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Trump: Kim will make a 'wise decision'

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

HANOI, Vietnam — As the train carrying North Korea's leader snaked toward Vietnam, President Donald Trump said Monday that Kim Jong Un will make a "wise decision" ahead of the second summit between the two men in less than a year.

The White House signaled expectations were low for a breakthrough in nuclear talks with the North as Trump faced pressure to come away from the two-day meeting with concrete commitments from Kim to "denuclearize," a term which means different things to each party.

Trump and Kim met on June 12 in Singapore in an unprecedented meeting between sitting leaders of the two longtime adversaries. The result was a vague commitment to the "complete denuclearization

of the Korean Peninsula," but lower-level talks on how to accomplish that have faltered.

The two unpredictable leaders have placed great importance on their relationship, even as the North has shown no signs of moving to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

"With complete Denuclearization, North Korea will rapidly become an Economic Powerhouse," Trump tweeted hours before he was to board Air Force One. "Without it, just more of the same. Chairman Kim will make a wise decision!"

But he kept the world guessing about what he might offer in return, a key sticking point as Kim's regime wants a reciprocal approach in which it is rewarded for steps already taken.

The North Korean leader has offered to destroy the main nuclear production com-

plex at Yongbyon if the United States offers corresponding measures.

The Trump administration insists it will maintain punishing economic sanctions against the North until the "final fully verified denuclearization."

Experts predicted the president could ease pressure by allowing more exemptions for inter-Korean and humanitarian projects. He also may announce a further suspension of annual war games with South Korea, as he did after the previous summit.

The next joint military exercises are widely expected to begin next Monday on a smaller scale, but officials have declined to confirm that until after the summit.

North Korea hates the drills, which it considers rehearsals for an invasion.

At the same time, influential voices in Washington have

expressed doubt that the North will entirely relinquish its nuclear capability and have urged the White House to be careful not to make concessions based simply on promises from Kim.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who is desperate to prevent a return to the tensions that preceded the talks, expressed hope the summit would be a success.

"The two leaders of North Korea and the United States have traveled to this point on a path that no one else has taken before," Moon said Monday in Seoul.

He added that a successful summit would "serve as a decisive opportunity to resolve the threat of war and other security concerns on the Korean Peninsula as well as to enable us to move toward the age of a peace-driven economy."

Okinawa voters say no to Futenma relocation plans

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Just over half of Okinawa's 1.15 million registered voters turned out Sunday to deliver a resounding "no" vote in a referendum on the plan to relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Out of the 601,733 voters who turned out, 434,149 — or approximately 72 percent — voted against the reclamation of land in Oura Bay at Camp Schwab for a new military runway. The plan is to close Futenma and relocate Marine air operations to Henoko on Okinawa's less populated northern coast.

The vote is sure to further

complicate matters for Japan's central government, which has pushed forward with the project for decades despite a persistent local protest movement.

Construction of the runway is already underway, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said the relocation project will continue regardless of the referendum.

"We have been holding dialogue with people in Okinawa for a long time and intend to keep doing so to seek their understanding," he told reporters a day after the vote, Kyodo News service reported Monday. But it "cannot be postponed any further."

The referendum was the brainchild of the Henoko Referendum Group, which began

collecting signatures at local supermarkets in May, group Chairman Jinshiroh Motoyama told Stars and Stripes last year. By July, the group had collected more than 100,000 signatures, about 76,000 more than needed to put the issue on the ballot.

Anti-base signs seemed to appear on every street corner in the weeks ahead of the vote. Besides the 434,149 votes against the reclamation work at Henoko, 114,908 voted in favor of the move and 52,676 were undecided.

Per the referendum, if the majority vote is greater than 25 percent of all registered voters, then Gov. Denny Tamaki must report the result to Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump. The "no" votes, in this case, tal-

lied about 38 percent of registered voters.

Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, told reporters Friday that Tokyo would continue the construction with "persistent effort." Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya said Tuesday that Japan's central government would not entertain moving the approximately 30,000 U.S. troops stationed in Okinawa off the island due to Okinawa's strategic importance.

Gov. Denny Tamaki — who was elected in September on an anti-base platform — told Stars and Stripes in a statement Monday that the referendum showed the will of the Okinawan people and must be respected.

Army to upgrade fallen GI's medal to Distinguished Service Cross

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, whose unit led the 2003 offensive into Baghdad known as Thunder Run, will be posthumously awarded the nation's second-highest valor medal, the military said.

Booker initially was awarded the Silver Star for his heroics during the battle. That medal will be upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. His family will receive the award during a ceremony April 5 in Pittsburgh.

"Booker's mother, Freddie M. Jackson, will be presented the award 16 years to the day after her son sacrificed his life for this nation," the 3rd Infantry Division said in a statement.

Booker, who served with that division, was part of the push into Baghdad that toppled Saddam Hussein's regime.

On April 5, 2003, Booker's platoon came under attack by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, the Army said. Booker returned fire with his mounted machine gun and reassured his team. When his gun malfunctioned, Booker took the initiative and "completely disregarded his personal safety and took up an exposed, prone position on the top of his tank," the Army said.

