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N. Korea pans Pompeo nuke talks

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea said Saturday that high-level talks with a U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were “regrettable” and accused Washington of unilaterally trying to pressure the country into abandoning its nukes.

The North’s statement came hours after Pompeo wrapped up two days of talks with senior North Korean officials without meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un but with commitments for new discussions on denuclearization and the repatriation of the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean War.

Before departing Pyongyang, Pompeo told reporters that his conversations with senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol had been “productive,” conducted “in good faith” and that “a great deal of progress” had been made in some areas. He stressed that “there’s still more work to be done” in other areas, much of which would be done by working groups that the two sides have set up to deal with specific issues.

The North provided a much harsher assessment of the talks, saying that the U.S.

betrayed the spirit of last month’s summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim by making “one-sided and robber-like” demands on “CVID,” or the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea.

It said the outcome of the follow-up talks was “very concerning” because it has led to a “dangerous phase that might rattle our willingness for denuclearization that had been firm.”

“We had expected that the U.S. side would offer constructive measures that would help build trust based on the spirit of the leaders’ summit ... we were also thinking about providing reciprocal measures,” an unnamed spokesman of Pyongyang’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the North’s official Korean Central News Agency.

“However, the attitude and stance the United States showed in the first high-level meeting (between the countries) was no doubt regrettable,” the spokesman said.

Pompeo said that a Pentagon team would be meeting with North Korean officials on or about July 12 at the border between North and South Korea to discuss the repa-

triation of remains and that working-level talks would be held soon on the destruction of North Korea’s missile engine-testing facility.

In the days following his historic June 12 summit with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, President Donald Trump had announced that the return of the remains and the destruction of the missile facility had been completed or were in progress.

Pompeo, however, said that more talks were needed on both.

“We now have a meeting set up for July 12 — it could move by one day or two — where there will be discussions between the folks responsible for the repatriation of remains. (It) will take place at the border and that process will begin to develop over the days that follow,” he said as he boarded his plane for Tokyo.

On the destruction of the missile engine plant, Pompeo said, “We talked about what the modalities would look like for the destruction of that facility as well, and some progress there as well, and then we have laid out a path for further negotiation at the working level so the two teams can get together and continue these discussions.”

Judge rejects request for delay in reunions

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A judge on Friday refused to grant the Trump administration a blanket extension of the deadline to reunite children separated from their parents at the border, instead acknowledging that more time may be justified only in specific cases.

The administration said it needed more time to reunite 101 children younger than 5 to ensure the children’s safety and to confirm their parental relationships.

“There’s always going to be tension between a fast release and a safe release,” said Sarah Fabian, a Justice Department attorney.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw ordered the administration to share a list of the 101 children with the American Civil Liberties Union, which successfully sued to force the reunions, by Saturday afternoon. The two sides will try to determine over the weekend which cases merit a delay in an effort to present a unified front in court on

Monday morning.

“The government must reunite them,” the judge said. “It must comply with the time frame unless there is an articulable reason.”

The administration has matched 86 parents to 83 children and 16 are not yet matched, Fabian said.

The deadline is July 10 for parents with children under 5 and July 26 for everyone else.

More than 2,000 children were separated from their parents after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in May that the zero tolerance policy was in full effect, even if it meant splitting families. While parents were criminally prosecuted, children were placed in custody of the Health and Human Services Department.

Trump reversed course on June 20 amid an international outcry from opponents who said families should remain together.

On Thursday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said fewer than 3,000 children are believed to have been separated.

Apparent insider attack kills US servicemember

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — One U.S. servicemember was killed and two other U.S. servicemembers were wounded Saturday in southern Afghanistan, in what NATO’s Resolute Support said was an apparent insider attack.

The wounded servicemembers were in stable condition and were being treated, a coalition statement said late Saturday.

The name of the slain servicemember was being withheld, pending notification of next of kin.

The death marks the second U.S. fatality in Afghanistan this year.

The incident is under investigation, officials said.

From staff reports

Mother keeps Marine's memory alive in book

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

In the six years since Marine Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Price was killed in heavy fighting in Afghanistan, the Marine Raider's exploits have lived on.

On July 29, 2012, in Badghis province, Price, along with fellow Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Gifford, sped across 800 meters of exposed ground on all-terrain vehicles to come to the aid of Afghan commandos pinned down during a cordon-and-search on an enemy compound filled with insurgent fighters. After treating and evacuating several casualties, Price took out an enemy sniper. Then he and Gifford scaled the compound and dropped grenades down a chimney onto the enemy.

The Marines were shot from behind by the only surviving insurgent as they searched the compound. Their killer was then taken out by a Marine sniper. For their efforts, which turned the tide and won the battle, Price, 27, was awarded a posthumous Silver Star and Gifford, 34, was awarded a posthumous Navy Cross.

While the Marine Corps legend might live forever, the stories of Dan Price — the person — will fade with time. That's why Price's mother, Ruth, penned "No Stray Bullets: The Making of an American Hero," about her remarkable son's short life.

"Dan was such an awesome guy, and I'm his mom, so I really just wanted to use specific incidents to bring out his personality so that other people could get that for themselves, just get a little bit of who Dan was and what we lost," Ruth Price told Stars and Stripes last month.

