

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Amid fallout, Trump toughens tone on Russia

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump spent a second day managing the political fallout from his widely criticized meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin, shifting stances and mopping up what the White House said were misstatements.

His toughness with the longtime American foe in question, Trump said Wednesday he told the Russian president face-to-face during Monday's summit to stay out of America's elections "and that's the way it's going to be."

That rhetoric marked a turnabout from Trump's first, upbeat description of his sit-down with Putin. Still, Trump backtracked on whether Russia is currently targeting U.S. elections. When asked the question Wednesday, he answered "no," a reply that put him sharply at odds with recent public warnings from his own intelligence chief.

Hours later, the White House stepped in to say Trump's answer wasn't what it appeared.

The zigzagging laid bare the White House's search for a path out of trouble that has dogged the administration's discussions of Russia from the start but spiraled after Trump's trip to Helsinki. After days of criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, Trump — a politician who celebrates his brash political incorrectness — has appeared more sensitive than usual to outside opprobrium.

The scale of the bipartisan outcry at Trump's stance toward Putin has been rivaled only by that after his 2017 waffling over condemning white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va.

"I let him know we can't have this," Trump told CBS News of his conversations with Putin. "We're not going to have it, and that's the way it's going to be."

Would he hold Putin personally responsible for further election interference? "I would, because he's in charge of the country."

The CBS interview came at the end of two days of shifting statements.

On Monday, Trump appeared to question the findings of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election. His reservations, expressed 18 months into his presidency and as he stood standing next to Putin on foreign soil, prompted blistering criticism at home, even from prominent fellow Republicans.

On Tuesday, he delivered a scripted statement to "clarify" — his word — his remarks Monday. He said he misspoke by one word when he said he saw no reason to believe Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

On Wednesday, he was asked during a Cabinet meeting if Russia was still targeting the U.S., and he answered "no" without elaborating. That came just days after National Intelligence Director Dan Coats sounded an alarm, comparing the cyber-

threat today to the way U.S. officials said before 9/11 that intelligence channels were "blinking red" with warning signs that a terrorist attack was imminent.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said later Wednesday that Trump actually was saying "no" to answering additional questions — even though he subsequently went on to address Russia.

"The president is wrong," GOP Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, said of Trump's one-word response. Told that Sanders had since clarified, she responded: "There's a walk-back of the walk-back of the walk-back of the walk-back? This is dizzying."

Trump has refined and sharpened his presentation in the two days since Helsinki.

At the news conference with Putin, he was asked if he would denounce what happened in 2016 and warn Putin never to do it again, and he did not directly answer. Instead, he went into a rambling response, including demands for investigation of Hillary Clinton's email server and his description of Putin's "extremely strong and powerful" denial of meddling.

Trump asserted Wednesday at the White House that no other American president has been as tough on Russia. He cited U.S. sanctions and the expulsion of alleged Russian spies from the U.S., telling reporters that Putin "understands it, and he's not happy about it."

## Veterans divided over Trump's Russia comments

*Associated Press*

U.S. military veterans have had mixed reactions to President Donald Trump's comments suggesting he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin's denial that his agents interfered in the 2016 U.S. elections.

Some say they are a betrayal, with the commander in chief giving more credence to Putin than U.S. intelligence agencies and creating a hardship for those who serve and put their lives on the line. Others say Trump's relationship with Putin is positive for the U.S., and won't change their minds about their president.

Iraq War veteran Chris Sheppard, a

former combat engineer with the Marine Corps who left the military after 13 years in 2005 and is now a tax attorney, sat glued to his cellphone screen in his downtown Seattle office on Monday as Trump suggested he believed Putin. The president also declined to say whether he believed the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia interfered.

Sheppard, 43, a self-described reluctant Democrat who became disenfranchised with the Republican Party during the Iraq War, said he couldn't believe his ears.

"It's like I'm watching somebody commit treason," he said.

