Sunday, July 2, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US, Australia kick off exercise

Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Australian forces kicked off their largest joint, biennial training drills Thursday as the USS Bonhomme Richard approached Sydney off the country's east coast.

Now in its seventh iteration, the monthlong Talisman Saber exercise will involve more than 33,000 U.S. and Australian servicemembers taking part in "high-end warfighting scenarios" to "innovatively prepare for regional and global security challenges," a Navy statement said.

The mostly sea- and air-based exercise will include both "live and virtual training exercises," including amphibious landings, in and around Australia, the statement said.

Twenty-one ships are participating, including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, the statement said. More than 200 aircraft, including tilt-rotor Ospreys and advanced F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters, will also take part.

"Exercises like Talisman Saber are precisely where we really learn how to take advantage of cutting-edge technology to outpace our adversaries," Adm. Harry Harris, head of U.S. Pacific Command, said at the ceremony, according to a Navy statement.

Harris also told reporters the massive exercise is intended to send a signal.

"I'm pleased about that mes-

sage it sends to our friends, allies, partners and potential adversaries," he said, according to media reports. "I think this demonstrates the importance of alliances in general and the value of this alliance in particular."

In his third trip to Australia in just over a half-year, Harris on Wednesday reiterated America's commitment to that longtime alliance, describing it as key to preventing the spread of jihadi terrorist groups in the region.

"I assure you that we take this alliance very seriously, indeed," Harris told an audience at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Brisbane.

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China adds to buildup on disputed Fiery Cross

By Wyatt Olson

Stars and Stripes

China has continued building missile shelters on the disputed Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea, adding four since February and paving the way for Beijing to deploy an array of military assets in the contested region, a Washington-based think tank said Thursday.

The additions bring the total to 12 missile shelters on Fiery Cross, making it "the most advanced of China's bases" in the sea's disputed areas, said the Center for Strategic and International Studies, which published satellite images and commentary on its Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative website.

China has not built missile shelters on two other islands it has militarized in the Spratly Island chain — Subi and Mischief reefs — but it has constructed fighter jet hangars and surveillance arrays on all three.

"With the near completion of naval, air, radar and defensive facilities on the reefs, Beijing can now deploy military assets, including combat aircraft and mobile missile launchers, to the Spratly Islands at any time," the center said.

"China's three air bases in the Spratlys and another on Woody Island in the Paracels will allow Chinese military aircraft to operate over nearly the entire South China Sea," the center said. The same is true of China's radar coverage because of installations for advanced surveillance and early warning on Fiery Cross and Subi, as well as similar radars on other South China Sea islands China controls, the center said.

Sustainment forces in Europe get new leader

By John Vandiver

Stars and Stripes

Maj. Gen. Steven Shapiro took command Friday of the Army's sustainment forces in Europe, which during the past two years have enabled one of the largest movements of ammunition, armor and troops to the continent since the end of the Cold War.

Shapiro replaces Maj. Gen. Duane Gamble, who has led the 21st Theater Sustainment Command during a hectic tenure that saw the Army boost its presence in eastern Europe in response to concerns about a more aggressive Russia.

"We had to have more capability and we had to demonstrate that capability and the will to use that capability to send a clear message," U.S. Army Europe Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said during a ceremony at 21st TSC headquarters in Kaiserslaut-

ern. "It is not inevitable there is going to be a conflict. The best way to keep it unlikely is to demonstrate that capability."

Hodges said the 21st TSC's role in bringing tanks and other hardware to Europe has been key to getting firepower back into position in Europe.

Shapiro, who previously served as deputy chief of staff for logistics at Army Materiel Command in Alabama, will be responsible for carrying forward the flow of military hardware into Europe as the Pentagon increases funding for operations along NATO's eastern flank. He also will be responsible for ensuring supplies reach units spread out on remote missions stretching from the Baltics to southern Europe and Army garrisons in between.

"I look forward to the next two years working with the great soldiers and civilians here," Shapiro said. "I do pledge 100 percent effort on everything we are going to do."

Going forward, the command's largest logistical lift in the year ahead likely will be overseeing the movement of a U.S.-based replacement force for the 3rd Armored Combat Brigade, which is on a ninemonth mission to reassure allies in a series of training missions along NATO's eastern flank.

For USAREUR, concerns over a more assertive Russia have prompted leaders to examine ways it can mobilize forces more quickly in a crisis.

Much of that work has fallen to 21st TSC logisticians, who sought to better chart the geographic terrain of the Baltics and Poland and to improve the Army's understanding of possible logjams that can slow the movement of troops in a crisis.



Afghan officials: 13 local militiamen slain in ambush by Taliban

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents ambushed a local militia group in northern Balkh province, killing 13 pro-government fighters, provincial officials said Sunday.

Munir Ahmad Farhad, a spokesman for the governor of northern Balkh province, said local forces were on their way to take part in a security operation when they were ambushed. The men were part of a local militia established under the authority of the Interior Ministry to defend the area from insurgents.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to media.

Also on Sunday, Taliban insurgents launched attacks on the city of Kunduz from two different directions in the country's northeast, according to provincial officials.

Mahmood Danish, spokesman for the provincial governor in Kunduz, confirmed that Taliban fighters attacked the city and that heavy fighting was continuing Sunday.

