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North Korea claims it test-fired ICBM

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea claimed it test-fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile Tuesday following a launch that drew condemnation from President Donald Trump and sharply raised the stakes in the standoff over the communist state's nuclear weapons program.

The missile test — the first in nearly a month — sent a powerful political message as it occurred on the eve of Independence Day in the United States and days after a U.S.-South Korean summit that focused on measures to stop the growing threat from the North.

If confirmed it was an ICBM, the launch would mark the communist state's most successful

in a series of missile tests as it continues to make progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

The North's defiance also has tested new South Korean President Moon Jae-in's hopes to pursue engagement and dialogue with the North, as evident in his strong reaction on Tuesday.

"If North Korea crosses a red line, we don't know how we will react," Moon said after meeting with former British Prime Minister David Cameron. "I hope North Korea will not cross the point of no return."

North Korea's state-run media claimed the missile was an ICBM, which Trump suggested would be a game changer after Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's address that the country was on the verge of testing one. At the time, Trump tweeted, "It won't happen!"

The missile, called the Hwasong-14, was fired while Kim watched, according to the Korean Central News Agency. It flew for 39 minutes and reached an altitude of more than 1,740 miles before splashing in the sea 580 miles from its starting point, KCNA added.

"The success of the ICBM launch at its first trial is the final gateway to completing our nuclear force," it said. "It marked a phenomenal event in our history as we are pursuing the dual-track policy of nuclear and economic development."

The reported distances were in line with those provided by U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials, although the U.S. Pacific Command said it had detected a "land-based, intermediate-range ballistic missile."

South Korea's military said the missile was fired from a point near the northwestern

Banghyon airfield and flew some 580 miles and reached an altitude of 1,430 miles.

Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile "greatly exceeded" an altitude of 1,560 miles, according to the Reuters news agency. Japan's government said earlier the missile was believed to have landed off the coast in its territorial waters, but no damage to ships or aircraft was reported.

David Wright, co-director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that if the reports of the time and distance are correct, the missile could have a possible maximum range of 4,160 miles if fired on a standard trajectory.

"That range would not be enough to reach the lower 48 states or the large islands of Hawaii, but would allow it to reach all of Alaska," Wright wrote on the group's blog.

Senators observe Fourth with troops in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A group of U.S. senators celebrated Independence Day on Tuesday in Afghanistan, where they met with American servicemembers and said major changes were needed to win the war.

"We cannot think of a better way to celebrate our nation's independence than to be here with so many of our fellow citizens who are sacrificing every day to keep us safe and to give the people of Afghanistan a chance to secure their own independence," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told reporters at NATO's Resolute Support Headquarters in Kabul.

McCain gave promotions to three servicemembers during an outdoor ceremony Tuesday, and four other servicemembers were awarded medals for their achievements.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I.; and Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., accompanied McCain.

"It means a lot to us," Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Gail Stockman, who earned an achievement medal, said of the senators' visit.

A wife and mother of two, Stockman said the importance of the mission made it easier to be away from her family on the holiday.

"I would like to believe that

we are making a difference here and that we can one day stabilize this place so that [Afghans] can enjoy the comfort that we do in the United States," she said.

Servicemembers from all branches of the military as well as American civilians and troops from other coalition countries attended the ceremony and had an opportunity to meet the senators. A barbecue was held shortly afterward.

The senators — who met Afghan leaders earlier in the day — commended the work of American troops and civilians in Afghanistan, but said Washington must make changes to turn the current "stalemate" into a victory.

"None of us would say that

we're on a course for success here in Afghanistan," McCain said. "That needs to change quickly."

The security situation in Afghanistan has steadily deteriorated since NATO ended combat operations in 2014. The Taliban now control more territory than at any other time since 2001, when a U.S.-led invasion ousted the group from power.

The senators' visit comes as the Trump administration is expected to announce a new strategy for Afghanistan, which is expected to include the deployment of up to 5,000 more U.S. troops, adding to the roughly 8,400 who are currently in the country mostly in training and advising roles.

Can newest US carriers become obsolete?

Bloomberg

President Donald Trump has been consistent in his argument that the U.S. Navy has shrunk to a woefully inadequate size. The Republican has repeatedly said he wants the service to expand, including a

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fleet of a dozen aircraft carriers. That plan isn't in the Pentagon's current budget, but on July 22 the Navy will formally commission CVN-78, the USS Gerald R. Ford, its newest, most sophisticated nuclear-powered carrier.

The Ford, hit with delays and technical glitches, is expected to become operational in 2020.

The USS Gerald Ford is the first of four planned Ford-class carriers, the Navy's first new carrier design in 42 years, although only three of them have names and funding.

As the new carriers become operational, the military-industrial complex is likely to confront a more existential question in the coming decades: Is the aircraft carrier defensible, both physically and in budgetary terms?

USS Gerald Ford

At roughly \$13 billion, the USS Gerald Ford is the Navy's priciest ship and arrives with critical performance kinks that contractors are working to remedy by 2019. Two innovations that have thus far induced Navy headaches are an electric catapult launch system that replaces steam — a decision Trump derided in a magazine interview — and a landing system to arrest planes that saw its cost triple to \$961 million, Bloomberg News reported.

