

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Dunford: 'Nobody's looking for war'

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. is prepared to defend South Koreans and Americans against “a limited attack” by North Korea, the Pentagon’s top military official said Monday.

But Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed hope that diplomatic and economic pressure would force the communist state to curb its nuclear weapons program.

“The military dimension today is directly in support of that diplomatic and economic effort,” Dunford told reporters after meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Seoul.

“It would be a horrible thing were a war to be conducted here on the peninsula, and that’s why we’re so focused on coming up with a peaceful way ahead,” said Dunford, a Marine whose father fought in the 1950-53 Korean War. “Nobody’s looking for war,” he added, but stressed the military’s job was to provide “viable military options in the event that deterrence fails.”

Dunford’s comments came

as all eyes are on Guam after North Korea’s state-run media said its army planned this week to finalize a plan to fire four missiles into waters near the U.S. territory. The blueprint would then be presented to leader Kim Jong Un for a decision.

Tensions also have skyrocketed as President Donald Trump has ramped up his bellicose rhetoric in a war of words with the North. Trump has warned he’s ready to unleash “fire and fury” against North Korea if it continues to threaten the U.S.

Guam, an island in the Pacific Ocean, is home to two major military bases and a population of about 160,000.

Dunford said it’s important “that the Korean people and the American people know that we are capable of protecting them right now against a limited attack and certainly prepared to respond in the event that deterrence fails.”

His remarks echoed the cautious language of an op-ed by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in the *Wall Street Journal* as senior U.S. officials try to tamp down fears of military conflict.

In language clearly aimed at North Korea and its economic lifeline, China, Mattis and Tillerson stressed the U.S. “has no interest in regime change or accelerated reunification of Korea.”

South Korea’s president, meanwhile, urged North Korea to quickly return to dialogue, breaking his silence after a week of threats from both Trump and the North.

“President Moon denounced North Korea, saying the country was disturbing peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, as well as the global order, by moving ahead with its test-launches of missiles with an intercontinental range,” presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun said after the meeting with Dunford.

Dunford and Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, said joint war games would go ahead as planned. The annual military exercise known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian is slated to begin on Aug. 21, raising fears that will further antagonize the North Koreans, who view it as a rehearsal for an invasion.

“The exercises remain im-

portant to us and we’ll continue to move forward,” Brooks said at USFK headquarters at Yongsan Garrison.

The U.S. has about 28,500 servicemembers stationed in South Korea but increases its presence during the drills, which are mainly composed of computer simulations.

Dunford also said he reaffirmed that Washington maintains its “ironclad” commitment to the alliance that has bound it with South Korea since the war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

But fissures appeared to be emerging amid worries that Trump is going too far with his bellicose statements.

Over the weekend, a South Korean presidential adviser said the rhetoric was worrisome and fueling the crisis.

“This is very unusual. We do not expect that the president of the United States would make that kind of statement,” Moon Chung-in told the network. “It is a chicken game, but I think what is needed right now is mutual restraint.”

He also criticized the Trump administration for a lack of clarity about its North Korea policy.

## Artillery mishap killed 2 US soldiers in Iraq

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An artillery round meant to be fired at an Islamic State target in northern Iraq on Sunday exploded prematurely, killing two American soldiers, defense officials said.

The soldiers and five others wounded in the blast were evacuated by helicopter from an undisclosed firebase in Iraq,

where American troops are aiding Iraqi forces in their continuing battle with ISIS after the militants were ousted from their Mosul stronghold last month, Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday. The two artillerymen died after they were evacuated. The other five injured soldiers were expected to survive their wounds, Manning told reporters at the Pentagon.

“Our best wishes are with the families of the two soldiers who died and their fellow servicemembers,” he said.

The artillery crew was targeting an ISIS mortar position when the mishap occurred, Manning said. The unit was firing an M777 howitzer, a towed 155 mm artillery piece, according to another defense official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Despite ISIS’ claims Sunday that it killed the soldiers with rocket fire, Manning said “there is no indication at all that ISIS had anything to do with” the soldiers’ deaths. He said the incident was under investigation.

The fallen soldiers’ families had been notified of their deaths by Monday afternoon, according to the defense official. However, the Pentagon had not yet identified them publicly.

# Army seeks new assault rifle

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army is hunting for a new universal assault rifle to arm infantrymen with a lighter, more powerful weapon as a potential replacement for systems ranging from carbines to light machine guns.

The Next Generation Squad Automatic Rifle would fill capability gaps at the infantry squad level, the Army said in a federal contract posting last week.

The planning is in the early stages and no formal contract has been awarded, but the Army's solicitation for concepts is part of a broader push to modernize the force.

In July, defense contractors asked about the ultimate purpose of the new rifle, which was initially billed as a replacement for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or SAW.

The Army answered that during the next two years, the government will decide whether a next-generation weapon should be able "to fulfill additional roles such as that of the squad designated marksman, medium machine gun, and the carbine," according to the advisory posted on the government's main

contracting website.

The Army also has been at work developing a new cartridge to replace the 5.56 mm round used by the M4 and M16. The aim is to develop ammunition that would be interchangeable with a next-generation weapon.

