

STARS AND STRIPES®

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All 12 boys, coach freed from Thai cave

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — A daring rescue mission in the treacherous confines of a flooded cave in Thailand has saved the 12 boys and their soccer coach who were trapped deep within the labyrinth, ending an 18-day ordeal that claimed the life of an experienced volunteer diver and riveted people around the world.

Thailand's navy SEALs, who were central to the rescue effort, said on their Facebook page that the remaining four boys and their 25-year-old coach were all brought out safely Tuesday. Eight of the boys were rescued by a team of 18 Thai and international divers on Sunday and Monday.

"We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what. All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave," the SEALs said, referring to the name of the boys' soccer team. "Everyone is safe."

They said they were waiting for a medic and three SEALs who had stayed with the boys in their dark refuge deep inside the cave complex to come out.

Cheers erupted at a local government office where dozens of volunteers and journalists were awaiting news of whether the intricate and high-risk rescue mission had succeeded. Helicopters taking the boys to a

hospital roared overhead.

Payap Maiming, 40, who helped provide food and necessities to rescue workers and journalists, said a "miracle" had happened. "I'm happy for Thais all over the country, for the people of Mae Sai, and actually just everyone in the world because every news channel has presented this story and this is what we have been waiting for," she said.

The plight of the boys and their coach has captivated Thailand and much of the world — from the heart-sinking news that they were missing to the first flickering video of the huddle of anxious yet smiling boys when they were found 10 days later by a pair of British divers. They were trapped in the Tham Luan Nang Non cave on June 23, when they were exploring it after a soccer practice and it became flooded by monsoon rains.

Each of the boys, ages 11 to 16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by a pair of divers in three days of intricate and high-stakes operations. The route, in some places just a crawl space, had oxygen canisters positioned at regular intervals to refresh each team's air supply.

Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL died Friday while replenishing the canisters.

Cave diving experts had warned it was potentially too risky to dive the youngsters out. But Thai officials, acutely aware that the boys could be trapped for months by monsoon rains that would swell waters in the cave system, seized a window of opportunity provided by relatively mild weather. A massive water pumping effort also made the winding cave more navigable. The confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, speaking before the final rescue was completed, said the boys were given an anti-anxiety medication to help with their perilous removal from the cave.

Asked at a weekly press conference Tuesday if the boys had been sedated, Prayuth said: "Who would chloroform them? If they're chloroformed, how could they come out? It's called anxiolytic, something to make them not excited, not stressed."

Prayuth said the Tham Luan Nang Non cave would be closed for some time to make it safe for visitors.

The eight boys brought out by divers on Sunday and Monday were doing well and were in good spirits, a senior health official said.

Okinawa-based airmen assist in rescue effort

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Dozens of U.S. military personnel, including pararescue airmen based in Okinawa, were part of a multinational effort that saved 12 young soccer players and their coach from a flooded cave in Thailand. The final boy and his coach were rescued Tuesday.

State Department spokesman Steve Castonguay in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, where the operation unfolded, said in an email Tuesday that Thai authorities had the lead with about 40 American servicemembers in support.

"The U.S. team here consists of a survival specialist and pararescue specialists trained in personnel recovery techniques and procedures, as well as their support personnel," he said. The group also includ-

ed Army personnel from a civil military support element, he said.

U.S. Special Operations Command tweeted photographs Tuesday of American servicemembers working on the rescue operations. They show an American servicemember looking at a map with his Thai counterparts, and other U.S. troops hiking into the jungle.

"The men and women of the 353rd Special Operations Group have been directly supporting this international mission for almost two weeks," the command said in its tweet.

The 353rd includes more than 800 airmen stationed at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and is the only Air Force Special Operations unit in the Pacific.

The rescue Tuesday of the last of the trapped boys and their coach from Tham Luang Cave was announced by the Thai

navy SEALs on their Facebook page.

"Twelve Wild Boars and coach out of the cave," the SEALs posted, referring to the name of the youngsters' soccer team.

The boys and their 25-year-old coach were exploring the cave after soccer practice June 23 and became stranded when monsoon rains filled passageways with water.

The risk involved in extracting them from the darkness hit home Friday when a former Thai Navy SEAL died in the cave after running out of air.

However, with oxygen levels dropping inside the chamber where the team was trapped and a forecast of heavy rain, planners decided by Sunday to attempt the daring rescue, which involved equipping the team with breathing masks and having divers shepherd them through the perilous water to safety.

Trump picks GOP favorite for high court

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump chose Brett Kavanaugh, a solidly conservative and politically connected judge, for the Supreme Court, setting up a ferocious confirmation battle with Democrats as he seeks to shift the nation's highest court ever farther to the right.

A favorite of the Republican legal establishment in Washington, Kavanaugh, 53, is a former law clerk for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. Like Trump's first nominee last year, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Kavanaugh would be a young addition who could help remake the court for decades to come

with rulings that could restrict abortion, expand gun rights and roll back key parts of the Affordable Care Act.

