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Trump, Putin rip Mueller probe at summit

The Washington Post

HELSINKI — President Donald Trump cast doubt on the conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, saying after his summit here Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin that the autocrat gave him a “very powerful” denial.

After Putin said his government played no role in trying to sabotage the U.S. election, Trump offered no pushback and went on to condemn the Justice Department’s investigation of Russian interference as “a disaster for our country.”

Concluding their first formal one-on-one summit here Monday, Trump said his message regarding the Russian interference “was a message best delivered in person” during the meeting, during which the two leaders “spent a great deal of time” discussing the Kremlin’s interference. Putin insisted publicly that the “Russian state has never interfered and is not going to interfere in internal American affairs,” and Trump declined to dispute his assertions, instead saying that Putin “has an interesting idea” about the issue of interference.

“I don’t see any reason why” Russia would interfere in the election, Trump said as he stood next to Putin at a joint news conference after their talks in the Finnish capital ended. Of their private conversation

in Helsinki about the interference, Trump said, “President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.”

Putin said he and Trump discussed arms control issues, including curbs on nuclear weapons and U.S. missile defense plans.

But those issues were subsumed by the fallout over comments from both presidents to Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump said that he holds “both countries responsible” for the frayed relations between the two nations and attacked special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation.

Putin later confirmed that he did want Trump to win in 2016 “because he talked about normalizing relations” between Russia and the U.S. Yet he did not answer directly when pressed on whether the Russian government had compromising information on Trump or his family members, dismissing it by saying that “it’s hard to imagine greater nonsense.” He told reporters, “Please throw this junk out of your head.”

During their two-hour, one-on-one talks earlier Monday, in which the leaders were accompanied only by interpreters, Trump and Putin discussed their disagreements “at length,” Trump said. He added, “Our relationship has never been worse than it is now. However, that changed as of about four hours ago.”

The summit began hours after Trump, in a series of tweets, blamed his own country rather than Russia for the hostilities between their two nations.

Speaking first at the news conference, Putin said the talks took place “in a frank and businesslike atmosphere,” adding, “I think we can call it a success.” He said that although bilateral relations have been “going through a complicated stage,” there was “no solid reason” for that. “The Cold War is a thing of the past,” he said.

He added that Trump “mentioned the so-called interference of Russia in the American election” in 2016. Putin again denied any involvement by the Russian state and said any evidence of interference can be analyzed through a joint working group on cybersecurity.

Putin said later in response to a question that U.S. investigators possibly could come to Russia to participate in the questioning of suspects after a dozen Russian intelligence officers were indicted in the U.S. on charges of election interference.

Elaborating, Putin said representatives of the Mueller probe could be present at interrogations of suspects in Russia — as long as Russians would be able to do the same at the questioning of U.S. intelligence agents who Moscow suspects of carrying out crimes on Russian soil.

Lawmakers: Trump’s performance ‘bizarre,’ ‘shameful’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Key members of Congress, including some Republicans, are criticizing President Donald Trump’s performance at a press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin as “bizarre,” “shameful” and a “missed opportunity” to stand up to Russia.

And a former CIA director said it’s treasonous.

The Republican rebuke from Capitol Hill came largely from those lawmakers who have been willing to openly criticize the president. But key Republi-

cans, Democrats and others in Washington appeared stunned that Trump refused to publicly condemn Russian interference in the 2016 election or warn against future meddling during the joint press conference with Putin in Finland.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., tweeted, “This is shameful.” Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., called it “bizarre” and “flat-out wrong” for Trump to suggest that both countries are to blame for their deteriorated relationship.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said never in the history of the country has a U.S. president supported an adversary the

way Trump supported Putin.

Schumer said Trump’s remarks on his European trip, including Monday’s news conference, have strengthened America’s adversaries.

Former CIA Director John O. Brennan tweeted that Trump’s behavior exceeds the threshold of high crimes and misdemeanors. Brennan said, “It was nothing short of treasonous.”

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said Trump’s “weakness in front of Putin” proves the Russians have damaging information on him.

Standing beside Putin in Helsinki, Trump declined to criti-

cize Russia for meddling and said he doesn’t see why Russia would have done that.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said there’s “no question” that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and continues to try undermine democracy in the U.S. and around the world.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., tweeted that Trump took to the international stage Monday to “embarrass America, undermine our institutions, weaken our alliances, & embrace a dictator.”

Navy: Chinese spy ship eyes RIMPAC drills

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

China was disinvented from the prestigious Rim of the Pacific exercise, but it has made an appearance anyway — dispatching a spy ship to international waters off Hawaii, the Navy said Thursday.

Chilean Commodore Pablo Niemann, the combined forces maritime component commander for this year's RIMPAC, said he was disappointed.

"My team and I have been working on the construct and planning of RIMPAC 2018 for more than a year, a plan which has been built considering all of the 25 participating nations and their national training objectives," Niemann said in a statement.

As maritime commander, Niemann said "it is very disappointing that the presence of a nonparticipating ship could disrupt the exercise. I hope and expect all seafarers

to act professionally so we may continue to focus on the work at hand and building on the spirit of cooperation that gives purpose to this exercise."

The Navy confirmed that a Chinese navy intelligence ship was detected off Hawaii coinciding with the early phase of the at-sea portion of the world's largest international maritime exercise.