At a time when less than 1 percent of the population serves in the military, most are unaware of the price paid to become one of America's elite warriors and the consequences for the family when one falls. "No Stray Bullets" offers a window into the years of training, the constant combat deployments, the physical wear and tear and the grief of a mother forced to bury her son.

Tales of a son

The book starts off with the operation that killed Price and Gifford and their exploits with Special Operations Task Force West, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Afghanistan. It then quickly shifts to Price's birth at Zeeland Community Hospital in Michigan on June 8, 1985.

He was impatient and demanding as a baby and he was not a "cuddler."

"He cried for attention, but then pushed away from any comforting," Ruth Price wrote. "Many evening hours were spent hiking up and down the hallway in our tiny

two bedroom mobile home, trying to console the crying baby."

Price had an insatiable appetite his entire life; he started eating cereal as soon as he came home from the hospital. He was mischievous, and left unattended for a moment, he once covered an entire room with the contents of an oversize bottle of baby powder.

When Price was 3, his family moved to a 10-acre hobby farm in Holland, Mich. Playground fights were common for Price, who often challenged bullies who were picking on weaker kids at school.

Price was raised in a strict, devout, Christian household. He was helpful and determined and had a strong work ethic, his mother said. Ruth Price relates how these traits served him in his military career.

When Price was in the third grade, he began homeschooling. He raised and exhibited livestock. When he was 11, he began working on a neighbor's pig farm. He worked there until he joined the Marine Corps.

Ruth Price is a first-time author. "No Stray Bullets," while well-written, is light on history and context. She declines to name the Marines and even some family members in her son's life, including his wife. She said this was deliberate, to focus on her son.

But the book more than makes up for any shortcomings with Ruth Price's honesty.

She details her son's struggles with algebra, his fear of heights, his fear of failure, his anxiety, including the time he wept as he led an animal that he had raised to slaughter.

Her son enlisted in 2003. From that point, he took every Marine Corps training course he could. Uniquely qualified, he worked toward deploying and fighting America's wars. He worked and worked until he was the best of the best. He often was chosen for leadership positions in the units he served.

He joined Marine special operations in 2008. He deployed six times and was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor in 2009 for saving 15 Marines and a handful of Afghans after they walked into an ambush. But other stories she includes reveal who Price was — like the time he took a Marine's 80-pound pack on top of his own during a hike at the Basic Reconnaissance Course after the Marine collapsed.

Price grew up hunting, but after killing people in combat, his mother said, he could never again be content doing so.

Felled by a ricocheted bullet to the kneecap during a combat deployment in 2011, Price was in the gym within weeks, two days after reconstructive surgery. He worked hard to get back into the fight.

However, he first had to deal with a demon so common to America's wounded troops.

"After approximately six weeks on the opioid pain medications, he was already dependent on them," Ruth Price wrote. "Quitting them cold turkey left him not only in physical pain but in depression for several days. Dan wanted to just sit on the couch and cry."

He persevered. Within nine months of his injury, he had an almost perfect score on a physical fitness test and was reinstated to full active duty.

'Such a waste'

On April 23, 2012, Price deployed to Herat, Afghanistan. When Gifford's team took several casualties, Price volunteered to take a spot. Both men were killed on the July 29 mission.

In "No Stray Bullets," Ruth Price describes the day that three Marines in uniform came to their door as the end, but she also describes how it was a beginning of sorts for their family. She turned to her faith to find answers. She takes readers with her as she processed the grief.

"Suddenly, the remote possibility was a reality. It no longer mattered that he was one of the best, fighting alongside of the best. His extensive training meant nothing. His sniper qualifications became worthless. It seemed like such a waste," Ruth Price wrote. "What is the purpose of such deep emotional pain manifested so intensely that we experienced physical pain in our bodies?"

With "No Stray Bullets," Ruth Price resisted the urge to inflate her son's accomplishments. She doesn't sugarcoat his flaws. She relates how her son did not think women belonged in the military and how he didn't believe the wars he ultimately gave his life for would make a long-term difference in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"One thing that particularly bothered Dan was the position of women in Iraqi and Afghani society," she wrote.

Ruth Price provides an unvarnished view of her son's life that only a mother could, revealing the man behind the uniform.

She said that writing the biography was cathartic but painful, as she was forced to relive his life and his tragic death.

"It's the story of our son," she said. "In my opinion, he's an American military hero who needs to be remembered; his story needs to be told. Like I said in the book, one of those Gold Star dads told us shortly after Dan was killed that, 'We are the voices of our dead sons. If we don't tell their stories, they won't be told.'"

The book, released in April, is available at www.amazon.com.

Pence defends ICE during agency visit

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence on Friday admonished Democrats who've called for dismantling Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a visit to the agency's headquarters, where he told employees that he considers them "patriots" and "heroes."

"These spurious attacks on ICE by our political leaders must stop," Pence said of an agency that has taken on a higher profile amid the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" immigration policies and

forced separations of migrant families at the southern border.

"We are with you 100 percent," Pence said, also relaying greetings from President Donald Trump, who is at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., for the weekend. "We always stand proudly with the brave heroes of ICE and our border patrol."