The M16, chambered for the 5.56 mm round, was adopted in the mid-1960s during the Vietnam War to replace the heavier M14 battle rifle, which used the 7.62mm NATO cartridge. This larger round was considered unnecessarily powerful for that war, where jungle firefights often occurred at very short ranges and where lightweight rifles performed well.

The weapons also proved effective in Iraq during close-quarters urban combat in cities like Fallujah.

But Army studies have shown that the 5.56 mm projectile has poor terminal ballistics, with insufficient velocity to kill an enemy at ranges greater than 300 yards. And in contrast to previous wars, enemies are now likely to be wearing modern body armor, making it even more difficult to incapacitate them with the lighter bullet.

In Afghanistan, critics have said the 5.56 mm bullets were

less effective because firefights with Taliban insurgents often happened at ranges of more than 600 yards.

As the Army considers how to arm future soldiers, it also is pondering how to adapt to future battlefields.

The Army was built for decades with an eye to tank battle conflicts fought in open terrain, like the plains of northern Europe or deserts of the Middle East. By midcentury, 80 to 90 percent of the world population is projected to live in cities, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said in July.

"We are going through a fundamental change in the character of war, how you fight a war," Milley said. "The probability is the future battlefield is going to be in urban areas."

There has been a long-running debate about the quality of rifles used by U.S. infantrymen, with staunch defenders and detractors.

Some have advocated the introduction of an intermediate 6.5 mm round that would have longer range and be more stable in flight than the 5.56 mm bullet but would still have less recoil in automatic mode than the 7.62 mm round.

# War hero awaiting prosecution

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

Navy Lt. Craig R. Becker stands accused of pushing his drugged and sleeping wife out the seventh-floor window of their Belgian apartment building in late 2015, snuffing out her life on the pavement of Mons, a sleepy city in the French-speaking portion of the northern European nation.

Becker maintains his innocence, saying the death was a suicide. He accuses the Navy's 6th Fleet of abandoning him to Belgian authorities.

Becker wants his prosecution transferred to the American military's court system — a right almost always afforded in such cases.

Adm. Michelle Howard, commander of Naval Forces in Europe and Africa, has not taken jurisdiction, expressing concerns to lawmakers about Navy investigators not being able to use the evidence collected by Belgian authorities in military court.

The four-star admiral did not return messages seeking comment from The San Diego Union-Tribune. Navy spokeswoman Cmdr. Pamela Rawe said that the "United States respects the justice system of Belgium and is cooperating with Belgian authorities in accordance with international agreements."

With 17 years in uniform, Becker is a war hero. A Bronze Star citation recalls his valor in Afghanistan in 2012, when elements of his strike force were pinned down by a "fierce firefight with many insurgents."

Interviewed by telephone, Yvonne and John Hove, of Jacksonville, Fla., urged Spencer to keep the case in Belgium because they believe it's the most likely place to find justice for their daughter.

Initially, Belgian authorities ruled the Oct. 8, 2015, death of Johanna Hove-Becker a suicide, although no note was found.

# Guam tourists undeterred by threats

*Associated Press*

HAGATNA, Guam — Tourists haven't been deterred from visiting the tropical island of Guam even though the U.S. territory has been the target of threats from North Korea during a week of angry words exchanged by Pyongyang and Washington.

Chiho Tsuchiya, 40, of Japan heard the news but she decided to come anyway with her husband and two children. "I feel Japan and Korea also can get danger from North Korea, so staying home is the same," she said.

Won Hyung-jin, an official

from Modetour, a large South Korean travel agency, said several customers called with concerns, but they weren't worried enough to pay cancellation fees for their trips.

"It seems North Korea racks up tension once or twice every year, and travelers have become insensitive about it," Won said. His company has sent about 5,000 travelers to Guam a month this year.

The U.S. territory has a population of 160,000, but it attracted 1.5 million visitors last year. One-third of Guam's jobs are in the tourism industry.

Guam is a key outpost for the U.S. military, which uses

it as a base for bombers and submarines.

The island's sandy beaches and aquamarine waters make it a popular getaway for travelers from Japan and South Korea. Guam is only about three hours by plane from major cities in both countries.

The number of South Korean travelers in particular has been growing lately because five low-cost airlines started flying to Guam from South Korea, said Antonio Muna, the vice president of Guam Visitors Bureau. That helped boost arrival figures to a 20-year high in July, Muna said.



# Trump on Charlottesville: 'Racism is evil'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under pressure all weekend, President Donald Trump on Monday named and condemned hate groups as “repugnant” and declared “racism is evil” in an updated, more forceful statement on the deadly, race-fueled clashes in Charlottesville, Va.

Trump had been under increasing pressure to call out the groups by name after his previous remarks bemoaning violence on “many sides” prompted criticism from fellow Republicans as well as Democrats. The president described members of the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who take part in violence as “criminals and thugs” in a statement from the White House.

He also called for unity.

“We must love each other, show affection for each other and unite together in condem-

nation of hatred, bigotry and violence. We must rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans,” he said.

His attorney general, Jeff Sessions, said earlier Monday that the violence in which a car plowed into a group of counter-protesters, killing one person, “does meet the definition of domestic terrorism.”

He told ABC’s “Good Morning America,” “You can be sure we will charge and advance the investigation towards the most serious charges that can be brought, because this is an unequivocally unacceptable and evil attack that cannot be accepted in America.”