China was invited and had indicated it would participate in the current RIMPAC, but that invitation was rescinded in May over its ongoing militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea. China also was labeled a strategic competitor of the United States.

Retired Navy Capt. Carl Schuster, a former director of operations at U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Intelligence Center and an adjunct professor at Hawaii Pacific Univer-

sity, said China's uninvited presence is more than a poke in the eye to the United States.

"It's actually intelligence-gathering," Schuster said, adding, "It's something that any prudent country would do, although it always has a political element to it."

Twenty-five nations, 46 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are gathered mainly in Hawaii but also in Southern California for RIMPAC.

The United States can counter China's information-gathering to some extent, Schuster said.

"There are things that you can do to give them a false picture," he said, "but it takes a lot of effort, No. 1, and you just have to accept the fact that some of the things you do you can't change, and they're probably going to collect it."

USS Ford enters next phase at Va. shipyard

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The nation's newest aircraft carrier returned to a Virginia shipyard Sunday for a year of planned upgrades and fixes, marking the next phase in the development of the Navy's most advanced and scrutinized warship.

The USS Gerald R. Ford's stay at Newport News Shipbuilding will address some well-publicized problems, many of which have involved its cutting-edge systems.

Work at the shipyard will address any kinks involving the gear that's used to catch fighter jets as they land, said Naval Sea Systems Command spokesman William Couch, who announced the Ford's arrival in Newport News. The shipyard will also remedy a ship propulsion problem that was created by a manufacturing defect.

The Ford's stay at the shipyard is a normal step toward combat readiness, which is expected in 2022. But the \$13 billion carrier's development has been far from routine.

Navy officials and some experts have said problems are

expected to arise — and be worked out — on the first ship in a new class.

The new carrier is designed to carry a wider variety of planes, potentially including unmanned aircraft, and operate with several hundred fewer sailors. A new electromagnetic system for launching planes is supposed to increase flying missions by a third.

But in January, the Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force highlighted "poor or unknown reliability" issues involving the Ford's new launch and land systems, as well as its new radar and weapons elevators. The report said the ship "is unlikely to be able to conduct the type of high-intensity flight operations expected during wartime."

The electromagnetic launch system also drew criticism from President Donald Trump, who told Time magazine last year that the system "costs hundreds of millions of dollars more money and it's no good."

The Navy has declined to comment on the president's statement.

Heart surgeon from NJ joins Navy at 63

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — When most people enter their 60s, they start thinking about retirement.

But Dr. Tyrone Krause decided it was the perfect time to start a new career.

At 63, the heart surgeon from Skillman, N.J., joined the Navy after receiving a waiver that permitted him to enter the Navy Reserve a year past the typical age limit because people with his skills are in demand.

"I feel, surgically, I'm in my prime," Krause said. "I could still operate very well, and if I can give back and help some of our young men and women in the military, that's what I want to do."

Krause was commissioned as a commander Friday aboard the destroyer USS Ramage, where his daughter, Laura, 27, is an ensign and performed the ceremony.

She was the first person he saluted.

The two have always shared a close bond that has included climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to-

gether and watching sports. He was inspired to join the Navy after speaking with his daughter's recruiter, who was in the medical corps and mentioned that the Navy had a shortage of surgeons.

"I don't ever see this man ever retiring," Laura Krause told her shipmates on the Ramage's flight deck.

She has good reason to believe that.

After all, her father had already worked in private medical practice for decades when he earned a law degree at night after his hospital shifts while he was in his 50s. He also moonlighted as a philosophy professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Krause wants to help young hospital corpsmen learn about treating patients with trauma and is excited about the possibility of working aboard a hospital ship, such as the USNS Comfort, which is homeported in Norfolk.

For now, he'll serve once a month at a Navy clinic in Sandy Hook, N.J.

Miss. honors Marine plane crash victims

ITTA BENA, Miss. — Mississippi and U.S. Marine Corps officials dedicated a memorial Saturday to the 15 Marines and a U.S. Navy corpsman who died in a plane crash last year.

Hundreds of relatives and friends of the 16 victims gathered for ceremonies at Mississippi Valley State University and the nearby memorial, The Greenwood Commonwealth reported.

The special forces Marines aboard the KC-130T military transport plane were going from North Carolina to California for training when the plane crashed July 10, 2017. The aircraft was flown by a New York-based Marine Reserve unit and known by the call sign Yanky 72.

“Your loss has become our loss,” Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant told those who came from as far away as Ireland for the ceremony.

No cause for the plane crash has been released, as the investigation continues.

From The Associated Press

Marines barter for Ukrainian goods at Sea Breeze exercise

BY MARTIN EGNASH
AND CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

MYKOLAIV REGION, Ukraine — Under normal Marine field conditions, scarcity might make Skittles or jalapeño cheese spread from a Meals, Ready to Eat pouch worth trading. But on a base outside Mykolaiv, where Marines trained with their Ukrainian marine counterparts as part of the 19-nation Sea Breeze naval exercise this month, the American staples can net more unusual goods.