The catapult cannot yet launch an F/A-18 Super Hornet fully loaded with fuel, which limits the range and performance of the Navy's workhorse fighter aircraft.

The Navy is spending \$24.3 billion for the Ford and the USS John F. Kennedy, with another \$17 billion expected for the third Ford-class carrier, the USS Enterprise. A Government Accountability Office report blasted the service over costs on the Kennedy, which is about half-finished. The report concluded that the cost estimate doesn't address lessons learned from the performance of the lead ship.

When it comes to carrier deployments, the most immediate concern is the security of the more than 7,000 crewmembers who travel with a carrier strike group, an armada formulated to protect the ship and

its aircraft as well as to serve as "a principal element of U.S. power projection capability," as the Navy terms it.

But this formation is likely to face greater risks due to new missile technology in the coming years.

China and Russia are both perfecting more sophisticated missile designs, and both are believed to be developing hypersonic glide vehicles, or HGVs, weapons that travel faster than Mach 5, according to a Pentagon report obtained by Bloomberg News.

China already fields a ballistic missile, the Dong Feng-21D, which has been dubbed a "carrier killer" due to its 900-mile range and lethality. Over time, those types of weapons are likely to keep U.S. carriers farther from shore, which will require greater refueling capabilities for their aircraft complements.

Avoidance

For several years, the Pentagon has "admired the problem" of how long-range enemy missiles affect its carrier fleet but has avoided tough decisions about how to increase the fleets' aircraft range and provide for more unmanned aircraft, said Paul Scharre, senior fellow and director of the technology and national security program at the Center for a New American Security, a nonprofit think tank.

Meanwhile, the Navy's strike range from its carrier wings has actually dipped by 50 percent, below 500 miles, according to Jerry Hendrix, another CNAS analyst.

Last year, the center recommended scrapping the Ford-class carriers after the Kennedy's completion and boosting the Navy's offensive range with a greater reliance on unmanned aircraft, including a long-range attack platform.

The Navy's submarine fleet would also grow to 74, from 58, under the center's recommendations, which reflected a 2 percent annual increase in Pentagon funding.

"One of the things we wanted to demonstrate is that you could reorient the force toward future threats," said Scharre, a former Army Ranger who studies future warfare.

More spending for unmanned platforms, from electronics jamming to surveillance and reconnaissance, would give pilots in F/A-18s as well as the newer F-35Cs more range and effectiveness. But because the Pentagon hasn't developed unmanned platforms, "naval aviators ... are accepting a world where the carrier has less

relevance in higher-end fights, against high-end adversaries," Scharre said.

One example of the Navy's muddled view on range, said Scharre, is the MQ-25 Stingray, an unmanned aerial refueling tanker that's considered a critical aspect of future carrier operations.

The Stingray may be deployed as early as 2019 on two carriers. Yet the Navy hasn't specified whether the MQ-25's precise role would be as a mission tanker to accompany fighters on combat strikes or merely as a recovery tanker loitering near carriers for pilots who miss approaches and are low on fuel, Scharre said.

Politically untouchable

Despite those strategic shortcomings, there's still a political reality to wrestle with: The Navy's largest ships remain politically untouchable. The carrier retains a mystique throughout the military and Congress; it's an 1,100-foot giant that's become a uniquely American symbol of dominating military power.

Among the fixed-wing carrier-equipped nations, Italy has two, while Brazil, China, France, India and Russia each fields one. The United Kingdom is building two, including the HMS Queen Elizabeth, which commenced sea trials last week.

The newest Ford-class vessels have a service life of 50 years, but the Pentagon may find itself confronted more forcefully by China and Russia by the 2030s, according to a January 2017 report from the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a nonprofit think tank that advocates for a Navy reconfiguration.

"The capability and willingness of great powers such as China and Russia to challenge the status quo are increasing, and the U.S. will need to shift the focus of its military operations from maintaining security against these manageable threats to deterring aggression by highly capable adversaries," according to the detailed report.

In this view of a more robust, reconfigured Navy, the carrier fleet will also need to evolve to assume new duties, from increasing their own logistics and refueling capabilities to extending their strike range to new surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

"It's never good when we have any part of our military or force structure that is sacrosanct," Scharre said. "We need to be willing to evaluate all the different components of our military force and our investments in an objective, analytical way."

Jordanian: I fired at GIs out of fear of an attack

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — A Jordanian soldier charged with killing three U.S. Army Green Berets told a military court Tuesday that he opened fire because he thought fellow Jordanian troops had come under attack but that he felt no resentment toward Americans.

The defendant, 1st Sgt. Marik al-Tuwayha, took the stand for the first time in his murder trial. He spoke in a low voice from a cage in the courtroom, his hands gripping the bars.

Al-Tuwayha has pleaded “not guilty” to murder charges in the November shooting of the U.S. military trainers who had come under fire at the gate of an air base in southern Jordan.

The judge has said the defendant has no apparent ties to terrorist groups.

Jordan is a U.S. ally in the region, including in the campaign against Islamic State extremists who control areas of neighboring Syria and Iraq.

The shooting at the al-Jafr air base appeared to strain those ties at one point.