Facing enemy fire, Booker destroyed an enemy vehicle and fought to protect his platoon's flank. He continued to fight the enemy while exposed for nearly 5 miles, until he was fatally wounded, the Army said.

The medal upgrade came as a result of a review of all valor awards that was ordered by former Defense Secretary Ash Carter to ensure acts of bravery were properly recognized.

Earlier this month, the Army also said former 1st Cavalry Division soldier Sgt. Daniel E. Cowart will have his Silver Star upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross for heroics during a suicide bomber attack while on patrol in Iraq in 2007. He will be recognized during a March 20 ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas.

On Friday, Maj. Thomas Gordon Bostick, of the 173rd Airborne will be posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valor during a 2007 ambush in Saret Koleh, Afghanistan. He was originally awarded the Silver Star, but the Army recently announced the medal would be upgraded for his efforts in protecting his soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment. The ceremony will be at Fort Carson, Colo.

French aircraft carrier set for long-term deployment

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

France will soon send its Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier on a "long-term deployment" through the Mediterranean, northern Indian Ocean and the Pacific, the French Ministry of Defense announced Friday.

Two frigates, a nuclear attack submarine and an oil tanker will join the carrier in a strike group, which will be "occasionally reinforced in some areas" by a new type of multi-mission frigate, or FREMM, an anti-submarine frigate and a maritime patrol aircraft. The deployment will last several months and aims to "reaffirm France's presence in these areas," according to the ministry statement.

While the statement did not specify how long the de Gaulle and its strike group would remain at sea, Japan's public broadcasting service NHK reported Friday that the deployment would begin in March and last nearly five months.

By deploying its carrier strike group, France aims to "reinforce [its] assessment of the situation" in the Indo-Pacific region, "intervene to address regional security issues as appropriate," develop its ability to cooperate with other militaries and "strengthen strategic partnerships," the Defense Ministry said in the statement.

The U.S., which homeports the USS Ronald Reagan at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, regularly deploys that carrier and others throughout the Pacific.

It also conducts frequent freedom-of-

navigation operations to challenge what the Navy calls China's "excessive maritime claims" in the South and East China seas.

The French navy plans to interact with several allies while at sea, including with ships from the Royal Navy, the Royal Danish Navy and the Portuguese navy, according to the Defense Ministry.

"American and Australian ships will also strengthen the carrier group throughout its mission," it said in the statement. "This international dimension of the [Charles de Gaulle strike group] thus testifies to the high level of cooperation and trust between the Allied navies and our Navy."

The deployment announcement came two weeks after France's neighbors across the English Channel revealed the United Kingdom will send its HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier to the Pacific Ocean in 2021 with U.S. F-35 Lightning II stealth fighters on board.

France in June joined Britain for a joint freedom-of-navigation operation near the Mischief, Sub and Fiery Cross reefs that China claims in the Spratly islands, according to a Sept. 14 report by The Diplomat. The Royal Navy in August conducted a similar patrol near the Parcel Islands claimed by Beijing.

Named after the World War II French Resistance leader and former president, the Charles de Gaulle is the world's only operating nuclear-powered carrier not owned by the United States.

USS Bush headed to dry dock in Va.

The Virginian-Pilot

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush will spend much of the next 28 months in dry dock at the Navy's public shipyard for a scheduled overhaul.

The 103,000-ton carrier arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va., on Thursday, the Navy said in a news release. It will require an estimated 1.3 million man-days of work and will comprise the most extensive maintenance period in the ship's life so far.

The Bush joined the fleet in January 2009 and is the last of the Nimitz-class

aircraft carriers. Planning for the Bush's maintenance took 18 months, and much of its project team will be working on a carrier in dry dock for the first time. The work will incorporate state-of-the-art technologies, including additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, the use of exoskeleton suits and training models using virtual reality, the Navy said.

"This is a great chance for teaching and mentoring people in new positions how to execute and perform to their top potential," project Superintendent Jeff Burchett said.

The Bush returned from a seven-month deployment in August 2017.

Pence reveals new Venezuela sanctions

The Washington Post

BOGOTA, Colombia — In a meeting with regional leaders, Vice President Mike Pence on Monday announced modest new U.S. sanctions against loyalists of President Nicolas Maduro and called on other nations to follow the Trump administration's lead in freezing the assets of Venezuela's state oil giant PDVSA — a move meant to further cut Maduro's international cash flow.

Following a weekend that saw the Venezuela military and pro-government militias violently put down an opposition attempt to break Maduro's blockade of humanitarian aid, Pence arrived in Bogota to reiterate that Washington will not back away from diplomatic confrontation. His trip comes as some in the Venezuelan opposition have begun openly calling for the use of "force" to oust Maduro's socialists from power.

Pence did not publicly back immediate

military force, but reiterated a long-standing administration stance that all options were being considered.

"As we continue to bring economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on the Maduro regime, we hope for a peaceful transition to democracy, but as President (Donald) Trump has made clear, all options are on the table," Pence said.

