Saturday, April 28, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump boosts Korean summit, slams critics

By Kim Gamel

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — With the ball in his court, President Donald Trump said Saturday that "things are going very well" after a historic inter-Korean summit that led to promises to pursue denuclearization and a permanent peace on the divided peninsula.

Trump said he had spoken with South Korean President Moon Jae-in by telephone a day after Moon held a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that raised hopes of peace and reconciliation after decades of hostilities.

While short on specifics, the summit laid the groundwork for Trump's upcoming meeting with Kim, which is expected in coming weeks.

"Just had a long and very good talk with President Moon of South Korea," Trump said in a tweet. "Things are going very well, time and location of meeting with North Korea is being set."

Trump said the list of potential summit sites has been narrowed to two countries, which he didn't list.

He also said he had spoken with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "to inform him of the ongoing negotiations."

The comments came after a day of bold declarations and stunning symbolism as Kim became the first North Korean leader to step foot on South Korean soil since the 1950-53 war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Kim and Moon emerged from several hours of walks and talks promising in a joint declaration to seek the "complete denuclearization" of the peninsula and to work toward a formal end to the war.

Kim didn't use the word de-

nuclearization in his remarks during the meeting. But North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency did so as it hailed the summit.

"At the talks both sides had a candid and open-hearted exchange of views on the matters of mutual concern including the issues of improving the north-south relations, ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula and the denuclearization of the peninsula," it said.

Rodong Sinmun, the North's official state newspaper, also devoted four pages to summit coverage with dozens of photos of Moon and Kim.

But the final declaration offered no specific measures on ending the decades-old nuclear standoff, leaving it up to Trump to try to close the deal in his planned summit with Kim.

On Friday, Trump said he has a responsibility to try to achieve peace and denuclear-

ization and vowed to maintain the U.S.-led maximum pressure campaign of punishing economic sanctions and other measures until that happens.

"And if I can't do it, it'll be a very tough time for a lot of countries, and a lot of people. It's certainly something that I hope I can do for the world," he said during appearances with visiting Chancellor Angela Merkel.

He also hit back against skeptics who doubt Kim's sincerity and cite decades of broken promises by the North that have caused past nuclear agreements to collapse.

"The United States has been played beautifully, like a fiddle, because you had a different kind of a leader," Trump went on. "We're not going to be played, O.K.? We're going to hopefully make a deal."

Navy looking to increase production of subs

The (New London, Conn.) Day

GROTON, Conn. — The U.S. Navy is working to build three attack submarines in some years as opposed to two and wants to keep five of its attack submarines in service longer than expected to address a dip in the number of nuclear-powered attack submarines in coming years.

The U.S. attack submarine fleet is expected to shrink by 20 percent over the next decade. There are 52 attack submarines today; by 2028, that number is expected to dip to 42. The Navy has said it needs a fleet of 66 attack submarines, but that isn't expected to happen until 2048 under current plans.

Meanwhile, the Navy continues to drive down the construction timeline for the Virginia-class attack submarine program. At the outset, the boats were built in 84 months. Then the Navy reduced the construction timeline to 74 months, and now the goal is to build them in 66 months.

The Navy wants to knock off even more time, which means pressure is mounting on Electric Boat and hundreds of submarine suppliers in Connecticut to keep on schedule. Already, EB has been busy building two Virginia-class submarines a year with Newport News Shipbuilding and thousands of suppliers across the country. The submarines cost about \$2.7 bil-

lion each to build.

"Everybody has I think reached consensus that this part of the fleet is more and more prized by combatant commanders, and now that the dip in fleet size is getting imminent, time and delivery is even more of a priority," said Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn.

The Navy is negotiating the contract for the next group of attack submarines it wants to build from 2019 to 2023. Congress authorized the production of up to 13 Virginia submarines during that period, but the Navy has indicated it wants to build 12. That would mean building three submarines in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Costs still are being figured out, and Con-

gress would have to approve any funding.

"I'm still committed to having options in that contract for additional submarines in '22 and '23, should that be something we jointly decide to do and can afford," Assistant Secretary of the Navy James Geurts said at a recent congressional hearing.

The Navy also is proposing to extend for up to 10 years the service life of five Los Angeles-class attack submarines, which the Virginia submarines are replacing. At this point, no Groton-based submarines are being considered for service life extension.

Marine helicopter slipping behind schedule

Bloomberg

Lockheed Martin Corp.'s new \$31 billion helicopter for the Marine Corps may be falling behind schedule and could miss its target for initial combat capability by as much as eight months, Pentagon analysts say.

Defense Department officials are tracking more than 1,000 current or projected "mission-impacting technical issues" that present "a high risk" to the CH-53K helicopter meeting its December 2019 goal, according to a program review document.

The Navy plans to buy 200 of the helicopters, known as the King Stallion. The aircraft, scheduled to make its international debut this week at the annual air show in Berlin, was a prime motivation for Lockheed's \$9 billion acquisition of Sikorsky Aircraft from United Technologies Corp. in 2015.

Fixing the flaws has required the "rede-

sign and requalification" of a "significant number of components," according to the review prepared in February. Four helicopters in a flight test program were operating at 69 percent effectiveness as of late last year, "well below" the 75 percent to 90 percent benchmark needed, the review found.