Sessions said he expects to hear more from Trump on the matter after meeting with him Monday, as well as officials from the FBI.

“We will not allow these extremist groups to obtain credi-

bility,” Sessions told “CBS This Morning.”

In the hours after the incident on Saturday, Trump addressed the violence in broad strokes, saying he condemns “in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides.”

Earlier Monday, Trump lashed out at the CEO of the nation’s third-largest pharmaceutical company after he resigned from a federal advisory council, citing the president’s failure to explicitly rebuke the white nationalists.

Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier wrote on Twitter Monday that “America’s leaders must honor our fundamental values by clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry and group supremacy, which runs counter to the American ideal that all people are created equal.”

Frazier is one of the few

blacks to head a Fortune 500 company.

Trump lashed out almost immediately on Monday following the resignation, saying on Twitter that Frazier will now “have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!”

Frazier is not the first executive to resign from advisory councils serving Trump.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk resigned from the manufacturing council in June and two other advisory groups to the president after the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. Walt Disney Co. Chairman and CEO Bob Iger resigned from a White House advisory council for the same reason.

The manufacturing jobs council had 28 members initially, but it has shrunk since it was formed earlier this year as executives retire, are replaced, or, as with Frazier, Musk and Iger, resign.

## Man accused of driving into crowd denied bond

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — A man accused of ramming his car into a crowd of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Virginia was denied bond Monday after the public defender’s office said it couldn’t represent him, and the judge was forced to find a local attorney to fill in.

James Alex Fields Jr. was not present in the courtroom but appeared via video monitor dressed in a black-and-white striped uniform. Seated, he answered questions from the judge with simple responses of “Yes, sir” when asked if he understood what was being explained to him. Fields also replied “No, sir” when asked if he had ties to Charlottesville.

Judge Robert Downer set an Aug. 25 hearing for Fields, 20, who has been charged with second-degree murder and other counts.

Downer said the public defenders’ office informed him it could not represent Fields because a relative of someone in the office was injured in Saturday’s protest. He appointed local attorney Charles Weber to represent him. Weber couldn’t immediately be reached by The Associated Press.

Fields is charged in the death of Heather Heyer, 32, of Charlottesville, who died

after a car police say Fields was driving slammed into a crowd of people protesting the white nationalist rally Saturday. Fields was arrested shortly afterward and taken into custody.

Meanwhile, Heyer’s mother said she doesn’t want people to be angry about her daughter’s death. She said she wants people to continue her daughter’s fight against injustice in a peaceful way.

“I miss her so, so much, but I’m going to make her death worth something,” Susan Bro told The Associated Press in an interview Monday.

Bro described her daughter as a courageous, stubborn and principled woman who was a firm believer in justice and equality who died Saturday for those beliefs. Bro said she would prefer to grieve in private but felt compelled to try to follow her daughter’s example.

“Let’s take from her death that we’re going to move forward in conversation. We’re going to move forward in understanding and listening to one another and seeing how we can come together,” Bro said.

Heyer, 32, was among the hundreds of protesters who had gathered in Charlottesville to decry what was believed to be the largest gathering of white supremacists in

a decade — including neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members — who descended on the city to rally against plans to remove a Confederate statue.

Felicia Correa, Heyer’s longtime friend, said the slain woman was a “true American hero.”

Heyer grew up in Greene County and worked as a legal assistant at a law firm. Her boss, Larry Miller, said the young woman was active in the firm’s bankruptcy practice and had a “big heart.”

“She cares about the people we take care of. Just a great person,” he said.

Two state troopers — Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates — also died when their helicopter crashed in a wooded area while deployed as part of a large-scale police effort to contain Saturday’s violence. They were remembered for their commitment and love of their jobs.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe knew both troopers personally and expressed grief over their deaths. McAuliffe frequently uses state police aircraft to travel the state and said Cullen, 48, had been one of his regular pilots. Before joining the aviation unit, Bates has been a member of the state trooper team that guards the governor and his family.

# Afghan president under siege as violence, joblessness persist

*The Washington Post*

KABUL, Afghanistan — An ominous rumble of discontent is sweeping Afghanistan, driven by a mixture of anxiety, anger, frustration and political opportunism.

In the past two months, a series of new opposition groups has emerged, some with noble-sounding names and reformist agendas, led by an improbable assortment of tribal leaders, ethnic militia bosses, disaffected public appointees and young professionals. Even an old communist general has joined the fray with a new, pointedly non-leftist party called “the Homeland Movement.”

Their demands include individual grievances, and several of the more controversial leaders have grabbed most of the attention. But their broader message is remarkably similar: The government of President Ashraf Ghani has failed to protect the public and provide jobs.

The object of this barrage is a cerebral, single-minded man of 68 who spends 18-hour days reading policy reports, holding team meetings, addressing conferences and huddling with aides, seemingly determined to power through the latest cri-

sis as his troubled government nears three years in office.

After months of growing criticism and short-lived protests, some resolved by individual deals or government appointments, the unrest has unexpectedly galvanized an extraordinary cross-section of Afghan society.