Jordan later withdrew the claim.

The victims were Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Lewellen, 27, of Kirksville, Mo.; Staff Sgt. Kevin J. McEnroe, 30, of Tucson, Ariz.; and Staff Sgt. James F. Moriarty, 27, of Kerrville, Texas.

In previous sessions, the court heard testimony from gate guards, a crime scene investigator and a forensics expert.

Witnesses have said that a four-car convoy approached the entrance of the base sometime before noon on Nov. 4.

The first vehicle passed through an outer and an inner gate, entering the base safely. Three more vehicles carrying U.S. troops stood between the outer and inner gate when Jordanian gate guards said they heard a low sound, possibly a pistol shot, from the direction of the convoy.

Video: Marine unit in Syria using highly advanced ammo

The Washington Post

A U.S. Marine artillery unit in Syria is using a highly specialized guidance kit for its ammunition, a video posted to a Pentagon-run website shows.

It appears to be the first time the equipment has been spotted with U.S. forces in a combat zone outside of Afghanistan.

The two-minute video was uploaded late last month and appears to be shot primarily by drone. One frame shows an M777A2 howitzer with a row of 155 mm artillery shells nearby.

Two of the shells appear to be equipped with the XM1156 Precision Guidance Kit, a type of fuse that is screwed into the top of a standard 155 mm high-explosive artillery shell that subsequently turns it into semi-precision-guided munition.

The farther a howitzer is away from its intended target the less accurate standard shells become. That is called the circular error probable, or CEP. That means at about 18

miles (the maximum range of a standard 155 mm artillery shell fired from a M777A2 howitzer), half the rounds fired could land within an 853-foot circle around the target. The XM1156 reduces that circle to just shy of 100 feet, according to Army documents.

The XM1156 appears to have first popped up in Afghanistan in 2013. In 2015, according to a report from Defense News, Orbital ATK was awarded a \$120 million contract by the U.S. Army for the guidance kits. Canada and Australia also have experimented with them.

The U.S. military also fields other types of guided artillery shells, including the XM982 GPS-guided Excalibur. The Excalibur increases the range of the M777A2 to roughly 25 miles.

The Marine artillery unit, though unnamed in the video, probably came from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The howitzer battery is providing fire support — along with

guided rocket artillery — to U.S.-backed Syrian fighters battling Islamic State in its de facto capital of Raqqa.

Open-source imagery has geo-located the Marine artillery within 10 miles of Raqqa, meaning even the unguided shells fired from the unit's howitzers will land somewhat accurately, depending on weather.

Though the XM1156 is meant to reduce civilian deaths and unnecessary damage to civilian structures, the U.S. military has been accused of causing hundreds of civilian casualties in Raqqa in recent weeks.

Last month, videos appeared online of what looked like M825-series white phosphorus smoke shells bursting over the Syrian city, setting some structures ablaze.

Those types of shells appeared in the recent video posted online and also have been documented in prior images circulated by the Pentagon.

US allies breach wall around Raqqa's Old City

Associated Press

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed forces in Syria have breached the wall around Raqqa's Old City, the U.S. military said on Tuesday, marking a major advance in the weeks-old battle to drive Islamic State militants out of their self-declared capital.

U.S. Central Command said the coalition struck two “small portions” of the Rafiqah Wall, allowing the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces “to advance into the most heavily fortified portion” of the city, bypassing booby traps and snipers. It said the strikes left most of the 2,500-yard wall intact.

The head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdurrahman, said the breaching of the wall was the most important development to date in the battle for

Raqqa. He said three SDF units advanced toward the wall under air cover, breaking through the ISIS defenses, and that heavy clashes were underway.

Footage provided by the SDF showed their fighters roaming Qasr al-Banat, a historic quarter inside Raqqa's Old City. Another unit entered through the so-called Baghdad Gate, opening up a second front inside the Old City.

Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy for the international coalition against Islamic State, hailed the breach, saying it was a “key milestone” in the campaign to seize the ISIS stronghold.

The U.S. military said ISIS fighters were using the historic wall as a fighting position, and had planted explosives at several openings. It said coalition forces were making every effort

to protect civilians and preserve the historic sites.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces launched a multi-pronged assault on Raqqa in early June, after securing the surrounding countryside. On Sunday, the U.S.-backed fighters crossed the Euphrates River on the southern edge of the city, completing its encirclement.

ISIS seized Raqqa, their first major city stronghold in Syria, in January 2014. The city later became the de facto capital of its self-proclaimed caliphate.

U.N. officials say 50,000 to 100,000 civilians remain in the city amid “dire” conditions.

The U.S.-led coalition is providing close air support to the SDF, which has already driven the extremists from much of northern and eastern Syria.

DOD imposes secrecy on nuke inspections

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has thrown a cloak of secrecy over assessments of the safety and security of its nuclear weapons operations, a part of the military with a history of periodic inspection failures and bouts of low morale.

Overall results of routine inspections at nuclear weapons bases, such as a “pass-fail” grade, had previously been publicly available. They are now off-limits. The change goes beyond the standard practice of withholding detailed information on the inspections.