"Taliban attacked from two different directions around the city, but Afghan security forces have repelled their attacks," he Danish.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid released a statement confirming the group's fighters attacked Kunduz and overran a number of police checkpoints.

In May, Taliban insurgents overran the Qala-e Zal district police headquarters after two days of intense fighting that Afghan security forces later were able to retake.

The Taliban have launched attacks on Kunduz in the past and at least twice briefly captured the provincial capital, reaching the central roundabout and hoisting their flag in the city.

The Taliban have increased their attacks against Afghan security forces since their annual spring offensive began in April.

Car bomb kills 8; Syria says wider attack foiled

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — A suicide car bomb killed at least eight people in a rare attack in the heart of Syria's capital on Sunday as authorities said they foiled a wider assault by intercepting two other explosives-laden vehicles.

The attack unfolded before the morning commute on the first work day after a major Muslim holiday. The Interior Ministry said security forces tracked all three cars and intercepted two of them at checkpoints on the airport road. The third made it into the city center, where the driver blew himself up near Tahreer Square.

The Syrian Minister of Local Administration, Hussein Makhlouf, said the response marked a "major success in foiling a plot" to cause mass casualties.

Syrian state TV reported eight killed and another 12 people wounded in the blast near Damascus' old city. Lebanon's al-Manar TV, which is close to the Syrian government, and Diary of a Mortar, a Syrian activist group in the capital, said at least 19 people were killed.

State TV showed footage of two scorched vehicles on the airport road, as well as footage from Tahreer Square showing a damaged building and mangled cars at the small roundabout.

Such attacks have been relatively

rare in Damascus, the seat of power for President Bashar Assad, who made a series of public appearances last week in a show of increased confidence after more than six years of battling a rebellion.

Pro-government forces have engaged in heavy fighting in Damascus' suburbs during the war, but largely have kept the rebels out of the city center. In recent days, Syrian troops and allied forces have been fighting to drive the rebels out of Ain Terma and Jobar, adjacent areas on the city's eastern outskirts that have been under rebel control since 2011.

The rebels said government forces attacked them with chlorine gas overnight, and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group, said 12 fighters were treated for suffocation. The Syrian military denied the claims, and there was no way to independently verify them.

The attacks came days before Russia-sponsored talks are to resume in the Kazakh capital, Astana, where the two sides agreed to a cease-fire earlier this year that has been violated repeatedly. The new round of talks is expected to delineate "deescalation zones." Russian officials said the talks are also to discuss the formation of a Syrian national reconciliation committee.

Iraqis flee as strikes hit last pockets of ISIS-held Mosul

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq—As airstrikes pound the last pockets of territory held by Islamic State in Mosul Sunday, hundreds of civilians are fleeing, many so badly injured they had to be carried over the mounds of rubble clogging the Old City's narrow streets.

The civilians — mostly women and children — are fleeing the city in waves as Iraqi forces push toward the Tigris River, according to Iraqi special forces Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi.

Iraq's special forces are now some 450 meters from the river's bank, al-Aridi said. He expects to reach the Tigris within days.

After a strike, groups of civilians appeared covered in dust. Dozens were injured with what appeared to be shrapnel wounds. One woman collapsed

trying to climb through a destroyed home, apparently suffering from dehydration.

Civilians trapped inside the under-siege Old City — where temperatures have soared to 113 degrees Fahrenheit and are expected to climb in the days ahead — have suffered water and food shortages for months.

The United Nations estimates that tens of thousands of civilians are still trapped inside the Old City. Iraqi forces launched the operation to retake the Old City in mid-June. After eight months of grueling battles to retake Mosul, the dense western Mosul neighborhood is ISIS' last stand in Iraq's second-largest city.

Iraq's prime minister declared an end to ISIS' so-called caliphate in June after Iraqi forces retook the landmark al-Nuri mosque in the Old City, and he pledged victory was "near."

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Trump invokes patriotism, unity

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump returned to the relatively calm waters of patriotism and supporting American troops in a speech on Saturday night that followed several outbursts against the media and others on social media earlier in the day.

"I want you to know that we will always keep our promises to those who have kept us free," the president said in remarks prepared for delivery at a "Celebrate Freedom" event at the Kennedy Center in Washington. The program, billed as a tribute to veterans, was staged by Christian broadcasting group Salem Media and the First Baptist Church of Dallas.

In a stab at inclusiveness, Trump said, "We all share one home and one glorious destiny. And whether we are black or brown or white — we all bleed the same red blood. We all salute the same great flag."

The president's remarks came days ahead of the nation's annual Independence Day celebration and as Trump considers his administration's approach toward fighting Islamic State. He said Saturday that terrorism and extremism can't be allowed to spread in the U.S.

The occasion gave Trump an opportunity to reset his message after a stalled push for a vote

on Senate health care legislation, resistance from several Republican-led states to turning over private voter data for a Trump commission to study fraud, and the president's three-day feud with MSNBC morning show hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski.

Trump has looked to recent rallies to energize his base. At an event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in June, he spoke for more than an hour. In May, he used a commencement address at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., to amplify his own reputation as a political outsider.

He returned to that theme on Saturday, saying his administration "is transferring power out of Washington and returning that power back to the people, where it belongs."