The exchange is one of the little things that helps forge closer ties to the troops of the former Soviet republic, where officials hope to bring the military up to NATO standards in Ukraine’s bid to join the defensive alliance. For example, Americans

traded snacks for a local caffeinated beverage known as Non Stop, which offers a distinctive jolt, the Marines said. It costs the equivalent of about 70 cents in town, but most of the GIs have had little access to local markets while they’ve been living on a large, grassy base in the middle of nowhere, sleeping in tents a stone’s throw from their Ukrainian counterparts since early July.

It’s in this tent village, where the Marines of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment have taken to naming the stray dogs that slip through the concertina wire barriers, that trading has taken place after long days of training together on nearby ranges.

Monetary value isn’t always the chief concern, and some members of the Harrisburg, Pa.-based platoon said the

trades could be made for sentimental value or camaraderie.

“It’s probably one of the best chances to go overseas for this company,” said Lance Cpl. Robert Hauptkeill, reputedly one of the best dealmakers in the weapons platoon.

A native of South Canaan, Pa., Hauptkeill traded U.S. patches and a spare grenade pouch, among other things, for a Ukrainian magazine pouch, uniform patches and two of the distinctive, blue-striped undershirts known as *tilnyky* that Ukrainian naval troops wear.

The exchanges are a “friendly push to build relations,” said Pvt. Kristina Nikolaeva, a Ukrainian machine-gunner who traded with Hauptkeill and promised to give him her aquamarine beret — his second such acquisition — at the close of the exercise.

Veteran saw MREs lacking, created Condition One bars

BY LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

A health-conscious Marine veteran has channeled a longtime dissatisfaction with MREs into a full-time job making meal replacement bars.

When then-Marine Sgt. Matt DeMaio deployed to Mozambique in 2010, he was appalled at having to consume Meals, Ready to Eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner in the austere conditions of the southeast African nation.

“MREs are really, really high in both fat and sugar, and they’re packed with chemicals to make them last years,” DeMaio told *Stars and Stripes* in a recent telephone interview. “It can’t be healthy for you.”

MREs pack about 1,300 calories per meal and, according to the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., contain all the nutrients necessary to keep a warfighter going — but only if the entire ration is

consumed.

Many servicemembers have neither the time nor inclination to eat everything inside an MRE pouch. Instead, they pick and choose their favorite bits and trade away unwanted items — a habit that can result in an unbalanced diet.

Like many troops dissatisfied with their downrange mealtime options, DeMaio supplemented his diet with commercial nutrition bars. However, the former active-duty Marine Corps sergeant found those problematic as well. “[Some] bars had the right mix of complex carbohydrates, but I had to use others to get the right protein,” he said. “But then when I ate those, I had too much of something else.”

It was one evening, in the African darkness when DeMaio decided that if nobody was supplying bars with the right mix of carbohydrates, fats and protein for a Marine on patrol, he

would make them himself. He began experimenting after he got out of the service.

“I was making test batches in my kitchen, out of curiosity and as a fun side project,” he said.

DeMaio said he contacted a nutritionist with Naval Special Warfare Command at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., who told him exactly what warfighters would need in such a product.

“So I baked up a batch and sent it to some buddies I had that were in Afghanistan to see if it was viable,” DeMaio said. “The response I got was, ‘These are really good. They keep us going. Send more.’ That’s how I got started.”

He was happy to oblige and began to sell his new product as Condition One bars.

“They’re so good you have to remember they’re meal replacement bars or you’d just eat a bunch and end up with thousands more calories than you

want,” said Chris Joliet, a Marine scout sniper with the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion who ate the bars during a recent deployment to Afghanistan.

DeMaio quit his day job in March to focus on making the bars, which sell for about \$4.50 each online. Flavors include pumpkin pecan spice, apple cinnamon, chocolate coconut almond and lemon poppy seed.

Condition One bars are manufactured in accordance with what DeMaio calls “Order, Bake, Ship,” meaning they’re all made to order — and free of preservatives. That also means you won’t find them on supermarket shelves.

“For big-box stores to carry your product, they have certain requirements, such as keeping a certain amount of inventory on hand and having certain shelf-life expectancies,” DeMaio said. “I just couldn’t meet those without affecting the quality of the product.”

Suspect wounds 3 Mo. officers, shot dead

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A gunman being investigated in the killing of a university student from India shot and wounded three Kansas City police officers Sunday before dying in an exchange of gunfire with police, authorities said.

The three officers' wounds were not life-threatening, police said.

The suspect, whose name has not been released, had been identified as a person of interest in the slaying of Sharath Koppu and officers had him under surveillance, according to po-

lice. Koppu, 25, was a master's degree student from India who was studying at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Koppu was shot July 6 during an armed robbery at a fast-food restaurant in Kansas City where he worked.

The man being sought by police in relation to Koppu's death opened fire Sunday afternoon on officers with a semi-automatic "AK-47-type" rifle as they conducted an investigation at a motel less than 2 miles from Kauffman Stadium, where the Kansas City Royals baseball team plays, police

spokesman Sgt. Jake Becchina told The Associated Press. Two officers were wounded in that gunfire.

Police had been looking for the man all week, Kansas City police Chief Rick Smith told reporters in a video posted online by KCTV.

"This is the first time we laid eyes on him," Smith said.

