, especially late in close games. He isn't sure how Donovan will manage his minutes in the playoffs.

"I just go out when my name is called," he said. "I go on the floor and play."

Hawks hope they've figured things out as playoffs begin

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Maybe the Atlanta Hawks finally figured things out.

If so, their timing is impeccable.

After a regular season marked largely by perplexing inconsistency, the Hawks turned in some of their best performances over the final week.

Two victories against defending NBA champion Cleveland, including a 26-point comeback. Another win against the Boston Celtics, the top-seeded team in the East.

Now, heading into an opening-round playoff series against the Washington Wizards, the Hawks are overflowing with

confidence.

"I think we're playing probably as good or better than we have all year, especially offensively," coach Mike Budenholzer said Friday. "That's what you want to be doing going into the playoffs. I think the team's in a good mindset, a good place."

Make no mistake this season was a disappointment for the Hawks, who just two years ago had a franchise-record 60 wins and were the top seed in the East. Last season, they slipped to 48-34 and underwent a major shake-up that included the signing of polarizing center Dwight Howard and the promotion of Dennis Schroder to starting point guard.

Instead of improving, Atlanta dropped even further (43-39

and was actually in danger of missing the playoffs before the final-week surge.

Even though the Hawks will be making their 10th straight postseason appearance, the team has generated little buzz around the NBA or even in its own city, where home games continue to be marked by thousands of empty seats and most sports fans seem more focused on the start of baseball season, the NFL Draft and a promising new soccer team, Atlanta United.

"Keep 'they' outcha life," he said. "All the people who don't believe in us, that's 'they.' You've got to keep 'they' outcha life. It doesn't matter what 'they' want. It matters what we want."

Atlanta's offensive improvement has coincided with a reduction in Howard's minutes late in the season, and Budenholzer seems intent on sticking with an extended rotation during the playoffs. He praised the play of the bench, which includes former starter Kent Bazemore, Ersan Ilyasova, Mike Muscala, Mike Dunleavy and Jose Calderon.

"We have a deep bench and I think we're going to try to use as much of it as we can," Budenholzer said. "We're in a little bit of a unique position where, at least going into Game 1, the plan is to keep a deep rotation and play a lot of guys and continue to massage that. If we need to adjust in a game, we will."

Radulov evens series for Canadiens in OT

Associated Press

MONTREAL — The Montreal Canadiens were in serious trouble until Tomas Plekanec gave them new life with a tying goal with 18 seconds left. And when Alexander Radulov scored 18:34 into overtime, it gave a whole new look to their playoff series with the New York Rangers.

Instead of heading to New York trailing by two games, the Canadiens won 4-3 on Friday night to even the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarterfinal 1-1 with Game 3 set for Sunday night at Madison Square Garden.

“Every time you win you kind of change the momentum,” Plekanec said. “You feel better about yourself and your game. But it’s just one game. We have to get better because we haven’t played a great game yet.”

Plekanec was put out for the final shift of the third period, with goalie Carey Price pulled for an extra attacker, because coach Claude Julien felt it was important to get the puck right away. Plekanec had a 63 percent win rate on faceoffs.

The veteran ended up redirecting Radulov’s feed past

goal Henrik Lundqvist to send the Bell Centre crowd of 21,288 into a frenzy. The goal was the latest tying playoff goal in Canadiens history, beating Jacques Lemaire’s goal in 1975 with 24 seconds remaining.

Then Radulov, with his third point of the night, jammed the puck under Lundqvist from the edge of the crease in OT.

For a team that couldn’t buy a goal in a 2-0 loss in the series opener, finally getting some offense was huge.

“I sat here and had to answer questions I felt we didn’t deserve (after Game 1) and it gave is a little chip on our shoulder,” captain Max Pacioretty said. “Obviously, we didn’t want to go down 2-0 going on the road, but every shift you have a chance to make a difference in a game and everyone had that same mindset.”

“The coach came in here after two and after three and just said the right things to everybody. It was such a good feeling to see everyone stop what they were doing and be completely still and listen to what the coach had to say. Everyone just bought in so well and it showed in our game and our resilience.”

Jeff Petry and Paul Byron also scored for the Canadiens. They outshot New York 45-30 in regulation time and 58-38 overall.

