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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump: 'We are the schmucks who pay'

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — President Donald Trump said Thursday that the coming NATO summit will be a venue for confrontation with member states, just hours after his top representative at the alliance played down tensions by saying the goal of the summit was to showcase unity.

"We are the schmucks who pay for the whole thing," Trump said during a rally in Montana when discussing the American role in NATO.

Trump, who is bound for Brussels next week for a meeting of NATO heads of state, again singled out Germany when he called out Chancellor Angela Merkel by name.

"You know, Angela, I can't guarantee it, but we're protecting you and it means a lot more to you than protecting us because I don't know how much protection we get by protecting you," Trump said.

The president's comments came after the top U.S. representative to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchison, played down recent reports that Trump is interested in the idea of pulling large numbers of U.S. forces out of Germany.

"There is nothing being said at all about the troop alignment in Germany or anything that would change the 32,000-troop force that we have in Germany," Hutchison told reporters Thursday. "The overall theme of this summit is going to be NATO's strength and unity."

However, the Brussels summit is shaping up to be one of the most contentious in years, with defense spending expected to dominate the agenda. Allies are on edge because of Trump's repeated attacks on members, which center on his displeasure that the U.S. spends significantly more on defense than wealthy allies in Europe, which depend on U.S. security guarantees.

The U.S., in turn, uses bases throughout Europe as transportation hubs for its operations in the Middle East and Africa.

"I'm going to tell NATO you gotta start paying your bills. The United States is not going to take care of everything," Trump said Thursday.

The majority of NATO members, including Germany, fall short of a NATO benchmark set in 2014 that calls for members to dedicate 2 percent of gross domestic product to their militaries. U.S. complaints about carrying the lion's share of the secu-

rity burden are nothing new.

But Trump has seized on the issue more than any other president, even questioning whether NATO is relevant to U.S. security interests in light of the imbalance.

NATO heads of state are expected next week to tout gains in recent years in boosting spending. Hutchison emphasized all allies have stopped defense budget cuts and upped expenditures.

"Every one of our allies — 100 percent — are increasing defense spending," Hutchison told reporters. "That is something that we will talk about as an achievement, but also that we need to do more."

Adding to concern about Trump's criticism of alliance members is the U.S. president's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin after the summit. At a recent meeting of the G-7, Trump suggested Russia be allowed back into the economic group it was kicked out of after Moscow's 2014 invasion of Ukraine.

Critics have raised concerns that the Putin summit could result in unexpected concessions, as when Trump canceled U.S. military exercises in South Korea after meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Pompeo visits N. Korea for nuke negotiations

The Washington Post

TOKYO — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in North Korea on Friday in an effort to breathe new life into nuclear negotiations that have come under intense scrutiny amid U.S. intelligence reports that cast doubt on the isolated regime's willingness to relinquish its nuclear and missile arsenal.

The top U.S. diplomat is under pressure to show progress following the meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, where the two sides agreed to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

In the days since the June summit, U.S. and North Korean officials have struggled to maintain basic communication, North Korea has not returned the remains of U.S.

soldiers who went missing during the Korean War as promised, and new satellite imagery has shown North Korea expanding a key missile-manufacturing plant.

Still, Pompeo sounded a note of optimism as he sat down with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yong Chol, a septuagenarian former spy chief who has resisted U.S. efforts to spell out a detailed understanding of what denuclearization would look like.

"I count on [this meeting] being very productive," Pompeo said.

Sitting at a large, square table, Kim Yong Chol welcomed the U.S. delegation, which includes officials from the CIA, the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House. "Today's meeting is really meaningful meeting," Kim Yong Chol said.

The two delegations met on Friday at guesthouse complex a short drive from the massive mausoleum where Kim Il Sung

and Kim Jong Il lie in state.

Managing expectations for its North Korea diplomacy has been a challenge for the Trump administration as the White House touts historic progress amid more cautious remarks from the State Department.

National security adviser John Bolton, a longtime North Korea hawk, said Sunday that Pompeo would deliver a plan to Kim Jong Un for the complete dismantlement of Pyongyang's nuclear program in one year. But on Tuesday, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert clarified that the U.S. was not imposing a timeline. Pompeo has said dismantlement could take 2½ years.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has said North Korea no longer poses a nuclear threat, and on Thursday claimed credit for preventing war on the Korean Peninsula.

Army quietly discharging immigrant recruits

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Some immigrant U.S. Army reservists and recruits who enlisted in the military with a promised path to citizenship are being discharged abruptly.

Immigration attorneys say they know of more than 40 in the special recruitment program known as MAVNI who have been discharged or whose status has become questionable, jeopardizing their futures.

“It was my dream to serve in the military,” said reservist Lucas Calixto, a Brazilian immigrant who filed a lawsuit against the Army last week in hopes of undoing the discharge, alleging the Defense Department hadn’t given him a chance to defend himself or to appeal. He said he was given no specific grounds other than “personnel security.”

Some of the servicemembers say they were not told why they were being discharged. Others who pressed for answers said the Army informed them they’d been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.

Officials at the Pentagon and the Army said that due to the pending litigation, they were unable to explain the discharges or to respond to questions about whether the policy has been changed.