The stated reason for the change is to prevent adversaries from learning too much about U.S. nuclear weapons vulnerabilities. Navy Capt. Greg Hicks,

spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the added layer of secrecy was deemed necessary.

“We are comfortable with the secrecy,” Hicks said Monday, adding that it helps ensure that “as long as nuclear weapons exist, the U.S. will maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear stockpile.”

Critics question the lockdown of information.

“The whole thing smells bad,” said Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy expert with the Federation of American Scientists. “They’re acting like they have something to hide, and it’s not national security secrets.”

“I think the new policy fails to distinguish between protecting valid secrets and shielding incompetence,” he added. “Clear-

ly, nuclear weapons technology secrets should be protected. But negligence or misconduct in handling nuclear weapons should not be insulated from public accountability.”

The decision to conceal results from inspections of how nuclear weapons are operated, maintained and guarded follows a secret recommendation generated by in-depth Pentagon reviews of problems with the weapons, workers and facilities making up the nation’s nuclear force.

But the problems that prompted the reviews three years ago weren’t created by releasing inspection results. The problems were actual shortcomings in the nuclear force, including occasional poor performance, secu-

rity lapses and flawed training, driven in part by underspending and weak leadership.

The overall results of such inspections, minus security-sensitive details, used to be publicly available. The added layer of secrecy did not come to light until an Air Force personnel office posted on its website on June 14 a notice that the “grade,” or overall result, of a nuclear inspection could no longer be mentioned in any personnel documents such as enlisted and officer performance reports, citations or award nominations.

The change is even broader, however. It prohibits any mention of inspection results in any unclassified Defense Department document.

Appeals court orders EPA to proceed with emissions rule

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court in Washington has ruled that the head of the Environmental Protection Agency overstepped his authority in trying to delay implementation of a new rule requiring oil and gas companies to monitor and reduce methane leaks.

In a split decision Monday, the three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the EPA to move forward with the Obama-era requirement that aims to reduce planet-warming emissions from oil and gas operations.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced in April that he would delay by 90 days the deadline for oil and gas companies to follow the new rule so that the agency could reconsider the measure. The American Petroleum Institute, the Texas Oil and Gas Association and other industry groups had petitioned Pruitt to scrap the requirement, which had been set to take effect in June.

Last month, Pruitt announced he intended to extend the 90-day stay for two years. A coalition of

six environmental groups opposed the delay in court, urging the appeals judges to block Pruitt’s decision.

In a detailed 31-page ruling, the court disagreed with Pruitt’s contention that industry groups had not had sufficient opportunity to comment before the 2016 rule was issued.

“This ruling declares EPA’s action illegal — and slams the brakes on the Trump administration’s brazen efforts to put the interests of corporate polluters ahead of protecting the public and the environment,” said David Doniger, director of the climate and clean air program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

EPA spokeswoman Amy Graham said the agency was reviewing the court’s opinion and examining its options. The EPA could seek to appeal the matter to the Supreme Court.

Natural gas is largely made up of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that traps dozens of times more heat in the planet’s atmosphere than the same amount of carbon dioxide.

What topics will Putin, Trump discuss at G-20?

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s first face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday will be brimming with global intrigue, but the White House says there’s “no specific agenda.” So in the absence of a set list of topics, what are two of the world’s most famously unpredictable leaders to discuss?

Trump, who prefers to have neatly packaged achievements to pair with high-profile meetings, may be looking for some concessions from Russia to show he’s delivering progress and helping restore a productive relationship between the two powers. Putin would almost surely want something in return, and there’s a long list of “irritants” between the two countries that they could potentially resolve.

Ahead of the meeting, White House National Security Council and State Department officials have been reviewing possible gestures the U.S. could offer Russia as part of the meeting, a current and a

former administration official said. They weren’t authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

Yet any outward sign of bonhomie between Trump and Putin would be immediately seized upon by the president’s critics and Russia hawks eager to show he’s cozying up to the Russian leader. The ongoing investigations into Russia’s interference in the U.S. election and potential Trump campaign collusion won’t be far from anyone’s minds.

The two leaders will sit down in Hamburg, Germany, on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit of leading rich and developing nations. Ahead of the meeting, Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak met Monday in Washington with the No. 3 U.S. diplomat, Thomas Shannon, to prepare.

Among the topics that Trump and Putin could address are the possibility of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election; Syria; Ukraine sanctions; and various items on Russian and U.S. wish lists.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dead snake found near endangered birds

HI LIHUE — A boa constrictor that is illegal to own as a pet in Hawaii has been found dead in a nature preserve in Kauai that is home to endangered native birds.

An intern at the Limahuli Garden and Preserve came across the 5-foot-long snake Friday during her morning jog, The Garden Island newspaper reported. Inspectors from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture picked it up and took it to Honolulu, where a zoologist at the Bishop Museum will examine it. It was not immediately clear how the snake died.

People caught in Hawaii with snakes as pets can face fines of up to \$200,000 or three years in prison. They have no natural predators in the state and pose a serious threat to its environment.

Woman comes to neighbor's rescue

FL TARPON SPRINGS — A stranger who barged into a Florida woman's apartment was shot by a neighbor, who then barricaded herself and her 3-year-old in a bathroom as the man lunged for her.