If there is a common denominator, it might best be summed up as “We Feel Left Out.” Once-rival ethnic Uzbek and Tajik leaders from the north have joined forces with senior Hazara leaders from the capital, demanding that Ghani fire his top security aides and provide more patronage to their parties. Tribal elders from Ghani’s ethnic Pashtun group have held protest gatherings in eastern Nangahar and southern Kandahar provinces, complaining that he has neglected their regions while listening only to a small group of advisers from his own clan.

Some members of the younger, educated generation, the group on which Ghani is most counting, also have joined the opposition.

Now, they have found common cause with a movement called “Uprising for Change,” a mix of civic activists and academics that arose spontaneously after a devastating truck bomb exploded in the capital on May 31, killing 150

people and injuring another 400. The attack was followed by protests and funeral bombings that left another 28 people dead.

Ghani’s aides say he is well aware of the trouble swirling outside his palace and in far-flung provinces but does not view it as a reason to panic or change course.

Meanwhile, they said, the president is determined to resist pressure from rent-seeking politicians and stay focused on the financial, justice and administrative reform agenda that has brought him kudos from Afghanistan’s foreign backers.

But most Afghans have seen little benefit from the reforms. Unemployment is close to 40 percent, and street corners are crammed with day laborers.

Even longtime supporters say Ghani underestimated the short-term political costs of his long-term agenda, failing to reassure the public or win over influential people who have now turned against him. They also said his democratic rhetoric has been undercut by his dictatorial tendencies; Ghani has been unwilling to trust more than a handful of aides and has concentrated administrative power in a few commissions and individuals.

## VP Pence must thread needle on Venezuela

*Associated Press*

CARTAGENA, Colombia — Vice President Mike Pence is demonstrating the delicate balancing act that has thus far defined his term — walking a line during a trip to Latin America between the region’s opposition to possible U.S. military intervention in Venezuela and President Donald Trump’s surprising refusal to rule out that option.

Speaking during a joint news conference with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos shortly after his arrival Sunday, Pence also declined to rule out possible military action against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whose efforts to consolidate power in the country have drawn alarm. Still, Pence stressed the U.S. would much prefer what he called a “peaceable” solution to the growing political and humanitarian crisis.

“President Trump is a leader who says what he means and means what he says,” Pence said. “But the president sent me here to continue to marshal the unprecedented support of countries across Latin America to achieve by peaceable means the restoration of democracy in Venezuela, and we believe it is achievable by those means.”

Trump’s startling comments Friday sparked backlash across the region, including from Venezuela’s chief opposition coalition and the Colombian government.

Standing at Pence’s side in Cartagena after the two met, Santos said he had repeatedly told Pence in no uncertain terms that the U.S. must not even consider military action in response to Venezuela’s crisis.

Pence emphasized the U.S. will work together with many nations in Venezuela’s “neighborhood” to pressure Maduro so that democracy can be restored. “We simply will not accept the emergence of a dictatorship in our hemisphere,” he said. “The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles,” he said.

## Attack in Burkina Faso ends; 18 killed

*Associated Press*

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Burkina Faso’s government spokesman said the country’s special forces have ended an attack by suspected Islamic extremists on an upscale Turkish restaurant in this West African country’s capital, Ouagadougou.

“At this moment, our forces have neutralized two terrorists, and the number of casualties, still provisional, is 18 dead and several wounded,” Communications Minister and government spokesman Remy

Danguinou told journalists Monday morning.

He said the dead are “mainly children and women,” and the toll could rise because several people were wounded by the gunfire.

At least three members of Burkina Faso’s security forces were wounded during the assault, which lasted for nearly seven hours, said Capt. Guy Ye, spokesman for the security forces.

The assailants arrived at the restaurant on motorcycles and began shooting randomly at the

crowds dining Sunday evening, he said. Security forces arrived at the scene with armored vehicles after reports of shots fired near the restaurant, Aziz Istanbul.

This is the second such attack on a restaurant popular with foreigners in the last two years.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the violence, which continued throughout the early hours of Monday. Gunfire could be heard almost seven hours after the attack began.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman gets proposal, not ticket, during stop

**KY** LEXINGTON — A Kentucky woman drove off from a recent traffic stop with an engagement ring instead of a ticket.

Media outlets reported that University of Kentucky Police helped retired Shepherdsville Police Officer Rocco Besednjak propose by pulling over his girlfriend, Lauren Vincent, on Thursday in Lexington.

The officer stopped Vincent and said there was something dragging behind her car. When she got out to look, Besednjak was on one knee, asking her to marry him. She said yes.

## Seal pup moved to undisclosed location

**HI** HONOLULU — A Hawaiian monk seal pup born on a Waikiki beach has been moved so it can remain a wild animal and won't become accustomed to interacting with people.

The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources said the female pup, weaned from its mother Friday, was moved to an undisclosed location Saturday after scientists were sure the mother had left.

The seal's mother gave birth in late June. It was the first seal born in Waikiki since record-keeping began a few decades ago.

## Police say fox bit 2 people in 2 days

**ME** LEWISTON — Police in Lewiston are urging residents to be cautious after a fox bit two people.

The first incident happened Thursday night when a fox bit a woman on the arm as she tried to protect her dog from the wild animal. The second happened

Friday morning when a man was bitten.

Police told the Sun Journal that the animal is believed to have a face full of porcupine quills. Authorities searched for the animal but couldn't find it.