More than 10,000 immigrants enlisted under the recruitment program before it was halted in late 2016 when the Department of Defense determined that MAVNIs posed “counterintelligence and security risks” and instituted lengthy security screenings for every recruit in the program. Authorization for the program expired in September 2017. The Pentagon cited the logjam in security clearances; it’s unclear whether the program will be reinstated.

‘Vital’ skills

The servicemembers affected by the discharges enlisted in recent years under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program aimed at attracting medical specialists and fluent speakers of 44 sought-after languages. The idea, according to the Defense Department, was to “recognize their contribution and sacrifice.”

In 2002, President George W. Bush ordered “expedited naturalization” for immigrant soldiers in an effort to swell military ranks. Seven years later, MAVNI became an official recruiting program.

Eligible recruits were required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. To become citizens,

the servicemembers needed an honorable service designation, which can come after even just a few days at boot camp. But the recently discharged servicemembers have had their basic training delayed, so they can’t be naturalized.

Margaret Stock, an immigration attorney in Alaska and a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel who helped create the MAVNI program, said she’s been inundated during the past several days by recruits who have been abruptly discharged.

All had signed enlistment contracts and had taken an Army oath, Stock said. Many were reservists who had been attending unit drills, receiving pay and undergoing training, while others had been in a “delayed entry” program, she said.

“Immigrants have been serving in the Army since 1775,” Stock said. “We wouldn’t have won the revolution without immigrants. And we’re not going to win the global war on terrorism today without immigrants.”

The program came under fire from conservatives when President Barack Obama added DACA recipients — young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally — to the list of eligible enlistees. In response, the military layered on additional security clearances for recruits to pass before heading to boot camp.

President Donald Trump added more hurdles, creating a backlog within the Defense Department. Last fall, hundreds of recruits still in the enlistment process had their contracts canceled.

Stock said the discharged servicemembers she’s heard from had been told the Defense Department had not completed extensive background checks, which include CIA, FBI and National Intelligence Agency screenings and counterintelligence interviews. Therefore, by default, they do not meet the background check requirement.

“It’s a vicious cycle,” she said.

‘Treated like trash’

Calixto and several recruits from Pakistan and Iran all said they were devastated by their unexpected discharges.

“Now, the great feeling I had when I enlisted is going down the drain,” said Calixto, 28. “I don’t understand why this is happening.”

Calixto, who lives in Massachusetts and came to the U.S. when he was 12, said in an email interview arranged through his attorney that he joined the Army out of patriotism.

“Since this country has been so good to me, I thought it was the least I could do to give back to my adopted country and serve

in the United States military,” he said.

In the suit filed in Washington, Calixto said he learned he was being kicked out soon after he was promoted to private second class.

A Pakistani servicemember said he learned in a phone call a few weeks ago that his military career was over.

“There were so many tears in my eyes that my hands couldn’t move fast enough to wipe them away,” he said. “I was devastated, because I love the U.S. and was so honored to be able to serve this great country.”

He asked that his name be withheld because he fears he might be forced to return to Pakistan, where he could face danger as a former U.S. Army enlistee.

Portions of the 22-year-old’s military file reviewed by the Associated Press said he was so deeply loyal to the U.S. that his relationships with his family and fiancée in Pakistan would not make him a security threat. Nonetheless, the documents show the Army cited those foreign ties as a concern.

The man had enlisted in April 2016, anticipating he’d be a citizen within months, but faced a series of delays. He had been slated to ship out to basic training in January 2017, but that also was delayed.

An Iranian citizen who came to the U.S. for a graduate degree in engineering said he enlisted in the program hoping to gain medical training. He said he had felt proud that he was “pursuing everything legally and living an honorable life.”

In recent weeks, he said, he learned that he’d been discharged.

“It’s terrible because I put my life in the line for this country, but I feel like I’m being treated like trash,” he said. “If I am not eligible to become a U.S. citizen, I am really scared to return to my country.”

He spoke on condition of anonymity because of those fears.

What’s next

It’s unclear how the servicemembers’ discharges could affect their status as legal immigrants.

In a statement, the Defense Department said: “All servicemembers (i.e. contracted recruits, active duty, Guard and Reserve) and those with an honorable discharge are protected from deportation.”

However, attorneys say that many immigrants let go in recent weeks received an “uncharacterized discharge,” neither dishonorable nor honorable.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 110,000 members of the Armed Forces have gained citizenship by serving in the U.S. military, according to the Defense Department.

EPA chief Pruitt resigns amid ethics probes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt resigned Thursday amid ethics investigations of outsized security spending, first-class flights and a sweetheart condo lease.

With Pruitt's departure, President Donald Trump loses an administrator many conservatives regarded as one of the more effective members of his Cabinet. But Pruitt also had been dogged for months by scandals that spawned more than a dozen federal and congressional investigations.

White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and other officials pushed Pruitt to tender his resignation Thursday amid the mounting scandals, according to a senior administration official not authorized to discuss the situation publicly. Talking to reporters on Air Force One, Trump continued to praise his scandal-plagued EPA chief, saying there was "no final straw" and he had

not asked for Pruitt's resignation.