After shooting the two officers, the man fled in a vehicle with another person, Becchina said. Police took the vehicle and placed the other person in custody, though Becchina said that individual isn't believed to

be involved in the fatal robbery or the shootings of the officers.

The gunman remained at large until about an hour or so later, when he opened fire at officers from inside a house where he had barricaded himself a short distance from the motel, police said. A detective was shot.

"We didn't know he was there. He just popped up all of a sudden," Smith said.

Becchina said that about 15 minutes later, the man emerged from the home and again opened fire. Officers fired back, fatally wounding him.

Russian bots, trolls test waters before midterms

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — The sponsors of the Russian "troll factory" that meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign have launched a new American website ahead of the U.S. midterm election in November. A Russian oligarch has links to Maryland's election services. Russian bots and trolls are deploying increasingly sophisticated, targeted tools. And a new indictment suggests the Kremlin itself was behind previous hacking efforts in support of Donald Trump.

As Trump prepared to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on Monday, many Americans have been wondering: Is the Kremlin trying yet again to derail a U.S. election?

While U.S. intelligence officials call it a top concern, they haven't uncovered a clear, coordinated Russian plot to mess with the campaign. At least so far.

It could be that Russian disruptors are waiting until the primaries are over in September and the races become more straightforward — or it could be they are waiting until the U.S. presidential vote in 2020, which matters more for U.S. foreign policy.

In the meantime, an array of bots, trolls and sites like USAReally appear to be testing the waters.

USAReally was launched in May by the Federal News Agency, part of an empire allegedly run by Putin ally Yevgeny Prigozhin that includes the Internet Research Agency — the "troll factory" whose members were indicted by U.S. special investigator Robert Mueller this year.

USAReally's Moscow offices are in the same building as the Federal News Agency. The original troll factory also initially was based with Federal News Agency offices in St. Petersburg in a drab, four-story building where a huge "For Rent/Sale" sign now hangs. The site believed to house the troll factory's current offices is a more modern, seven-story complex with reflective, blue windows in a different but similarly industrial neighborhood of St. Petersburg. Associated Press reporters were not allowed inside, and troll factory employees declined to be interviewed.

The USAReally site appears oddly amateurish and obviously Russian, with grammatical flubs and links to Russian social networks.

Assad forces, rebels clash over recon base near Israel

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels and government forces clashed over a reconnaissance point near the frontier with Israel, a monitoring group said Monday, as the government pressed forward with military operations in the country's southwest.

Government forces bombed villages and rebel positions around Tell al-Haara, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war through a network of on-the-ground activists.

Syrian state media said government forces seized the hill, but the Observatory said an al-Qaida-linked faction fighting alongside rebels ambushed troops there, forcing them to retreat. Twelve of the government forces were killed, the Observatory said.

Tell al-Haara overlooks the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in a 1967 war, and it was the site of a Syrian reconnaissance base until opposition forces seized it in 2014 in the ongoing civil war.

Since June 19, government forces have seized towns and villages from rebels in southwest Syria, at the borders with Israel and Jordan, and recaptured the city of Daraa, the birthplace of the 2011 revolt against President Bashar Assad.

The government now controls the main border crossing between Damascus and Amman, a key artery for Syrian exports to Jordan and the oil-rich Gulf states farther south. Jordan closed the crossing in 2015 when it was seized by rebels.

Both Israel and Jordan have signaled their consent to the campaign, though Israel has said it will not accept the presence of forces or proxy forces of its arch enemy, Iran, along its frontier. Assad has depended on support from Iran and its Lebanese proxy, the militant group Hezbollah, to fight his war on local opposition forces and an Islamic State insurgency that proliferated through the country mid-decade.

On Monday, government forces captured the towns of Zameen, Salween and al-Teiha in Daraa province, according to SANA and the Observatory. It also shelled and bombed villages in neighboring, rebel-held Quneitra province.

Meanwhile, officials with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Turkish leader on Monday spoke with President Donald Trump by phone about an action plan for Manbij, a town in northern Syria that has been held by U.S.-supported local Syrian forces that Turkey says are terrorists.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Battalion chief mauled by pit bull at fire

CA SAN LEANDRO — Authorities said a California battalion chief was mauled in the face by a pit bull after helping extinguish a house fire.

The East Bay Times reported Alameda County Fire Battalion Chief John Whiting received “extremely severe facial damage” in the attack Saturday in San Leandro.

Firefighters rescued a 15-year-old girl and 18 of 20 dogs living at the home. Two dogs died in the fire in the basement of the two-story house.

A male pit bull — one of the dogs saved — lunged at Whiting while he was questioning the girl. Division Chief Alan Evans said he was holding the dog’s leash but was unable to restrain him.

Rock music is noise pollution to ladybugs

MS STARKVILLE — “Rock and Roll Ain’t Noise Pollution” proclaims the title of a song on AC/DC’s landmark album “Back in Black.”

But one Mississippi State University professor, despite being a listener to the band, said his research shows otherwise.

Biology professor Brandon Barton told the Starkville Daily News he was rocking out to the AC/DC song one day and thought “that’s a testable hypothesis.” So he and some students tested it, putting ladybugs into soybeans infested with aphids, a common pest of the staple crop.