Pence addressed a 14-nation diplomatic consortium called the Lima Group. The group cannot compel Maduro to leave but is seen as the most influential body to back his opponent.

Earlier in the day, Pence met with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido and Latin American nations that support his challenge to Maduro.

"President Guaido, we admire your courage," Pence said as he posed for photographs with the young Venezuelan and Colombian President Ivan Duque.

"I want to assure you, President Guaido, the tragic events of this last weekend have only steeled the resolve of the United States," Pence said.

Pence's address followed an announcement by the Treasury Department on Monday that it is sanctioning four Venezuelan governors aligned with Maduro, saying they are corrupt and had facilitated the blockade of humanitarian aid to the country over the weekend.

"The illegitimate Maduro regime's attempts to blockade international aid intended for the Venezuelan people are shameful," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a release. "Treasury is targeting four state governors aligned with former President Maduro for standing in the way of severely needed humanitarian assistance and prolonging the suffering of the Venezuelan people."

Dozens rescued in Minn. blizzard; 1 killed, many injured in Wis. pileup

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Authorities rescued dozens of people stranded by a blizzard that howled across southern Minnesota and dumped about a foot of snow in some places.

In east-central Wisconsin, one person was killed and several others injured Sunday in an interstate pileup involving more than 100 vehicles during whiteout conditions.

Early Monday in South Dakota, a pickup that got stuck in the snow caused a grain train derailment in the northeastern town of Milbank.

City Administrator John Forman said the pickup hauling a trailer got stuck at a crossing in town and the train hit it.

Twenty-three rail cars and two engines went off the track, spilling an unknown amount of grain. No one was hurt.

Rescuers on snowmobiles and snowshoes battled 50 mph winds to rescue four anglers stranded on a snow-swept northern Minnesota lake Sunday.

Cook County Sheriff Pat Eliassen told the Minneapolis Star

Tribune that the anglers' snowmobiles were stuck more than 2 miles out on Greenwood Lake. They were able to get phone contact with police in Ontario, Canada, who alerted Cook County authorities.

Search and rescue personnel from several agencies found the foursome about three hours later.

One of the anglers was showing signs of hypothermia, frostbite and dehydration and was taken to a hospital on roads that had to be cleared of drifting snow by a private plow operator.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz declared a state of emergency late Saturday and ordered the guard to help stranded motorists in Freeborn and Steele counties. Conditions were so bad in southern Minnesota on Sunday that state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Joe Kelly urged residents to stay home, or to stay in their vehicles and wait for help if stranded on the road.

The storm also damaged a historic bridge in Zumbrota, Minn., on Sunday.

The roof of the 150-year-old covered bridge collapsed amid heavy snow and high winds.

The state Transportation Department said it was the only remaining example of a covered timber truss bridge in Minnesota. Mayor Bradley Drenckhahn said the bridge is insured and officials have the blueprint to rebuild it.

Minnesota Public Radio reported the 123-foot-long bridge was built in 1869 and later moved from its original location. It still spans the Zumbro River but now serves as a pedestrian bridge. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Wisconsin, one person was killed and several others injured and taken to hospitals Sunday in a pileup amid whiteout conditions on southbound Interstate 41 that involved more than 100 vehicles, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office said.

The crash happened near Neenah. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office confirmed one fatality and said several other injured people were taken to hospitals.

Dems ready to fight to make Russia report public

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top House Democrat has threatened to call special counsel Robert Mueller to Capitol Hill, subpoena documents and sue the Trump administration if the full report on Mueller's Russia investigation is not made public.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said his committee will keep close watch on new Attorney General William Barr to see if he were "to try to bury any part of this report." Schiff also pledged to "take it to court, if necessary."

He said anything less than complete disclosure would leave Barr, who now oversees the investigation, with "a tarnished legacy."

Schiff's comments come as Democrats have made it clear that they are ready for an aggressive, public fight with the Justice Department if they are not satisfied with the level of access they have to Mueller's findings.

Academy Awards' top prize controversial

Associated Press

The segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the 91st Academy Awards, delighting those who see the film as a feel-good throwback but disappointing others who ridicule it as an outdated inversion of "Driving Miss Daisy."

In a year when Hollywood could have made history by bestowing its top award on Netflix ("Roma") or Marvel ("Black Panther") for the first time, the motion picture academy instead threw its fullest support Sunday behind a traditional interracial buddy tale that proved as popular as it was divisive. But Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" weathered criticism that it was retrograde and inauthentic to triumph over more acclaimed films and bigger box-office successes.

It was an unexpected finale to a brisk, hostless ceremony that was awash in historic wins for diversity, including Spike Lee's first competitive Oscar. More women and more individual black nominees won than ever before.

The Oscars otherwise spread awards around for Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation "Black Panther," Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white personal epic "Roma" and the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" at the ceremony in Los Angeles.

"Green Book" also won best

supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best original screenplay.

"The whole story is about love," said Farrelly, a filmmaker best known for broad comedies like "Dumb and Dumber" and "There's Something About Mary." "It's about loving each other despite the differences and find out the truth about who we are. We're the same people."