"Scott is a terrific guy," Trump said. "He came to me and said, 'I have such great confidence in the administration I don't want to be a distraction.' ... He'll go and do great things and have a wonderful life, I hope."

In his resignation letter to Trump, obtained by The Associated Press, Pruitt expressed no regrets.

"It is extremely difficult for me to cease serving you in this role first because I count it a blessing to be serving you in any capacity, but also, because of the transformative work that is occurring," Pruitt wrote. "However, the unrelenting attacks on me personally, my family, are unprecedented and have taken a sizable toll on all of us."

Pruitt, a Republican, had appeared Wednesday at a White House picnic for Independence Day, wearing a red-checked shirt and loafers with gold trim. Trump

gave him and other officials a brief shout-out, offering no sign of any immediate change in his job.

Pruitt's resignation came days after two of his closest advisers spoke to House oversight committee investigators and revealed new, embarrassing details in ethics scandals involving Pruitt.

Samantha Dravis, who recently resigned as Pruitt's policy chief, told investigators last week that Pruitt had made clear to her before and after he became EPA administrator that he would like the attorney general's job, held then and now by Jeff Sessions.

During his one-year tenure, Pruitt crisscrossed the country at taxpayer expense to speak with industry groups and to hobnob with GOP donors, but he showed little interest in listening to advocates he derided as "the environmental left." Those groups quickly applauded his departure.

Trump narrows field to 2 or 3 justice nominees

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The list of contenders to fill a Supreme Court vacancy by retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy is narrowing, with President Donald Trump telling reporters that he's focused on two or three people ahead of his Monday announcement.

"I think I have it down to four people. And I think of the four people I have it down to three or two," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The president, who was traveling to a campaign rally in Montana, has wrapped up the interview process and is moving closer to picking his court nominee amid intense jockeying from various factions seeking to influence the choice.

Trump's current top contenders are federal appeals court judges Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh and Raymond Kethledge, said a person familiar with Trump's thinking who was not authorized to speak publicly.

With customary fanfare, Trump plans to announce his selection Monday night. The

administration is preparing roll-out plans for the leading contenders, and hopes to have a decision on the top one or two names in the next couple of days, so staff can conduct a deep-dive background ahead of the possible prime-time event, according to a senior administration official granted anonymity to discuss the plans.

But as the president builds suspense for his second court pick in two years — a nominee who could tip the balance toward conservatives and revisit landmark rulings on abortion access, gay marriage and other issues — momentum is also growing among GOP supporters and detractors of the top contenders.

Conservatives and some libertarian-leaning Republicans, including Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, have raised concerns about Kavanaugh, warning he could disappoint Republicans if his past decisions are a guide.

Paul and another Republican, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, are supporting fellow Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who is not said to be under serious consideration by the White House.

US adds 213,000 jobs in June; unemployment at 4 percent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers kept up a brisk hiring pace in June by adding 213,000 jobs in a sign of confidence despite the start of a trade war with China.

The Labor Department said Friday that the unemployment rate rose to 4.0 percent from 3.8 percent as more people began looking for work and not all of them found it.

On the same day that the Trump administration began imposing tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports and China retaliated with their own tariffs, the job gain showed that the 9-year old U.S. economic expansion — the second-longest on record — remains on solid ground.

Average hourly pay rose just 2.7 percent from a year earlier. The low jobless rate has yet to force employers to offer higher wages in order to fill job openings.

The broader U.S. economy appears to be on sturdy ground. Economists are forecasting that economic growth accelerated to an annual pace of roughly 4

percent during the April-June quarter, about double the previous quarter's pace.

Signs of economic strength have helped bolster hiring despite the difficulty many employers say they're having in finding enough qualified workers to fill jobs.

Manufacturers and services firms have said in recent surveys that their business is improving despite anxiety about the tariff showdown between the United States and China. Housing starts have climbed 11 percent so far this year. Retail sales jumped a strong 0.8 percent in May in a sign that consumers feel secure enough to spend.

But while economic growth appears solid, the gains have been spread unevenly. President Donald Trump's tax cuts have provided a dose of stimulus this year, though it has been tilted significantly toward wealthy individuals and corporations. Savings from the tax cuts enabled companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index to buy back a record number of shares in the first three months of 2018.

Thais fight water, oxygen levels in cave

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — Thai authorities overseeing the rescue operation for 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped in a flooded cave in the country's north said they have a "limited amount of time" to get them out, as they raced Friday against worsening weather and lowered oxygen levels in the underground complex.

The massive operation inside and around Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai province suffered its first fatality Friday when a former Thai navy SEAL passed out under water on an overnight mission and was unable to be revived.

"We can no longer wait for all conditions (to be ready) because circumstances are pressuring us," Thai SEAL commander Arpakorn Yookongkaew told a news conference. "We originally thought the boys can stay

safe inside the cave for quite some time but circumstances have changed. We have limited amount of time."

The oxygen levels inside the cave were getting lower because of all the workers inside and authorities were working to run an oxygen line inside that complex that was in addition to the oxygen canisters used by divers, Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said late Thursday.