"He is a brilliant jurist, with a clear and effective writing style, universally regarded as one of the finest and sharpest legal minds of our time," Trump said in his prime-time televised White House announcement Monday. "There is no one in America more qualified for this position, and no one more deserving."

With Kavanaugh, Trump is replacing a swing vote on the nine-member court with a staunch conservative. Kavanaugh, who serves on the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit,

is expected to be less receptive to abortion and gay rights than Kennedy was. He also has taken an expansive view of executive power and has favored limits on investigating the president.

Speaking at the White House, Kavanaugh pledged to preserve the Constitution and said "a judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law. A judge must interpret the Constitution as written."

A senior White House official said Trump made his final decision on the nomination Sunday evening, then phoned Kavanaugh to inform him. The official said Trump decided on Kavanaugh because of his large body of jurisprudence cited by

other courts, describing him as a judge that other judges read.

On Monday, Trump phoned Kennedy to inform him that his former law clerk would be nominated to fill his seat. Trump signed Kavanaugh's nomination papers Monday evening in the White House residence.

Top contenders had included federal appeals judges Raymond Kethledge, Amy Coney Barrett and Thomas Hardiman.

Some conservatives have expressed concerns about Kavanaugh, questioning his commitment to social issues like abortion and noting his time serving under President George W. Bush as evidence he is a more establishment choice.

Former Marine colonel sentenced in abuse case

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

The former commander of the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in prison for abusing children.

Former Col. Todd Shane Tomko pleaded guilty the same day to three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery at the Virginia Beach Circuit Court in Virginia.

Tomko, 55, had been charged with indecent liberties, aggravated sexual battery, and child abuse and neglect involving three children related to him beginning in 2002. Tomko had maintained a high profile, meeting with celebrities, politicians and royalty, until he was forced to retire from the Marine Corps in July 2016 due to sexual harassment and other charges.

Tomko, who had become the pastor of the Parkview Church after retiring, has been in custody since his arrest last November in Quincy, Ill., on federal warrants. He has spent the last several months in the Virginia Beach City Jail.

Tomko will get credit for time served in jail while awaiting extradition in Illinois, according to the plea agreement.

Half of his prison sentence — another 18 months — was suspended. Tomko must "remain of uniform good behavior during incarceration and for 2 years thereafter," according to the agreement.

Additionally, he is prohibited from contacting the victims in the case, now adults, or their parents.

In 2016, Tomko spent two months in military confinement and was fined \$10,000 after driving drunk to his own arraignment on sexual harassment charges and violating a restraining order. In a plea agreement, abusive sexual contact and fraternization charges were withdrawn and all but \$10,000 of his fine was suspended.

Four active-duty and retired general officers testified for Tomko as character witnesses, including retired Gen. John F. Kelly, former commander of U.S. Southern Command and now White House chief of staff.

Tomko was relieved of command of the Wounded Warrior Regiment in February 2015.

Squadron of Ospreys arrives in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Seven MV-22B Ospreys arrived in Hawaii on Saturday, beginning a permanent relocation of a tilt-rotor squadron from San Diego.

The Ospreys were transported from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, the Marines said in a statement.

The aircraft are part of the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, or VMM-363, and they are the first of 12 to be transferred. The final five are expected to arrive later this month, the Marines said.

Ospreys are able to land vertically like a helicopter and fly like a fixed-wing aircraft.

VMM-363's new command is Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

The squadron was activated in 2012 at Miramar as part of Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Marines were flying Ospreys in Hawaii before this latest group of aircraft arrived.

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268 operates 12 Ospreys out of the Kaneohe Bay, which is on the windward side of Oahu. Some of those are on a rotational deployment to Darwin, Australia.

"VMM-363's capabilities will significantly enhance the Marine Corps' ability to perform humanitarian assistance and disaster response, respond to crises and fulfill other alliance roles in the Indo-Pacific region," the Marines said.

Immigrant family reunions near under order

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Dozens of immigrant children under the age of 5 will be released from government custody and reunited with their parents Tuesday after being separated at the border under President Donald Trump's zero tolerance immigration policy.

A government lawyer said Monday at least 54 children under the age of 5 would join their parents by a court-ordered deadline, only about half the 100 or so children covered by the order. The Trump administration was working on final background checks for another five children ahead of Tuesday's deadline.

On Monday, Trump's administration acknowledged it would not meet a Tuesday deadline set by a San Diego federal judge to reunite detained children under 5 with their families.

Trump said Tuesday that he has a solution to the missed deadline: "Tell people not to come to our country illegally." Before departing the White House for Europe, Trump said, "That's the solution. Don't come to our country illegally. Come like other people do. Come legally."

Parents in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody "for the most part" are being taken to locations near their children and the families will be released, Justice Department attorney Sarah

Soldier's family detained during visit to Fort Drum

Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — Two family members of a Fort Drum soldier are in border protection custody in Batavia after they were detained on the Fourth of July while trying to gain access to the post for an Independence Day celebration.

A television station in New York City reported that Brooklyn residents Concepcion and Margarito Silva were attempting to visit their son-in-law for a holiday celebration when they were stopped at a gate on post because they didn't have proper credentials.