Pence's remarks come as a growing number of Democrats have called for abolishing ICE and liberal activists across the country have staged protests directed at the agency.

Pence singled out a handful of Demo-

crats who've called for the agency's abolition, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, both of whom are considered potential 2020 presidential contenders.

Pence claimed that opposition to ICE was no longer coming just from "the radical left" but had now "moved to the center of the Democratic party itself."

"The truth is, the calls to abolish ICE are not just outrageous, they're irresponsible," Pence said, adding: "Under President Donald Trump, we will never abolish ICE."

Southern Calif. sees record-breaking temps

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California sizzled Friday in record-breaking heat from the desert to the sea, with widespread triple-digit highs and withering conditions that stoked wildfires.

Officials urged people to take advantage of cooling centers in libraries and other facilities and to watch out for the elderly and the very young, warning that minor heat-related illnesses can worsen quickly.

Sidewalks and outdoor lunch tables were left to the blazing sun.

"There are no people," said Gloria Aguilar, 37, a food vendor in the Los Angeles pinata district. "Because it's too hot, and they want to stay inside the house. We sell more water than the food."

Firefighters worked in extreme temperatures as they battled outbreaks of wildfires, including a destructive blaze in the San Diego County community of Alpine and another that spread from a truck fire on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass east of Los Angeles.

Torrid conditions were expected to last through Saturday before easing a bit Sunday.

The heat was being produced by a "humongous" dome of high pressure that was also spreading oppressive conditions into

parts of Arizona, Nevada and Utah, the National Weather Service said.

"Today will be one for the record books," the Los Angeles region weather office.

In downtown Los Angeles, the mercury hit 108, topping the previous July 6 record of 94 set in 1992.

LA's Woodland Hills neighborhood hit 117 degrees, smashing the previous record of 106 that was set in 1976. Several suburbs also recorded new highs for the day, as did coastal Camarillo and Oxnard in Ventura County with 101 and 95, respectively.

In San Diego County, eight cities broke records including San Diego, which notched 93 degrees, breaking a high of 84 that was set in 1936. It was 109 in Alpine, where a wildfire destroyed at least five and perhaps a dozen or more homes.

Southeast of Los Angeles in Orange County, Los Alamitos Race Course canceled daytime racing after two races because of the heat.

The offshore flow of air pushing back the normal moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean had produced startling early morning temperatures: At 3 a.m., it was 98 degrees in Gaviota on the Santa Barbara County coast about 125 miles west of Los Angeles, the weather service said.

New wildfires burn homes in California

Associated Press

GOLETA, Calif. — Firefighters battling wildfires throughout the U.S. West that have torched hundreds of homes hoped for some help from the weather Saturday even as new fires swept sweltering Southern California.

A fire on the California-Oregon border that destroyed 40 buildings and claimed at least one life since Thursday remained virtually out of control, but a National Weather Service warning of extreme fire danger from heat and winds expired Friday.

Farther south, a new, wind-driven fire Friday night burned at least 20 homes and threatened hundreds more in the hills above Goleta in Santa Barbara County, authorities said.

Evacuations were ordered as the fire edged into residential areas, and by late Friday night, it was about a mile from the downtown area, county fire Capt. Dave Zaniboni told KNX-AM radio.

Authorities said the blaze started with a house fire and gusty winds reportedly were pushing the flames.

The area is north of where the Thomas Fire raged last December. That blaze destroyed more than 1,000 buildings in Ventura and Santa Barbara

counties.

East of Los Angeles in the San Bernardino National Forest, authorities ordered the evacuation of the community of Forest Falls, which has about 700 homes, as a quick-moving wildfire swelled to 1,000 acres.

In San Diego County, several fires erupted including one that burned at least five homes and perhaps many more in Alpine, in foothills not far from San Diego. Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for the county.

At a Red Cross shelter, Ben Stanfill told the San Diego Union-Tribune that he and other relatives helped evacuate his mother's house, even though it wasn't in a mandatory evacuation area.

"We just grabbed everything you can't replace or re-buy," Stanfill said. "My grandma's photographs, the cat, my sister's Mickey Mouse teddy bear she's had since she was little."

The fire was only 5 percent contained Friday night, but crews virtually had stopped its growth and were focusing on knocking down hot spots that continue to threatened houses and mobile homes, state fire officials said.

Another fire on the Camp Pendleton Marine base prompted the evacuation of 750 homes.

38 dead, many missing as heavy rain hits Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — Torrents of rainfall and flooding battered a widespread area in southwestern Japan on Saturday, with local media casualty reports climbing quickly. Public broadcaster NHK said 38 people were dead, four were injured seriously and 47 were missing.

As the death toll continued to climb from the rainfall, which began earlier this week, Okayama prefecture said a man caught in a landslide was pronounced dead.

Kyodo news agency reported another death in a landslide in Hiroshima, which set off a fire, while the body of a child was found in a flooded area.

Among the missing were five people who got buried when housing collapsed, also in Hiroshima prefecture. In Ehime prefecture, a woman was found dead on the

second floor of a home hit by a landslide, Kyodo said.

Yamaguchi prefecture, another area hit by the heavy rain, alerted people to heed evacuation warnings and act quickly.