The Tampa Bay Times reported Daniel Morley, 18, began yelling and knocking on doors in a Tarpon Springs apartment complex. A woman told Pinellas County deputies Morley appeared to be bleeding from the head and opened her door to help him.

That's when she said he attacked her. Neighbor Brittany Cheek looked through her peephole and saw the attack and confronted Morley with a gun. When he tried attacking her, too, the 31-year-old fired several times, striking Morley in the leg.

The sheriff's office said Morley then attacked arriving deputies, injuring two.

Tattooists arrested after rise in hepatitis C cases

VA PULASKI — A rise in hepatitis C cases has led to the arrests of tattoo artists in southwest Virginia.

The Roanoke Times reported Sunday that more people could be charged as the investigation continues.

Police in Pulaski arrested four men in June for unlicensed tattooing, a misdemeanor offense. They issued a warning in May that hepatitis C had been spread by unclean and unlicensed tattooing.

Authorities try to ID bones found along river

OH MALTA — The skeletal remains of a human hand have been found along a southeastern Ohio river, and authorities are trying to determine whether the discovery is connected to any missing-persons cases.

The Times Recorder in Zanesville reported that a man found the remains Friday while hunting arrowheads near a dam on the Muskingum River.

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office said deputies searched the area and also collected several unspecified items of interest. The state crime lab is expected to conduct DNA testing to help identify the remains.

Woman is accused of biting state trooper

VT RANDOLPH — Vermont State Police said a Rochester woman faces several charges after she allegedly bit a state trooper in the head.

The incident started just after midnight Saturday when troopers were screening a driv-

er for possible drunken driving on Route 66 in Randolph. Police said Tristen Martonik, 21, a passenger in the car, got out and ran down the middle of the road. Martonik was charged with disorderly conduct and later with assault on an officer after authorities say she bit the state trooper at the Randolph Police Department.

Unmanned sailboat from school gets to Scotland

ME KENNEBUNK — A small sailboat built by high school students in Kennebunk has traveled across the Atlantic, washing ashore on a remote island in Scotland.

The Portland Press Herald reported the blue and white sail is a bit tattered but the solar panel, camera and sensors appear to be undamaged.

All told, the 5-foot boat spent 168 days and 12 hours at sea, crossing the Atlantic Ocean and sailing up and down the coast of Portugal before ending up in Scotland. It was discovered on June 23 by a pair of Canadian tourists walking their dog.

Even the tiny Lego pirate that had been the students' mascot survived the journey intact.

Man arrested after gun found in diaper bag

RI RICHMOND — Rhode Island State Police said a Providence man was arrested after troopers found a loaded handgun in a diaper bag during a traffic stop.

Police said Karon Williams, 21, was a passenger in the car stopped by troopers for a traffic violation on Interstate 95 in Richmond on Friday. Police said the gun was found in the bag between Williams' legs.

Williams faces gun possession and child abuse charges. Police said his 6-month-old daughter was in the car. The in-

fant was turned over to the custody of the state Department of Children, Youth & Families.

Felons' mug shots for sale to the public

SD RAPID CITY — Mug shots of felon inmates in South Dakota are now available to be sold to the public.

The Rapid City Journal reported that under a new law, law enforcement entities are allowed to charge a fee per photo released. In Pennington and Minnehaha counties, the fee was set at \$8 per photo.

South Dakota is the 49th state to categorize certain mug shots as public records, leaving Louisiana as the only state that does not. The law allows for the release of mug shots related to only felony arrests, whether the individual is incarcerated or not, and only within a period of the previous six months.

Author says claims in his memoir are fake

WI LA CROSSE — A La Crosse author says he falsified most of the claims in his memoir.

Tristan Szente's self-published memoir, "Becoming Me ... Again: A True Story," includes descriptions of how a 2014 motorcycle accident left him in a coma with a dozen broken bones and how he defeated a rare brain virus that threatened to kill him.

The La Crosse Tribune reported that police have no record of an accident involving Szente. He told the newspaper that he was never diagnosed with a brain virus.

He said he wanted to tell a positive story and got carried away. He said he has removed the book from publication.

From wire reports

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Judge, Sanchez join Home Run Derby

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The lineup is set for the Home Run Derby, and here come the Baby Bombers.

Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez, the young sluggers who power the New York Yankees' offense, will participate in the long ball contest July 10 during All-Star festivities in Miami.

Judge, a rookie who homered in his first major league at-bat last August, tops the majors with 27 home runs. He leads the American League with a .330 batting average and 62 RBIs.

"I'm excited," he said Monday. "We've got a good group of guys going. Getting a chance to go up against Gary is going to be fun. So I think we're both looking forward to that."

The 24-year-old Sanchez is hitting .294 with 13 homers and

40 RBIs despite missing nearly a month with a strained biceps. He belted 20 home runs in 53 games as a rookie last season.

"I think it's going to be special," Sanchez said through a translator. "I'm pretty sure the fans are going to enjoy it. I'm pretty sure that the excitement will be through the roof, and if I don't win I want Judge to win."

New York made the announcement Monday on Twitter before its game against Toronto.