The couple, originally from Mexico, have lived in New York City for more than 20 years. They were undocumented but were given

an official Department of Labor permanent work permit in 2007, according to the report.

They had hoped to visit their pregnant daughter and her husband, the Silva's children, Eduardo and Perla, told the station. The son-in-law is a sergeant who served in Afghanistan and is about to be deployed again.

In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the couple admitted they were in the country illegally.

In an email, a Border Protection spokesman said the couple were charged "with being in the country without admission or parole."

Border patrol and Fort Drum are not confirming the identification of the couple.

Fabian said in court. She said locations would not be publicly disclosed, but children have been sent to shelters across the country.

More than 2,000 children were separated from their parents by U.S. immigration authorities at the border this past

spring before Trump reversed course on June 20 amid an international outcry. Last week, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said there were "under 3,000" separated children in all.

Late last month, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San

Diego set a 14-day deadline to reunite children under 5 with their parents and a 30-day deadline for older children. The 30-day deadline is up July 26.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt sought assurances from the government Monday that advocates would be in position to guide parents when they are released in a foreign land. The parents will be free while their cases wind through immigration court, which can take years, and may be required to wear ankle monitors.

On Monday, a federal judge in Los Angeles rejected the Trump administration's efforts to detain immigrant families in long-term facilities, calling it a "cynical attempt to undo a long-standing court settlement."

U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee said the government had failed to present new evidence to support revising a court order that limits the detention of children who crossed the border illegally.

The Justice Department asked Gee to alter a 1997 settlement, which provides the framework for how to handle detained immigrant children, so it could detain families together for longer periods.

Three years ago, Gee rejected a similar effort by the Obama administration. She ruled at the time that immigrant children generally can't be held longer than 20 days.

Trump pardons ranchers in 2016 case that inspired occupation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has pardoned two ranchers whose case sparked the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

Dwight and Steven Hammond were convicted in 2012 of intentionally and maliciously setting fires on public lands. The arson crime carried a minimum prison sentence of five years, but a sympathetic federal judge, on his last day

before retirement, decided the penalty was too stiff and gave the father and son much lighter prison terms.

Prosecutors won an appeal, and the Hammonds were resented in October 2015 to serve the mandatory minimum.

The decision sparked a protest from Ammon Bundy and dozens of others, who occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near the Hammond ranch in southeastern Oregon from Jan. 2 to Feb. 11, 2016, complaining the Hammonds

were victims of federal overreach. The armed occupiers changed the refuge's name to the Harney County Resource Center, reflecting their belief that the federal government has only a very limited right to own property within a state's borders.

Bundy was arrested during a Jan. 26 traffic stop, effectively ending the protest. Another key occupier, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, was fatally shot that day by Oregon State Police.

In a statement Tuesday,

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called that decision to re-sentence the Hammonds "unjust."

"The Hammonds are devoted family men, respected contributors to their local community and have widespread support from their neighbors, local law enforcement and farmers and ranchers across the West," she said. "Justice is overdue for Dwight and Steven Hammond, both of whom are entirely deserving of these Grants of Executive Clemency."

Watchdog seeking review of lawmaker's conduct at Ohio State

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A watchdog group and a former special counsel to President Barack Obama are seeking an ethics review of U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan even as former colleagues back his statements that he didn't know about sexual abuse of wrestlers while coaching at Ohio State University.

Some ex-wrestlers from the late 1980s and early 1990s say they were groped by team doctor Richard Strauss and that Jordan knew then about the alleged abuse as an assistant coach. Jordan, founder of the conservative Freedom Caucus and potential contender for House speaker, denies that and has said he and other coaches would have reported any alleged abuse brought to their attention.

The group Democracy 21 and former White House ethics lawyer Norman Eisen want to know whether the Ohio Republican made false statements about that. The request Monday to the Office of Congressional Ethics said questions of dishonesty can bring discredit to the House in violation of House rules.

Several former wrestlers have said in recent days that Jordan had to have known of the abuse, based on numerous group conversations at the time.

But on Monday, six former Ohio State wrestling coaches defended Jordan in a joint statement that said none of them was aware of abuse of wrestlers.

"The well-being of student athletes was all of our concern. If we had heard of any abuse, we would have spoken up," said the statement from former head coach Russ Hellickson and former assistant coaches Dave Ruckman, Rex Holman, Ken Chertow, Myron Kharchilava and Kenny Ramsey Jr.

It wasn't immediately clear whether they, like Jordan, plan to talk with the independent investigators from Seattle-based Perkins Coie who are reviewing the allegations against the now-dead doctor and what, if anything, the university knew about the allegations.

Jordan told Fox News on Friday night that "conversations in a locker room are a lot different than people coming up and talking about abuse."

He said no one ever reported abuse to him, and if they had, "I would have dealt with it."

Andy Geiger, a former Ohio State athletic director, said Monday he doesn't recall any complaints during his tenure about a team doctor's alleged sexual misconduct with athletes. Geiger told the AP in a phone interview he does recall some concerns about voyeurism in the showers at the university's Larkins Hall but nothing specifically involving the doctor.