James Geurts, the Navy's assistant secretary for acquisition, "believes we are at a critical phase" and "the next several weeks will be key," according to a statement by the service. Geurts recently met with Lockheed and Navy program officials "to discuss his concern about the testing schedule as planned" and "expressed his sense of urgency to improve" the situation.

The King Stallion will be capable of lifting 27,000 pounds. It will be the same size as its predecessor, the Super Stallion, but able to haul triple the cargo, according to Lockheed. The Pentagon in April 2017 approved the program entering low-rate

production, authorizing production of the initial batch of 26 helicopters.

Melissa Chadwick, a spokeswoman for Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, defended the helicopter's progress, saying in an email that "we are tracking to plan plusor-minus a bit." She said the contractor is tracking about 100 items "and all but a few are either already fixed and proven or are in process."

She said "the program is maturing rapidly, and we remain committed to enabling" the Marine Corps to "complete operational test requirements on schedule. Further, we are on target to enter into production."

The first CH-53K, a test model, will be delivered next month to Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, N.C., she said. Fixes to the copter's main gearbox "drove early schedule issues leading to first flight," but "the balance of qualification testing" of the gearbox "is proceeding per plan," Chadwick said.

Army issues waivers for mood disorders and self-mutilation

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Army issued waivers over 13 months to more than 1,000 recruits who had been diagnosed and treated for mood disorders and 95 more for self-mutilation, according to data obtained by USA Today.

The acceptance of new soldiers with a history of serious behavioral health issues, some of which can be lifelong challenges, came as the Army struggled to meet its recruiting goals. The time period ran from Oct. 1, 2016, through Oct. 31, 2017.

Last week, Army Secretary Mark Esper indicated that the Army issues waivers only for mental health issues that have been resolved or upon further review were misdiagnosed. There were no waivers issued for a history of drug overdoses or suicide attempts.

Mood disorders include conditions such as bipolar disorder and severe depression. Self-mutilation can indicate deep psychological problems.

A history of severe depression raises the risk of sui-

cide, a problem the military sought to minimize in part by eliminating waivers for many behavioral health issues in 2009, Ritchie said.

Last fall, USA Today reported on Army documents that showed the service tried to ease the waiver process for recruits with a history of self-mutilation, bipolar disorder and depression. The Army encountered challenging recruiting goals, including adding more than 76,000 soldiers this year. In 2017, it accepted more recruits who had fared poorly on aptitude tests, and it increased the number of waivers for marijuana use.

Figures obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request show that from Oct. 1, 2016, through Oct. 31, 2017, the active-duty Army issued waivers to 738 recruits with a history of mood disorders and 49 more with a history of self-mutilation. The Army Reserve and National Guard accepted the rest of the recruits with behavioral health issues.

Rescue squadron set for Afghanistan fighting season

By Phillip Walter Wellman

Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — On a recent evening at the United States' largest base in Afghanistan, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter landed with distant mountains in front of it and something unusual behind it: the headquarters of the Air Force's 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron.

The CH-47 is an Army helicopter, but because it suits the mountainous region of northern Afghanistan, it's being used by the 83rd ERQS — making it the first-ever joint-personnel rescue squadron comprising Army aircraft and air crew and Air Force pararescue specialists.

Air Force pararescuemen, or PJs, have had less to do in Afghanistan since international combat operations ended in 2014. But with U.S. airstrikes intensifying and more American boots on the ground, they expect that will change soon.

Pararescuemen specialize in

recovering servicemembers in danger, such as when an aircraft crashes, a vehicle hits a bomb or a building collapses on them.

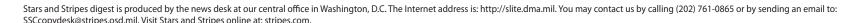
Commonly referred to as a "jack of all trades but master of none," a pararescueman is versed in skills such as scuba diving, parachuting, high-angle shooting, vehicle extraction and medical work.

The CH-47 should give the PJ mission a boost: It has basic resuscitative and surgical capabilities that the Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk did not.

Besides the ability to carry more people and equipment, the CH-47 can also fly longer, faster and at higher altitudes.

The entire floor of the aircraft is armored, unlike the Pave Hawks. That's important for the PJs, who are often reaching the scene when bullets are flying.

The missions require their pilots to have skills that not every Army pilot is trained for, such as accommodating passengers who need to slide out of the helicopter on a rope when it is unable to land.



White House says records don't back Jackson allegations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The White House said Friday that internal records raise doubt about some of the most serious allegations leveled against White House doctor Ronny Jackson in his failed bid to become the next secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Jackson withdrew his nomination Thursday after allegations by current and former colleagues raised questions about his prescribing practices and leadership ability, including accusations of drunkenness on the job. Democratic Sen. Jon Tester's office collected the allegations, which included a claim that Jackson "got drunk and wrecked a government vehicle" at a Secret Service goingaway party.

On Saturday, a furious President Donald Trump called for Tester's resignation, calling his allegations "false." Trump asserted that Tester "has to have a big price to pay" politically in the GOP friendly state. Tester faces a competitive re-election race this year.