A senior army commander, Maj. Gen. Chalongchai Chaiyakam, said that the most pressing mission now is to provide an oxygen line to reach the kids, who are stuck deep in the complex but are being looked after by four SEALs, including a medic. He said the oxygen line is also tied to a telephone line that will provide a channel of communication for the kids.

The boys, ages 11 to 16, and

their 25-year-old coach went exploring in the cave after a soccer game June 23. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days as the only way to reach them was by navigating a series of dark and tight passageways filled with muddy water and strong currents.

Authorities have been racing to pump out water from the cave before more storms hit the region in the coming days and send water levels rising again. At this time though, the only way for the boys to get out of the cave is by diving, something cave rescue experts warn is extremely dangerous, even for those with experience.

Friday's death of the former SEAL underscores those risks. The diver was working in a volunteer capacity and died during an overnight mission in which

he was placing oxygen canisters along the route divers must take to get to the children, Arpakorn said.

The strategically placed canisters allow divers to stay under water for longer during what is about a five-hour trip to reach the stranded team.

While under water, the rescuer passed out and efforts to resuscitate him failed, Arpakorn said. Another navy official said he didn't believe the man's oxygen tank ran out.

"Despite this, we will continue until we accomplish our mission," Arpakorn said.

The governor has said the 13 may not be extracted at the same time, depending on their condition. They boys are weak but for the most part physically healthy. They've practiced wearing diving masks and breathing, in preparation for the diving possibility.

Japan executes cult leader for gas attack

Associated Press

TOKYO — Doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara and six of his followers were executed Friday for their roles in a deadly 1995 gas attack on the Tokyo subways and other crimes, closing a chapter on one of Japan's most shocking crimes in recent memory.

During the morning rush hour of March 20, 1995, members of the Asahara's Aum Shinrikyo cult punctured plastic bags inside subway cars, killing 13 people and sickening more than 6,000.

Japan's Justice Ministry announced the executions of Asahara, 63, and his followers. Two major Japanese newspapers issued extra editions about the executions and handed them out at train stations.

"This gave me a piece of mind," Kiyoe Iwata, who lost

her daughter in the subway attack, told Japanese broadcaster NHK. "I have always been wondering why it had to be my daughter and why she had to be killed. Now, I can pay a visit to her grave and tell her of this."

Asahara and five of the six executed were implicated in the subway attack. The cult also carried out other crimes that together with the subway attack killed 27 people in total. Six other followers remain on death row.

The others hanged Friday included two scientists who led the production of the sarin gas and one of the men who carried out the actual attack on the subway.

Japan's justice minister, who approved the hangings Tuesday, said she doesn't take executions lightly but felt they were justified in this case because of the unprecedentedly seriousness of the crimes.

Mom shoots man trying to steal SUV with kids inside

The Dallas Morning News

A woman shot a man in the head as he tried to steal her SUV with her two children inside Wednesday night, Dallas police say.

An employee of a gas station in the 200 block of West Camp Wisdom Road, near the border with Duncanville, alerted the mother about 10 p.m. that a man was trying to get into her SUV.

She jumped into the vehicle. When the man didn't stop, she pulled a gun from the glove box and shot him in the head, police said.

The vehicle then crashed into a utility pole.

The mother was identified by KDFW-TV as Michelle Booker-Hicks. She told the station she had recently gotten the gun to defend herself.

She said she told the man her children were in the back seat and to pull over but he didn't listen, so she went to the glove

compartment and grabbed the gun.

The suspect, 36-year-old Ricky Wright, was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. He faces two counts of unlawful restraint and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

"Just to see him slumped over like I was just like, Lord, my kids [are] in the car," the woman told KXAS, adding that they saw her shoot someone.

The woman and her children, ages 2 and 4, were not injured, police said.

The victim, who does not currently face charges, had stern words for the suspect.

"I should have just have emptied the whole clip but I didn't. I didn't. I just wanted to give him a warning shot that was it," the woman told KTVT-TV. "I'm not a killer or anything like that, but I do believe in defending what's mine."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ex-chief gets prison over teen nude photos

OH AKRON — A former northeast Ohio village police chief has been sentenced to five years in prison for receiving nude photos of a 16-year-old girl he met on the job.

Andrew Soloman, 37, previously pleaded guilty to a charge related to the photos. Court records show a child pornography charge against him was dismissed in conjunction with his sentencing last week.

A message seeking comment on the sentence was sent to his attorney.

Soloman was chief in Craig Beach, about 22 miles west of Youngstown.

An arrest affidavit said the teen sent sexually explicit photos of herself to Soloman's work account during an exchange of hundreds of emails last fall.

Fireworks in pickup bed ignite on highway

ND WYNDMERE — North Dakota authorities say a man's truck is destroyed after roughly \$2,800 worth of fireworks ignited in his pickup bed as he drove on the highway near Wyndmere.

The Richland County Sheriff's Office said Jorgen Nokleberg, 67, of Leonard, was driving Wednesday on Highway 18 when the load of fireworks started going off. They sparked several small grass fires along the highway, but Nokleberg received only minor injuries.

The sheriff's office said the fire is being investigated.