The president made a special return flight to Washington for the event at the Kennedy Center. He's spending the long weekend with wife Melania, son Barron and in-laws at his Bedminster, N.J., golf resort.

Organizers of Saturday's event, a rally with a voice and orchestral show, said the audience was to include hundreds of veterans from around the country, including wounded warriors receiving care at Walter Reed Medical Center in suburban Bethesda, Md.

The Washington Post Some of the best-known faces in the Trump administration are also some of the best paid, according to a new list of White House salaries. Advisers Kellvanne Conway

Some of

president's

aides earn

top salaries

Advisers Kellyanne Conway and Stephen Bannon, along with Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and Press Secretary Sean Spicer, are among the White House employees receiving the top salary of \$179,700. Omarosa Manigault, whose title is listed as director of communications for the Office of Public Liaison, is also one of the 21 Trump aides pulling down that top salary.

Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and her husband, presidential adviser Jared Kushner, do not take salaries for their roles as presidential advisers, according to the list released Friday.

The annual list is mandated by Congress.

Reed Cordish, a Baltimore developer and friend of Kushner's who was hired to run an initiative focused on technology initiatives, is also not taking a salary for his White House work, while Gary D. Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs chief executive serving as Trump's director of the National Economic Council, is being paid \$30,000.

Christopher Liddell, a former top executive at Microsoft and other businesses, is also taking a \$30,000 salary for his work as a White House adviser. He and Cohn are the lowest-paid employees who receive a salary. The bottom of the scale for regular White House hires is \$40,000.

Deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders is paid \$165,000, the next rung down from the top level.

There is one employee listed as earning more than the \$179,700 top tier. Policy adviser Mark House earns \$187,100 because he is a senior executive with the Federal Aviation Administration, where the salary range is higher. He is on loan to the White House.

Congressional shooter's wife is tormented by husband's attack

Associated Press

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — The widow of a man who wounded a congressman and four others in a shooting at a Republican congressional baseball practice said she is tormented by thoughts that she could have done more to help her increasingly angry husband.

Suzanne Hodgkinson said her husband, James, was once a fun-loving man who changed after a long illness in the 1990s. He would throw dishes at his wife, yell at the television and went "bananas" after Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election, she told The New York Times.

"I get up every morning feeling guilty because I didn't stop it," Hodgkinson said.

She spoke in an interview Wednesday at her home in Belleville, Ill., about the June 14 attack in Alexandria, Va., that critically injured a Republican

congressman and wounded four others. Law officers fatally shot her husband.

But Hodgkinson, 65, said she also wants to quickly lay to rest her husband's remains and hopes the negative attention on her family will end soon.

On Tuesday, Hodgkinson was asked via email to formally identify her husband's body. She has asked a funeral home that a friend owns to cremate her husband's body.

"Coldhearted as it may be, I'm done," Hodgkinson said. "He was not a religious man, and I'm done with this. I want this to get over. I want my granddaughters to be able to go to school in September without this being dredged up."

Neighbors have urged her not to mow the lawn, fearing she'll be attacked.

A friend disperses her trash around town to avoid snoops. Recently, a stranger walked up to her at a grocery store and slapped her across the face. She cried all the way home.

Hodgkinson said her husband was not a bad man. She was happy when they met and married in 1984.

They eventually took in 35 foster children and adopted two.

It was during the 2016 presidential campaign that he began to rage about politics. He supported Sen. Bernie Sanders and went "bananas" when Trump won, she said.

When she first heard about the attack in the Virginia suburb of the nation's capital, it briefly occurred to her that her husband might have done it. But, she said, she decided it couldn't be him because reports said the shooter had a rifle and he had taken only a pistol to Washington.

U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise has undergone several surgeries and remains at Medstar Washington Hospital Center.



Obama calls for tolerance and respect during Jakarta speech

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Following another week of dustups between the media and President Donald Trump, his predecessor shared a bit of wisdom about tolerance and taking the daily news cycle in stride.

"I wasn't worried about what was in the newspapers today," former President Barack Obama said Saturday during a nostalgic visit to Indonesia's capital, his childhood home. "What I was worried about was, 'What are they going to write about me 20 years from now when I look back?'"

Obama has largely stayed away from U.S. politics, but he did tout one of his accomplishments. "In Paris, we came together around the most ambitious agreement in history about climate change, an agreement that even with the temporary absence of American leadership can still give our children

a fighting chance," he said.

Trump shocked many countries last month by announcing he was pulling out of the accord. Also, he has had a difficult relationship with members of the press and was recently condemned by Democrats and Republicans for a tweet that attacked a female MSNBC host.

Obama stressed the importance of stepping away from news sites where only likeminded views are shared and warned about social media giving rise to resentment of minorities and bad treatment of people.

The former president was greeted by thousands in Jakarta, where he opened the Fourth Congress of the Indonesian Diaspora. In Indonesia, many view him as an adopted son. A statue of the boy still remembered as "Barry" stands outside his old elementary school.

He reminisced about moving

to Jakarta in 1967 when he was just 6 years old, shouting, "Indonesia bagian dari diri saya!" or "Indonesia is part of me!"

Obama lived in the country with his mother, an anthropologist, and his Indonesian stepfather. The couple split up after Obama's half-sister was born, and Obama moved back to Hawaii when he was 10 to live with his grandparents.