The records, including police reports, show Jackson was in three minor vehicle incidents in government vehicles during the last five years, but none involved the use of alcohol and he was not found to be at fault. In one case, a side-view mirror was clipped by a passing truck. In another incident an enraged driver in Montgomery County, Md., allegedly punched out Jackson's window during a morning drive to Camp David.

The White House medical unit that Jackson ran successfully passed regular controlled substance audits, according to the records for the last three years. The reviews did recommend improvements to the medical unit's handling of con-

trolled substances, but did not find misconduct.

The Associated Press reviewed the documents Friday. They were the result of an internal White House review of allegations raised against Jackson during his brief confirmation process. The White House says the records, covering recent years, disprove the allegations.

Separately, the Secret Service said it has no evidence to support an allegation that its personnel intervened to prevent Jackson from disturbing former President Barack Obama during a foreign trip in 2015.

In a statement dated Thursday, the Secret Service said it had conducted a "thorough review" of internal documents related to Obama's foreign trips in 2015 and interviewed people who were present. The agency said it has found "no information that would indicate the allegation is accurate" and no record of any incident involving Jackson.

CNN had reported allegations that Jackson drunkenly banged on the hotel room door of a female employee and that Secret Service personnel intervened out of concern that he would wake Obama.

Jackson has denied the accusations, calling them "baseless and anonymous attacks" on his character and integrity that are "completely false and fabricated."

President Donald Trump said he is considering a number of potential replacements, including "some very political people" who might be better equipped to handle the scrutiny that comes with a nomination.

Devil Dog Day lauds cake, not Marine Corps

By Chad Garland

Stars and Stripes

Every dog will have its day, and Friday belonged to the Devil Dog.

No, not the Marine moniker of dubious origins dating back nearly 100 years, but the baked devil's food treat introduced by Drake's Cakes in 1926. This is the first National Devil Dog Day, which is planned to be an annual affair.

According to the National Day Calendar, Andrew Sobel registered the day in memory of his grandfather, Howard Leslie Sobel, who kept a stash of the snack in his cupboard and liked to share.

The "authoritative" online calendar tracks days, weeks and months that have been designated for special, sometimes goofy, observances. Anyone can request a day, but only 30 are selected to be honored from more than 20,000 applications each year, said website founder Marlo Anderson.

In an odd twist this year, last week also began with Devil Dog-related news. Not about the snack cake but the nickname.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited Washington Monday bearing the gift of an oak sapling that had grown near the mossy "Devil Dog" fountain in the village of Belleau, not far from where the Marines are said to have earned their famous nickname in June 1918.

Corps dogma has it that Marines battling to capture "untakeable" and "impenetrable" Belleau Wood, about 60 miles northeast of Paris, mounted unrelenting attacks, leading the Germans to dub them "Teufelhunden."

That word, referring to "fierce fighting dogs of legendary origin," was "belovedly translated 'devil dogs," according to Marine Corps recruit training materials, known as "knowledge" among boot camp denizens. The term was incorporated into a recruiting poster that touted its Teutonic origins not long after the battle,

in which more than 9,250 Marines were killed or wounded. But there's no credible evidence that the Germans gave the Marines the appellation, Bob Aquilina, of the Marine Corps History Division, told Stars and Stripes in 2011 — one of many deflations of the Marine Corps' puffery.

Still, recruits have long been required to learn the epithet and its origins.

It's not clear how the snack cakes got the name.

The Drake's brand was owned by Hostess when the Twinkie-maker declared bankruptcy and filed for liquidation in 2012. The following year, McKee Foods, maker of Little Debbie Snacks, purchased the Drake's brand and reintroduced its top-selling products, including Ring Dings, Yodels and Yankee Doodles.

There was a flourishing of similar frosting-filled baked goods in the 1920s, said Anastacia Marx De Salcedo, food writer and author of the book "Combat-Ready Kitchen: How the U.S. Military Shapes the Way You Eat."

Creme-filled, baked delights such as the Devil Dog were made possible by the development of hydrogenated oil that allowed for shelf-stable frosting. Traditional ingredients such as butter or lard would melt or go rancid at room temperature, Marx de Salcedo told Stars and Stripes.

Marx de Salcedo's book documents examples of food innovations that originate in military efforts to feed the troops in the field. Many trace back to Natick Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., or Pentagon contracts.

Unlike military-spawned energy bars and the McRib, however, there doesn't seem to be a clear connection between the cakes and the Corps.

Marx de Salcedo noted that one of Drake's first products way back in the 1890s was pound cake, though it's likely not the same cherished dessert found in military Meals, Ready to Eat.



Trump, Merkel focus on positive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing imminent deadlines, President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel largely papered over their differences on trade and the Iran nuclear accord on Friday, stressing instead ties between the longtime allies and their shared goal of a nuclear-free North Korea.

Still, Merkel's brief visit, coupled with French President Emmanuel Macron's more lavish stopover earlier last week, made clear that the U.S. president's divisions with European allies remain substantial.

Trump and Merkel's three-hour visit at the White House contained little of the back-slapping geniality that defined Macron's three-day trip, including a lavish state dinner. While Trump and Macron complimented and embraced each other, the German chancellor kept her public statements brief and handshakes formal.