Kyoto prefecture said it was working to control flooding at several dams. Some 250 people had to flee their homes and the prefecture identified one fatality as a 52-year-old woman.

Roads were blocked in some areas and warnings issued on landslides.

Military water trucks were rushing to areas where water systems were no longer working, Okayama prefecture said.

Although Japan is among the most modernized of Asian nations, rural areas are hit hard by the rainy season each year, often resulting in casualties and heavy damage.

Syrian troops recapture border crossing

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian soldiers celebrated the recapture of the main border crossing with Jordan on Saturday, raising portraits of President Bashar Assad and tearing down rebel flags.

Troops captured the Naseeb border crossing a day earlier following a crushing two-week offensive, and after rebels announced they had reached an agreement with Russian mediators to end the violence in the southern province of Daraa and to surrender the crossing.

State-run Ikhbariya TV showed troops at the crossing Saturday, some flashing victory signs and pumping fists in the air as they shouted pro-Assad slogans. A soldier could be seen hoisting the Syrian flag on top of a watchtower. Another tore down the rebel flag from a building.

State-run news agency SANA said the army deployed at the crossing after combing and clearing it of the remnants of “terrorist groups.” It said Syrian army units have also established control over the town of Nuaima in the past 24 hours.

The rebels seized control of the crossing in 2015, severing a lifeline for Syrian exports and disrupting a trade route between Syria and Jordan, Lebanon and the oil-rich Gulf countries.

The recapture of the crossing in the southern Daraa province marks the return of Assad’s forces to the province where the uprising against him began seven years ago, following successive military victories across most of the country with the help of powerful allies Russia and Iran.

The rebels in southern Syria once received significant backing and support from the U.S. that has receded and all but dried up over the past few years. Although the U.S. government negotiated a de-escalation agreement for southern Syria last year, it has remained silent as Assad’s forces marched onto Daraa in the past two weeks in a crushing assault that displaced more than 330,000 people.

The government’s offensive to retake Daraa and the nearby Quneitra region on the frontier near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights began on June 19, and is now expected to turn more forcefully toward retaking Quneitra, potentially setting up a clash between Israel and Hezbollah and Iran unless they agree to stay away from the area as Israel demands.

The assault has forced hundreds of thousands to flee toward the sealed Jordanian border and the frontier near the Golan in one of the largest displacements in the seven-year Syrian conflict. Dozens have been killed.

Thai coach, kids pen notes from cave

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — The youth soccer coach trapped in a partially flooded cave in northern Thailand with 12 members of his team apologized to their parents in the first letters they have sent out through divers, with the boys saying they’re doing well and missing their families.

The local governor in charge of the mission to rescue them said Saturday that cooperating weather and falling water levels over the last few days had created appropriate conditions for evacuation, but that they won’t last if it rains again.

Thai officials have repeatedly said that a quick underwater evacuation of the boys, ages 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach was needed because of the possibility that access to the cave could close again soon due to flooding from seasonal monsoon rains.

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said rescuers are “at war with water,” and that experts told him flooding from new rain could shrink the unflooded space where the boys are sheltering to just 108 square feet.

There are also concerns about the percentage of oxygen in the air at the boys’ safe space falling, and carbon dioxide content increasing, posing a serious health hazard. The boys and their coach are accompanied by several Thai navy SEAL divers.

Rescuers have brought them some oxy-

gen tanks.

Divers Friday night brought out poignant letters written by those trapped inside.

Ekapol Chanthawong, the coach of the Wild Boars soccer team, wrote: “To the parents of all the kids, right now the kids are all fine, the crew are taking good care. I promise I will care for the kids as best as possible. I want to say thanks for all the support and I want to apologize to the parents.”

One boy wrote: “I’m doing fine, but the air is a little cold, but don’t worry. Although, don’t forget to set up my birthday party.”

The boys and their coach have been trapped since June 23, when they went exploring in the cave after a soccer game. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days. The only way to reach them was by navigating dark and tight passages filled with muddy water and strong currents, as well as oxygen-depleted air.

Rescuers are also pursuing other options to extract the boys, hoping that finding a shaft or drilling into the mountain in which the cave is located will lead them to a sort of backdoor entrance.

Tech billionaire Elon Musk has sent a team of engineers to Thailand to see if they can help in the rescue effort. Musk’s Boring Company digs tunnels for advanced transportation systems and has advanced ground-penetrating radar.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman, 92, held in son's shooting death

AZ FOUNTAIN HILLS — A 92-year-old woman was arrested and accused of fatally shooting her son who wanted to put her in an assisted living facility, authorities said Tuesday.

Anna Mae Blessing was booked into jail on suspicion of one count each of first-degree murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and kidnapping, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's officials said Blessing's son, Thomas Blessing, 72, was found dead Monday at his home in Fountain Hills, about 30 miles northeast of Phoenix.

Blessing told authorities that she argued with her son Monday over the way she was being treated and was upset with him stating that he was going to place her in assisted living.

State prohibits ecigs, vaping at work

RI PROVIDENCE — Electronic cigarettes and vaping are now banned at Rhode Island workplaces.

A law, recently signed by Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo, took effect this week.