Obama's speech came on the final leg of his 10-day vacation in Indonesia. In addition to visiting the temples in the city of Yogyakarta on the island of Java, he and his wife, Michelle, and daughters, Sasha and Malia, also went rafting and toured the resort island of Bali. On Friday, he met Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo at the grand Bogor Palace in West Java, just outside Jakarta.

He urged the country to be a light of democracy and to never stop embracing differences.

Rapper held on charges unrelated to club shooting

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A rapper whose concert in Little Rock became the site of a shooting that left 28 people injured was arrested Sunday on unrelated charges, authorities said.

Ricky Hampton, 25, of Memphis, Tenn., also known as Finese2Tymes, was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Forrest City, Ark., police in Little Rock said on Twitter. No arrests have been made in the shooting at the Power Ultra Lounge.

The U.S. Marshal Service said Hampton and another man were arrested at the Side Effects Club in Birmingham, where Hampton was performing. The Marshal Service said the men were arrested on a "fugitive from justice" warrant.

Hampton was performing at the Power Ultra Lounge when gunfire broke out early Sunday. Twenty-five people between the ages of 16 and 35 suffered gunshot wounds, and three others were hurt.

City officials intend to shut down the club. State regulators suspended the club's liquor license Saturday, and its landlord posted an eviction notice.

The volley of gunfire inside the club June 24 came so fast that investigators believe multiple people had to have been involved.

City officials said they would move Monday to shut down the club under a "criminal abatement" program.

On Saturday, a representative for the landlord's office posted an eviction notice on a door to the club. The notice stated the club must move out of the property within three days "due to your failure to maintain the premises in a safe condition."

Mayor Mark Stodola said the city must "keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people" and suggested people avoid clubs that seem to promote violence.

Material advertising the concert by Tennessee rapper Finese 2Tymes showed a man pointing a gun at a camera.

NJ feels impact of government shutdown

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jerseyans were feeling the impact as a state government shutdown took effect Saturday, shuttering parks and other public sites and disrupting ferry service to Liberty and Ellis islands.

Among those affected were a group of Cub Scouts forced to leave a state park campsite and people trying to obtain or renew documents from the state motor vehicle commission.

Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Chris Christie and the Democrat-led Legislature planned to return to work Saturday to try to resolve the shutdown, the state's first since 2006 and the first under Christie. It came about after leaders failed to reach an agreement on a new budget by Friday night's deadline.

Christie and the lawmakers are in a stalemate over whether

to include legislation affecting the state's largest health insurer into the state budget. He and Democratic Senate President Steve Sweeney agree on legislation to make over Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto opposes the plan, saying the legislation could lead to rate increases on the insurer's 3.8 million subscribers.

Christie reiterated his stance during a news conference Saturday, calling the standoff "embarrassing and pointless." He also repeatedly referred to it as "the speaker's shutdown."

Prieto remained steadfast Saturday in his opposition, reiterating that he won't consider the plan as part of the budget process.

Referring to the shutdown as "Gov. Christie's Hostage Crisis Day One," Prieto said he has made compromises that led

to the budget now before the Legislature.

Prieto said a vote on the \$34.7 billion budget that remains deadlocked 26-25, with 24 abstentions, will remain open until those 24 abstentions change their minds.

Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, D, was among those abstaining. He said that if Christie did not get the Horizon bill, nearly \$150 million in school funding would be line-item vetoed.

Christie said Friday he would slash the Democratic spending priorities if he did not get the Horizon bill as part of a package deal on the budget.

Prieto said he is willing to discuss the Horizon legislation but after the budget is resolved.

Christie has balked at the proposal because he says law-makers plan to leave town to campaign for re-election, and he will be a lame duck.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Couple charged again with selling deer parts

PA LITITZ — Authorities again have charged two former Pennsylvania restaurant owners accused of scavenging deer parts from trash bins outside butcher shops.

PennLive.com reported Thursday that charges were refiled against Shi Eng and Chun Eng after wildlife officials said the couple had been collecting discarded deer parts for a couple of years and violated laws against selling wild venison.

Investigators found more than 300 pounds of deer heads and other parts at their restaurant, but Chun Eng denied selling it, saying they used the meat to make soup for themselves.

The charges had been dropped in November after a witness decided not to testify.

Chun Eng previously pleaded guilty to restaurant violations, and Shi Eng was fined after pleading guilty to selling deer parts from a van in New York City.

Bride finds missing dress via Facebook

DOVER — A bride who lost her wedding dress while traveling through Ohio has found it, thanks to social media.

WJW-TV reported Jennifer Contini and fiance Steven Cunningham were driving from Southampton, N.Y., to Dover, Ohio, when they lost the dress.

Contini said they stopped during the trip, and she thinks she left the dress on top of the car as they drove away.

Contini posted a message about the dress on Facebook, and the post went viral.

She said a friend of a friend saw the dress hanging on a fence at the end of a driveway. A Southampton couple had found it and had hung it with the hope someone would claim it.

Man's prison term for Halloween robberies cut

WA TACOMA — The Washington State Supreme Court has knocked more than 20 years off the prison sentence Zyion Houston-Sconiers received for the 2012 armed robberies of Halloween candy.