Trump is widely expected to withdraw the U.S. from the international Iran agreement next month, despite pleas from Macron last week and Merkel on Friday. Yet Merkel used her public comments after her meeting with Trump to try to gloss over that disagreement, calling the Obama administration accord a "first step" toward curtailing and containing Iran's regional ambitions and suggesting openness to a side agreement.

Trump has said he, too, is open to new negotiations with Iran. But he has not said he will heed European calls for the U.S. to stay in the deal, which aims to restrict Iran's nuclear efforts, while any further talks are underway. His decision on whether to exit the deal is expected by May 12, and he forcefully set out what he sees as the ultimate goal.

"They're not going to be doing nuclear weapons. You can bank on it," Trump declared at a news conference with Merkel.

On trade, Merkel saw little progress on obtaining permanent exemptions for the European Union from Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs, even as a May 1 decision deadline approaches.

"The decision lies with the president," she said.

German officials had signaled that their goals for Friday's visit were modest,

Trump implicitly scolded Germany for not meeting NATO military spending obligations, saying it is "essential that our NATO allies increase their financial contribution." Merkel said Germany's latest budget will take defense spending to 1.3 percent of GDP, and the country is aiming for more over time. NATO countries are expected to devote 2 percent of their gross domestic product to defense.

Merkel made a point of flattering Trump on one issue, declaring that the U.S. pressure campaign against North Korea deserved the lion's share of the credit for the historic summit between the leaders of North and South Korea. Trump praised Germany's role in the effort but agreed with a reporter's question that he would be "the closer" in the deal, saying, "I think I have a responsibility" to oversee denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

DNA search for killer led to wrong man

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Investigators hunting for the so-called Golden State Killer turned to genetic websites in 2017 but misidentified an Oregon man as a potential suspect. A year later, after using a similar technique, they are confident they've caught the serial rapist and killer who eluded capture for four decades.

In March 2017, an Oregon City police officer, working at the request of investigators in California, convinced a judge to order a 73-year-old man in a nursing home to provide a DNA sample.

Court documents obtained by The Associated Press said detectives used a genetic profile based off DNA from crime scenes linked to the serial killer and compared it to information on a free online genealogical site.

Investigators cited a rare genetic marker, which the Oregon man shared with the killer, to get the judge to issue the order. The Oregon City man is in extremely poor health in a rehabilitation facility and was unable to answer questions Friday.

His daughter said his family was not aware that authorities took a DNA sample from him while he was lying in bed at the rehabilitation center until she was contacted by the FBI in April 2017 and asked to help expand the family's genetic tree in the search for suspects.

The woman, an amateur genealogist, cooperated, but ultimately investigators determined none of her relatives were viable suspects, she said. The woman spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because she did not want the family's name publicly linked to the case.

"I don't like that they thought that my dad was the bad guy, but the truth is they were able to rule out people in my dad's (family) tree," she said. "They didn't have to look at those people anymore."

Cosby to be confined in home until sentencing

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Two days after his conviction, Bill Cosby has already started life as an inmate — though his surroundings are far nicer than they likely will be in a few months.

A judge says Cosby, 80, will be confined to the same suburban Philadelphia mansion where jurors concluded he drugged and molested a Temple University women's basketball administrator, ordering him to be outfitted with a GPS ankle bracelet to monitor compliance.

Until sentencing, Judge Steven O'Neill ruled Friday, the comedian may leave his house only to meet with his lawyers or go to the doctor, and he must get permission first.

It was the latest sign that

Cosby's past — a sordid double life that gave lie to his carefully cultivated image as America's Dad — had finally caught up with him.

Cosby was convicted Thursday of three counts of aggravated indecent assault and now faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars. His team blasted the retrial as a "public lynching" and began looking ahead to an appeal.

Lawyers not connected with the case said the defense might have a winning argument.

Prosecutors put five other women on the stand to testify that they, too, were abused by the former TV star, but the strategy that helped them secure a conviction could also serve as a template for his lawyers seeking to overturn the jury's verdict.

Christopher Adams, a defense attorney whose clients have included former NBA star Jayson Williams, said the judge's decision to allow the "prior bad acts" testimony could have tainted the jury.

"It's one thing if they looked at one or two, but five? He wasn't charged with being a serial assaulter," he said.

Former federal prosecutor David Axelrod, now in private practice in Philadelphia, agreed that Cosby's team has a shot at convincing an appeals court that the judge went too far.

Chief accuser Andrea Constand, meanwhile, took to Twitter to thank prosecutors in her first comment on the verdict.

"Truth prevails," she wrote.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pole melted by brush fire falls onto road

LAKELAND — Officials said a brush fire in Florida had melted a light pole before it fell on a road and backed up traffic for roughly an hour.

The Ledger of Lakeland reported the fire had sent the pole crashing onto a Lakeland street Wednesday afternoon.

The state Highway Patrol and the city's fire and police departments were called out to the blaze. They found roughly a half-dozen palm trees fully engulfed in flames.

Police Officer Will Long said it looked like the fire started when someone flicked a lit cigarette out of their vehicle.

Prosecutors: Cop sent lewd photos to woman

OHIO — Authorities said a Pennsylvania police officer sent sexually explicit pictures to a woman he had charged with drunken driving, leading to his suspension and the withdrawal of the woman's case.