Yankees All-Star reliever Dellin Betances said he likes to shag flies when Judge and Sanchez take batting practice so he can watch them hit. New York pitcher Luis Severino joked that there are rarely any balls left on the field.

"These guys put on a show on a day-to-day basis," Betances said. "It's must-watch TV."

Judge, who is 25, acknowl-

edged a while back that he'd been invited by Major League Baseball to participate but said he didn't think the timing was right to announce a decision. Focused on the Yankees' season, he wanted to wait until All-Star rosters were revealed Sunday night.

"We're going to root each other on, but this is a competition," Judge said. "Friendly competition."

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton will defend his title in his home ballpark. Also lined up to compete are Miami teammate Justin Bour, Minnesota bopper Miguel Sano and Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger, who is tied for the National League lead with 24 homers.

Colorado outfielder Charlie Blackmon and Kansas City third baseman Mike Moustakas round out the field.

"Some big boys in that thing," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

Despite his prodigious power and league-leading numbers, the 6-foot-7, 282-pound Judge said he won't feel any added pressure to win the derby at spacious Marlins Park.

"I think we're just going there to compete and have some fun," he said. "If I'm doing that, I've got no worries."

Judge and Sanchez are especially happy about participating together.

"It's pretty incredible," Judge said. "Getting to share this experience with him is pretty special."

Both sluggers said they've asked Danilo Valiente, their regular batting practice pitcher on the Yankees' coaching staff, to throw to them at the derby — and they think he said yes.

Free agency has shifted balance of power in NHL

Associated Press

After building up to a playoff run that ended in the second round yet again, the Washington Capitals are going through a salary-cap nightmare usually reserved for Stanley Cup champions.

The same struggles that led to the deconstruction of the Chicago Blackhawks and Los Angeles Kings over the years is affecting the Capitals, though those teams have a pile of Stanley Cup rings to ease the pain.

Now Washington is expected to take a step back next season as the balance of power shifts in the Eastern Conference and across the league.

"We maxed it out, both player-wise and salary-wise," Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan said Monday. "It's no different than the teams that have won in the past. We have the same kind of hangover, but we haven't won a championship and we're dealing with it now."

The two-time Presidents' Trophy-winning Capitals and

the two-time Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins will be younger and the New York Rangers, New Jersey Devils and Carolina Hurricanes almost certainly better — and that's just the Metropolitan Division.

Elsewhere in the East, the Montreal Canadiens are reloading with the addition of long-time Washington defenseman Karl Alzner and the acquisition of forward Jonathan Drouin, as the Toronto Maple Leafs take another step toward being a championship contender by adding veteran winger Patrick Marleau to their young core.

"The five-year plan changes every day," Maple Leafs GM Lou Lamoriello said.

Out West, the Dallas Stars could be one of the favorites to reach the Final after bringing in goaltender Ben Bishop, defenseman Marc Methot, center Martin Hanzal and winger Alexander Radulov and given the Chicago Blackhawks' movement toward future cost cer-

tainty. Don't expect the Stars to be out of the playoffs any time soon.

"We like what we have on paper, but in the end the goal for us is to be a contender every year, to get in the playoffs every year," Dallas GM Jim Nill said. "This game can humble you pretty quick, and it's a tough league."

It's a league where turnover is the norm. There were six new playoff teams last season who missed in 2015-16 and that season five teams that missed the year before.

There are plenty of candidates for that in 2017-18, including Dallas and Winnipeg in the West and Carolina, Tampa Bay, Florida, Philadelphia and the New York Islanders in the East.

The Hurricanes got a couple of Blackhawks castoffs — goaltender Scott Darling and defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk — and signed Justin Williams, who has won the Cup three times and was playoff MVP in

2014.

The Rangers will be more relevant next season after signing defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk for \$26.6 million and re-signing Brendan Smith for \$17 million over the next four years. The Devils haven't made the playoffs since 2012, but will be improved after winning the draft lottery to pick center Nico Hischier, signing Brian Boyle and acquiring Marcus Johansson from the salary-cap-strapped Capitals.

Washington traded Johansson for picks within the division, to which New Jersey GM Ray Shero said: "Unfortunately for us, I don't think Washington's that concerned about the Devils and hopefully they will be soon."

MacLellan still expects the Capitals to be a good team because of their top-end talent, but it wouldn't be at all surprising to see them fall back to the pack without Williams, Shattenkirk, Johansson, Alzner and defenseman Nate Schmidt.

Top players ease through at Wimbledon

Associated Press

LONDON — Last year's runners-up were up first on the main showcourts at Wimbledon on Tuesday, and both came through in straight sets.

Angelique Kerber, playing in the spot on Centre Court normally reserved for the defending women's champion, beat Irina Falconi of the United States 6-4, 6-4. On No. 1 Court, Milos Raonic defeated Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (4).

"A lot of memories came back when I walk on the Centre Court," Kerber said. "Playing there again, it's one of the best courts to play. It's traditional, so it was really great to being back."

Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, who own a combined 10 titles at the All England Club, didn't even need three sets to

advance. They both reached the second round when their opponents retired from their matches in the second set.