The News Tribune reported Pierce County Superior Court Judge John Hickman exercised discretion he didn't believe he had in 2013 when he originally sentenced Houston-Sconiers, 22.

Houston-Sconiers originally was given a 31-year prison term, but now will serve just four more years to go with the $4\frac{1}{2}$ he has completed.

On Halloween night in 2012, Houston-Sconiers and Treson Lee Roberts carried a revolver around Tacoma to rob teens of candy, cellphones and other items.

Woman, 80, mauled by rabid bobcat

SUNAPEE — An 80-year-old New Hampshire woman fought off a rabid bobcat with the help of her two dogs and her gardening sickle.

Elsie Dabrowski said she was gardening June 25 at her Sunapee home when the animal attacked, biting her face, arm and back.

Dabrowski tried to fight off the bobcat with a sickle, but it ultimately was chased off by her dogs. Her adult son heard the commotion and rushed outside with a shotgun, which he used to kill the bobcat. The animal carcass tested positive for rabies.

Dabrowski needed more than 50 stitches to close her wounds.

City fights order to remove 34-foot cross

PENSACOLA — A Florida city is fighting to keep a 34-foot cross in a park after a judge ordered it removed.

The Pensacola News-Journal reported Pensacola officials announced Friday they will appeal a federal judge's ruling that the cross be removed because it is a religious symbol on public land.

The concrete cross has been in the city's Bayview Park since 1969. The Freedom From Religion Foundation sued the city on behalf of four people, demanding the cross be removed.

Official defends saying ODs should be ignored

MIDDLETOWN
— A city councilman in Ohio said he doesn't regret his suggestion that emergency crews should stop saving people who repeatedly overdose.

Middletown City Council member Dan Picard asked if there is a law requiring the city to respond to overdose calls. He suggested that people who overdose should be forced to do community service to make up for the cost of an emergency run.

He also said that no medics should respond if they overdose a third time.

Boy, 11, shoots bear charging fishing party

AK HOONAH — Alaska State Troopers said quick action from an 11-year-old boy saved a fishing party from a charging brown bear.

The Juneau Empire reported Elliot Clark was walking through the woods near Game Creek with his three family members and three dogs when the bear came out and charged them.

Elliot's father said the bear ran through two of the men, leaving Elliot and his cousin in its path. Elliott raised his pumpaction shotgun and shot the bear with birdshot.

His father said the first shot did nothing, but two more downed the bear and finishing shots by the boy and his uncle killed it.

Woman paying ticket leaves child, 1, in car

CLEARWATER — A Florida woman is charged with child neglect after deputies say she left her 1-year-old child in a car parked at a courthouse while she ran inside to pay a traffic ticket.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reported a courthouse employee found the child alone in the car Friday in Clearwater and contacted deputies.

Deputies found the car locked and running with its windows rolled up and the air conditioning on. They unlocked the car after reaching through tape covering a missing window.

Deputies charged Antwynett Lane, 28, with child neglect after she returned to the car.

Professor let go over hostage comment

WILMINGTON—The University of Delaware won't rehire a professor who said a college student who died after being held by North Korea "got exactly what he deserved."

In a statement, the university said that the adjunct faculty member, Katherine Dettwyler, will not be rehired.

Warmbier was released by North Korea last month after being held for more than 17 months.

He was in a coma and died after returning home.

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Pacquiao loses welterweight title to Horn

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Manny Pacquiao lost his WBO welterweight world title to Jeff Horn in a stunning, unanimous points decision Sunday in a contest billed as the Battle of Brisbane and an outcome that had his backers asking questions.

The 11-time world champion entered the fight at Suncorp Stadium as a hot favorite but got more than he bargained for against the 29-year-old former schoolteacher, who had most of the 51,000 fans on his side and won at least three of the first five rounds on all three of the judge's scorecards.

Still, Pacquiao appeared to dominate most of the rounds from the eighth. Pacquiao was close to finishing it in the 9th when he had Horn wobbling — to the point where referee Mark Nelson asked the 29-year-old Australian's camp before the 10th if he could continue.

"I felt buzzed for sure, but I'm the Hornet — I've got to come back," Horn said of that round. "I'm not a quitter. Australians aren't quitters to start with. We've showed we're winners.

"It was the battle of Brisbane, that's for sure," Horn said. "Absolutely unbelievable."

Pacquiao thought so, too, and he's at least

considering a rematch.

"That's the decision of the judges. I respect that," Pacquiao was quoted as saying by broadcaster ESPN immediately after the fight. "We have a rematch clause, so no problem."

All three judges awarded it to Horn, with Waleska Roldan scoring it 117-111 and both Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan scoring it 115-113.

A spokesman for the 38-year-old Philippines senator said Pacquiao was dealing with head cuts and wouldn't be able to attend the formal post-fight news conference. He also declined any interviews in the dressing room later Sunday at Suncorp Stadium.

The referee had to pause the fight in the sixth and seventh rounds for Pacquiao to get treatment for a cut on his head that resulted from a clash of heads. He also intervened so Horn could cut tape away from his glove.

Top Rank promotor Bob Arum said the result was a close call after some close rounds late in the bout as both fighters looked for a decisive blow.

"It was a close fight, it could have gone either way," said Arum. "A couple of close rounds, but you can't argue with the result."