Allegheny County prosecutors say Ohio Township police Officer Dominic DeJulio also was required to undergo a series of psychological evaluations. But he wasn't prosecuted because the 40-year-old woman said she did not want to pursue criminal charges against him.

DeJulio was suspended for five days without pay and has returned to his job.

The drunken-driving charges against the woman were withdrawn Thursday.

Police: Explosive device found at Starbucks

Texas city said what's believed to be a "legitimate explosive device" was found outside a Starbucks there.

Beaumont police said that a Starbucks employee found the package outside early Thursday morning and then moved it into the coffee shop. Police said that while trying to open the package, the employee noticed a note and then took it back outside and notified law enforcement.

Police did not say what the note said.

Police said the device later was rendered safe by bomb technicians.

Police: Man kicked swans in head at park

ORLANDO — Police say they've arrested a 34-year-old Florida man after people at a park saw him kicking swans in the head.

An arrest reports says police were called Thursday morning to Orlando's Lake Eola Park, which is known for its swans and swan-shaped paddle boats.

Multiple people told officers they saw Rocco Joseph Mantella kicking swans "as hard as possible" as he appeared to practice karate.

The report said Mantella also kicked a sleeping duck.

Mantella was arrested on a cruelty-to-animals charge.

Video: Black woman locked out of eatery

PINSON — A black woman said she was locked out of a Waffle House restaurant in Alabama while white customers ate inside.

Video posted by Jacinda Mitchell shows her pulling on the locked door of a restaurant BEAUMONT — Po- in the Birmingham suburb of Pinson while others dined.

At one point, a white man inside the restaurant comes to the window, points and says something unintelligible within inches of Mitchell.

It's unclear when the incident occurred, but Mitchell posted on Facebook that it was before the fatal shooting at a Waffle House in Tennessee and the arrest of a black woman at a Waffle House on the Alabama coast.

Man accused of trying to sell viper, cobras

MERIDEN — Connecticut police charged a man they say was trying to sell venomous snakes.

State environmental police charged Cameron DeFrances, 21, with multiple counts of illegal possession of wild animals and reckless endangerment after finding seven live snakes in his Meriden home. A viper, several cobras and two dead snakes were discovered.

State officials got a search warrant after getting a tip from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that DeFrances was selling snakes through social media.

Owls attack hunter prowling for turkeys

JACKSON — Two ambitious owls perched in a tree and plotted an attack for about 15 minutes before launching themselves at an unsuspecting hunter.

A flash of feathers was the only warning Mississippi hunter Al Porter had as the two barred owls silently dug their claws into his head and back.

The Clarion-Ledger reported that Porter had no clue what hit him and thought the assault was a heavy branch. Stunned, Porter said he shook off the birds and all escaped injury.

Porter said he was calling for turkeys and doesn't know what prompted the attack.

Woman charged with making meth in car

MAGNOLIA — A Delaware woman was arrested on suspicion of making meth in the passenger seat of a moving car.

Sarah C. Bell, 30, is charged with unlawfully operating a clandestine lab. State Police Master Cpl. Michael Austin told The New Journal of Wilmington that Bell was making "one pot of meth" while Ashley N. Lane, 25, drove.

An officer pulled Lane over for failing to signal on Sunday about 2:20 a.m. Austin said the officer learned Lane and Bell had warrants out for their arrest and searched the car. The officer found materials used to manufacture meth.

Lane was arrested on charges including possession of marijuana and was released on bail.

Dog bites police horse during presentation

WILMERDING — Authorities in western Pennsylvania said a police horse was bitten by a dog during a presentation to a citizen's police academy near Pittsburgh.

Allegheny County police said the county police mounted united and the Pittsburgh mounted unit were at the Wilmerding academy last week to talk about the duties and responsibilities of the units.

Police said a dog that hadn't been properly secured escaped from a side yard and bit a Pittsburgh police horse named Jack.

The dog was quarantined until officials determined whether it was up-to-date with all vaccinations. The horse was examined by a vet and was said to be ex-

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Run on QBs cools down during NFL Draft

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Maybe NFL teams got exhausted from scrambling to pick quarterbacks in the first round of the draft.

It took until the 76th overall slot Friday night, 44 picks after the last one, that Oklahoma State's Mason Rudolph was selected by Pittsburgh. The Steelers get a big, strong-armed, highly competitive QB — yep, sounds a lot like incumbent Ben Roethlisberger, who is 36 and closing in on the end of his championship career.

"It's not Ben's job to teach me anything. It's my job to learn," said Rudolph, who added he dreamed of becoming a Steeler.

Pittsburgh has had little success with backups for Big Ben, with another Oklahoma product, Landry Jones, never approaching the Roethlisberger level.

When Oklahoma State played at Heinz Field last year and won 59-21, Rudolph threw for five touchdowns in the first half.

Five quarterbacks went on

Thursday night, from top overall pick Baker Mayfield (coincidentally, a Sooner) to Lamar Jackson of Louisville at No. 32. Then, nothing.

Until Rudolph, who was not on hand.

Rudolph will join James Washington, his main target at Oklahoma State and Pittsburgh's second-round choice.