Support for Jordan flowed in from Capitol Hill as House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said the congressman "absolutely would have acted" had he known about the alleged abuse.

Earlier Monday, GOP Whip Steve Scalise backed Jordan, as did key conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus. McCarthy, Scalise and Jordan are all eyeing House leadership runs.

Pompeo talks tough on Iran during visit to UAE

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday that America and its Gulf Arab allies want to show Iran that its actions have "a real high cost," stepping up his warnings after Tehran threatened to disrupt Mideast oil supplies.

Pompeo's comments came during a short trip to the United Arab Emirates, a staunch U.S. ally that hosts some 5,000 American forces at a crucial air base and is the U.S. Navy's busiest foreign port of call. He stopped short of offering any specifics during an interview with Sky News Arabia, an Arab satellite news channel half-owned by Abu Dhabi ruling family member Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a UAE deputy prime minister.

However, his message undoubtedly reached receptive ears. The UAE long has been suspicious of Iran and its nuclear deal with world powers, from which President Donald Trump recently pulled out.

"The one that we are most focused on today is ... that we deny Iran the financial capacity to continue this bad behavior," Pompeo said. "So it's a broad

range, a series of sanctions aimed not at the Iranian people, but rather aimed at the single mission of convincing the Iranian regime that its malign behavior is unacceptable and has a real high cost for them."

Pompeo made a point to mention recent threats by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani over the Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes. While in Europe last week, Rouhani said any disruption to Iran's oil exports would result in the whole region's exports being disrupted.

Iran "should know that America is committed to keeping sea lines open, keeping the transit of oil available for the entire world," Pompeo said. "That's the commitment we have had for decades. We continue under that commitment."

In Tehran, Iran's deputy parliament speaker, Ali Motahari, praised Rouhani for making the threat.

"The American(s) are not ready for any new war in the Persian Gulf, so the president's remark was a good threat which will have positive impacts and will be a deterrent factor against cutting Iran's oil export," Motahari said, according to a report on the parliament's website.

Nobel widow Liu freed from house arrest, now headed to Germany

Associated Press

BEIJING — China allowed the widow of Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo to be freed from house arrest and leave for Berlin on Tuesday, her relatives and close friends said, ending an eight-year ordeal that drove the poet into depression and drew intense criticism of Beijing's human rights record.

The release of Liu Xia, who has never been charged with any crime, is the result of years of campaigning by Western governments and activists and comes just days before the one-year anniversary of the death of dissident Liu Xiaobo while he was serving a prison sentence for inciting subversion.

Liu Xia's brother, Liu Hui, wrote on a social media site: "Sister has already left Beijing for Europe at noon to start her new life. Thanks to everyone who

has helped and cared for her these few years. I hope from now on her life is peaceful and happy."

Liu's release comes as Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is visiting Germany, a country that in May said it would welcome the widow after a recording was released of her crying in desperation and indicating she had lost hope of being able to leave China.

Close friends Gao Yu, a veteran journalist in Beijing, and Wu Yangwei, known by his pen name Ye Du, said Liu Xia was on a flight to Berlin that left Tuesday morning. Wu said he spoke to Liu Xia's older brother, Liu Tong.

"Liu Xia has been kept isolated for so many years," said Wu by phone from the southern city of Guangzhou. "I hope that being in a free country will allow Liu Xia to heal her longstanding traumas and wounds."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Business helps man facing arrest over DVD

OK TULSA — A business helped an Oklahoma man who was facing a more than \$200 fine and a warrant for his arrest for an overdue movie rental he had forgotten about after becoming homeless.

Tulsa television station KTUL reported Lonnie Perry had rented the movie "Ted" in 2014 from a rental store in Claremore, northeast of Tulsa. Shortly after that, he became homeless and packed up the movie along with his belongings.

Perry had forgotten about the rental until he was contacted by the Rogers County District Attorney's Office.

Jeff of All Trades, a Tulsa handyman company, went to the movie rental store and paid what Perry owed on the DVD.

Judge tosses suit to make pot a sacrament

MI INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis church that wants marijuana to be recognized as a religion sacrament had its case dismissed by a judge.

On Friday, Marion Circuit Court tossed the 3-year-old case, The Indianapolis Star reported. The First Church of Cannabis had filed a lawsuit on grounds that pot was considered a sacrament under Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Judge Sheryl Lynch said the church's love for marijuana does not count as practicing a religion. She also said allowing exemptions for illegal marijuana use and possession would affect society negatively.

Witnesses: Naked man tried to strangle dog

NY SYRACUSE — Police said a Syracuse man

is facing a charge of aggravated cruelty to animals after witnesses told authorities he tried to strangle a dog and to pull its legs apart.

The Post-Standard reported officers arrived at Burns Avenue on Friday evening after getting reports that a naked man was trying to kill a dog. The man was taken into custody.

Officers found the dog behind a house, with a leg injury and unable to walk. Police said the dog was taken to a veterinary center. It had suffered a fractured right front leg, bruising to its eyes and torn toenails.

University to mark spot of black school

VA WILLIAMSBURG — William & Mary says it will erect a highway marker to commemorate the spot where a school for enslaved and free black children likely was located.