## Suspect in kidnapping plot arrested at motel

**LA** SLIDELL — Authorities captured a Louisiana businessman who may have orchestrated the kidnapping of his estranged wife.

Slidell Police spokesman Det. Daniel Seuzeneau said police and U.S. Marshals arrested Lawrence Michael Handley, 49, at a motel in that city Friday afternoon.

Handley's wife was kidnapped from her Lafayette home Aug. 6 by two men. She was found alive in the back of a van two Jackson, Miss., men abandoned Sunday in Port Allen after a police chase. The men ran into a swamp and were found drowned the next day in the nearby Intracoastal Waterway.

Handley faces charges including conspiracy to commit second-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to attempted second-degree kidnapping and violation of a protective order.

## Couple accused of 'malicious' punishment

**FL** PARKER — Florida police arrested a couple for allegedly using "malicious" methods to punish children.

According to Parker police reports, Dannie Lee Bullock, 33, and Amber Nicole Waldrop, 31, had been investigated on suspicion of using a stun gun to shock one child and forcing the child to eat dog feces. Arrest reports said three other children in the Florida Panhandle home witnessed the "malicious punishment."

Police said Bullock and Wal-

drop lived with the four children, but the reports didn't say how the children were related or give their ages.

The News Herald reported the couple appeared in Bay County court Thursday on charges of aggravated child abuse, child neglect and drug possession.

## Jewish group sues town over religious boundary

**NJ** MAHWAH — An Orthodox Jewish community group has sued a New Jersey town that moved to block them from building a religious boundary made up of white plastic piping through the town.

The Bergen Rockland Eruv Association and two New York residents filed the federal lawsuit Friday against Mahwah.

Officials in the town, which borders New York, have said they will start issuing summonses next week if the eruv isn't removed, saying it violates local laws.

Some Orthodox Jews consider the boundary markers as being needed to allow them to do things like carrying keys and pushing strollers on the Sabbath.

## Former police chief's mom accused of theft

**MO** ST. LOUIS — The mother of a former St. Louis police chief is accused in a federal indictment of embezzling millions of dollars from a Missouri real estate company.

A grand jury indicted Carol Dotson on one count of wire fraud that alleges she bilked an Olivette real estate business between July 2003 and February of this year. She worked there since 1990.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported she's also accused of writing checks to herself totaling \$20,000, embezzling \$2

million and falsifying financial reports.

Dotson's son, former St. Louis police chief Sam Dotson, said he's been estranged from his mother for years.

## School removes ban on hair braid extensions

**MA** MALDEN — A Massachusetts charter school that came under fire for what some students and parents considered a racist policy of banning hair braid extensions has quietly removed the rule.

The handbook for 2017-18 at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School no longer bans hair extensions, hair that's more than two inches in thickness or height, or hair coloring.

The issue came to light when the parents of twin 15-year-old black girls said their daughters were punished for wearing extensions while white students hadn't been punished for violations of hairstyle regulations.

## Man charged in threat against court officials

**CT** MIDDLETOWN — A Connecticut man convicted of threatening violence against a family court judge who presided over his divorce case has been charged with threatening court officials on social media.

Edward Taupier, of Cromwell, was arrested Friday on charges of second-degree threatening and inciting injury to persons or property.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, the January posts on Facebook appeared to concern a court appearance in Middletown and encouraged the killing of judges and court employees.

From wire reports

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# Justin time: Thomas claims first major

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The son and grandson of golf professionals, Justin Thomas couldn't think of a better major to win than the PGA Championship.

And at age 24, he couldn't think of a better time.

Youth is taking over the highest level of golf, and there were times Thomas felt left behind. Rory McIlroy already had four majors when he was 25. Closer to home was Jordan Spieth, a close friend since they were 14. Spieth won his third major at the British Open last month to give him three legs of the career Grand Slam.

"Frustration probably isn't the right word," Thomas said. "Jealously definitely is. I wanted to be doing that, and I wasn't."

Sunday at Quail Hollow was his moment.

Starting the final round two shots out of the lead, Thomas closed with a 3-under 68 for a two-shot victory to capture the final major of the year.

It required a little bit of good fortune, like when his tee shot bounced out of a tree and into the fairway on the par-5 10th hole, which ended with his 8-foot putt teetering on the edge of the cup for 12 seconds before gravity finally took over and

the ball dropped for birdie.

"I didn't even see it go in," said Thomas, who had his back turned to the cup as he was asking caddie Jimmy Johnson how it didn't go in. Players are allowed reasonable time to get to the ball, and then they get 10 seconds before they hit the next shot, so he was well within the limit.

He seized control on the back nine with a chip-in for birdie from 40 feet on the par-3 13th hole.

Above all, it required plenty of grit, and Thomas showed plenty of that.

The key moment in his victory came along the infamous "Green Mile" at Quail Hollow, a brutal stretch of holes where players are trying to hang on with pars. Thomas had a one-shot lead over Hideki Matsuyama when he drove into the rough, and his approach tumbled into a bunker. He did well to get that out to 6 feet.

Matsuyama was spared by the thick rough behind the green that kept his ball from going into the water, and he had a good lie that allowed him to chip to 5 feet.

Thomas wasted no time over the putt and drilled into the center of the cup. Matsuyama missed and fell two shots

behind.