The Rangers looked to be protecting their lead in the third period, when they were outshot 18-9, and gave up most of the scoring chances in OT, including Shea Weber’s shot that clanged off a goalpost.

Penguins 4, Blue Jackets 1: Sidney Crosby had a goal and two assists, Marc-Andre Fleury stayed sharp in his second straight playoff start and host Pittsburgh pulled away to beat Columbus in Game 2.

Jake Guentzel added a goal and an assist to help the defending Stanley Cup champions take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. Evgeni Malkin scored his first goal of the postseason, and Patric Hornqvist pushed in an empty-net goal.

Fleury finished with 39 saves while filling in for the injured Matt Murray, and received plenty of help. Pittsburgh blocked 23 shots before the Blue Jackets even got to Fleury.

Blues 2, Wild 1: Jaden Schwartz scored with 2:27 remaining during a 4-on-4 situation and visiting St. Louis beat

Minnesota to take a 2-0 series lead.

Joel Edmundson had the first goal for the Blues after winning Game 1 in overtime, Jake Allen made 23 saves, and coach Mike Yeo devised another shrewd plan against his former team.

Zach Parise scored again for the Wild, on a 5-on-3 late in the second period, but goalie Devan Dubnyk simply hasn’t been as dominant as Allen at the other end. Screened by David Perron, Dubnyk didn’t track Schwartz’s deep shot from the slot. He made 20 saves.

Oilers 2, Sharks 0: Connor McDavid and Zack Kassian scored short-handed goals to help host Edmonton even the first-round series at one game apiece.

Cam Talbot stopped all 16 shots he faced for his first career playoff shutout and Edmonton’s first postseason win since 2006. The Oilers missed the playoffs in each of the last 10 years.

Kassian scored early in the second period and McDavid doubled the lead midway through the third period.

Martin Jones finished with 34 saves for the Sharks.

Montero’s 1 goals lift Whitecaps over Sounders

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Fredy Montero scored twice against his former team to help the Vancouver Whitecaps beat the Seattle Sounders 2-1 in Major League Soccer on Friday night.

The Colombian striker opened the scoring in the 65th minute, heading Cristian Techera’s cross beyond goalkeeper Stefan Frei’s fingertips.

Montero, who scored 47 times and added 34 assists in 119 regular-season appearances with Seattle from 2009 to 2012, dropped to his knees after the goal and pointed to the sky in a muted celebration before he was joined by teammates.

On loan to Vancouver (2-3-1) this season from his Chinese club, Montero doubled the lead in the 80th minute off a corner when he nodded home Kendall Weston’s flick-on past a help-less Frei.

Will Bruin scored for defending MLS Cup champion Seattle (1-2-3) in the 89th minute.

New York City FC 2, Union 0: Jack Harrison scored in the 52nd minute and David Villa added another from 50-plus yards away in the 90th as visiting New York City FC beat winless Philadelphia.

New York City (3-2-1) had lost six of its last nine regular-season away games. Philadelphia (0-4-2) has only won once in its last 10 home games.

Harrison settled Ronald Matarrita’s through ball with his right foot and slid a shot with his left for his second goal of the season. Villa chipped goalkeeper Andre Blake from near midfield.

NYCFC’s Rodney Wallace had an open-net opportunity in the 68th, but his casual attempt was sent away by defenseman Jack Elliott, who was making his first MLS start.

Earthquakes 1, FC Dallas 1: Jahmir Hyka scored in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time to earn San Jose a draw with visiting FC Dallas.

It’s the second straight 90th-minute, game-tying goal for San Jose (2-2-2), which is undefeated at home. Dallas (3-0-

2) is unbeaten in the last eight series meetings.

Kellyn Acosta scored his second goal of the season in the 78th minute to give FC Dallas a 1-0 lead. Maximiliano Urruti dribbled past a defender at the top of the box but it was poked away from behind. The loose ball fell to the feet of Acosta and his deflected shot found the back of the net.

Hyka tied it in the final seconds. Chris Wondolowski’s header was misplayed by a player from each team, and Hyka ran to it, headed it forward and one-touched it home.

Last Saturday, Wondolowski had the equalizer in the 90th minute against Seattle.