It adds the use of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers and similar products designed for electronic, vapor or aerosol delivery of nicotine to the definition of smoking in the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act. That 2005 law banned smoking in most enclosed public spaces, including businesses.

Felony charges follow joyride in cornfield

ME STARKS — Maine State Police said a 19-year-old's joyride in a corn-

field led to a felony charge.

Troopers charged Kristoffer Welch of New Sharon on Thursday with aggravated criminal mischief after he allegedly took his truck onto a farmer's field and spun the wheels. The crop damage was estimated to be \$5,000.

Troopers launched an investigation after receiving reports of a video on social media showing a Ford truck tearing up a field.

Shore town bans weddings on beach

NJ SPRING LAKE — A New Jersey shore community banned all weddings and celebrations from its boardwalk and beach, citing congestion and related issues.

The Spring Lake Borough Council recently enacted the ban that takes effect Nov. 1. Weddings planned before then will be allowed to proceed.

The town's previous policy allowed weddings to take place on the beach with no permit, though the wedding party and guests couldn't kick other people out of gazebos or put up decorations. The frequent parties made it harder for other beachgoers to enjoy their visits, town officials said. On hot days in particular, beachgoers were seeking out gazebos for shade at the same time brides were arriving to meet their grooms.

Cops say shop owners accessed nude photos

RI MIDDLETOWN — State police said the owners of a Rhode Island computer service and repair shop were arrested in connection with an investigation into the illegal access and sharing of nude images found on customers' cellphones and computers.

Police said Gary Gagne, 58, and Daniel Anton, 35, both of Jamestown, were charged Friday with soliciting others to commit the crime of accessing a computer for fraudulent purposes and conspiracy. Both were released on \$30,000 bail after a court appearance. They are the co-owners of Flint Audio Video in Middletown.

Police said one of their employees accessed photos found on devices brought in for repair without the owners' permission and shared them with Gagne and Anton.

Cops: Teen driver poses as jogger after crash

NC MADISON — Police said a 19-year-old man flipped his car in Madison then fled the scene, removed some clothes and pretended to be a jogger unconnected to the wreck.

The Wisconsin State Journal reports that the unidentified man made a lane change Tuesday evening at the same time as another car. He overcorrected, hit the shoulder and his car overturned.

Police Chief Mike Koval said the suspect fled and removed some clothing. When officers caught up with him, he told them he was an "uninvolved jogger."

Officers ticketed the man for failure to have control, hit and run and operating after revocation.

Former students admit to prank after 50 years

KA CLAY CENTER — A group of Kansas pranksters are finally coming clean right before the 50-year anniversary of a high school finding a mysterious hole through its roof.

Richard Klocke and his

friends fired a small cannon full of gunpowder near Clay Center Community High School for the Fourth of July in 1968, the Kansas City Star reported.

"This thing just exploded like crazy," Klocke said. "The metal was flying. I could hear it flying in all these directions, but I could specifically hear it flying from this direction off toward the school. It was a deafening explosion."

Authorities reported that mysterious metal scraps had gouged the school roof and caused a water leak, but they never figured out where the scraps came from. A local newspaper reported that the "mysterious piece of metal" was sent to Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka for identification, but the scraps still couldn't be explained.

Someone's hiding library's racy videos

MI BERKLEY — A suburban Detroit library has decried an unidentified censor who concealed DVDs of movies from the racy "Fifty Shades" series.

The Berkley library is now openly displaying the R-rated movies, accompanied by a sign that says hiding movies "is not how libraries work."

Librarian Lauren Arnsman told the Detroit Free Press that the three movies had mysteriously disappeared since last year, forcing the library to spend more than \$100 to replace them. Most were found hidden in the building. They're now on a table, along with the movies "Jerusalem" and "Eyes Wide Shut," which also had disappeared.

The library doesn't know who was hiding the DVDs. The "Fifty Shades" books? They're still on the shelf.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

England wins, moves into semifinals

Associated Press

SAMARA, Russia — England achieved something David Beckham's generation never managed: It reached the semifinals of the World Cup.

Harry Maguire and Dele Alli scored with headers in a 2-0 win over Sweden on Saturday, earning England a match against either Croatia or host nation Russia for a place in the final.

England has advanced further than was widely expected. Not even the England side containing stars like Beckham, Steven Gerrard and a young Wayne Rooney ever got this far at a major tournament.

England, the 1966 World Cup champion, last reached the semifinals in 1990. In 2014, the team didn't even make it out of the group stage. But the performances of Gareth Southgate's young lineup in Russia are being celebrated wildly back home.

The surprising run is being fueled by goals from set pieces, and there was another against Sweden when Maguire headed in a corner in the 30th minute.

Alli added the second goal by meeting a far-post cross from Jesse Lingard with a powerful header in the 59th, becoming — at 22 — the second-youngest scorer for England at a World Cup.

"We knew set plays would be key," Maguire said. "And also that little ball that Jesse sent in for Dele, that was great. We worked on that in practice."

It proved to be a match too far for the Swedes, who got further at a World Cup than they ever did with Zlatan Ibrahimovic — the team's star for more than a decade — by being compact and hard to break down. That helped them win a two-leg playoff against Italy to get to the World Cup, top a group containing Germany, and then beat Switzerland in the round of 16.