The team then bathed the environment in various sounds, including “Back in Black,” a country album, a folk album, city sounds and aircraft noise.

Barton said that after 15 hours or more of harsh sounds like hard rock or city noise, ladybugs ate fewer aphids.

Rapper takes 128 strangers to movie

ME PORTLAND — A Maine rapper surprised moviegoers with free tickets to a cultural satire movie in Portland.

Rory Ferreira, who goes by the stage name Milo, bought all 129 seats to the 4:20 p.m. showing of the movie “Sorry to Bother You” at the Nickelodeon on Saturday. The Portland Press Herald reported that employees told patrons they could see a movie for free as they arrived at the theater.

Ferreira said he was inspired by the movie’s director, Boots Riley, to do something good for society. Ferreira, of Biddeford, also attended the movie and tweeted an invitation for anyone interested to “catch a flick wit me.”

Researcher’s award rescinded over photos

NY ROCHESTER — A scientists’ group has rescinded an award to a turtle researcher who included pictures of scantily clad female students doing field research in his speech at a New York conference.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported that longtime Brazilian turtle researcher Dick Vogt showed the racy slides Thursday during the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Rochester.

Some slides were so risqué that conference organizers added blue boxes to cover parts of the women’s bodies.

Conference attendees complained on Twitter that the slides were sexist and exploitative. The uproar prompted the Herpetologists’ League to rescind Vogt’s award for distinguished herpetologist on Friday.

The directors of the Ameri-

can Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists tweeted that they “regretted” Vogt’s presentation.

Governor to hold more office hours at beach

RI PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island’s governor said she’s holding summer office hours at the beach.

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo held the first event Monday at Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett. She was joined by members of her Office of Constituent Services to help connect residents with various services.

While there, she signed an executive order to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that can end up in the state’s waters.

Raimondo said she looks forward to hosting office hours and hearing directly from residents at some of the state’s most popular destinations.

Toddlers on ledge make it to safety

IL CHICAGO — Authorities said they are investigating the case of two toddlers seen dangling and later rescued from a second-floor ledge of a Chicago apartment building last week.

Video of the incident show people standing with outstretched hands prepared to catch the diapered toddlers, believed to be 2-year-old twins.

One of the toddlers eventually crawled back inside, and a man brought in a ladder to rescue the other. The children weren’t hurt.

Denise Ochoa said she and a cousin were driving by the apartment building when they saw the scene unfolding. She said she got out of the car to help and was exasperated when no one in the apartment came to the window to see what was

going on.

Police responding to the call said the unidentified children were home with their mother at the time.

Police say paralyzed man assaulted dancer

GA DECATUR — Georgia authorities allege that a man paralyzed from the waist down paid an exotic dancer to perform at his home and then zip-tied her, demanded sex and shot her with a stun gun.

WSB-TV reported Friday that Johnnie Thompson, 31, of Decatur, is charged with false imprisonment and aggravated assault.

DeKalb County police Detective Chris Tappan said Thompson forced the woman to take her clothes off and then demanded sex. After she refused, Tappan said Thompson shot the woman with a stun gun and then fired a handgun at her.

Police said the woman was able to cut herself free and escape through a window.

Authorities said Thompson told investigators he was defending himself.

Seagull swoops down, steals man’s wallet

MA GLOUCESTER — Officials said a beaked bandit made off with a man’s wallet in Massachusetts.

Gloucester Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken said a seagull swooped down and took the man’s wallet from the top of a pizza box at the city’s waterfront about 9 p.m. Friday.

The man watched the bird fly to the roof of a nearby building, and two people offered to help the man retrieve the wallet.

Mike Ramos said he helped distract the bird from its nest, and Phil Peterson said he used a bucket truck to grab the wallet.

From wire reports

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Harper's future up in the air

The Washington Post

At the news conference in which he was announced as a National League All-Star along with Washington Nationals teammates Max Scherzer and Sean Doolittle, Bryce Harper sat in the middle chair, wearing a T-shirt that read "The District" on top of a rendering of the U.S. Capitol.

Perhaps, as a hometown All-Star, he wanted to show his support for Washington. Perhaps, as the more ambitious mind-readers might suggest, Harper was affirming his love for the city so many believe he will leave in free agency after this season. Perhaps, his locker almost entirely cleaned out for Futures Game participants and his suitcase packed for the Nationals' road trip to Pittsburgh and New York, it was just the shirt he felt like wearing. Such is the analysis to which Harper has always been subjected. Such is the level of scrutiny he will experience when the baseball world coalesces around him for the 2018 All-Star Game in the city in which he plays.

Harper, along with Scherzer and Ryan Zimmerman, was tapped as an All-Star ambassador for the first Midsummer Classic in Washington since 1969. Part of his duties are to promote the events of All-Star week, to be an emissary to fans and to advocate for the city where he has played his home games since he was a teenager. Scherzer signed the biggest contract in team history and has emerged as the most decorated pitcher in the D.C. history of the franchise. Zimmerman is the figurehead, the living statue in the back of the clubhouse, the local kid who was the franchise's first hope.

Then there is Harper, the homegrown star having a down-ish year at the worst time, whose name had hardly been announced as a fifth-time All-Star starter before the pundits started asking if he deserved to be there at all. He has hit 22 homers and driven in 51 runs at a decidedly all-star pace. His batting average is lower than ever.