Lee's win for best adapted screenplay for his white supremacist drama "BlacKkKlansman," an award he shared with three co-writers, gave the ceremony its signature moment. The crowd rose in a standing ovation as Lee leapt into the arms of presenter Samuel L. Jackson.

Lee, whose film includes footage of President Donald Trump following the violent white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Va., urged mobilization for the upcoming election.

"Let's be on the right side of history. Make the moral choice between love and hate," said Lee, who was given an honorary Oscar in 2015. "Let's do the right thing! You knew I had to get that in there."

One of the biggest surprises of the night was in the best actress category. Olivia Colman won for her Queen Anne in the royal romp "The Favourite," denying Glenn Close her first Oscar. Close remains the most-nominated living actor never to win, with seven nominations.

"Ooo. It's genuinely quite stressful," said a staggered Colman, who later turned to Close to say she was her idol, "and this is not how I wanted it to be."

The night's co-lead nominee "Roma" won best director and best cinematography for Cuarón, whose film also notched Mexico's first foreign language film Oscar. Cuarón and his countrymen — Alejandro Inarritu and Guillermo del Toro, who presented Cuarón with best picture — have had a stranglehold on the category, winning five of the past six years.

Cuarón, who became the first director to ever win while serving as his own director of photography, referenced an especially international crop of nominees in one of his three acceptance speeches.

"When asked about the New Wave, Claude Chabrol said there are no waves, there is only the ocean," said Cuarón, referring to the French filmmaker. "The nominees tonight have proven that we are a part of the same ocean."

The wins for "Roma" gave Netflix its most significant awards yet, but "Green Book" denied the streaming giant the best picture win it dearly sought. The wins for "Black Panther" — along with best animated film winner "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" — meant the first Academy Awards for Marvel, the most consistent blockbuster factor Hollywood has ever seen.

The lush, big-budget craft of "Black Panther" won for Ruth E. Carter's costume design, Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart's production design, and Ludwig Göransson's score. Beachler had been the first African-American to ever be nominated in the category. Beachler and Carter became just the second and third black women to win nonacting Oscars.

"It just means that we've opened the door," Carter, a veteran costume designer, said backstage. "Finally, the door is wide open."

Two years after winning for his role in "Moonlight," Mahershala Ali won again for his supporting performance in "Green Book" — a role many said was really a lead. Ali is the second black actor to win two Oscars following Denzel Washington, who won for "Glory" and "Training Day." Ali dedicated the award to his grandmother.

"Bohemian Rhapsody," which kicked off the ABC telecast with a performance by Queen, won four awards despite pans from many critics and sexual assault allegations against its director, Bryan Singer, who was fired in mid-production for not showing up. Its star, Rami Malek, won best actor for his full-bodied and prosthetic teeth-aided performance, and the film was honored for editing, sound mixing and sound editing.

UK's Prime Minister May urged to postpone Brexit

Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — After nearly two years of bitter talks on the departure of Britain from the European Union, there's now even disagreement between the two on when Brexit should actually take place.

While EU Council President Donald Tusk said Monday that it would be "rational" for the March 29 Brexit date to be extended, British Prime Minister Theresa May reiterated her op-

position to any delay.

Tusk warned that the chances of a withdrawal agreement being concluded in time are receding, and with businesses fearing a chaotic and costly cliff-edge departure, sticking by the planned Brexit date would be too risky.

"I believe that in the situation we are in, an extension would be a rational solution," Tusk told reporters at an EU-Arab League summit in Egypt, acknowledging that he and

May had discussed prolonging the negotiations.

He said "all the 27 (member states) will show maximum understanding and goodwill" to make possible such a postponement — a decision that would require a unanimous vote.

May insisted she could deliver on the set date, however massive the challenge.

"It is within our grasp to leave with a deal on 29th of March and I think that that is where all of our energies should

be focused," May said.

She said that "any delay is a delay. It doesn't address the issue. It doesn't resolve the issue."

May met several EU leaders separately over two days at the summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. She held talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as she sought elusive changes to the U.K.-EU divorce agreement.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

District will open school for 1 student

WY LARAMIE — A Wyoming school district plans to reopen an isolated school to serve a single student entering kindergarten this fall.

The Laramie Boomerang reported that Cozy Hollow School is about 60 miles north of Laramie. A modular classroom is already there but hasn't been used for about a decade.

It will be the second one-student school in the Albany County School District. They're only a few miles apart, but connecting roads are impassable much of the winter.

Wyoming law requires on-site education for isolated students when it's impossible to transport them to other schools.

The district tried live-streaming classes for isolated students but it didn't work well, especially for young children.

Would-be car thief hops on driver's lap

FL DAYTONA BEACH — Authorities said a Florida woman trying to steal a car jumped onto the lap of a woman and tried to drive away.

Daytona Beach police said the victim, 70, was pulling out of a grocery store parking lot Friday when the unidentified suspect opened the driver's side door and hopped in. According to the arrest report, the suspect struck the victim several times as she tried to gain control of the vehicle, but the driver fought back.

The elderly driver crashed into another vehicle in the parking lot during the struggle.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that the suspect was captured a few blocks away.