Mural shows crowned mayor on a toilet

RI NORTH PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island mayor says he's not both-

ered by an unflattering public mural of him wearing a crown and sitting on a toilet that stems from a long-simmering dispute over the building he's called unsafe.

North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi has been involved in a dispute with building owner Anthony Farina over the structure described by the mayor as a "health hazard."

Lombardi told WPRI-TV that while the painting doesn't bother him, he said Farina should question how he's representing himself to the community.

Paul Morse, the mural's artist, said he has nothing against the mayor.

21 treated for rabies after raccoon contact

CO GREELEY — Health officials say 21 people are being treated for rabies exposure after contact with a baby raccoon inside a northern Colorado home.

The Greeley Tribune reported a Weld County woman took in a baby raccoon that was abandoned by its mother. The raccoon later tested positive for rabies.

Rachel Freeman, the health communication supervisor of the Weld County Health Department, said health officials were alerted after the woman contacted an animal shelter to see if it would take in the animal.

Freeman said the number of people exposed was high because seeing a baby wild animal piqued people's interest. She said they're doing OK, but the case should serve as a cautionary tale.

Nearly 20 charged after brawl at temple

IN GREENWOOD — An Indiana prosecutor has charged 17 people with disorderly conduct in connection

with a brawl at a Sikh temple.

The Indianapolis Star reports Johnson County Prosecutor Brad Cooper filed the misdemeanor charges on Monday. Another person is expected to be charged related to the April 14 fight at the Gurdwara Sikh Temple in Greenwood.

Two people involved are expected to face additional charges of battery causing bodily injury.

Roughly 40 people were involved in the fight, which included one man smashing a teapot over the head of another person.

Officials said a disagreement over temple leadership elections spurred the fighting.

Man's final wish: Kids' shoes donated

MI SAGINAW — Shoes, not flowers.

The final wish of a Michigan man was fulfilled Monday when dozens of children's shoes were donated at his funeral in Saginaw.

Dennis Wright of Perry died of cancer at 61. He had asked mourners to skip flowers and instead to give something that could make a difference in someone's life. As a result, the floor at Snow Funeral Home was filled with boxes of new shoes. They will be donated to families that need them.

Bryan Wright told TV station WNEM that his father wore shoes until they had holes when he was growing up in Saginaw. He said Dennis Wright was "always excited" when he could finally get a new pair.

Deputy shoots gator, saves girl in tree

FL ORLANDO — A Florida teenager who climbed into a tree to escape an aggressive alligator while swimming in a creek was res-

cued by a deputy who shot the giant reptile with a semiautomatic rifle.

Jordan Broderick had been hanging in the tree for a half-hour on Friday when Deputy Mitch Blackmon arrived at the creek in Astor.

The 15-year-old girl climbed into the tree after encountering the alligator while rafting.

According to an incident report, the alligator was hissing and wasn't scared off by the deputy's presence.

Blackmon said in the report that the almost 11-foot-long alligator started moving toward him so he fired at it with the rifle.

Lake County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Fred Jones said the alligator sank back into the water and didn't re-emerge.

Police: Couple stole returnable bottles

ME SHAPLEIGH — Police say a husband and wife are accused of stealing bottles from the Shapleigh Memorial School PTO donation bin.

York County Sheriff William King said the husband was caught red-handed with \$20 in bottles that he was taking to a redemption center.

King said the man acknowledged stealing bottles from the school "two or three times" and implicated his wife in the thefts.

David Dow, of Berwick, was arrested on a charge of theft by unauthorized taking and was released on \$50 bail. He and his wife are due in court in August.

From wire reports

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France secures spot in Cup semifinals

Associated Press

A shot that flew directly at the hands of the opposing goalkeeper turned into a World Cup goal for Antoine Griezmann.

The France striker scored the second goal in his team's 2-0 quarterfinal victory over Uruguay on Friday, sending a seemingly easy-to-save shot at a waiting Fernando Muslera. But the ball hit the keeper on the palms, bounced off and looped over his head and into the net.

The victory gave France a spot in the World Cup semifinals. The 1998 champions will next face either Brazil or Belgium on Tuesday in St. Petersburg.

Griezmann didn't celebrate what was his third goal of the tournament.

"I was playing against a lot of friends," said Griezmann, who is teammates with Uruguay defenders Diego Godin and Jose Gimenez at Atletico Madrid, "so I think it was normal not to celebrate."

Raphael Varane gave France the lead with a header in the 40th minute. Griezmann sent in a free kick from the right side

and Varane raced across the area. He got his head to the ball and sent it into the far corner behind Muslera.

Griezmann scored his goal, which was similar to the one scored by Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale against Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius in the Champions League final, in the 61st minute.

"We all saw that it was not a very common goal, but Muslera has been a very important pillar for all this process and through all our work on our way up to here, so I'm not going to wash my hands putting any responsibility on my players," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said. "This is the kind of thing that I will discuss with the players in the locker room."

Griezmann, a Frenchman who plays professionally in Spain, has a special fondness for Uruguay. He likes the traditional South American drink mate, he speaks Spanish like someone from the South American country and he's been pictured wearing the team's jersey.