"To go on to the next chapter with one of your brothers and the best receiver you've spent your whole college days with and maybe spend 15 years with," Rudolph said, "it's awesome."

Also not present when his name was called 59th overall by Washington was LSU running back Derrius Guice. Guice was among the 22 players on hand for the opening round, but he cleared out after not being chosen. The Redskins grabbed him well after the hard-running power back had departed.

"It did surprise me because a lot of the things came out of nowhere and weren't true," he said of sliding, reportedly for off-field character issues, "and I just didn't understand why me out of all people, because I'm great to everybody. I have a great personality and I just didn't understand why everything just hit so hard with me out of everybody.

"I'm just thankful to know that this whole process is over with, that an organization believed in me and trusted in me and I'm just ready to get to work."

Three other players not taken in the first round, Texas tackle Connor Williams, Iowa cornerback Josh Jackson, and UCF linebacker Shaquem Griffin, did stick it out. Williams, who didn't have far to go to be at home — he's from the Dallas area — will be staying in Big D because the Cowboys chose him 50th. He could wind up at guard.

His selection drew the loudest cheers of the night at AT&T Stadium, in contrast to how the locals greeted Dallas' first-rounder, Boise State linebacker Leighton Vander Esch, whose reception was cool at best.

"I was watching my phone and it got down to two minutes and I thought it had passed," Williams said. "My phone starts with 972 so I knew it was a Dallas area code, and I thought this can't be. I got on the phone and it was Cloud 9.

"It was definitely a roller coaster and it was up and down. But at the end of the day, it was all worth the wait. It was all worth it."

Jackson went 45th to Green Bay, a place he could immediately be a starter even though he is not a speedster. He led the FBS last year with eight interceptions.

"It goes back to his awareness and IQ for the game," scout Alonzo Dotson said. "The speed never really worried us because he's just so smart and he's always in the right position to play the ball."

Griffin, who had his left hand amputated when he was a child, has had a spectacular offseason since helping UCF to an undefeated year. He's been a star at the combine and personal workouts, but having only one hand is clearly giving NFL teams pause and he did not go in the first 100 picks.

Jets shut down Predators in second-round opener

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Connor Hellebuyck loves what he's seeing in his first NHL postseason, and the 24-year-old goalie is doing his best to make sure the Winnipeg Jets do much more than just stick around.

Hellebuyck made 47 saves and the Jets beat the Nashville Predators 4-1 on Friday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinal between the NHL's top teams in the regular season.

"I love the intensity, I love the game in front of me," Hellebuyck said about the playoffs. "It's awesome and a little different. Intense is the right way to put it."

Not only did the teams top the standings, this series is the first between clubs with the most combined points ever before a conference finals after Nashville (117) edged Winnipeg (114) for the Presidents' Trophy.

Both the Jets and Predators brought a Vezina finalist into this series. Hellebuyck outdueled veteran Pekka Rinne, who was pulled after the second period after giving up three goals on 16 shots. Hellebuyck, who finished off Minnesota with back-to-back shutouts, picked up where he left off a week ago.

Hellebuyck stretched his shutout streak to 163 minutes before Nashville finally scored. Coach Paul Maurice said the Jets weren't at their best and can play better.

"But we pay our goaltender, too," Maurice said.

Mark Scheifele scored two goals, including an empty-netter as the Jets were outshot 48-19. Brandon Tanev and Paul Stastny also scored to help the Jets — the NHL's best home team in the regular season steal home-ice advantage.

Kevin Fiala scored for the Predators, who had won 11 of their last 14 playoff games in Nashville. Several Predators said they thought this was perhaps their best game of the season, talk coach Peter Laviolette didn't share.

"You give me two choices on where to be, our game or their win, I'd take the win," Laviolette said. "It's about winning hockey games right now."

The Predators had the sparkling pregame show with the retractable screen dropping from the ceiling and country star Dierks Bentley singing the U.S. anthem, and a couple catfish hit the ice before the puck drop to boot. Then they pelted Hellebuyck with 15 of the first 19 shots.

Then the Jets scored the game's first goal for a sixth straight playoff game. Tanev's wrister beat Rinne's outstretched right skate at 14:51 of the first.

Nashville finished the period with 20 shots, a franchise postseason record for a period, with Hellebuyck continuing his shutout streak.

"He was awesome," Jets forward Blake Wheeler said about Hellebuyck. "They were throwing everything at the net. What we were trying to do in front of him was just get bodies, get sticks, let him see things. You could tell early on if he was seeing the puck he was going to make the stops."



Pacers top Cavs, force decisive Game 7

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers will force LeBron James to go the distance to remain unbeaten in first-round series.

Behind Victor Oladipo's 28 points and first career postseason triple-double, the Pacers sent the series back to Cleveland and pushed the defending Eastern Conference champions to the brink of an early exit and a possible summer of unrest with a 121-87 rout on Friday night.

"I just went out there and played. I did everything with confidence. I just played read and react," Oladipo said. "This game is over. It means absolutely nothing right now."

If he can play that way one more time, the Pacers could reach the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time since 2014.

History does not bode well for the Pacers. James is 12-0 all-time in first-round series and home teams have a major advantage in Game 7.