And as Harper tries to convince suitors he deserves the record contract everyone (except him) has always said he should get, he is in the awkward position of being the most talked-about star on the host team for this game largely because he might be headed elsewhere after this season — but also because so much will be expected of him here.

"I think every year you come in and try to have a good first half as a team, do things you can to help your team win," Harper said when asked if he felt extra pressure to make the All-Star team and represent the host franchise. "There are two guys beside me who have done a great job of that, and I think we're excited to do it here in D.C."

Harper gave all the right answers in that news conference. He has, by and large, given all the right answers about the All-Star experience in general. When asked to plug the city, he has done so dutifully. Though he waffled on the point, according to those close to him, he eventually announced he would keep his word and participate in the Home Run Derby when it is held at Nationals Park.

"Just excited for the fans, to be able to do that in front of them, as well," Harper said. "It's the main reason why I'm doing it. If we weren't in D.C., I probably wouldn't have done it. But I'm looking forward to going out there and representing the Nationals — and hopefully bring home the trophy."

Harper hasn't participated in a Home Run Derby in five years, and word is Major League Baseball felt the need to do some convincing. Others around him had opinions about the matter, too. Such is the world of Harper, in which the machine moves around him — a machine he built, sure — but one he now seems powerless to stop.

"Bryce is sort of the first of the newer generation. Whether you like it or not, you're put out there since age 12," Zimmerman said. "You don't have much choice with all the media and social media."

With all due respect to Zimmerman, Harper is not the first of a newer generation doomed to his experience. He remains, and probably will for some time, the most vaunted and touted and analyzed player of his generation — unique in his experience, in part because he was unique in the way he embraced the hype initially. But as it becomes time for his fourth consecutive all-star start and fifth overall, the effects of that treatment are becoming more obvious than ever.

"Every day people are picking apart his words. People are trying to interpret them to fit a narrative they already have in their mind — or they're trying to think, 'Did he just drop a hint as to free agency?'" said Doolittle, Harper's All-Star teammate who was placed on the disabled list Tuesday. "For me, I think even though he does play with that fire and that intensity, he's a pretty quiet person."

"It's like Twitter, where you type something out and think, 'Oh, I don't want people to take that the wrong way,' so you delete it and start again," Doolittle added. "Then you type and think, 'Maybe not.' By the end, it becomes so watered down. It's that, but in real time. I think people might not be able to relate to how emotionally draining that can be when you have to do that every day."

Harper will spend all of All-Star week serving as one of the more analyzed ambassadors this city has known. His clothes, his words, his Home Run Derby performance, his hustle, his enthusiasm, his frowns and his smiles will all be accumulated and spit back out like they are here, as if they can somehow portray who the 25-year-old has become — an initially eager superstar recently trained into reticence.

He will always be too loud or too quiet for someone. He is destined to be both as he sits awkwardly in the spotlight during one of the biggest weeks in Washington baseball history, months before he might cease to represent the city at all.

Potential trade chips on display in Futures Game

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Touki Toussaint was about to settle down for his pregame nap when Atlanta Braves director of player development Dom Chiti called.

"When I saw his name pop up, I did kind of get nervous," Toussaint said. "You see that name pop up, you're like, 'Oh, snap.'"

Chiti was calling earlier this weekend to ask the highly touted pitching prospect if he'd like to play in the All-Star Futures Game. But this time of year, Toussaint and minor leaguers all over baseball are right to wonder when the phone rings.

Before Manny Machado arrived for the All-Star Game, the Futures Game on Sunday was a who's who of prospects bandied about in trade talks for the Baltimore Orioles shortstop and others expected to be moved before the July 31 non-waiver deadline. New York Mets prospect Peter Alonso hit one of eight home runs in the game as the United States beat the World 10-6, a three-hour respite from the rumors.

"There's definitely a lot of talk going around with trades and all that," said Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Keston Hiura, who has been mentioned as possible trade chip for Machado. "There's always questions of who's getting moved and all that. ... Whatever happens talking wise or behind the scenes, that's out of our control."

Alonso's seventh-inning home run came off Philadelphia Phillies right-hander Adonis Medina, whose wild pitch on a strikeout allowed the go-ahead run to score. Medina has also been linked to Machado with the Phillies showing serious interest.

New York Yankees pitching prospect Justus Sheffield allowed a home run and had a strikeout in 1¹/₃ innings of work. Sheffield is considered untouchable.

Cincinnati Reds prospect Taylor Trammell had a home run and a triple and was picked as the MVP. His bat is going to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Story's HR pushes Rockies past Mariners

Associated Press

DENVER — Trevor Story tuned up for the All-Star Game with one memorable swing.

Story led off the ninth inning with his 20th homer, and the Colorado Rockies completed a series sweep of the Seattle Mariners with a 4-3 victory on Sunday.

"It was awesome. That's what you dream of, for sure," said Story, a first-time All-Star. "That was my first (game-ending homer) and what a time for it before the break. We took it out on a high note."

Story worked the count to 2-2 against Nick Vincent (3-2) before hitting a drive over the wall in left-center for a dramatic finish to a game played through steady rain.