France went on to reach the World Cup

final the past two times it advanced to the semifinals. They won their only World Cup in 1998 on home soil, and in 2006 lost to Italy on penalties.

The match at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium pitted France's speed against Uruguay's stubborn defense and its occasional attacking threats. But with Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani injured and on the bench and Luis Suarez neutralized, it was France that scored the goals.

Suarez, who scored two goals in the group stage, didn't get a single touch on the ball in France's penalty area for the entire match. Cavani scored both goals in the 2-0 win over Portugal in the round of 16, but he sat on the bench with an injured left calf he picked up in that match.

Four minutes after Varane gave France the lead, Uruguay nearly equalized. France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris dived to his right and got a hand on a header from Martin Caceres, pushing it just wide of the goal.

"Our goalkeeper made a great save," Griezmann said.

Venus becomes latest champ to fall in London

Associated Press

LONDON — Venus Williams has become the latest former champion to be knocked out at Wimbledon.

Her sister Serena is still going strong, though, after overcoming her toughest test so far this week.

Venus couldn't make it a third consecutive comeback triumph as she lost to 20th-seeded Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-7 (5), 8-6 in the third round on Friday.

"Just ran out of time in the end," Venus said. "She played really well. You have to win the last point, and I didn't succeed in that today."

She is the fourth former women's champion to get knocked out, joining Maria Sharapova, Petra Kvitova and last year's winner Garbine Muguruza.

That leaves Serena as the only remaining woman to have won the tournament. The seven-time champion came from a break down in the first set to get past Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 7-6 (2).

Venus had rallied from a set

down in her first two matches. Her exit means eight of the top 10 seeded women have gone out before the end of Week 1.

The 38-year-old American, last year's runner-up, was the oldest women's singles entrant in 2018.

Serena took her Wimbledon winning streak to 17 matches, thanks in part to 13 aces. She missed last year's tournament while pregnant.

She faces another mother in the fourth round Monday: 120th-ranked qualifier Evgeniya Rodina of Russia, who upset No. 10 seed Madison Keys of the U.S.

Keys also came up short with a comeback attempt after fighting back from a set and two breaks down, losing 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

In a match full of big swings, Keys led 5-2 in the first set before Rodina won the next nine games to go 4-0 up in the second.

The American player won five games in a row to level and then broke back to make it 4-4 in the third set, but Rodina earned another break to secure victory.

In the men's tournament, fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev completed another comeback to reach the third round.

Zverev beat Taylor Fritz of the U.S. 6-4, 5-7, 6-7 (0), 6-1, 6-2 in a match that was suspended on Thursday after the third set.

Zverev erased a 2-1 deficit in sets three times to reach the quarterfinals of the French Open, his best result at a Grand Slam.

No. 8 Kevin Anderson beat No. 25 Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 after losing just eight of 61 points on his first serve, while Gael Monfils of France advanced to the fourth round for the first time by knocking out last year's semifinalist Sam Querrey 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Greek freak: Stefanos Tsitsipas became the first Greek male to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament in the Open era after beating Thomas Fabbiano of Italy.

The 19-year-old Tsitsipas won 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in 91 minutes, becoming the first Greek male to progress to Wimbledon's

round of 16 since Nicky Kalogeropoulos in 1964.

The 35th-ranked teenager reached his first ATP tour final this year in Barcelona, where he lost to top-ranked Rafael Nadal on clay.

Double time: Hans Podlipnik-Castillo and Marcelo Arevalo defeated British duo Jay Clarke and Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-7 (5), 5-7, 6-4, 22-20 in a match that tied for the fifth-most games in men's doubles at Wimbledon.

Clarke and Norrie saved eight match points during a fifth set that lasted 2 hours, 24 minutes, but their resistance was finally ended in the 87th game of the first-round tussle.

The most games in a Wimbledon men's doubles match is 102, when Marcelo Melo and Andre Sa defeated Kevin Ullyett and Paul Hanley 28-26 in the fifth set of their second-round encounter in 2007.

Chilean player Podlipnik-Castillo and his Argentine partner Arevalo will face 13th-seeded Raven Klaasen and Michael Venus in the second round.

Froome eyes 5th Tour de France title

Associated Press

SAINT-MARS-LA-RE-ORTHE, France — Chris Froome has asked Tour de France fans to let him race in peace, even if they doubt the recent ruling that cleared him of doping allegations.

The British cyclist has been targeted by spectators in the past. During the 2015 Tour, he said a man threw a cup of urine at him while yelling “doper”.

With the latest edition beginning on Saturday, five days after the International Cycling Union finally ruled Froome had won last year’s Spanish Vuelta cleanly, the four-time Tour winner offered an alternative way for skeptical fans to show their distrust.

“Support the race in a positive way, don’t bring negativity,” he said on Wednesday in western France. “In terms of safety

I obviously would encourage fans of the sport to come watch the race, and if you are not necessarily a Chris Froome fan or a Sky fan, come to the race and put a jersey on of another team you do support. That would be my advice.”

A cloud hung over Froome after a urine sample taken during the Vuelta in September showed a concentration of the asthma drug salbutamol that was twice the permitted level.

After months of silence, the UCI said Froome’s result did not represent an adverse finding, which could have led him to be stripped of his Vuelta victory, and a suspension.