They began solidly against England in a slow and sloppy start to the game that resembled a preseason friendly at times, only to be outdone by England's eighth set-piece goal of its 11 in Russia.

The standard of England's crossing has particularly stood out this tournament, and another brilliant delivery led to the second goal.

A chant of "On our way, on our way, to Moscow, on our way" came from England fans in one corner of the Samara Arena.

Although Sweden rallied in the final 30 minutes, forcing two good saves from goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, England comfortably held on for its first shutout of the tournament.

Sterling's struggles: England forward Raheem Sterling has yet to score at the World Cup from his unusual position as the support striker to Harry Kane, and his finishing let him down against Sweden.

Set clear by Jordan Henderson's long pass over the defense late in the first half, Sterling tried to get around Sweden goalkeeper Robin Olsen but was stopped. Sterling got hold of the loose ball but his shot was deflected over.

Sterling's movement was very good, though, causing Sweden's slow defense problems throughout.

Swedish tactics: Virtually from the kickoff, Sweden sent a long pass forward to tall striker Ola Toivonen and looked for a flick-on. It was a sign of what was to come — direct balls, long throws, pressing — but it didn't trouble England.

The Sweden team got in a huddle after the game and coach Janne Andersson spoke to the players who, like England's, had gotten further than expected.

Sweden last reached the World Cup semifinals in 1994, and ended up finishing third.

Belgium scores two first-half goals, holds off Brazil

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Neymar used Brazil's famed yellow jersey to shield his anguish. The Belgians, clad in red and dancing in a celebratory circle nearby, couldn't hide their relief.

Belgium reached the World Cup semifinals for the first time in 28 years, holding off five-time champion Brazil 2-1 Friday in one of the country's greatest soccer feats.

"We've achieved something that is really beautiful," said Kevin De Bruyne, who scored Belgium's second goal, "and it's not easy."

Belgium eliminated Brazil by successfully fusing the attacking potency of De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku with the creativity of Eden Hazard and the goalkeeping exploits of Thibaut Courtois. Plus an own-goal from Brazil.

It all adds up to a semifinal match against France on Tues-

day in St. Petersburg.

"Just treasure it and pass it down in the generations," Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said, still seemingly in awe of what his team achieved at the Kazan Arena.

Belgium took the lead after a slice of good fortune involving a pair of Manchester City teammates who were on opposing sides. Brazil midfielder Fernandinho's trailing right arm inadvertently helped Belgium captain Vincent Kompany's header land in his own net in the 13th minute.

De Bruyne then completed a counterattack launched by Lukaku to double the lead in the 31st minute.

As Belgium lost cohesiveness in the second half and Brazil's changes stirred the team, substitute Renato Augusto reduced the deficit in the 76th with a header. But it was too late for Brazil to muster an equalizer

as Courtois thwarted several efforts to force the game into extra time.

While Belgium's golden generation is finally flourishing, Neymar is leading Brazil home after failing to live up to the expectations that come with being soccer's most expensive player. Crouching on the field, he pulled his shirt over his face while Belgium exalted in victory.

Humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semifinals four years ago on home soil with Neymar out injured, Brazil didn't even get that far this time. Just like defending champion Germany and Argentina before them, the Kazan Arena is where Brazil's World Cup challenge ended.

"Randomness happened and it was cruel to us," Brazil coach Tite said. "It was hard to swallow."

Especially after Brazil conceded only one goal in the pre-

vious four games in Russia. But the defense was breached after 13 minutes in Tatarstan. Fernandinho's own-goal ensured for the first time since March 2017 that Brazil was trailing in a competitive match. Unlike then — an eventual 4-1 victory over Uruguay — there was no comeback.

Not when Courtois was proving to be an impenetrable barrier in the Belgium goal, denying Marcelo's strike before the lead was extended by De Bruyne.

"They were more effective," Tite said, struggling to hold back tears. "Not a superiority in terms of performance, but in terms of effectiveness on the pitch."

Belgium held on even after Philippe Coutinho's cross was headed in by Augusto, who managed to evade Kompany and Jan Vertonghen three minutes after replacing Paulinho.

Top seed Halep ousted; Nadal advances

Associated Press

LONDON — Top-ranked Simona Halep couldn't capitalize on her chances and was knocked out by Hsieh Su-Wei of Taiwan at Wimbledon on Saturday, losing 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the third round.

Halep served for the match at 5-3 in the final set and had a match point in the next game, but the French Open champion faltered both times. The 48th-ranked Hsieh saved the match point with a backhand winner before holding for 5-5 and broke Halep in the next game. The Romanian then had two more break points at 6-5 but couldn't take advantage.

The top-seeded Halep's exit means only one of the women's top-10 seeds remains in the tournament — No. 7 Karolina Pliskova — and leaves Serena Williams as the big favorite

to win her eighth Wimbledon title.

Rafael Nadal had no such problems, and guaranteed he will stay No. 1 in the men's rankings after Wimbledon as he reached the fourth round with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over 19-year-old Australian Alex de Minaur.

Nadal hasn't dropped a set so far in the tournament. Against de Minaur, he faced only three break points and saved them all, while producing nearly twice as many winners, 30-17.