The university in Williamsburg said in a statement that the marker could be in place as soon as early fall on the edge of campus.

The Bray School operated there from 1760 to 1774. It was founded by The Associates of Dr. Bray, a London-based charity. As many as 400 boys and girls received instruction at the school.

Police: Chemicals 'blew up' in man's face

MA BOSTON — Police said a home explosion in Boston that sent one person to the hospital was caused by a man experimenting with chemicals.

Police Commissioner William Evans said Tomas Mikula, 28, was tinkering with the chemicals in his East Boston apartment when they "blew up in his face." The explosion blew out windows in the second-floor

apartment and forced a building evacuation.

Mikula was hospitalized with second-degree burns and was in critical but stable condition.

Evans said several weapons and live ammunition were found in the home, but police do not believe the explosion is linked to terrorism. Mikula faces several charges including unlawful possession of explosives and unlawful possession of firearms.

Prosecutors: Officer offered teens drugs

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A New Mexico state police officer is facing charges after prosecutors say he tried to give drugs to two teenage girls.

The Albuquerque Journal reported New Mexico State Police Officer Daniel Capehart is being held at the Cibola County Detention Center on suspicion of distributing marijuana and methamphetamine.

An FBI agent said Capehart pulled over two teen girls in June and issued citations for marijuana possession. The agent said Capehart, 33, gave a 16-year-old his business card with his personal cell number and started sending the girl flirtatious text messages and pictures of marijuana. Investigators later arrested Capehart after an undercover drug sting.

2 escape when boat catches fire on lake

WA KENMORE — Two people escaped when their boat caught fire in Lake Washington.

KOMO-TV reported the fire was reported in the waters off Kenmore just after 8 p.m. Sunday.

The boat became fully engulfed and two people on board jumped into the lake to flee the flames. They eventually were rescued by nearby boaters.

No injuries were reported.

Fire boats from Seattle Police, Mercer Island and King County Marine rescue were called to the scene to fight the flames.

2 people wounded as gun in pocket fires

IA DES MOINES — Authorities said bullet fragments struck two people after a handgun went off in a man's pocket at the Animal Rescue League in Des Moines.

Deputies were dispatched to the scene about 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said the 27-year-old man was pulling something from his pocket when the gun fired.

The bullet bounced off the floor and fragmented. One fragment struck a 62-year-old woman in the leg and another hit a 9-year-old girl in the leg. Both people were hospitalized.

The Sheriff's Office hasn't released the names of those involved. No arrests or citations have been reported.

Police say speeding driver refused to stop

NH WOLFEBORO — Police in New Hampshire said a driver they tried to stop kept going because he didn't want anyone to make him late.

Police in Wolfeboro said they tried to stop the man on suspicion of speeding and defective equipment violations. The driver sped away and pulled into a parking lot.

The officer spotted the car among several other cars in the parking lot. Police said the driver, identified as Jesse Depiero, 22, said he didn't stop because he didn't want anyone to make him late.

Depiero was charged with disobeying a police officer and speeding.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Set pieces prove crucial for England's World Cup success

Associated Press

REPINO, Russia — Forget bending them like Beckham. At this World Cup, it has been a case of teasing them in like Trippier and angling them in like Ashley.

Set pieces have been the main source of goals at the tournament in Russia — 42 percent, no less — and England has been the master of that department on its run to the semifinals.

Eight of its 11 goals so far have come via free kicks, corners or penalties, which is four more than any other team and the most since Portugal also scored eight set-piece goals at the World Cup in 1966.

This hasn't come about by fluke. Meticulous preparation — including a trip to the United States to take in an NBA game — the selection of specific players with strong dead-ball delivery, and the defensive nature of high-pressure tournament soccer has led to a point where set pieces could yet lead England to a second World Cup title.

"Set pieces have been a massive thing for us and other teams through the whole of the World Cup," Ashley Young, one of England's set-piece takers, said Monday. "Obviously we work on them in attack and defense, and they are vitally important for us."

"They have worked in our favor and we'll carry on working on them."

A decade ago, England had one of the best set-piece takers in football in David Beckham, whose precision and ability to curl the ball in from the wing was an important weapon at major tournaments. So famous were his crosses that a movie, "Bend It Like Beckham," was spun off it in 2002.

In England's class of 2018, free kicks, corners and wide crosses are mostly provided by England's wing backs, Young and Kieran Trippier, and they are proving tough to defend.

Young set up England's first goal in the 2-0 quarterfinal win over Sweden with a driven corner from the left wing that was headed in by Harry Maguire. Trippier's delivery from the right has been even more impressive, so much so that some have nicknamed him the "Bury Beckham" — a reference to the northern town where he was born.

"I used to watch Beckham and (World Cup-winning Italy midfielder Andrea) Pirlo, players like this, over their careers — they have got a fantastic right foot on them and everyone knows that," Trippier said. "Beckham was the one I always looked up to; the technique, his crossing, on the move or set pieces."