But the Pacers have defied the odds all season and this series has been no exception.

Their Game 1 victory, in Cleveland, ended James' record-setting, 21-game winning streak in the first round.

In Game 6, Indiana handed the Cavs their first loss in a closeout game in 14 tries dating to 2009 and ended James' 11-game winning streak in closeout games.

It wasn't even close.

While James finished with 22 points,

seven assists and five rebounds, coach Tyronn Lue opted to keep four of his five starters including James on the bench for the entire fourth quarter because Cleveland trailed by 25.

"They just took it to us (in the third)," James said. "They made shots. We missed shots. We didn't counter what they were doing defensively or offensively and it just turned the game wide open."

Indiana did it by playing old-school postseason basketball — hard, aggressive and relentless.

It showed.

Kevin Love hurt his left wrist on a hard fall midway through the second quarter and wound up scoring just seven points while shooting 3 of 10 from the field. Lue provided no injury update after the game.

James took a shot, too, cutting the side of his left eye when he ran into Thaddeus Young's elbow on a drive late in the first half. No foul was called. James continued to play with a large bandage and needed stitches after the game to close the gash.

"I thought they really played fast and tried to attack us early," Lue said. "I don't even remember (what happened to start the second half). I really don't. It happened so quickly."

But the biggest difference was Oladipo, who had struggled mightily against the Cavs' relentless defense the previous four games

This time, he relaxed and got his teammates back in sync on a night he finished

with 13 rebounds, 10 assists, went 11 of 19 from the field and 6 of 8 on threes.

It was enough to keep the Pacers in charge most of the game.

"This was probably the most complete game we've played," Lance Stephenson said. "We got the lead and they never got back into a groove. We played smart basketball. We played lockdown defense, and I think the biggest part was we fed off their mistakes."

The Cavs never led after the Pacers used a 12-2 run to erase a 22-17 first-quarter deficit.

They led 57-47 at halftime, extended the margin to 92-67 after three and led by as much as 36 before closing it out.

Tip-ins

Cavaliers: The 34-point margin was Cleveland's worst playoff loss since James returned for his second stint with the team. ... Cleveland has only lost eight playoff games against the East since 2015 — three in this series. ... Jeff Green scored 13 points and Rodney Hood had 12 as the Cavs committed 15 turnovers and were 12 of 38 on threes.

Pacers: Have not lost three straight games since snapping a five-game skid in early January. ... Indiana has been eliminated by James' teams in four of its last six playoff appearances. ... The Pacers produced their highest point total in the series Friday.

NBA playoff roundup

Jazz eliminate Thunder; Raptors advance over Wiz

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Donovan Mitchell arrived at the arena wearing a white hoodie featuring the Mona Lisa. He left the court having authored a playoff masterpiece.

Even when the Jazz trailed in the first half, Utah coach Quin Snyder reminded Mitchell what he was capable of accomplishing.

"We're going to win this game and you're going to go off," Mitchell said his coach told him. "When you got a coach telling you that, your mindset changes and maybe you don't need to be nervous anymore."

Mitchell scored 38 points and

the Jazz held off the Oklahoma City Thunder 96-91 in Game 6 on Friday night to advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

Though the game got tight, Mitchell looked like he was having the time of his life.

"I don't know if you've noticed but I smile through everything," said Mitchell, the third rookie over last 35 years to have multiple 30-point games in a playoff series, joining Alonzo Mourning and Michael Jordan.

At one point, Mitchell made 10 straight shots.
"I was in a different mode. It

was crazy," Mitchell said. Russell Westbrook had 46 points for the Thunder and Steven Adams added 19 points and 16 rebounds.

Derrick Favors scored 13 points and Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who lost starting point guard Ricky Rubio to a left hamstring injury in the first quarter.

Raptors 102, Wizards 92: Toronto overcame a halftime deficit in a road playoff game for the first time in 24 tries, using 24 points from Kyle Lowry and a tremendous effort from its finally whole second unit to beat Washington in Game 6 and end the Eastern Conference firstround series.

Trailing by five to begin the fourth, the Raptors' reserves, led by point guard Fred VanVleet, turned around the game. Bothered by a bad right shoulder, VanVleet had played a total of three minutes in the series until Friday, but he was just what Toronto needed in this game, with five points, four assists and four rebounds.

John Wall had 23 points and eight assists in Game 6. Bradley Beal led Washington with 32 points. But the Wizards' run of eight home playoff wins in a row came to a close.



Gregorius' homer lifts Yankees in 10th

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Didi Gregorius wasn't so sure about a curtain call after his 10th-inning home run. Understandable, given his New York Yankees were on the road.

A big contingent of Yankees fans in Anaheim implored him to do it, and Aaron Judge convinced him.

"It was a little weird for me," Gregorius said. "There were a lot of fans here. I didn't expect that, to be honest ... (my teammates) told me to give the fans what they wanted. Especially the guy right here (Judge)."

Gregorius hit a solo homer in the 10th inning, and the New York Yankees won their seventh straight by beating the Los Angeles Angles 4-3 on Friday night after two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani left with an ankle injury.