This is Nadal's eighth trip to the round of 16 at the All England Club, where he has won two of his 17 Grand Slam titles. A year ago, the Spaniard lost at that stage.

He and Roger Federer have swapped the No. 1 ranking a half-dozen times this season, the most since there were eight changes in 1999.

Fifth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro and former finalist Milos Raonic also advanced.

Del Potro overcame a hot-tempered display from Benoit Paire to win 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Paire slammed his racket and shouted loudly at the chair umpire and at himself after losing the second set, and his antics had del Potro shaking his head in return. The Argentine, who had crossed the net to help Paire back on his feet after a fall during the second set, still took a 3-0 lead in the third before the Frenchman fought back to level it at 3-3.

The match was then interrupted for about 10 minutes with Paire facing another break point at 4-3 while medical staff treated a spectator who had fainted in the heat. When play resumed, Paire saved that point with a service winner but was eventually broken when he

netted a backhand, allowing del Potro to serve out the match.

Raonic reached Wimbledon's fourth round for the third consecutive year by finishing off a 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over 171st-ranked qualifier Dennis Novak of Austria in a match suspended because of fading light the night before.

Play was halted with Novak about to serve while trailing 6-5 in the third set, and Raonic got off to a perfect start when they resumed Saturday by breaking to take that set.

The 13th-seeded Canadian was the runner-up at the All England Club in 2016, losing to Andy Murray in the final. Raonic lost to eventual champion Roger Federer in last year's quarterfinals.

On Monday, Raonic will face 103rd-ranked Mackenzie McDonald of the United States for a quarterfinal berth.

Parker, Howard joining new teams through free agency

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Tony Parker went to San Antonio as a teenager nearly two decades ago, quickly became part of the Spurs' legendary Big Three and celebrated four championships while wearing silver and black.

He's not done playing.

He's just done in San Antonio.

Parker agreed to a two-year, \$10 million contract with the Charlotte Hornets on Friday, ending a 17-year run with the Spurs. And he's not the only veteran on the move, with Oklahoma City and Carmelo Anthony having mutually agreed to part ways and Dwight Howard set to sign with the Washington Wizards once he clears waivers.

All of those deals were confirmed Friday to The Associated Press by people involved in the negotiations. Each of the people spoke on condition of anonymity because none of the moves were finalized — but the Parker move was confirmed by

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who thanked his now-former point guard in a statement released by the team.

"It's difficult to put into words how important Tony Parker has been to the Spurs franchise over the past two decades," Popovich said. "From his first game in 2001 at age 19, TP has impressed and inspired us — day-after-day, game-after-game, season-after-season — with his passion, dedication and desire. We are grateful to Tony for 17 years of truly amazing memories."

The move reunites Parker with new Charlotte coach James Borrego, who most recently was an assistant in San Antonio.

Parker averaged career-lows of 7.7 points and 19.5 minutes last season, when he lost his starting job. He was part of 137 playoff wins with Popovich, the second most by any coach and player in NBA history. Popovich and Spurs star Tim Duncan combined for 157 playoff wins.

Anthony has likely played

his last game for the Oklahoma City Thunder — with the sides having mutually decided that he will not be on the team next season. It remains unclear how that departure will happen, as in whether it will be through a buyout, the Thunder waiving him or a trade for Anthony.

Anthony is due to make \$28 million this season, his last in a five-year, \$125 million contract he signed with New York before getting moved to Oklahoma City. He has said he will not accept a reserve role, and by parting with him — somehow — the Thunder could save more than \$90 million in luxury tax payments.

Anthony averaged 16.2 points on 40 percent shooting last season, both of those were career lows.

Howard started Friday on Charlotte's roster, then was traded to Brooklyn — a deal agreed to days ago, but one that couldn't be completed until Friday when the league's off-season moratorium on player movement ended. The Nets will buy him out, which will pave

the way for Howard to eventually sign with the Wizards.

In other moves Friday:

■ Portland announced the signing of Jusuf Nurkic, who agreed earlier to a four-year deal worth \$48 million.

The 23-year-old Nurkic led the Trail Blazers with 27 double-doubles last season.

■ Kyle Anderson signed a \$37 million, four-year offer sheet from the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Spurs have 48 hours to decide whether to keep Anderson, who averaged 7.9 points for them last season in his first year as a full-time starting forward.

■ Zach LaVine signed a four-year, \$80 million offer sheet with the Sacramento Kings.

The Bulls have 48 hours to decide whether to match the offer on the restricted free agent.

LaVine has missed 91 of a possible 162 games over the last two seasons. He appeared in only 24 contests for the Bulls last season, averaging 16.7 points on 38 percent shooting.

Betts, Red Sox pummel Hammel, Royals

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mookie Betts and company jumped all over Jason Hammel.

It was more than enough with Chris Sale on the mound.

Sale struck out 12 in six innings, Betts, J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts homered, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 10-5 on Friday night.

Betts' 100th career homer sparked the AL East leaders to four runs in each of the first two innings. Sale earned his 100th win.

"If you get four runs before you take the mound it's nice," he said. "Just go out there and you're able to pitch and not worry about being too cute or too fine, just throwing strikes."