Pacquiao's long-time trainer Freddie Roach predicted the fight would be short and sweet but Horn — unbeaten in his 17 previous professional fights — applied pressure by getting in front after five rounds and then coming back in the decisive 12th.

Horn can't see Pacquiao retiring any time soon.

"I'm sure he'll want to come back. It was a close decision and I'm sure he'll want to come back and prove himself," he said.

Arum said there was a clause for a rematch, but he'd give it time before talking to Pacquiao about it.

"I know Jeff would welcome the rematch, but I don't know Manny's future position," Arum said. "Is he going to stay in politics and not continue in boxing? I don't know, and he doesn't know now — it's unfair to ask him now."

Pacquiao's camp had talked about a rematch with Mayweather if he got past Horn, hoping to avenge his loss on points in the 2015 mega fight. That seems to be a distant chance now.

Pacquiao, who entered the fight with a record of 59-6-2, 38 knockouts, was defending the WBO title he won on points against Jessie Vargas last November.

Stagnant NHL cap limits free agents' ability to cash in

Associated Press

Aside from defensemen Kevin Shattenkirk and Karl Alzner attracting \$20 million-plus contracts, NHL free agency isn't what it used to be. Not in a stagnant salary-cap era.

Though plenty of players switched teams once the signing period opened Saturday, missing were the high-priced, long-term contracts that were once the norm.

Shattenkirk, considered the top free agent available, signed a four-year, \$26.6 million contract with the New York Rangers. And after nine seasons in Washington, Alzner signed a five-year, \$23.1 million deal with Montreal.

Shattenkirk noted he turned down a more lucrative offer to sign with the Rangers, in part for the opportunity to play closer to his hometown of New Rochelle, New York. And Alzner noted he had few options beyond Montreal, which was the only city he visited this past week.

The expansion Vegas Golden Knights stayed busy by trading defenseman Alexei Emelin to Nashville for a 2019 thirdround draft pick. Vegas selected Emelin from Montreal in the expansion draft last month. The Golden Knights also addressed secondary depth needs by signing six free agents, including forward Stefan Matteau. He's the son of Stephane Matteau, a member of the 1994 Stanley Cup champion Rangers.

The most lucrative deals inked were a pair of contracts to retain young stars. San Jose Sharks locked up defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic with an eight-year, \$56 million contract, and Anaheim signed defenseman Cam Fowler to an eight-year, \$52 million deal. The Sharks also extended the contract of goalie Martin Jones by

signing him to a six-year, \$34.5 million deal.

That's a drastic change from a year ago, when three free agents signed seven-year contracts, including aging veteran Milan Lucic's \$42 million deal with Edmonton.

"There's a whole lot of factors," Detroit Red Wings general manager Ken Holland said, noting age was one and so were the moves by teams to sign their players to extensions well before they might have hit the market.

As for a primary factor, Holland said: "The cap used to go up \$4-5 million a year."

Long-time player agent Steve Bartlett said teams are handcuffed by long-term deals and a flat cap, while Rangers GM Jeff Gorton noted there was a limit on how high he would go to sign Shattenkirk.

"We try to stay away from those five, six, seven, eight-year deals right now and figure out where the cap's going," Gorton said.

Stars general manager Jim Nill said the expansion draft also played a role because it added another element in which teams had to shift assets — including draft picks — to protect certain players from being selected. That led to teams having to fill those losses with short-term fixes.

The cap has barely budged, going from \$69 million in 2014-15 to \$75 million next season.

Teams are instead resorting to a payroll model used by the Pittsburgh Penguins and Chicago Blackhawks. It's one in which teams commit high salaries to their best players—such as Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin and Chicago's Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane—and fill secondary needs with youngsters and lower-priced journeymen.



Stenhouse Jr. wins crash-filled Daytona

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Junior went to victory lane at a restrictor-plate race again.

Just like last time, it was Ricky Stenhouse Jr. celebrating after the checkered flag.

Stenhouse raced to his second victory of the season — second consecutive on a restrictor-plate track — Saturday night at Daytona International Speedway. Both events were billed as showcases for retiring driver Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Stenhouse stole both shows.

Stenhouse picked up his first career NASCAR Cup Series win in May at Talladega. Just like last time, girlfriend Danica Patrick was there to greet him in victory lane — she had wrecked out shortly before and was the first person at his car window when he pulled in to celebrate.

"It validates what we did in Talladega," Stenhouse said.

He earned this one for Roush Fenway Racing in a two-lap overtime sprint when leader David Ragan tried to block the field and lost momentum. Stenhouse squirted by and held on for the victory. He did it in a new car, too, because he wasn't giving back the Ford he drove at Talladega to his first career Cup victory.

"I kept my Talladega car and told them to build a new one," he said. "I have been coming here since 2008. I actually came in 2006 one time with Bobby Hamilton Jr. and it is cool to put it in victory lane and get our second win this year."

Clint Bowyer was second for the second consecutive week.

"This bridesmaid deal sucks. I want to win. We're in this business to win," said Bowyer. "But second is better than third."

Bowyer joined Stenhouse to give Ford Performance a 1-2 finish for the manufacturer and engine builder Doug Yates. Ford also won all three plate races this season.

Paul Menard was third, followed by Michael McDowell, Ryan Newman and Ragan.