And then Thomas effectively ended it with a 7-iron so pure that he let the club swirl through his hand as the ball soared over the water, onto the green and rolled out to 15 feet on the 221-yard shot to a peninsula green. His birdie putt swirled into the cup, and the rest was easy.

He finished with a bogey — his first since the third hole — when it no longer mattered. Thomas finished at 8-under 276.

He won by two shots over Francesco Molinari (67), Patrick Reed (67) and Louis Oosthuizen (70), none of whom were a serious threat as they played the 18th.

His real challenge was Matsuyama playing next to him, and Kevin Kisner, the 54-hole leader in the group behind him.

Kisner ran off two important birdies on the 14th and 15th holes to get within one shot, but the final stretch is no place to make up more ground. He three-putted from 100 feet on the 16th hole to fall two back, couldn't convert from long range on the 17th and hit into the water because of mud on his ball on the 18th.

Among those waiting for Thomas alongside the 18th green were his father and

Spieth.

Mike Thomas, the long-time pro at Harmony Landing outside Louisville, Kentucky, spread his arms wide as he approached his only son and wrapped them around him. He also made sure to collect an important part of history.

Ever since his son was in elementary school, he has been collecting golf balls from his victory. The total is now 131. Asked if he made sure to get the ball Thomas used to tap in the final putt, Mike Thomas reached into his pocket, smiled and said, "You mean this one?"

The PGA Championship was important to Thomas to take his place among the young elite in the game, and it was important to his family. His grandfather, Paul Thomas, also was a club pro and has been a PGA of America member for 60 years. He was the first person Thomas called.

"As a kid growing up, you want to win all the majors. You want to win any major," Thomas said after his two-shot victory. "For me, the PGA definitely had a special place in my heart, and maybe a special drive. It's just a great win for the family, and it's a moment we'll never forget — all of us."

## Kisner, Matsuyama fall short of breakthrough

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kevin Kisner and Hideki Matsuyama spent a lot of time atop the leaderboard at the PGA Championship.

Just not when it mattered most.

Kisner, who led or shared the lead after each of the first three rounds, wound up in a tie for seventh place. Matsuyama finished one stroke better than Kisner, in a tie for fifth place, after sharing the 36-hole lead and starting the final round one stroke back.

"The last major of the year, and I was in contention," Matsuyama said through an interpreter. "All I can do is just try harder next time."

Kisner shot a 3-over 74 on Sunday and finished four strokes behind winner Justin Thomas. Matsuyama shot 72 in the

final round and finished at 5 under for the tournament.

The leaderboard was full of players who have never won a major championship — of the top eight finishers, only Louis Oosthuizen arrived at Quail Hollow Club with one — so it seemed inevitable that someone would claim one for the first time.

Kisner and Matsuyama hoped it would be them. Especially at the point in the round when they both were part of a five-way tie for first along with Thomas, Francesco Molinari and Chris Stroud.

"I really liked the way I started out, hitting the ball solid and giving myself a lot of good looks," Kisner said. "Just not making the putts that I need to make to win major championships."

Kisner missed six putts inside of 15 feet — three from 10 feet or closer — during his final round.

Kisner was humming right along, shooting 67s in each of his first two rounds. Matsuyama followed a first-round 70 with a 64, joining Kisner in the lead at 8 under — the first time for either player to be atop the leaderboard after any round of a major.

Kisner's 72 in the third round was good enough to give him a one-stroke lead entering the final day, though he sensed — rightfully — that his pursuers were gaining on him. And when he found trouble on the seventh hole, they caught him.

The Japanese star fell off pace during a turbulent back nine that included five bogeys — one on the 16th in which his par putt lipped off the edge of the cup. That dropped him two strokes behind Thomas.

"The course played tough," Matsuyama said. "The pins were receptive, though, more than yesterday. I was just disappointed the way I played."



# Red Sox rookies key win over Yankees

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

Associated Press

NEW YORK — So much for inexperience. Red Sox rookies Rafael Devers and Andrew Benintendi can simply swing the bat.

Devers hit a stunning homer off Aroldis Chapman to tie the game in the ninth inning, and Benintendi singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th as Boston beat the New York Yankees 3-2 on Sunday night.

“No pressure at all,” veteran teammate Hanley Ramirez said. “I think they know what the big leagues are about.”

Chris Sale struck out 12 in his latest dominant performance, but Boston trailed 2-1 before the 20-year-old Devers connected on a 103 mph fastball and became the second left-handed hitter to homer off Chapman in his eight-year career.

“An incredible swing,” Red Sox manager John Farrell said. “He doesn’t fear the moment. He’s jumped feet first into this rivalry. It couldn’t have come at a better time.”

By winning a battle of hard-throwing bullpens, the Red Sox upped their AL East lead to a season-high 5½ games over rival New York. Boston (67-50) took two of three in the series and is a season-best 17 games over .500 after winning 10 of its past 11.

“This is what we live for,” Sale said. “A little bit more fun being at Yankee Stadium, where it’s enemy territory.”

The teams meet again next weekend at Fenway Park. But first, the scuffling Yankees face the crosstown-rival New York Mets in the Subway Series beginning Monday night.