Only a few months ago, Young and Trippier were far from sure of getting into England's World Cup squad, never mind the starting team. However, Gareth Southgate,

the team's forward-thinking coach, decided to switch formation to a 3-5-2 last year in an effort to give more security to his defense, enable his midfielders to have more possession, and to get more support for star striker Harry Kane.

Another side-effect was the necessity for wing backs, and who better than the energetic Young and Trippier?

But it's more than just England's crossing ability. It's what the players are doing when the ball goes into the area.

Southgate spent time in the United States at the start of the year, watching the Super Bowl but also NBA games in a bid to discover how teams got themselves into space near the basket via choreographed moves and plays. Southgate also recruited Allan Russell, the team's attack coach, who has studied set-play moves in football and the NBA.

At the World Cup, England's players have acted as screens to block defenders and give teammates space to attack the ball, as seen in England's opening goal against Panama scored by center back John Stones. They've used decoy runners. They've lined up in bizarre formations to confuse their markers — like against Colombia in the round of 16 where four players stood in a row before splintering off.

It helps having big, tall players like Maguire and Stones to get on the end of the crosses.

"They are willing to put their heads through a brick wall," Young said with smile.

Three of England's goals have come from the penalty spot, all converted by Kane, and the team won a penalty shootout for the first time at a World Cup to beat Colombia. Southgate has worked on improving England players' psychology going into shootouts, while goalkeeper Jordan Pickford used information — detailing where Colombia's penalties were likely to go — that was written on a water bottle next to his goal.

Meanwhile, five of England's goals have been headers, also tying the record for a single World Cup since 1966. It was telling that against Sweden, when both goals were from headers, England's players picked their moments to cross in the ball.

Kyle Walker, for example, repeatedly found himself in good areas and space to deliver a cross but chose to lay the ball off to players with better delivery like Trippier and Jesse Lingard, who assisted Dele Alli for the second goal.

Croatia has scored two set-piece goals at the World Cup — one being a penalty — so the English appear to have the advantage in this department.

Expect them to exploit it in Moscow on Wednesday.

Ronaldo moving to Juventus

Associated Press

Cristiano Ronaldo is leaving Real Madrid to join Italian club Juventus in a move expected to benefit the Portugal forward's tax return.

Juventus said Tuesday it paid \$131.5 million for Ronaldo, who signed a four-year deal with the Serie A champions.

The move brings an end to a hugely successful nine-year spell in Spain, and takes him further away from a tax fraud case that may end up costing the Portugal forward more than \$20 million in fines.

"These years with Real Madrid and in this city of Madrid have been possibly the happiest of my life," Ronaldo wrote in an open letter. "My only feeling is of an enormous gratitude for this club, for these fans and for this city. I can only thank them all for the love and affection I have received."

"But I think the time has come to start a new phase in my life and that is why I have asked the club to accept my transfer. I feel that it is time, and I ask everyone, especially our fans, to please understand me."

Ronaldo joined Real Madrid in 2009 from Manchester United and was the Spanish club's all-time leading scorer with 451 goals in 438 matches. He helped the club win four Champions League titles — beating Juventus in the final in 2017 — and also won the league and cup twice each.

He has scored a record 120 Champions League goals, 105 of them since moving to Madrid — 12 more than Juventus managed in that same period.

But he was unhappy with the way the tax authorities treated him in Spain. Ronaldo, along with several other top players in the country, has been accused of tax fraud, with authorities saying the government was defrauded of \$17 million from 2011-14. Unconfirmed media reports last month said Ronaldo had agreed to pay a fine of \$22 million.

Ronaldo is currently on vacation in Greece following Portugal's elimination from the World Cup. Juventus president Andrea Agnelli flew out Tuesday to meet the 33-year-old forward.

Serena rallies, earns semifinal berth

Associated Press

LONDON — Serena Williams came up with a comeback to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon, then walked off Centre Court with her right index finger aloft.

Yes, no matter what the rankings or seedings say, she still looks as if she's capable of playing like someone who's No. 1.

Williams moved closer to her eighth title at the All England Club and 24th Grand Slam trophy overall — but first since missing more than a year while having a baby — by beating 52nd-ranked Camila Giorgi of Italy 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals Tuesday.

"This is only my fourth tournament back, so I don't feel pressure. I don't feel I have to win this; I don't feel I have to lose this," Williams said. "I'm just here just to be here and to prove that I'm back. And I feel like I'm back. I still have a long way to go to be where I was."

Williams was seeded 25th by the All England Club, a nod to all of her past success at the grass-court major, including titles the last two times she entered it, in 2015 and 2016.

She missed Wimbledon a year ago because she was pregnant, and she went about 16 months between Grand Slam tournaments, so her ranking is just outside the top 180.

That is going to change now.

Next up for the 36-year-old American is a match against No. 13 seed Julia Goerges of Germany, a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over No. 20 Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

This is all brand new for Goerges, who had never even been to a Grand Slam quarterfinal before this week. Plus, at Wimbledon in particular, she lost in the first round each of the past five years.

Williams is 3-0 against Goerges, winning in straight sets each time.

"Every match starts from zero," Goerges said. "Everybody has the same chances to win that match, and I'm looking forward to it."