His use of asthma medication has been well documented and he often uses inhalers during races. World Anti-Doping Agency rules state an athlete can be cleared for excessive salbutamol use if he proves it

was due to an appropriate therapeutic dosage.

Froome said he understands it may take time for fans to believe he is not a cheat.

“But that data is available, and I would like to think that as people understand that more, they will understand my decision to keep on racing knowing I have certainly done nothing wrong,” Froome said. “Of course it has been damaging. As it is right now I’m just happy to draw a line in the sand and move on and focus on bike racing.”

UCI president David Lappartient has also issued a call for calm.

“[Froome] has the right to operate in a safe environment. I have heard calls, sometimes completely irrational, to violence on the Tour de France,” Lappartient said. “I cannot accept that and I call on all spec-

tators to protect all the athletes and to respect the judicial decision so that Chris Froome can compete in a safe and serene environment.”

Teammate Geraint Thomas said Froome has shown poise even when fans are at their worst.

“I’ve always been impressed by the way he is off the bike,” Thomas said. “But the last nine months have been the most impressive, really, how he was able to still perform and train and commit to all that while everything else was going on.”

Thomas, however, said possible run-ins with the public are part of riding down roads lined by people.

“It’s not like football — it’s not in just a closed stadium when you can check everyone,” he said. “So there is that element of risk so to speak.”

Ode to Evel: Pastrana trying to duplicate three jumps

Associated Press

Fifty years after Evel Knievel so famously wiped out trying to jump the fountain at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, action sports wild man Travis Pastrana will try to nail the stunt Sunday night in the finale of a triple-header tribute to the late daredevil.

It’s a daunting proposition even for Pastrana, who is winding down a career in which he’s done some pretty crazy things.

If he sticks it, what a way to go out.

“For me, this is going to be really awesome,” Pastrana said in a phone interview. “All my family is coming out and so many of my friends are coming out. I literally get to live a day in Evel Knievel’s boots, if you will. I’m pretty nervous. It’s keeping me up a little bit at night.”

That’s a heck of an admission from Pastrana. But when the History Channel came to Nitro Circus, which Pastrana co-founded, looking for a live event that crossed a couple

of generations, “it was pretty much a no-brainer. I thought, I definitely have to do something about the man who started action sports. He was the first one who showed that you could jump a motorcycle.”

Pastrana’s attempt to jump the fountain will cap “Evel Live,” a three-hour telecast on the History Channel.

Before he tries to become the first person to successfully clear the Caesars Palace fountain, the 34-year-old Pastrana will try to exceed two other famous jumps by Knievel. He’ll try to surpass Knievel’s jump over 50 crushed cars, done at the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1973, and then beat by two the stuntman’s jump over 14 Greyhound buses, accomplished in 1975 at Ohio’s Kings Island amusement park.

The first two jumps will be behind Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, Paris Las Vegas and Bally’s Las Vegas. Pastrana will then get a police escort to Caesars Palace.

Pastrana will attempt the jumps on an Indian Scout FTR750, a modern-day evolution of the flat track bikes of the past. He said it’s double the weight of the dirt bikes he normally uses in jumps, with three times the power and about one-third of the suspension travel.

“I got on the Indian and it was like, ‘Holy cow, it’s like jumping a tank.’ Now I understand why Evel crashed so much.”

Pastrana will jump the fountain in the opposite direction that Knievel did. Because the area is more built up than it was 50 years ago, he’ll have less space for the run-in and will have to accelerate as hard as he can.

“I literally have to hit 68 mph in under 200 feet,” he said. “With his high-heel dress boots, if I miss a shift, I’m in the fountain for sure.”

That’s right, Pastrana will even be dressed like Knievel, in a white jumpsuit with the blue V and white stars.

“Even down as far as the

boots,” he said. “I went to a tailor and they’re probably the most expensive shoes I have. They’re made for going out, not for jumping.”

Knievel came up short on his attempt at jumping the fountain, hitting the knuckle just before the landing ramp and losing control. He flew head first over the handlebars and tumbled like a rag doll along the pavement. He crushed his pelvis and fractured several other bones.

“We’re saving the most infamous for last,” Pastrana said. “It’s probably the most infamous stunt location in the world not because of success but because of failure.”

Pastrana was the first to do a double backflip on a motorcycle. On New Year’s Eve 2009, he shattered the world record for the longest jump in a rally car when he traveled 269 feet from the Pine Street Pier in Long Beach onto a barge anchored in the harbor. He celebrated by doing a backflip off the landing ramp into the chilly water.

Nats rally from 9 down to beat Marlins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Washington Nationals are far from finished. Not after briefly slipping below .500 this week. And, certainly not after spotting the Miami Marlins the first nine runs on Thursday night.

Trea Turner hit two homers, including his first career grand slam, and drove in eight runs to help Washington rally past Miami 14-12 in a wild slugfest to end a five-game losing streak.

“Not to get ahead of ourselves, put together wins, try to win a series,” first baseman Matt Adams said. “I think that’s what we’re going to focus on from here on out, win two out of three, win three out of four. If that’s the case, then the wins will start stacking on top of each other and we’ll just get rolling the way we’re capable

of.”