Kerber stepped into the opening spot on Centre Court on Day 2 in place of Serena Williams, the defending champion who is out for the rest of the season because she is pregnant.

Although Kerber became the first women seeded No. 1 in the professional era to lose in the first round of the French Open, she made it through to the second round on the grass.

"Playing first rounds in Grand Slams are always tough, especially with my first-round match that I lost in Paris," Kerber said. "I was actually just thinking about point by point, trying to finding my rhythm during the whole match."

Djokovic followed on Centre Court, leading 6-3, 2-0 when

Martin Klizan stopped because of injury. The second-seeded Serb was leading 30-0 in the third game of the second.

"It's really odd that Roger's result and my result more or less was the same," Djokovic said. "We had a little joke about it in the locker room, saying we should maybe play a practice set on the Centre Court, have the crowd stay. But they had another match."

The victory put Djokovic alone into second place on the list of Grand Slam match wins, one ahead of Jimmy Connors, with 234. Federer, an eight-time champion who followed on Centre Court and beat Alexandr Dolgoplov, leads the list with 315.

Federer was leading 6-3, 3-0 when Dolgoplov retired.

Raonic came into Wimbledon after playing only one match

on grass, a first-round loss at Queen's. The last time he failed to win a match on grass prior to Wimbledon, in 2014, he reached the semifinals.

Last year he did even better than that, reaching the final at the All England Club and losing to Andy Murray in straight sets.

Raonic said he made good use of his time since that loss at Queen's, however.

"Spent a lot more time training," Raonic said. "Sort of got to the point where I was spending a lot of days practicing. I was just getting more and more eager for this tournament to start because there were a lot of days in a row."

Other winners include 2015 Wimbledon finalist Garbine Muguruza among the women, and 15th-seeded Gael Monfils among the men.

Durant takes less to stay with Warriors

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The NBA Finals MVP gladly accepted a pay cut.

One day shy of a year after announcing his decision to join the powerhouse Warriors, Kevin Durant took far less than he could have to help make sure they stay winners and chase more championships. KD agreed to terms Monday on a contract worth approximately \$53 million over the next two years.

Still exhilarated from his first career title, Durant has made it clear he hopes to build a dynasty alongside Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson. Durant's new contract calls for about \$25 million in the first year with a player option for the second season, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity Monday because it won't become official until the end of the free agency moratorium period Thursday.

As he planned all along to

provide the Warriors with financial flexibility, Durant waited as Golden State general manager Bob Myers signed the other free agents — Curry for a record \$201 million over five years; 2015 Finals MVP Andre Iguodala on a three-year contract with \$48 million guaranteed; fellow key reserves Shaun Livingston for \$24 million and three years, and David West on a one-year deal for the veteran minimum \$2.3 million.

Last Thursday, Durant declined to opt in for the \$27.7 million second year of his previous deal with the Warriors and became an unrestricted free agent. The move was expected as Durant insisted when the season ended that he would do his part to keep the core of the roster intact. He could have signed a max deal that would have paid him millions more next season, but that contract will come soon enough. He is expected to decline the player option next year and sign for the maximum then.

He and Curry vowed to do whatever they could in nego-

tiations to ensure Myers had money to work with to keep as many of the others as possible.

Durant, villainized for his choice to bolt OKC, made it clear he wasn't going anywhere. The 28-year-old forward had been projected to receive a 20 percent raise over the \$26.5 million he made last season, which would have been about \$31.8 million.

After he missed 19 games with a left knee injury, Durant returned to the floor late in the regular season with his Warriors on a roll and declared he would take his game to another level come playoff time.

Durant averaged 28.5 points, 7.9 rebounds and 4.3 assists and shot 55.6 percent, scoring more than 30 points in nine of his 15 playoff games. He also emerged as a smothering defender and shot-blocker, handling much of the load against LeBron James during the Finals. The Warriors beat the Cavaliers in five games for their second title in three seasons, and Durant's first after he departed Oklahoma City to join a super team.

A year ago on July 4, Durant

announced his decision to leave the Thunder, something that still stings for his former fans in Oklahoma. That choice came after Curry, Green, Iguodala and Thompson traveled to the Hamptons to make their group plea for KD.

The scrutiny came immediately: Would there be enough shots to go around? How would Curry respond to no longer being the biggest Bay Area basketball star? How long would it take for chemistry to develop?

All of those things were pretty much moot.

The Warriors just kept winning, and their championship said it all.

Curry, the two-time MVP, allowed Durant to get comfortable right away by putting his own stats aside. By late in the season, he and Durant were sharing the same practice court engaging in fierce but good-natured shooting contests.

"You don't have to be great friends to be great teammates," coach Steve Kerr said, "but I think it helps."

Benintendi lifts Red Sox over Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dustin Pedroia wasn't given the opportunity to drive in another run for the Boston Red Sox in the 11th inning. Andrew Benintendi took care of that.

Benintendi blooped a two-run single over a drawn-in infielder after Pedroia was intentionally walked to load the bases, and the Red Sox beat Texas 7-5 on Monday night for their AL-best fifth straight victory.

"Trying to get something to the outfield. Basically anything but a ground ball," said Benintendi, who had entered the game as a pinch hitter in the ninth. "Once Mookie (Betts) hit that double, I figured that's what they'd do."