Horses rescued after fall into frozen lake

PA STROUDSBURG — Crews rescued two horses that escaped from their Pennsylvania farm and became trapped in an icy lake.

Gunther and Wilhelm are two 15-year-old Clydesdales that live at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm near Stroudsburg. WNEP-TV reported that the pair got loose Saturday morning and wandered out onto a frozen lake, then fell through the ice.

Rescue crews had to create a trench using chain saws to walk the horses out of the lake. The crews were able to guide the horses to land, and veterinarians helped them dry off and warm up.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm said the horses do not have any broken bones and started eating as soon as they recovered from the cold.

Frugal county official dresses up as Mickey

MI FLINT — A county official in Michigan dressed as Mickey Mouse to help draw attention to what he describes as wasteful spending on a Florida trip for employee training.

Genesee County Clerk-Register John Gleason held a news conference Wednesday with play money and a suitcase as props while a woman dressed as Minnie Mouse stood behind him. He said spending about \$25,000 to send three employees to the Disney Institute was "another junket."

County Board Coordinator Josh Freeman, who was among the attendees this month, said the expense was justified after about a decade of little spending on employee development and training.

Librarians looking for bedbugs in books

NE LINCOLN — Lincoln library officials said librarians have been inspecting each item checked back into the eight branches, committed to keeping out any bedbugs.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported that the system formed a bedbug committee in 2014 after a national rash of bedbug reports from a variety of places, including theaters and thrift stores, college dorms and apartment buildings, hotel rooms and surgical centers.

In May 2014, the North Platte Public Library closed for nearly a week to solve its bedbug problem. Lincoln library staffers found bedbugs that same year.

Books showing any evidence of bedbugs are kept in a freezer at zero degrees for four days, long enough to kill the bugs and any eggs.

Giant slide sold; will remain at fairgrounds

IL SPRINGFIELD — Officials said an out-of-state buyer has purchased the giant yellow slide that's been a visitor favorite at the Illinois State Fair for more than a half-century.

Prairie State Bank and Trust officials told The (Springfield) State Journal-Register that a Minnesota man has agreed to buy the slide and continue to operate it on the state fairgrounds in Springfield. The bank had repossessed the slide from a previous owner.

The bank wouldn't disclose the sales price or identify the buyer because the sale isn't expected to close until early April.

The bank's initial asking price for the slide was \$135,000.

Otters are spotted in downtown Milwaukee

WI MILWAUKEE — A group of otters made a rare if not unprecedented appearance in downtown Milwaukee last week.

The state Department of Natural Resources said a video of the otters along the Milwaukee River is the first documented otter sighting in downtown Milwaukee.

The video was made by the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design after the otters were spotted near that building.

The DNR said restoration efforts to increase water quality and habitats for fish, frogs and crayfish may have helped create a better food source for otters.

Impatient motorist nearly runs down kids

NY NEW YORK — Driver impatience on New York City streets at times knows no limits. In one case, it meant flooring the gas pedal and nearly mowing down a group of Brooklyn schoolchildren.

A motorist stuck behind a stopped school bus last week drove onto a sidewalk, startling the frightened children, who scattered out of the way.

A video camera on the Brooklyn street captured the incident Thursday outside a yeshiva in the Borough Park neighborhood.

New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who represents Borough Park, told WABC-TV that passing the school bus could have resulted in the driver committing murder.

He said he hopes the video footage showing the car's license plate will lead to an arrest.

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Keselowski shakes off flu to win Atlanta

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Brad Keselowski had his hands full with a new car and a new rules package — enough to make for a trying race — before a stomach virus nearly flattened him.

Keselowski missed a portion of final practice, received intravenous fluids at Atlanta Motor Speedway's medical center, and had a replacement driver on standby Sunday in case he couldn't make it the full 500 miles.

Sick day? No way.

Keselowski recovered from flu-like symptoms to win at Atlanta and move past Mark Donohue as the winningest driver in Team Penske history. It was the first win for Ford's new Mustang and a rebound for the manufacturer after Toyota swept the season-opening Daytona 500.

"A race car driver is who I am. It's what I do and what I love. I'm not going to let anything get in the way of it," Keselowski said after the win. "We had the team to win, of course things still have to go your way, but I don't want to be the reason why they don't."

He was admittedly hot, tired and somewhat dazed after 3½ hour of racing. Had the event been one day earlier, Keselowski said he wouldn't have been healthy enough to drive. He lost nearly 6 pounds battling the illness but wasn't complaining after the win.

"Whenever you have a fast car, it's funny how fast those things disappear," he said.

Keselowski has proved his toughness before, most notably in 2011 when he won at Pocono just days after breaking his ankle in a crash while testing. This time he fell ill late Friday night after surprising fans in the Atlanta infield with beer during their rainy night of partying.

Keselowski's wife also was sick, and Keselowski missed the start of Saturday's final practice as Austin Cindric turned laps in

the No. 2 Ford. Keselowski was able to complete two runs before practice ended, but medical workers took him via golf cart from the garage to receive treatment.