After their most recent meeting, in the French Open's third round last month, Williams pulled out of that tournament, citing a chest muscle injury that made it too painful to serve.

After going a couple of weeks without hitting a serve, Wil-

iams has regained her ability with that stroke nicely at Wimbledon.

She hit one at 122 mph against Giorgi, delivered six of her seven aces in the final set, and won 44 of the last 54 points she served. It was the first time she'd needed to erase a real deficit this fortnight: Williams hadn't dropped a set until facing Giorgi, who was in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

"After the first set, I was like, 'All right, let's go three sets.' And that's kind of what I thought. ... 'I'll just keep fighting,'" Williams said.

The other semifinal Thursday will be No. 11 seed Angelique Kerber of Germany vs. No. 12 Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia.

Kerber is a former No. 1 who owns two Grand Slam titles and was the runner-up to Williams at the All England Club two years ago. Ostapenko won last year's French Open.

Kerber needed seven match points to close out No. 14 Daria Kasatkina of Russia 6-3, 7-5 at Centre Court, while Ostapenko defeated 2014 Australian Open runner-up Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 7-5, 6-4 on a windy

No. 1 Court.

Kerber took advantage of Kasatkina's 31 unforced errors, including seven double-faults, but took a while to end things. Kerber served for the victory at 5-4 in the second set, but got broken. When she served for it a second time, she needed to navigate a 16-point game that included five deuces and all of those match points, until forcing a forehand error on the last.

Ostapenko played her usual aggressive style, compiling a 33-6 edge in winners.

In the last men's quarterfinal, which was suspended because of darkness after the third set Monday night, 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro defeated Gilles Simon of France 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5), 5-7, 7-6 (5).

Del Potro held four match points while serving for the victory at 5-4 in the fourth set, but had to wait until the last tiebreaker to advance in 4 hours, 24 minutes, making it the longest men's singles match of the tournament.

On Wednesday, del Potro faces Rafael Nadal.

Colombia's Gaviria wins 4th stage of Tour de France

Associated Press

SARZEAU, France — Colombia's Fernando Gaviria won for the second time in four stages at the Tour de France on Tuesday, while Olympic champion Greg Van Avermaet kept the leader's yellow jersey.

Gaviria won Stage 4 after edging world champion Peter Sagan in a sprint finish to the flat 121-mile leg from La Baule to Sarzeau that started and finished on the Atlantic coast.

The 23-year-old Gaviria had already won Stage 1 — when he also edged Sagan — on his Tour debut for his Quick-Step team.

"It was a very difficult sprint, but we knew how to pull it off," Gaviria said. "I had to spend all my energy because it was a de-

manding finish. We are happy to have won it because the team deserved it."

Defending champion Chris Froome of Sky, who remained 55 seconds back due to his fall in Stage 1, finished safely in the pack with leader Van Avermaet.

Quick-Step hunted down the breakaway to set up Gaviria, who powered his way down the final meters of the four-kilometer finish — the longest straightaway to conclude a leg on this Tour.

Gaviria surged across the line just inches ahead of the hard-charging Sagan, who was trying to add to his Stage 2 win, and Andre Greipel in a close third.

"He is faster than me," Sagan

said about Gaviria. "We will see. Maybe I will wait for some mistake. And maybe we will see the next days on the climbs. Every stage is different, every sprint is different."

Riders were enjoying a calm sunny afternoon in the cycling hotbed of northwest Brittany until a pileup near the front of the peloton with just over 5K left that sent several riders to the tarmac. Last year's runner-up Rigoberto Uran (EF Education First-Drpac) and Katusha leader Ilnur Zakarin were slowed down by the accident.

Van Avermaet, the 2016 Olympic road race champion who is a support rider for BMC leader Richie Porte, took the overall lead when his team won

Monday's team time trial.

Tom Dumoulin was seventh (11 seconds behind), Uran was 10th (:35) and Porte 14th (:51). Movistar teammates Alejandro Valverde and Mikel Landa were 15th and 16th (:53), narrowly ahead of Froome. The 2014 champion Vincenzo Nibali was 19th (1:06), Romain Bardet 20th (1:15) and Nairo Quintana was 48th (2:08).

A four-man breakaway of Dimitri Claeys and Anthony Perez (Cofidis), Guillaume Van Keirsbulck (Wanty) and Jerome Cousin (Direct Energie) opened up a gap of more than seven minutes early on, but they were slowly reeled in and swallowed up by the Quick-Step-led pack with 2 kilometers to go.

Red Sox stretch winning streak to seven

Associated Press

BOSTON — J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 28th home run. Mookie Betts had two hits and a running catch in center field. Mitch Moreland made an over-the-shoulder grab. Even Andrew Benintendi, who is still trying to earn a spot in the All-Star Game, had a pair of hits.

The Boston Red Sox have a lineup stocked with All-Stars, and they're playing like it.

"There's so many ways this team can win every night," Martinez said after helping the Red Sox win their seventh straight game, 5-0 over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

"Our whole team's been really consistent," said Martinez, one of five Boston players named to the AL roster in next week's All-Star Game. "You know what

you're going to get when you come to the ballpark every night."