Sale also made a nice running catch of Mike Moustakas' foul popup in front of the Red Sox dugout in the sixth, calling off catcher Sandy Leon and third baseman Eduardo Nunez.

"As pitchers, we don't get the best rep for being athletes," Sale said. "It was just fun, run by, scream a little bit and get the guys going."

Sale's 16-inning scoreless streak was snapped by Alcides Escobar's two-out RBI single in the second, but that was it for the skidding Royals against the ace left-hander. Sale (9-4) has allowed one run and 10 hits over 20 innings in his past three starts.

"We take care of him," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "Whenever we can save right now is going to benefit him and us in the future. His breaking ball was great. The fastball whenever he wanted to was up to 99 (mph). He was outstanding again."

Boston stretched its win streak to four with its ninth victory in 11 games overall. It leads the majors with 60 victories and a .674 winning percentage.

Betts drove Hammel's third pitch over the center-field fence for his fourth leadoff drive this season.

Brock Holt added a two-run single as Boston batted around in a four-run first.

Martinez and Bogaerts each hit a two-run shot in the second. It was Martinez's major league-leading 27th homer, and Bogaerts improved to 6-for-11 with two homers and seven RBIs versus Hammel (2-11).

"It just wasn't his night," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "I mean he didn't have anything going for him."

Hammel was pulled after the second. The veteran right-hander has surrendered 23 runs, 21 earned, and 28 hits in 12 innings in his past three starts. He leads the AL in losses, and his ERA is up to 6.16.

"Probably throwing more angry balls right now than actual pitches so kind of become a thrower instead of a pitcher

due to just frustration," Hammel said. "It's a tough lineup and if you miss they make you pay which you saw today."

Moustakas hit a two-run homer in the eighth for Kansas City, which has dropped seven straight and 19 of 22. Burch Smith pitched four scoreless innings in relief of Hammel.

The Royals are 37 games below .500 for the first time since finishing the 2006 season with a 62-100 record. Since June 1, they have been outscored 165-72 while losing 26 of 31.

Thornburg returns: Red Sox right-hander Tyler Thornburg pitched for the first time since October 2, 2016, with the Brewers. He missed last season after shoulder surgery. He allowed one run in the seventh.

Rare triple: Royals slugger Lucas Duda tripled in the seventh inning. It was his first three-base hit since July 17, 2011.

MLB roundup

Mahle pitches Reds to fifth straight victory over Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyler Mahle tossed one-run ball into the seventh inning and the Cincinnati Reds edged the Cubs 3-2 on Friday for their fifth straight victory over Chicago.

Adam Duvall and Scooter Gennett drove in runs as the Reds won for the 14th time in 18 games and ended the Cubs' six-game winning streak. Billy Hamilton, Cincinnati's No. 9 hitter, had three hits and lead-off man Jose Peraza had two.

Mahle (7-6) allowed five hits and struck out four over 6²/₃ innings to win his fourth straight decision. In his last seven starts, the 23-year-old right-hander has a 2.06 ERA.

Angels 3, Dodgers 2: At Anaheim, Calif., the Los Angeles Angels used a two-out walk by Shohei Ohtani and a throwing error on Yasiel Puig to rally

for a dramatic victory over the Dodgers.

Tigers 3, Rangers 1: Jordan Zimmermann denied Bartolo Colon's bid at baseball history, striking out 11 batters in eight innings as host Detroit beat Texas.

Colon (5-6) was trying to become the winningest Latin-American pitcher in major league history. He remains tied with Dennis Martinez with 245 career victories.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 2: Justin Smoak hit a three-run homer, Yangervis Solarte reached base four times and Toronto beat visiting New York.

Indians 10, Athletics 4: Carlos Carrasco returned from the disabled list — and returned to the win column — as Jose Ramirez and Edwin Encarnacion drove in three runs apiece, leading host Cleveland to its

fifth straight win.

Mets 5, Rays 1: Jose Bautista's grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted New York over visiting Tampa Bay.

Nationals 3, Marlins 2: Pinch-hitter Mark Reynolds led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a home run that lifted host Washington past Miami.

Brewers 5, Braves 4: Jesus Aguilar hit his 20th homer, rookie Freddy Peralta pitched six sharp innings and surging Milwaukee held off visiting Atlanta.

Twins 6, Orioles 2: Lance Lynn bounced back from two poor starts, Max Kepler homered and host Minnesota won its second straight after a six-game skid.

Astros 11, White Sox 4: Lance McCullers struck out a career-high 12 in seven strong innings, Evan Gattis hit a

three-run homer in his team's seven-run eighth and host Houston beat Chicago.

Phillies 17, Pirates 5: Odubel Herrera and Andrew Knapp hit three-run homers, rookie Scott Kingery had a career-high four hits, and visiting Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh for its fifth straight victory.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 1: Zack Godley pitched six effective innings in his 10th win this season, helping host Arizona beat San Diego.

Giants 3, Cardinals 2: Andrew McCutchen hit an RBI single to drive in Hunter Pence from second base in the seventh inning and host San Francisco snapped a four-game skid.

Rockies 7, Mariners 1: German Marquez limited host Seattle to one run and five hits, and Tony Wolters drove in three runs on a pair of triples to lead Colorado.