Brendan Gaughan, AJ Allmendinger, Erik Jones and Chris Buescher rounded out a bizarre top 10. Many of the top contenders were knocked out in accidents, including Patrick, who kicked her car in frustration when she wrecked. She also was out of the race and in street clothes when Stenhouse won at

Talladega

The race had hit full intensity in the final 10 laps with series points leader Kyle Larson slicing his way back into contention. He was chasing Ty Dillon for the lead with seven laps remaining when he moved up a lane to block Stenhouse.

There wasn't enough room for Larson's car in front of Stenhouse, and the contact turned Larson toward the wall and lifted his car off the track. It triggered an eight-car accident that collected Daytona 500 winner Kurt Busch and whittled down the field to just a handful of contenders.

NASCAR red-flagged the race to clean the damage, and went back to yellow after a stoppage of nearly nine minutes.

Dillon was out front as the leader, followed by Ragan, Allmendinger and Stenhouse, who despite driving under Larson's airborne car, seemed to come out unscathed and restarted fourth.

Ragan got a good push from Allmendinger on the restart, but a spin by Denny Hamlin and Erik Jones brought out the caution to send the race into overtime. That's when Stenhouse got his chance

"I zigged when I should have zagged," Ragan said. "It's tough to block two or three lanes coming to the white flag. I missed it on that run. If I couldn't win I'm glad another Ford is in victory lane. Ricky's a good guy and I'm proud for that team."

The race was allegedly the final one at Daytona for Earnhardt. But he opens the door wider and wider every time he speaks about racing in the future, and winning the pole for Saturday night made him eligible for an exhibition race next February.

It set the stage for what felt like an Earnhardt kind of night, but he was forced into the wall riding in traffic early in the second stage and it seemed to end the feel-good story.

But Earnhardt worked his way back inside the top 10 and was sixth and pushing hard, demanding on his radio to know who was in front of Kevin Harvick, when he hooked Harvick to trigger a multicar crash. Harvick said he got a flat tire right before the contact.

Earnhardt's night was over, and he headed to the garage and a 32nd-place finish.

Dom Dwyer scores in US debut; US beats Ghana 2-1

Associated Press

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Dom Dwyer volleyed in a goahead goal in the 19th minute of his international debut, ran to the corner flag and did a double back flip that would make a gymnast proud.

Back home in Missouri, wife Sydney Leroux was overjoyed.

The goal made Dwyer and Leroux the first husband-and-wife couple to score for the United States, which beat Ghana 2-1 on Saturday in an exhibition ahead of the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"I'm very proud of Sydney and what she's achieved and still achieving in the national team," Dwyer said. "I've got quite a few caps to catch up to her, and a few goals, too."

Brad Guzan saved Asamoah Gyan's penalty kick in first-half stoppage time, and Kellyn Acosta added his first international goal in the 52nd minute on a low free kick that bounced in. Gyan curled a free kick just under the crossbar in the 60th, leaving the final 2-1 — matching Ghana's victories that eliminated the U.S. from the 2006 and 2010 World Cups and the American win over the Black Stars at the 2014 tournament.

"I got fired in 2006. It took me 11 years to get this job back," Arena said, laughing, after the U.S. improved to 4-0-4 since he replaced Jurgen Klinsmann in November.

Born in Cuckfield, England, Dwyer was in Norwich City's youth system but broke his right foot three times and was released. He moved to the United States in 2009 to attend Tyler Junior College, shifted to the University of South Florida, then was drafted by Sporting Kansas City in 2012 and has played for the team ever since. He became a U.S. citizen on March 16 and made his international debut at age 26.

Leroux, a 27-year-old forward from British Columbia, played for Canada at age 14 in the 2004 Under-19 Women's World Cup, became a star at UCLA and switched affiliation to the U.S. She has 35 goals in 75 international appearances and helped the Americans win a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics and the title at the 2015 Women's World Cup.

They met when she was training with the national team in Kansas City and were introduced by a mutual friend.

"We just kind of hung out. We were buddies, and then we started to hit it off," he said.

Dwyer and Leroux announced on Valentine's Day 2015 that they had married a month earlier. She wears No. 2 and he No. 14

Of course, the home is filled with competition.

"We have little bits here and there. We definitely encourage each other," he said. "She definitely owes me money for this one."

They are only the fourth husband and wife to both play for the U.S., joining Jim Gabarra and Carin Jennings, Claudio Reyna and Danielle Egan and Zach Loyd and Casey Nogueira. Egan's only goal was in 1993, four years before she married Reyna.



Sale, Red Sox shut down Blue Jays

Associated Press

TORONTO — Chris Sale's latest gem got the Red Sox to the midway point with their best record of the season.

Sale pitched seven shutout innings to win his third straight decision, Xander Bogaerts had three RBIs and Boston beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-1 on Saturday.

Sale (11-3) struck out 11, boosting his major leagueleading total to 166. He's 2-0 with 24 strikeouts in 15 scoreless innings against the Blue Jays this season, beating them twice north of the border.

"Chris threw another great performance," acting manager Gary DiSarcina said. "He's been really good here (in Toronto). He did a great job and he saved the bullpen, too."

First-place Boston (46-35) is 11 games above .500 for the first time, and Sale expects better things in the second half.