Martinez hit a three-run homer, Steve Pearce added a two-run shot and Eduardo Rodriguez pitched 5²/₃ innings as Boston won for the 14th time in 17 games. The Red Sox ended the day with a 2½-game lead in the AL East — their biggest since April — over the New York Yankees, who split a doubleheader in Baltimore.

"Mookie, Benny, now it's getting fun," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Those guys are getting on base a lot. And J.D.'s getting pitches to hit."

Pearce, who was acquired from the Toronto Blue Jays last month, lined a 3-2 pitch into the Monster Seats with two outs in the first inning to make it 2-0. It stayed that way until Betts and Benintendi singled to lead off the eighth and Martinez put one

into the Monster Seats to give the Red Sox a 5-0 lead.

That was plenty for five Red Sox pitchers, who combined on a five-hitter.

Rodriguez (11-3) held Texas hitless until Adrian Beltre singled with one out in the fourth. He allowed just three singles and three walks, striking out five.

No one made it past second base for the Rangers until Robinson Chirinos tripled to lead off the seventh, but he was stranded there when Brandon Workman struck out Joey Gallo and then retired Delino Deshields and Elvis Andrus on groundouts.

"When you're playing a team like this, you have to capitalize on your opportunities," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "And we didn't do that tonight."

MLB roundup

Gardner's four hits help Yanks split with O's

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Standing at the plate with a chance to tie the game, Brett Gardner grounded out to seal a galling defeat to the Baltimore Orioles.

Given the opportunity for redemption, Gardner and the Yankees cranked up the offense to earn a doubleheader split.

Gardner had four hits, homered and drove in three runs to lift New York to a 10-2 victory Monday night.

In the opener, Danny Valencia snapped an 0-for-25 skid with a three-run homer off CC Sabathia, and Baltimore ended a six-game losing streak with a 5-4 victory.

The first game ended with Gardner hitting a bouncer to first base as a pinch hitter with the potential tying run on third base. He returned in the nightcap to torment the Orioles at the plate and in center field, where he made several fine, running catches.

"Game 1 was a close game and I pinch-hit there at the end of the game and wasn't able to come through," Gardner said. "To be able to turn the page and come back and have a good

game in the nightcap — have a relatively easy win and save our pitching staff and our bullpen — I thought that was important."

Gardner led off with a single off Jefry Ramirez (0-3) and scored on a double by Didi Gregorius. In the fourth, Gardner hit his seventh homer, a two-run drive that made it 3-0.

That was enough offense for Luis Cessa (1-1), who allowed three hits over six shutout innings.

"Anytime you're coming off a loss, you don't want to lose two," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "Gardi set the tone early."

A four-run eighth — highlighted by Austin Romine's two-run homer and an RBI double by Gardner — ended any doubt.

Despite allowing a home run to Tim Beckham, Giovanni Gallegos finished for his first major league save.

New York had a season-high 17 hits, at least one from every starter.

Dodgers 8, Padres 2: Clayton Kershaw (3-4) pitched six shutout innings, and Cody Bellinger and Justin Turner each

had three hits as visiting Los Angeles beat San Diego.

Giants 2, Cubs 1 (11): Pablo Sandoval singled home the winning run with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning a day after driving in five runs, sending host San Francisco over Chicago.

Brandon Crawford loaded the bases when he was intentionally walked by Pedro Strop to bring up Sandoval, who hit a sharp single to left against a five-man infield.

Reds 7, Indians 5: Anthony DeSclafani (4-1) allowed one run in seven innings, Scott Schebler was 4-for-5 with a homer, and visiting Cincinnati beat Cleveland.

All-Star first baseman Joey Votto homered for Cincinnati, which took the opener of the team's annual battle for the Ohio Cup and sent the AL Central leaders to their third straight loss.

Rays 10, Tigers 9 (10): Daniel Robertson hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and host Tampa Bay won for the 12th time in its last 13 home games by beating Detroit.

Twins 3, Royals 1: Eduardo Escobar had three hits

and drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh to support Jose Berrios' (9-7) strong outing as host Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Athletics 2, Astros 0: Frankie Montas (5-2) and two relievers combined for a five-hitter, Stephen Piscotty homered and hit an RBI single and visiting Oakland beat Houston.

Pirates 6, Nationals 3: Gregory Polanco drove in four runs in the first two innings and host Pittsburgh went on to a victory over Washington.

Marlins 4, Brewers 3 (10): Backup catcher Bryan Holaday hit a walk-off RBI single with one out in the 10th inning and host Miami beat Milwaukee.

Mets 4-1, Phillies 3-3: Aaron Nola (12-2) allowed one hit in seven shutout innings and lashed a three-run double that sent visiting Philadelphia past New York Mets for a split of their two-night doubleheader.

In the opener, Wilmer Flores connected for a pinch-hit homer in the bottom of the 10th off Victor Arano (1-1) to give New York the victory. Tim Peterson (2-1) pitched out of trouble in the 10th to get the win.