With one out in the 10th, Chapman (4-2) plunked Jackie

Bradley Jr. with a 101 mph pitch and walked Eduardo Nunez. Tommy Kahnle walked Mookie Betts before the 23-year-old Benintendi, who had a pair of three-run homers in Saturday’s victory, singled to right field.

Todd Frazier gave the Yankees a 2-1 lead in the eighth with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly off Matt Barnes. Chapman entered throwing smoke in the ninth, but couldn’t close it out.

Devers, playing his 15th major league game after entering as a pinch hitter in the sixth, drove a 1-2 fastball the other way into the Red Sox bullpen in left-center. He clapped his hands as he rounded first on his fourth home run, which handed Chapman his fourth blown save in 19 chances.

“It was a good pitch,” Chapman said through a translator, acknowledging he was a little surprised to see Devers take him deep.

The left-hander was lifted in the 10th and walked off the mound to boos.

“I treat every pitcher the same,” Devers said through a translator. “I felt more emotion rounding the bases knowing that I had tied the game.”

The only other left-handed hitter to homer off Chapman was Luke Scott for Baltimore in 2011 against Cincinnati.

“It’s not easy to stay in there with a guy throwing 103. So, it just kind of shows you the player that he is,” Benintendi said about Devers.

Craig Kimbrel (4-0) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on third to end the ninth and then tossed a perfect 10th.

Sale went seven innings and increased his major league-leading strikeout total to 241. He allowed four hits and one run — which could have been prevented by better defense.

# Kendrick’s slam gives Nationals a split

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Howie Kendrick closed out one long day for the Washington Nationals with one big swing.

Kendrick hit a game-ending grand slam in the 11th inning, and the Nationals beat the San Francisco Giants 6-2 on Sunday in the second game of a day-night doubleheader.

Daniel Murphy and Ryan Zimmerman also homered for Washington in the makeup of Friday night’s rainout. Max Scherzer struck out 10 in seven innings and Matt Albers (6-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

San Francisco took the opener 4-2, with Chris Stratton striking out a career-high 10 in 6⅔ shutout innings.

**Marlins 5, Rockies 3:** Giancarlo Stanton homered for the fourth straight game, hitting his 42nd of the year to tie the club record, and host Miami completed its first series sweep of Colorado since 2006.

**Dodgers 6, Padres 4:** Justin Turner hit two home runs, Yas-

mani Grandal also went deep and host Los Angeles won for the 28th time in 33 games, improving the best record in the majors to 83-34. The Dodgers are 16-0-3 in their last 19 series, and haven’t lost one since June 5-7 to Washington.

Cory Spangenberg hit two home runs for the Padres.

**Cubs 7, Diamondbacks 2:** Jake Arrieta (12-8) won consecutive starts for the first time since early April, Javier Baez and Ian Happ hit consecutive home runs in the eighth inning and visiting Chicago reopened a one-game lead over St. Louis in the NL Central.

Arrieta allowed one run and three hits in six innings.

**Astros 2, Rangers 1:** Dallas Keuchel (10-2) struck out seven in 6⅔ innings for his first win since June 2, just before his nearly two-month stint on the disabled list, and AL-leading host Houston stopped its longest losing streak this season at five games.

**Blue Jays 7, Pirates 1:** J.A. Happ (6-8) allowed one run and four hits in six innings to win

his third straight start, Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer and Justin Smoak and Darwin Barney added solo homers for host Toronto.

**Indians 4, Rays 3:** Austin Jackson hit a tiebreaking home run leading off the eighth inning, and Corey Kluber (11-3) struck out nine in seven innings for visiting Cleveland.

**Twins 6, Tigers 4:** Brian Dozier and Miguel Sano homered for visiting Minnesota, and Byron Buxton hit a tiebreaking single off Warwick Saupold after Bruce Rondon (1-3) walked the first two batters in the eighth.

**Mets 6, Phillies 2:** Michael Conforto and Curtis Granderson hit two-run homers to lead visiting New York.

**Royals 14, White Sox 6:** Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-high five runs, and Drew Butera had four of visiting Kansas City’s 16 hits as the Royals climbed back over .500 at 59-58.

**Brewers 7, Reds 4:** Neil Walker had two hits in his Mil-

waukee debut, and Domingo Santana hit a three-run homer in the fifth.

Acquired from the New York Mets on Saturday, Walker started at third base in place of the banged-up Travis Shaw and went 2-for-4 with a run scored.

**Braves 6, Cardinals 3:** R.A. Dickey (8-7) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings, Brandon Phillips hit a two-run homer and visiting Atlanta stopped St. Louis’ eight-game winning streak and the Braves’ five-game losing streak.

Arodys Vizcaino pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

**Athletics 9, Orioles 3:** Matt Chapman hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Jeremy Hellickson (1-2) in a five-run fourth as host Oakland overcame a 2-0 deficit.

**Angels 4, Mariners 2:** At Seattle, Parker Bridwell (7-1) yielded one run and four hits in six innings, winning his fifth straight decision and extended Los Angeles’ winning streak to six as the Angels moved into the second spot in the AL wildcard race.

# Larson snatches victory on restart

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Kyle Larson's ambitious weekend ended in triumph.