"Whatever we had, I'm not sure what we had, it floored both of us," he said.

NASCAR debuted its new competition package Sunday that is designed to improve the on-track product and help the smaller teams contend. But the first look at the new rules was tempered because the abrasive asphalt at Atlanta is unlike any other surface NASCAR will race on this season.

But it was clear NASCAR successfully designed a package that slowed the cars and bunched them closer together, which made for intense racing when the field was packed on restarts. The nature of Atlanta's challenging 1.5-mile speedway led drivers to eventually fan out into single file, which NASCAR is trying to avoid, but the racing is expected to improve moving forward.

"I saw a fairly entertaining race," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR's chief racing officer. "We didn't know what to expect, either, and we thought this package would showcase itself more once we got to the West Coast. All in all, we are satisfied with the outcome and we've got a lot of work to do to go back and review it."

NASCAR's final statistics showed most meaningful categories were up from last year, including lead changes (25), passes for the lead (35) and so-called quality passes.

Keselowski, meanwhile, raced to his 60th win for Roger Penske to pass Indianapolis great Donohue's mark as the team leader. He has won 27 of his 28 Cup victories for Penske.

"I think when you go back and know what Mark meant to our team as we were building it over time, it really set a mark that in some cases we thought nobody would ever beat it," Penske said. "But Brad had that on his windshield, he's been looking at that now for a year, and he said this was the

year he was going to make it happen."

Keselowski confirmed he'd been chasing the Penske record.

"All wins are special but some just mean more," Keselowski said. "And this one means more for many reasons. When you look at the list of (Penske) drivers, it's a pretty big list, and it's big not just with the amount of drivers but big with the superstar power, and just to be on that list as a winner means a lot, but to be on top of it means even more."

Martin Truex Jr. finished second in a rebound from his disappointing debut with Joe Gibbs Racing. His three JGR teammates swept the podium in the Daytona 500 while Truex failed to ever contend in his Toyota. He was unhappy after the race because he said lapped traffic slowed his shot at catching Keselowski.

"Just a little upset," Truex said. "We had the best car. We probably should have won that one."

Kurt Busch was third in a Chevrolet for Chip Ganassi Racing while celebrating his 650th career Cup start. Kyle Larson, his Ganassi teammate, led a race-high 142 laps but was taken out of contention by a speeding penalty.

"To finish third ... and to run with the who's who of the sport, it just shows Ganassi has got the right stuff," Busch said.

Kevin Harvick and Clint Bowyer rounded out the top-five in a pair of Fords for Stewart-Haas Racing.

Kyle Busch started last but drove through the field to finish sixth, a day after he became the Truck Series' career victory leader with 52 victory. JGR teammate Erik Jones was seventh, pole-sitter Aric Almirola finished eighth. Chris Buescher was ninth in a strong finish for JTG-Daugherty Racing, while Daniel Suarez finished 10th in another SHR entry.

Ryan Blaney, Keselowski's teammate, led 41 laps until a poor pit stop ruined his race.

Johnson earns 20th title with 5-shot victory

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Dustin Johnson arrived in Mexico trying to figure out what was wrong with his swing. He left Sunday night with his 20th career PGA Tour victory and his sixth World Golf Championship and now wonders how far that will take him.

Over 72 holes, only two were

worse than par. No one got closer than two shots to him all weekend.

Johnson overcame a sloppy start, caught a good break from behind a tree and made the rest look easy, just like when he was on top of his game two years ago. He closed with a 5-under 66 for a five-shot victory over Rory McIlroy in the Mexico Championship.

"This is a big one for me, and it gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of the year," Johnson said. "I feel like the game is in good form right now."

Johnson becomes the 38th player in PGA Tour history with 20 victories, which makes him a lifetime member when he puts in 15 years.

He won on both sides of a four-week journey, which start-

ed with his victory in the Saudi International, and he will return to No. 1 in the world next week.

McIlroy did all he could, making six birdies in a seven-hole stretch on the back nine, and closed with a 67.

"I was making birdies and going nowhere," McIlroy said. "He just played great this week. Hats off to him."

NBA roundup

Magic end Raptors' streak at 7

Associated Press

TORONTO — Terrence Ross and the Orlando Magic shook off the disappointment of a difficult loss by taking down Ross' former team.

Ross scored 28 points, Nikola Vucevic had 23 points and 12 rebounds and the Magic beat the Raptors 113-98 on Sunday, ending Toronto's winning streak at seven.

Jonathan Isaac scored 16 points and D.J. Augustin had 12 as the Magic won for the sixth time in seven games. Orlando had won a season-best five straight before a 110-109 home loss to Chicago on Friday, its first game following the All-Star break.

"This is the part of the season where you've got to move forward, no matter what," Ross said of moving past Friday's narrow defeat. "You can't let that determine how you start the next game. You've got to make sure that you're ready to play."

Ross, who played 4½ seasons in Toronto, connected on nine of 21 attempts, including three of eight from three-point range, and matched his season high with nine rebounds. He has led the Magic in scoring 11 times this season, including five of the past 10 games.