"It's going to be fun when we get going," he said. "It says a lot about our guys and our team that we've battled through some things schedule-wise, injury-wise and things like that. When we start putting it together, it's going to be a scary thing."

Mookie Betts walked three times and scored three runs for the Red Sox, who have won five of six. Hanley Ramirez had three hits.

Sale has struck out 11 or more five times in his 17 starts.

"He's been unbelievable to

play behind and just to get to know him as a guy," Dustin Pedroia said.

Blaine Boyer pitched the eighth and Robby Scott gave up Steve Pearce's solo home run in the ninth.

Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a twoout, two run double in the first and Pedroia did the same in the second.

Bogaerts had a sacrifice fly in the fifth and added a tworun single off Lucas Harrell in the ninth.

Salesaidheappreciatedbeing given an early advantage.

"It's huge," he said. "I haven't even thrown a competitive pitch and I've got a two-run lead."

The Red Sox stole three bases, with Deven Marrero and Betts executing a double steal in the second. Boston is 12-0 this season when stealing multiple bases, and has won 13 such games going back to last season.

Blue Jays left-hander Francisco Liriano (4-4) allowed five runs in six innings. Liriano has not won consecutive starts this season.'

"I didn't make pitches when I needed to," Liriano said.

Last-place Toronto has lost seven of nine. The Jays are 2-6 in their past eight at home.

The Blue Jays put runners at second and third with one out in the sixth, but Sale got Troy Tulowitzki to bounce back to the mound, then retired Pearce on a pop fly to first.

Gurriel comes through in clutch to lift Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Yuli Gurriel is a rookie on paper.

However, after a 17-year career in Cuba and Japan before joining the Astros late last season he's one of the team's most experienced players, and he showed it by fighting through an at-bat with Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman to get a two-run double to lift Houston to a 7-6 victory Saturday night.

Gurriel also hit a two-run homer in the fifth before capping Houston's scoring in its four-run eighth.

"He was incredibly patient and I think it shows his maturity as a baseball player," manager A.J. Hinch said. "I know he's a rookie so to speak ... in the States, but that was as mature an at-bat you can get in that situation ... for him to literally sit there and be patient and wait for a pitch to hit until the count got deep, it was a really special at-bat."

Tigers 7-1, Indians 4-4: Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer to cap a four-run sixth inning, and Carlos Carrasco pitched Cleveland to a doubleheader split against host Detroit.

The Tigers won the open-

er and led 1-0 in the second game before the Indians broke through against Jordan Zimmermann (5-6). The righthander allowed one hit through five innings, but didn't make it through the sixth.

Royals 11-5, Twins 6-10: Miguel Sano belted a three-run homer, Felix Jorge pitched five-plus solid innings to win his major league debut and visiting Minnesota beat Kansas City to split their doubleheader.

Brandon Moss, Alcides Escobar and Alex Gordon, the Royals' 7-8-9 hitters, went a combined 6-for-12 with three home runs, seven RBIs and six runs as the Royals rallied from a four-run deficit to win the opener.

Mets 7, Phillies 6: Asdrubal Cabrera hit the winning homer as part of a four-run rally in the seventh inning that carried New York past visiting Philadelphia.

The resurgent Mets overcame three errors and a short start by Zack Wheeler in his return from the disabled list to win their fourth straight.

Rangers 10, White Sox 4: Cole Hamels overcame a shaky start to win for the first time since April, and visiting Texas hit three home runs.

Reds 5, Cubs 3: Jackson Stephens lasted five innings in his major league debut and drove in the go-ahead runs with a bases-loaded single to lead host Cincinnati.

Brewers 8 Marlins 4: Domingo Santana hit a two-run homer off Giancarlo Stanton's glove, sparking a seven-run second inning that lifted Milwaukee past visiting Miami.

Angels 4, Mariners 0: At Anaheim, Calif., Ricky Nolasco pitched a three-hitter for his second straight scoreless outing as Los Angeles blanked Seattle.

Braves 4, Athletics 3: At Oakland, Calif., Dansby Swanson hit a tiebreaking double off closer Santiago Casilla in the ninth inning to drive in Danny Santana—one of two unearned runs scored by Atlanta—and the Braves held on for the win.

Santana had two hits and two runs and Matt Adams added a sacrifice fly in his return to the lineup as Atlanta won its second straight in this interleague series.

Giants 2, Pirates 1 (11): Denard Span scored on a wild

pitch in the 11th inning to give San Francisco a win over host Pittsburgh.

Rays 10, Orioles 3: Logan Morrison homered twice, Wilson Ramos hit a three-run drive and visiting Tampa Bay beat Dylan Bundy and Baltimore.

Steven Souza had a solo shot for the Rays, who have 23 home runs in their last 12 games. **Cardinals 2, Nationals 1:** Alex Mejia's first two major league hits, including an eighth-inning home run, were the difference as host St. Louis defeated Washington.

Washington, the only team in the National League yet to be shut out this season, has lost three in a row and five of seven.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 2: Zack Greinke struck out eight in seven strong innings and host Arizona topped Colorado to stop a three-game losing streak.

Dodgers 8, Padres 0: Chris Taylor hit a grand slam, Corey Seager and Justin Turner had consecutive homers and Rich Hill tied his career high with 11 strikeouts in visiting Los Angeles' victory against San Diego.