Larson slipped between cars on an overtime restart and won Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Michigan International Speedway. The victory capped a busy stretch for Larson after team owner Chip Ganassi allowed him to go to Iowa to compete in the Knoxville Nationals on Saturday.

He finished second at that sprint car event before returning to Michigan and earning his fourth career Cup victory.

"This win feels amazing to steal one in a way," Larson said. "My other three wins I felt like we had the first- or second-best car, but today at times I didn't think we were a top-10 car. But to get the win that way is awesome."

Martin Truex Jr. was in the lead, about a second ahead of teammate Erik Jones, before a late caution came out because of a spin by Michael McDowell. That forced overtime.

A red flag for oil on the track only added to the drama, and when the race restarted

for the final time, Larson — who hadn't led at all to that point — drove to the right of Jones and passed to the inside of Truex.

"We got beat fair and square," said Truex, the series points leader. "The double-file restarts are tricky, and sometimes you do them right, sometimes you screw them up, and unfortunately I screwed the one up that mattered the most today."

Larson has won the last three Cup races at MIS, the first driver to do that since Bill Elliott, who won four straight from 1985-86. This was Larson's third win of the season and ended a mini-slump in which he had finished out of the top 20 in three straight races.

Truex and Jones finished second and third for Furniture Row Racing.

Larson won by 0.31 seconds in his No. 42 Chevrolet. Brad Keselowski and Truex won the first two stages.

There was a lot of hoopla Friday when Ganassi announced he was letting Larson go to Iowa. Both driver and owner were going to be in the spotlight no matter what happened in Sunday's race.

"When you're in my position of this past

week's activities with all the talk about Knoxville and going to Knoxville last night and not getting back here until two in the morning, I'm out on the end of the diving board there a lot of times," Ganassi said. "So I appreciate when Kyle steps up and does what he did today. It makes it all worthwhile, obviously."

Keselowski, the pole winner, led for 105 laps, but finished 17th. He is now winless in 17 Cup races at his home state's track.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., who has two wins at Michigan, finished 14th in his final race at MIS before he retires at the end of this season.

The race was originally scheduled for 200 laps and 400 miles. It ended up being 202 laps. Keselowski led almost the entire way through the 60-lap first stage, only giving up the top spot briefly during a pit cycle. Keselowski was second to Truex in the second stage.

Aside from the end of the first two stages, there were no yellow flags until lap 140, after Kasey Kahne slid in front of Daniel Suarez and slammed into the wall, taking them both out.

# Ronaldo banned 5 games for pushing ref

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Cristiano Ronaldo lost his cool, and now Real Madrid has lost its main man for five matches at the start of the Spanish season.

Ronaldo was banned for five games on Monday after shoving a referee who sent him off for diving in Madrid's 3-1 win over Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup.

Ronaldo was suspended for one game for the red card in Sunday's Super Cup first leg at Barcelona, and four games for pushing referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea in the back, the Spanish football federation said.

Ronaldo will miss Wednesday's return leg of the Super Cup in Madrid plus the first four matches of Real Madrid's league title defense. Zinedine Zidane's Madrid opens the league on Sunday at Deportivo La Coruna. Its next three matches after that are against Valencia, promoted Levante,

and at Real Sociedad.

Ronaldo and Madrid have 10 days to appeal the federation's ruling.

Still regaining peak fitness after an extended summer vacation, Ronaldo began the Super Cup match on the bench, and came on in the 58th minute.

He scored with a long-range strike to put Madrid 2-1 up in the 80th minute, moments after Lionel Messi had equalized for Barcelona from the penalty spot.

But Ronaldo's goal celebration — when he took his shirt off and flexed his muscles — earned him a yellow card.

Two minutes later, he charged into the area and collided with Barcelona defender Samuel Umtiti. Ronaldo went down hoping for a penalty. Instead, referee De Burgos showed him a second yellow for diving and sent him off.

Ronaldo raised his arms in disbelief, then stepped up to De Burgos and shoved him in the

back with his right hand.

The federation ruling said that Ronaldo's shove violated article 96 of its disciplinary code, which states that "light aggressions" defined as "pulling, pushing and shaking" of a referee are punished by suspensions of between 4-12 matches.

The federation also fined Ronaldo \$3,500 and Madrid \$1,650 for the shove, and another \$705 for the player and \$412 for the club for simulating a foul.

Last season, Las Palmas forward Marko Livaja was given an additional four-match suspension for pushing a referee after he was shown a red card.

In the 2014 Spanish Super Cup, Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone was handed an eight-match suspension after he tapped the back of a linesman's head. Simeone was suspended for four games for the tapping, two games for protesting, one game for ironically applauding the referee, and one game for

remaining in the stands instead of leaving the stadium after his sending-off.

Simeone served four matches of his league suspension and the other four are pending Atletico's future Spanish Super Cup matches.

After guiding Madrid to the Champions League and Spanish league titles last season, the suspension comes during a difficult summer for Ronaldo.

In June, a state prosecutor accused Ronaldo of defrauding Spain's tax office of \$16.5 million. The 32-year-old star had to deny the accusations in person to an investigative judge last month.

Now he must trust his teammates to make a good start to Madrid's defense without him. Given Marco Asensio's great goal from distance to cap Sunday's win over Barcelona, the 21-year-old forward could take Ronaldo's place in the starting lineup.