"He's been great," Vucevic said. "When he scores for us like that, it just gives us a huge advantage."

Kyle Lowry had 19 points and 10 assists and Pascal Siakam had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost for the first time since Jan. 31 against Milwaukee.

Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (rest) did not play after scoring 25 points, 19 of them in the second half, in Friday's home win over San Antonio. Toronto is 13-4 without Leonard.

Orlando is one of three Eastern Conference teams with multiple victories against Toronto this season. Milwaukee (three wins) and Boston (two) are the others. Toronto has also lost twice to Denver.

Nuggets 123, Clippers 96: Nikola Jokic had 22 points and 16 rebounds, Paul Millsap had 21 points and 16 rebounds and host Denver breezed past cold-shooting Los Angeles for its fourth consecutive victory.

Knicks 130, Spurs 118: Damyean Dotson scored 27 points and New York beat San Antonio to snap its franchise-record home losing streak at 18 games.

Top 25 roundup

Michigan State atop Big Ten after knocking off Michigan

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Underestimate Tom Izzo and Michigan State at your peril.

The Spartans are plenty dangerous — even when they're short-handed and playing on the road against a highly ranked rival.

Cassius Winston had 27 points and eight assists, and 10th-ranked Michigan State moved into sole possession of first place in the Big Ten with a 77-70 victory over No. 7 Michigan on Sunday.

Kenny Goins had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Xavier Tillman added 14 points for the Spartans, who snapped Michigan's 22-game winning streak at Crisler Center despite being without two of their top three scorers.

"I don't need to be an underdog anymore — those days are over," said Izzo, who moved within three victories of 600 as Michigan State's coach. "I don't need to have anybody feel sorry for us. Those days are over. Doesn't matter, nobody cares — put a jersey on a kid and he goes."

Joshua Langford is out for the season, and Nick Ward is recovering from a broken hand, but Goins and Tillman produced in Ward's absence.

Michigan (24-4, 13-4) led by six early in the second half, but that advantage was short lived. Down 51-45, the Spartans (23-5, 14-3) outscored Michigan 21-7 to take control. The Wolverines shot 2-for-14 from three-point range in the second half.

Michigan had won three straight games in this series, including two last year when Xavier Simpson more than held his own against Winston in the matchup of point guards.

Winston was terrific Sunday, though, keeping his team afloat early in the second half and leading a 77-point effort against one of the best defensive teams in the country. Michigan State had only six turnovers, negating an area that figured to be a Michigan advantage.

"I just led the guys and made big plays down the stretch, but this was a team win," Winston said. "Everybody stepped up. Kenny had a big game. (Matt) McQuaid made some big shots. This is really a team win and that's the best part."

Simpson led Michigan with 19 points. Both he and Winston played the full 40 minutes.

"They were much better than us in just

about everything," Wolverines coach John Beilein said. "Offense, defense, got to the foul line more. First half was huge where we allowed five threes. Second half was much better defense by us, but ... we're going to have to play better than that."

The Spartans are now alone atop the Big Ten after entering the game in a first-place tie with Michigan and No. 15 Purdue. Michigan State hosts Michigan in a rematch March 9.

The Wolverines now face an uphill climb to win the Big Ten. In addition to the road game against Michigan State, Michigan still has to play at Maryland as well. The way the Wolverines have played defense this season, it was a surprise that 70 points wasn't enough to win.

Xavier 66, No. 17 Villanova 54: The Musketeers ran to the student section to slap hands after their biggest win of the season. A couple of weeks ago, nobody could have anticipated them knocking off the visiting Wildcats by double digits.

Naji Marshall scored 17 points and Xavier used a big surge in the second half to rally past Villanova, leaving the Wildcats with three straight losses in Big East play for the first time since the conference was reconfigured.

It was only Xavier's second win against the Wildcats in the Big East.

"I've never beaten 'Nova in my career," junior point guard Quentin Goodin said. "Having all the doubters against us, I feel we proved a point today."

The Musketeers (15-13, 7-8) won their fourth straight — matching their season high — and ended their run of lopsided losses against the Wildcats. Villanova (20-8, 11-4) had won five in a row against the Musketeers, including an 85-75 victory on Jan. 18.

That loss started a six-game Xavier losing streak that dropped the defending regular season champions to last in the Big East. Now they're on their way back up.

"We're a heck of a lot better than we were then — a lot," coach Travis Steele said. "Dramatically."

Marshall had seven points during a 17-0 run that gave Xavier its first lead midway through the second half.

NHL roundup

Stars victory over Blackhawks marred by injury to Zuccarello

Associated Press

The Dallas Stars beat the Chicago Blackhawks — and lost their prized newcomer.

Jason Spezza broke a tie on a 5-on-3 power play midway through the third period and Dallas beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 on Sunday after blowing a three-goal lead.

The victory was overshadowed by the loss of Mats Zuccarello with what he thought was a broken right arm in his first game with Dallas. Acquired from the New York Rangers on Saturday, Zuccarello had a goal and assist, but left after two periods and is expected to be sidelined at least four weeks.