Boston needed extra innings

after Mike Napoli led off the Rangers' ninth with a homer against All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel, who had blown only one of his previous 24 save opportunities.

After Ernesto Frieri (0-1) gave up a one-out walk in the 11th to No. 9 hitter Tzu-Wei Lin and the double by Betts — who will now be an outfield starter in the All-Star Game — the Rangers took the bat out of the hands of Pedroia, who already had three hits and four RBIs, and played their infielders in.

Benintendi's ball landed just beyond the infield dirt in short left.

"The likelihood of turning a double play there is very slim," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "Obviously you're in

a tough situation. I don't know that there's anything in the book that you say play for a bloop."

Heath Hembree (1-2), the sixth Boston pitcher, retired all six batters he faced over the last two innings.

Pedroia's second two-run single capped a tiebreaking sixth, when the AL East-leading Red Sox scored three unearned runs. The bases were loaded when Pedroia got to the plate, but just-entered reliever Tony Barnette threw a wild pitch before Pedroia lined a two-out shot to center for a 5-2 lead.

Texas then scored in three consecutive at-bats, the last when Napoli homered for the third time in four games. His .193 batting average is the low-

est among AL qualifiers, but 17 of his 46 hits are homers.

Carlos Gomez hit his 11th homer in the Texas seventh, and Shin-Soo Choo led off the eighth with a double before scoring on Nomar Mazara's single.

Best pitching streaks

Red Sox right-hander Rick Porcello had his 15th consecutive start going at least six innings, the longest active streak in the majors. Hard-throwing reliever Joe Kelly made his 23rd consecutive appearance without allowing a run, another MLB-best streak. Kelly gave up Mazara's RBI single in the eighth, but Choo had reached against Robby Scott, who got charged with that run.

MLB roundup

Nationals edge Mets despite another bullpen collapse

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fireworks started once the bullpens showed up in Washington.

Ryan Raburn drove in the game-winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth and the Nationals survived another late-inning collapse for a 3-2 victory over the New York Mets on Monday night.

Curtis Granderson, out of the starting lineup with a right hip muscle strain, tied the game with a two-out, two-run homer off Nationals reliever Matt Albers (4-1). Granderson's heroics came after Michael Taylor's two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth broke the scoreless tie.

Matt Wieters opened the ninth with a walk against Paul Sewald (0-3), moved to second following a sacrifice bunt and took third on Adam Lind's deep fly ball.

Following Stephen Drew's walk, Raburn's slow, looping liner to left field off Fernando Salas fell in front of a diving Yoenis Cespedes, scoring

Wieters.

"I was watching the umpire and I (saw) him say safe," Raburn said. "I was hoping it would stay that way and then I saw them talking and I was like, 'Oh, no.' But it fell in."

Granderson also wasn't confident his hit would fall.

"I was just hopeful that it would get out because I wasn't sure what I was going to be able to do after that in terms of trying to go extra bases or anything like that," he said. "The fact that it just went just enough was a good thing."

Washington's Stephen Strasburg and Mets starter Steven Matz each tossed seven scoreless innings in their respective no-decisions. Then chaos ensued.

Nationals left fielder Brian Goodwin kept the game scoreless in the top of the eighth by throwing out Brandon Nimmo trying to score from second on Jose Reyes' base hit.

No defense could stop Granderson's ball from reaching the stands.

"The biggest downer in baseball is a blown save late," Nationals manager Dusty Baker said. "You don't want to beleaguer the fact, but the opposition knows as well."

The Nationals' bullpen entered Monday with a major league-worst 5.12 ERA. Sammy Solis allowed T.J. Rivera's single in the ninth before Albers entered with two outs.

Rockies 5, Reds 3: Rookie Raimel Tapia finished a single shy of the cycle, Charlie Blackmon lined a solo shot after it was announced he would participate in the All-Star Home Run Derby and host Colorado beat Cincinnati.

Brewers 8, Orioles 1: Travis Shaw started the rout with a go-ahead single in a four-run first inning, then left after he was hit on the hand by a pitch during host Milwaukee's win over Baltimore.

Phillies 4, Pirates 0: Aaron Nola (6-5) struck out eight in seven splendid innings, Freddy Galvis and Maikel Franco hit two-run homers and host Phila-

delphia beat Pittsburgh.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 3: Masahiro Tanaka (7-7) pitched seven sharp innings for his second straight win following a long slump, and host New York beat skidding Toronto.

Cardinals 14, Marlins 6: Rookie Luke Voit hit his first major league homer and drove in four runs, Tommy Pham reached base five times and host St. Louis beat Miami.

Twins 9, Angels 5: Max Kepler tied a career high with four hits, including a home run, Adalberto Mejia (4-3) earned his third straight win and host Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Royals 3, Mariners 1: Ian Kennedy (3-6) allowed one run pitching into the seventh inning, Mike Moustakas and Alex Gordon both hit solo home runs, and visiting Kansas City beat Seattle.

White Sox 7, Athletics 2: Todd Frazier doubled twice and drove in two runs to back Carlos Rodon's first win of the season, and visiting Chicago beat slumping Oakland.