"I saw a couple pitches, started feeling a little bit more comfortable and that one was just a little more over the plate," Story said.

It was the first career game-ending hit for Story, who tossed his helmet to the ground after rounding third and was showered with ice water and popcorn by his teammates as he stepped on home plate.

Scott Oberg (4-0) got the win with 1¹/₃ innings of scoreless relief.

Colorado (51-45) heads into the All-Star break on a roll, winners of five in a row and 10 of 12.

"It's really exciting. Guys are stepping up," All-Star Nolan Arenado said. "We've been playing really good baseball. It's a good feeling. We're going to go into the second half playing really meaningful games, and for a while there it looked like it was getting away from us."

Seattle (58-39) has dropped four straight and seven of nine, but hits the break in second in the AL West behind Houston.

"I'm really proud of our club," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "We had a really nice first half of the season. These guys continue to compete, all the time. Certainly had the game right there. I thought we had a good chance to win this one today and get off on a bit of a high note."

"We put ourselves in a position by the way we played the first half to gain a good spot here down the stretch in the second half and hopefully get where we ultimately want to go, and that's in the playoffs. This team certainly has enough talent to do that."

The Mariners grabbed a 3-2 lead on Dee Gordon's two-out RBI single off Jake

McGee in the seventh. But the Rockies tied it in the bottom half when Ian Desmond tripled and scored on Chris Iannetta's sacrifice fly.

Colorado left-hander Tyler Anderson pitched six innings of five-hit ball, settling down after a slow start.

Seattle opened the game with three straight singles. Mitch Haniger drove in Gordon with a base hit, and Denard Span made it 2-0 with a two-out RBI double.

Colorado rallied in the third, aided by Haniger's error in right. He bobbled Arenado's two-out RBI single, allowing Charlie Blackmon to come home from third with the tying run and Arenado to take second. Mike Leake then fanned Carlos Gonzalez to end the inning.

Leake was charged with an earned run and six hits in six innings.

Tough conditions: The steady rain created slippery conditions on the outfield grass as well as wet, soft footing on the infield dirt. Groundskeepers spread a drying compound on the infield between innings to keep the field playable.

"They made it a lot better than it should have been," Story said. "It was still rough out there but they did a great job."

Roundup

Machado hits HR before early exit as O's top Rangers

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Manny Machado homered before making an early exit, Adam Jones hit a three-run double and the Baltimore Orioles rallied past the Texas Rangers 6-5 on Sunday.

Machado was removed in the fifth inning by manager Buck Showalter after a 26-minute rain delay, taking the All-Star shortstop off a sloppy field. The last-place Orioles are entertaining offers for Machado, who is expected to be dealt before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

Tigers 6, Astros 3: John Hicks hit one of visiting Detroit's four home runs off Justin Verlander, and the Tigers snapped a six-game losing streak.

Verlander (9-5) struck out 12 in six innings in his first start against his former team. But he allowed a season-high six

runs while dropping his third straight decision.

The 35-year-old Verlander earned 183 wins in 13 seasons with the Tigers. He was traded to Houston last year.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4: Matt Carpenter and Dexter Fowler homered for host St. Louis, making interim manager Mike Shildt a winner in his first game.

Shildt took over for Mike Matheny, who was fired late Saturday after six-plus seasons at the helm.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 2: At Boston, Xander Bogaerts homered in his first at-bat a day after hitting a game-ending grand slam, and the Red Sox entered the All-Star break with their best record since 1949.

Bogaerts and Brock Holt each drove in two runs for the major league-leading Red Sox (68-30), who have won 12 of their last 13 games. Teoscar Her-

nandez hit a two-run homer for the Blue Jays (43-52). Toronto has dropped seven of 10.

Indians 5, Yankees 2: Michael Brantley homered leading off the eighth inning, and Cleveland beat visiting New York to split the four-game series.

Cubs 7, Padres 4: Jon Lester won for the eighth time in nine starts as visiting Chicago completed a three-game series sweep.

Pirates 7, Brewers 6 (10): Josh Bell hit a two-run double in the 10th inning, giving host Pittsburgh a five-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Dodgers 5, Angels 3: At Los Angeles, Yasmani Grandal and Enrique Hernandez homered, leading the Dodgers to the split in the Freeway Series.

Athletics 6, Giants 2: Stephen Piscotty homered for the fifth time in nine games, leading visiting Oakland to the

victory.

Braves 5, Diamondbacks 1: At Atlanta, Julio Teheran pitched 6¹/₃ scoreless innings, and the Braves used a four-run third inning to get the win.

Marlins 10, Phillies 5: Brian Anderson hit a three-run homer in host Miami's eight-run fifth inning.

Nationals 6, Mets 1: Daniel Murphy and Trea Turner each hit a two-run single in visiting Washington's five-run seventh inning.

Matt Adams added two hits and scored a run as Washington salvaged a split of its four-game set against New York.

Twins 11, Rays 7 (10): Brian Dozier hit a grand slam for host Minnesota in the 10th inning, capping a back-and-forth finish.

White Sox 10, Royals 1: At Chicago, Daniel Palka and Yoan Moncada homered as the White Sox won for the third time in four games.

Briefly**Dixon wins in Toronto and pads IndyCar lead***Associated Press*

TORONTO — It was shaping up to be defending champion Josef Newgarden's day until he hit a wall and opened the way for Scott Dixon.