Gregorius hit a fastball from Blake Parker (0-1) out to right. It was Gregorius' 10th homer of the season, tied with the Angels' Mike Trout for the major league lead. His 30 RBIs are also tops in the majors, as is his .368 batting average.

"I always feel good when he's out there," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "It seems like he's got a lot of magic when he walks up there. I don't know if I expect him to hit a homer but I know I like seeing him in the box in a high-leverage spot and he delivered again."

Ohtani homered on an inside fastball in the second inning but left after trying to beat out a groundball in the fifth. He awkwardly avoided a possible collision with Yankees first baseman Neil Walker on the play. He's listed as day to day with a mild left ankle sprain. He was receiving treatment after the game and will be reevaluated Saturday.

"When he stepped on the bag he rolled it a little bit," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

The Yankees tied it in the

ninth when pinch-hitter Brett Gardner scored Gary Sanchez on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly against closer Keynan Middleton.

David Robertson (1-1) pitched the ninth and Aroldis Chapman closed out the 10th for his fifth save.

Andrelton Simmons delivered a two-out, two-run triple for the Angels in the seventh for a 3-2 lead. Simmons has seven RBIs over his last three games.

Albert Pujols hit a single in the seventh for his 2,995th career hit.

Ohtani homered on a 97 mph fastball from Luis Severino to give the Angels a 1-0 lead. He was the designated hitter and batted fifth in the lineup for the first time this season. Ohtani is not scheduled to make his next start on the mound until Tuesday. The ankle injury could change that.

Ohtani hit a broken-bat

groundout in the fifth inning and partially ran into Walker at first base. Twice, as he was running back to the Angels dugout, he put up his hand to apologize and make sure Walker was OK. Ohtani didn't show any visible signs of an injury when running back to the dugout.

Luis Severino allowed three runs on five hits in seven innings and struck out eight. He has 18 consecutive road starts in which he's recorded at least six strikeouts. He'd just like to have that pitch to Ohtani back.

"He's good," Severino said.
"Next time, I'm not throwing inside (to him) anymore. He's a good hitter. I threw a good pitch. I have to tip my cap."

Strike them out: Angels starter Andrew Heaney struck out nine in five innings. It was the second-most strikeouts in his career. He retired 10 of the first 11 batters he faced, seven via strikeout.

MLB roundup

Darvish solid in Cubs' one-run victory over Brewers

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Yu Darvish bounced back from a pair of poor outings to allow only an unearned run in six innings, and Addison Russell scored the go-ahead run on shortstop Eric Sogard's seventh-inning error in a 3-2 victory over the Brewers.

Cubs slugger Kris Bryant missed his fourth straight game after he was beaned during a victory at Colorado last Sunday. Chicago manager Joe Maddon said the third baseman could return to the lineup on Saturday.

Pedro Strop (3-0) retired his only batter, and Brandon Morrow pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save. Dan Jennings (2-1) was the loser.

Athletics 8, Astros 1: Sean Manaea followed up his no-hitter with seven solid innings,

three teammates homered and visiting Oakland beat Houston for its fifth win in six games.

Indians 6, Mariners 5: Corey Kluber (4-1) struck out 10 in 82/3 innings and host Cleveland hit five solo home runs, including three in the first inning.

White Sox 7, Royals 4: Chicago's Matt Davidson homered twice, including a tiebreaking, two-run drive in the 11th off Kansas City's Tim Hill (0-1), setting a record for home runs by a visiting player at Kauffman Stadium in one season.

Rays 4, Red Sox 3: Blake Snell (4-1) struck out nine in 71/3 innings, allowing two runs and five hits to win his fourth straight start and extend visiting Tampa Bay's winning streak to seven.

Orioles 6, Tigers 0: Chris Tillman (1-4) pitched seven innings of one-hit ball for his first victory since last May 7, Pedro

Alvarez homered twice and host Baltimore stopped a fivegame losing streak by winning for just the second time in 13 games.

Giants 6, Dodgers 4: At San Francisco, Evan Longoria and Brandon Crawford each homered and Gorkys Hernandez scored the go-ahead run on a balk.

Phillies 7, Braves 3: Odubel Herrera hit two homers, Jorge Alfaro also went deep and Aaron Nola pitched seven innings to help Philadelphia beat visiting Atlanta.

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 4: At Toronto, Ronald Guzman hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the sixth off Marcus Stroman (0-3), whose ERA rose to 8.88 after he allowed six runs and eight hits in 51/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 4: A.J. Pollack homered, hit a tiebreaking triple in the sixth

inning and scored three runs as Arizona improved to 9-4 on the road, matching the 2000 franchise for the best start away from home.

Rockies 1, Marlins 0: At Miami, Antonio Senzatela (2-1) entered when Tyler Anderson left with a heartbeat issue, hit an RBI double and allowed one hit over 32/3 innings.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 5: Starling Marte hit a game-ending single for host Pittsburgh in the 11th off rookie Jordan Hicks (1-1).

Reds 15, Twins 9: Joey Votto homered for the fourth straight game and reached base six times, and visiting Cincinnati overcame an 8-4 deficit.

Mets 5, Padres 1: Jacob deGrom held host San Diego to five hits in 71/3 innings to win for the first time in four starts and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run homer.