The Nationals, who dropped 17 of their previous 22, have won 12 consecutive games against Miami dating to last season — their longest winning streak against any team since the franchise moved to Washington in 2005.

It was also the largest comeback victory since the team left Montreal. The Nationals rallied from eight runs down to defeat Atlanta 13-12 on April 28, 2015.

The victory came a day after the Nationals called a players-only meeting Wednesday after Washington was swept by Boston and slipped under .500 for the first time since May 2.

But things didn’t start smoothly.

Miami scored an unearned run in the first, and capped a six-run second on Martin Prado’s three-run homer off the

left-field foul pole. The Marlins made it 9-0 on Justin Bour’s two-run homer in the fourth off Jeremy Hellickson.

Despite the huge deficit, Washington was far from out of it.

Turner led off the fourth with a solo shot off Marlins starter Pablo Lopez, who surrendered four more runs in the fifth — including two on Juan Soto’s double. Adam Conley (2-1) then allowed four of the first five hitters he faced to reach in the sixth before Turner smacked a two-out fastball with the bases loaded into Miami’s bullpen to give the Nationals a stunning 10-9 lead. It was Turner’s third career multi-homer game.

“Command was an issue today, so I wasn’t able to get the ball where I wanted,” Conley said. “My hat’s off to him. I thought the ball was coming out pretty good today, so for

him to get ahold of it, that’s the way the game goes. If the game were easy, everybody would play it.”

Turner added a two-run single in Washington’s four-run seventh. His eight RBIs tied for the most ever by a leadoff hitter, according to STATS LLC.

“When we were down 7-0, I feel like we still for sure had a shot — 9-0, it hurts a little bit more, but we did it,” Turner said. “I think once we got the first run on the board, it kind of just got the momentum back on our side and we continued to push. I think that’s what we’re capable of.”

Shawn Kelley (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth for the win. Sean Doolittle earned his 22nd save in 23 opportunities.

Adams had four hits for Washington in his first game since a stint on the disabled list for a broken left index finger.

MLB roundup

Gonzales, Mariners down Angels, win another series

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Chris Herrmann hit his first home run for Seattle and Marco Gonzales pitched six solid innings to lead the Mariners to a 4-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday night.

Gonzales (9-5) gave up five hits while striking out seven in a 102-pitch outing. The lone run he gave up was Kole Calhoun’s sacrifice fly in the fourth inning to tie the game at 1.

In the fifth, Guillermo Heredia’s line drive over Justin Upton’s head in left field for an RBI double gave Seattle the lead back at 2-1.

In the seventh inning, Herrmann’s solo blast off reliever Miguel Almonte carried deep into the right-field bleachers. Dee Gordon tripled into the right-field corner with two outs, and Jean Segura greeted reliever Cam Bedrosian with a high-chopping RBI single to third baseman David Fletcher

to extend Seattle’s lead to 4-1.

Edwin Diaz struck out the side in the ninth to lock up his major league-leading 34th save. The Mariners have not lost a home series since May 6, when they dropped two of three games to the Angels.

Rangers 7, Tigers 5: Joey Gallo and Ronald Guzman homered as visiting Texas beat Detroit.

Yovani Gallardo (3-0) got the win, giving up four runs and eight hits in 5¹/₃ innings. He walked one and struck out two while winning his third straight start.

Twins 5, Orioles 2: Aaron Slegers got his first major league win by finishing six smooth innings in his first start of the season, and host Minnesota stopped its six-game losing streak by hanging on to beat Baltimore.

Logan Morrison homered and Jake Cave reached base all four times he batted for the

Twins, who turned to Fernando Rodney for the ninth for his 18th save.

Astros 4, White Sox 3: Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning and Yuli Gurriel’s RBI single with one out in the ninth lifted host Houston to a win over Chicago.

The Astros trailed by 1 when Joakim Soria (0-3) walked pinch-hitter Tony Kemp with no outs in the ninth before advancing to third on a single by pinch-hitter Marwin Gonzalez. George Springer snapped an 0-for-8 slump and tied it at 3-3 with his RBI single to shallow center field.

Brewers 7, Braves 2: Jhoulys Chacin (7-3) threw seven solid innings and Hernan Perez homered among his three hits, leading host Milwaukee past Atlanta in a matchup of first-place teams.

The NL Central Division-leading Brewers won their fourth game in a row to go 17

games over .500 (52-35) for the first time since July 1, 2014, when they were 51-34.

Cardinals 11, Giants 2: Luke Weaver (5-7) pitched two-hit ball over eight innings and visiting St. Louis beat San Francisco.

Jedd Gyorko had three hits, including a homer, and drove in five runs to spoil the return of Johnny Cueto (3-1) after two months on the disabled list.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 3: Eric Lauer limited host Arizona to a run over five innings, Austin Hedges homered for the first time since April 10 and San Diego opened a four-game series in the desert with a victory.

Lauer (4-5) gave up seven hits, walked two and hit a batter, but only one of those baserunners managed to score in his first win in four starts. Brad Hand gave up an infield single, then struck out the next three in the ninth for his 24th save.