"I blocked a shot and it hit me the wrong way," said Zuccarello, whose arm was in a soft cast with a splint. "It's unfortunate. I kind of knew it right away, not that it was broken, but something was wrong."

Zuccarello said he'd have the arm evaluated Monday or Tuesday.

On the winner, Spezza took Alexander Radulov's feed across the crease and tapped the puck past goalie Cam Ward. Radulov and Radek Faksa also scored and Anton Khudobin made 44 saves for the Stars, who pulled two points ahead of idle Colorado and into the first Western Conference wild card.

Dallas forward Jamie Benn suffered an upper-body injury during the first shift of the game and didn't return. He's out day-to-day.

"It's an incredibly gritty win for us, one that we needed, on a really tough back-to-back," Spezza said. "With the bodies going down throughout the game, I thought we responded well."

Despite being outshot 47-29 as the Blackhawks came on late, the Stars prevailed after a listless 3-0 loss at home to Carolina on Saturday.

"It's inspiring," coach Jim Montgomery said. "To watch those players as a team, as a group, overcome the adversity we had to overcome."

Chicago star Patrick Kane was held off the scoresheet, ending his points streak at 20 games, even though he was visible in creating chances.

"He was involved," coach Jeremy Colliton said. "It just didn't go in for him or the guys he was playing with."

Coyotes 4, Jets 1: Lawson Crouse scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and host Arizona beat Winnipeg after retiring the No. 19 jersey of former captain Shane Doan.

Brad Richardson, Clayton Keller and Josh Archibald also scored for the Coyotes. Alex Goligoski added two assists and Darcy Kuemper stopped 34 shots, sending the Central Division leaders to their fourth loss in five games.

The Coyotes kept pace in the Western Conference play-off race, winning their third straight game and fourth in five. They are three points behind Minnesota for the second wild card.

Patrik Laine scored early before Winnipeg was shut out for almost 58 minutes. Laurent Brossoit made 20 saves.

A sellout crowd was on hand to see Doan's No. 19 raised to the rafters at Gila River Arena before a game that matched the two teams he played for during his 21 seasons in the NHL.

Capitals 6, Rangers 5 (OT): Evgeny Kuznetsov scored at 4:20 of overtime, just beating teammate Alex Ovechkin to the puck, and Washington beat New York in its return from its longest road trip this season.

Nicklas Backstrom scored his 14th and 15th goals of the season and the second-place Capitals moved within two points of the Metropolitan Division-leading New York Islanders.

Tom Wilson added his 17th goal, and Nic Dowd and Michal Kempny also scored for Washington.

Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei scored multiple goals for the first time in his career, his second tying the game with 31 seconds remaining in regulation.

Chris Kreider added his 26th, Jimmy Vesey contributed his 15th, and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for New York.

Wild 2, Blues 1 (OT): Ryan Donato scored at 2:29 of overtime to lift Minnesota past host St. Louis for its third straight victory.

Donato launched a shot from behind the left circle past Jake Allen's glove. Donato has four points in three games since being acquired from Boston.

Jason Zucker also scored, and Devan Dubnyk stopped 27 shots. Alex Pietrangelo scored on a power play in the third period for St. Louis. The Blues lost for just the second time in 14 games.

Sharks 5, Red Wings 3: Joe Pavelski had his fifth career hat trick, scoring twice in less than a minute late in the second period, to help visiting San Jose beat Detroit.

Brent Burns had a goal and assist, fellow defenseman Tim Heed also scored, and Aaron Dell made 20 saves. Star defenseman Erik Karlsson sat out after aggravating a groin injury at Columbus on Saturday night.

Defenseman Mike Green had a goal and an assist, and Darren Helm and Gustav Nyquist also scored for Detroit.

Flames 2, Senators 1: Austin Czarnik scored with 41 seconds remaining to lift Calgary past host Ottawa.

Mikael Backlund also scored, and David Rittich made 22 saves to help Calgary win its fifth straight.

Rutgers' Stringer out for regular season

Associated Press

Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer, who this season posted her 1,000th victory, is taking off the rest of the regular season on the advice of doctors.

The announcement Sunday by the Big Ten school came three days after the 70-year-old Hall of Famer missed a game at Michigan.

Rutgers said Stringer is expected to return for the postseason. The Scarlet Knights (18-8, 10-5) were ranked this month and are expected to make the NCAA Tournament.

Assistant coach Tim Eatman will serve as acting coach through the Big Ten Tournament.

"As you can imagine this was not an easy decision; however, in consultation with my doctors, it is in my best interest to spend time to get healthy before returning to the day-to-day grind of coaching," Stringer said in a statement.

"I know our young ladies can finish the season strong playing Scarlet Knight basketball and I will rejoin the team as soon as I can."

Federal law prevents the school from discussing her condition.

Eatman served as acting head coach for three games following the illness and death of Stringer's mother, Thelma Stoner, in 2016.

Rutgers has three regular-season games left, starting with a home game against Wisconsin on Monday.

Stringer picked up her 1,000th win on Nov. 13 with a 73-44 decision over Central Connecticut State.

She is the first African-American coach to reach the mark.