Newgarden, the two-time winner who started from the pole position, had a third Toronto IndyCar title in his sights. Then on Turn 11 of lap 33, the American hit the wall, allowing Dixon to overtake him for the lead and get his third win in the event.

"When I saw it — the seas were parting — away we went, which for us, especially for the championship, he's our closest competitor right now," Dixon said. "That's where our race was won today, through the bad luck or bad situation that Josef had."

The New Zealand native finished the 85-lap course on the streets surrounding Exhibition Place first, with Simon Pagnaud of France second. Robert Wickens was third, marking the third year in a row a Canadian landed on the podium.

The victory stretched Dixon's lead in the points standings over Newgarden to 62 points from 33. They both have three wins this season.

Singh tops Maggert in Senior Players playoff

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. — Vijay Singh birdied the second playoff hole to beat Jeff Maggert and win the Constellation Senior Players Championship on Sunday.

Singh knocked in a putt from about 2 feet after a nearly perfect approach on the 18th hole at Exmoor Country Club, giving an understated fist pump as the ball fell in. That gave him his first major title on the PGA Tour Champions to go with victories at the Masters and two PGA Championships.

Singh (67) and Maggert (68) finished at 20-under 268. Brandt Jobe (66) was two

strokes behind.

In other golf news:

■ Michael Kim shot a final-round 66 on Sunday to win the John Deere Classic by a record-setting eight strokes and pick up his first victory on the PGA Tour.

Kim, who turned 25 on Saturday, finished at 27-under 257 — breaking Steve Stricker's tournament record from 2010 by one shot. He also qualified for next week's British Open at Carnoustie.

■ Thidapa Suwannapura won her first LPGA Tour event, closing with a 6-under 65 and birdieing the first playoff hole to defeat Brittany Lincicome at the Marathon Classic in Sylvania, Ohio.

The 25-year-old Thai player is the sixth first-time winner on tour this year.

■ Laura Davies went virtually unchallenged in the final round of the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open, claiming the title by 10 strokes over Juli Inkster in Wheaton, Ill.

The 54-year-old Davies shot a 5-under 68 to finish at 16-under 276 at Chicago Golf Club in the USGA's championship for women 50 and older.

Ex-NHL goalie Emery drowns in Ontario

Retired NHL goaltender Ray Emery, who helped the Ottawa Senators reach the final in 2007 and won the Stanley Cup with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2013, drowned in his hometown of Hamilton, Ontario. He was 35.

Hamilton Police said Emery was identified as the victim of a swimming accident in the harbor Sunday morning. Staff sergeant Paul Evans said police received a call just after 6 a.m. that an adult swimmer did not surface and that the Niagara Police assisted in the recovery effort.

No refuge from politics, but France wins a fitting climax*Associated Press*

MOSCOW — Kylian Mbappe high-fived a political protester who invaded the field during the World Cup final. French President Emmanuel Macron leapt out of his seat in a VVIP area that included a leader charged with genocide. And Vladimir Putin was drenched in a sudden downpour as the trophy was handed over to the victorious French team.

This year's World Cup was never going to be a refuge from politics when it was being staged in Putin's Russia, but the players did their best to keep the tournament for themselves.

A final with six goals — France beat Croatia 4-2 on Sunday — was a fitting climax to a month that produced some of the most enthralling matches in World Cup history.

The lasting images will be of pure elation as the France players leapt into the crowd to collect flags, then crashed Didier Deschamps' post-match news conference, dancing on the table and spraying champagne and water on the coach.

"Sorry," Deschamps said. "They're young and they're happy."

No need to apologize. This young squad earned its right to go wild.

Particularly Mbappe, a 19-year-old forward whose career trajectory should move into a stratosphere occupied for so long by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. The old guard went home early; another failed challenge for World Cup titles by Portugal and Argentina. Mbappe flies home with a winners' medal.

"I've always been ready, mentally, to do beautiful things," Mbappe said. "I'm free and, most of all, I enjoy it."

In so many ways, France lift-

ing the trophy was one shred of order in this month of so much disruption. And it wasn't just about the often-confusing use of video review on its World Cup debut.

Germany's title defense disintegrated in the group stage. Spain, in turmoil from the start, was sent home in the round of 16, signaling the end of the tiki-taka tactics behind the country's title run in 2010. No longer is it all about keeping hold of the ball.

Croatia bulldozed its way into the final in a sure sign of the establishment being disrupted. The gritty resolve was always evident in the final. Even at 4-1, the Croats didn't give up on their first shot at a major soccer title, but they finally ran out of steam after three straight extra-time matches.

"You have to believe it's possible and many things have to fall into place," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said after his country's first final. "You have to follow those dreams and ambitions and then maybe one day it will come true."

Maybe one day politicians will not try to hog the limelight at a sporting event as they did at the Luzhniki Stadium and across Russia. FIFA allowed one of the coveted seats to be given to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. Another went to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who has been described as Europe's last dictator.

But there was some payback from Mother Nature. By delaying the trophy presentation, leaving Croatia's despondent players waiting even longer to depart the field, the storm clouds gathered. The downpour soaked the dignitaries.