But former Marine Boe Bostjancic, 61,

a Virginia Beach resident, said while he didn't particularly care for Trump's performance in Helsinki, the president was acting like the same politically incorrect leader he voted for and still supports.

"At least I can respect the fact that he was honest with us," Bostjancic said.

Trump on Tuesday said he simply misspoke in Helsinki and accepted the conclusions by U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia was behind the election hacking, but then on Wednesday he appeared to defend his original remarks.

Those who spoke with The Associated Press largely didn't buy his change in tone — or said it didn't matter.

# New Task Force 70 head sworn in

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The task force in charge of the Navy's largest battle force has a new commander after a ceremony this week aboard the USS Ronald Reagan in the Philippine Sea.

On Wednesday, Rear Adm. Karl Thomas took command of Task Force 70, which includes the Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and a stable of guided-missile destroyers and cruisers.

Thomas said he was "tremendously humbled" to take on the new position.

"I have three simple priorities that we are going to work for every day ... be prepared to fight and win, maximize every opportunity and take care of each other," he said during the ceremony, according to a Navy

statement. "If we do all those things right, we are going to win as a team."

Thomas replaces Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, who soon will leave the Ronald Reagan's homeport of Yokosuka for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to become director of maritime operations at U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Dalton said it was his "great honor" to serve with the sailors of Task Force 70.

"At [forward-deployed naval forces] we deploy on the day we get underway. We are ambassadors every single day; world events guide our missions and tasking," he told sailors, according to the Navy statement.

Dalton first took on the role of Task Force 70 commander in September after his predecessor, Rear Adm. Charles Williams, was ousted following two fatal collisions of Task Force 70

guided-missile destroyers that killed 17 sailors in 2017.

Thomas — an E-2C Hawkeye pilot — comes to Task Force 70 from Arlington, Va., where he served as director of the 21st Century Sailor office, the statement said. He was commissioned in 1986 through Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Naval ROTC program and has a master's degree in information technology from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Thomas spent much of his early career deployed on the USS Carl Vinson before returning to the ship as commanding officer in September 2014 during Operation Inherent Resolve. Other career highlights include serving as executive officer and commanding officer for Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Pentagon: End to bird protections unneeded

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is objecting to a Republican proposal in a defense policy bill that would bar the Fish and Wildlife Service from using the Endangered Species Act to protect two chickenlike birds in the western half of the U.S.

The Defense Department says in a position paper made public Wednesday that the environmental measure inserted by House Republicans is unnecessary. The House-approved language would block endangered species listing for the sage grouse and lesser-prairie chicken, which roam more than a dozen states west of the Mississippi River.

The birds have become flashpoints in a legal and political battle over whether they warrant federal protection that hinders mining, logging and other economic development in states from Kansas to California.

The Pentagon says in a one-paragraph statement that the GOP provision "is not necessary to protect military testing and training." The department "urges its exclusion" from the defense bill being negotiated by House and Senate leaders, the statement said.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the statement and confirmed its authenticity.

Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, said Wednesday that officials appreciate "the continued strong support from Congress to protect military readiness and the ability to fully use all of our test and training ranges."

But Niemeyer said military installations are "not experiencing significant mission impacts related to the management" of the sage grouse, lesser-prairie chicken or the American burying beetle, another threatened species targeted by the GOP bill.

# Administration: No rush on nuke deal

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The Trump administration has lowered expectations for fast progress in nuclear talks with North Korea as no breakthrough on a deal has been reached more than five weeks after the summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the sides have made progress on some issues, including the promised return of remains of American troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, which he said was expected to happen "in the next couple of weeks." Meanwhile, he stressed that sanctions aimed at punishing the North for its nuclear weapons program will remain in place.

"There's a lot of work to do," he said Wednesday during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Trump. "It may take some time to get where we need to go, but all of this will be taking place against the backdrop of continued enforcement of the existing

sanctions."

Pompeo, who earlier this month traveled to Pyongyang for the third time since April, said the North Koreans had reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearize.

"We're making progress along the border to get the return of remains, a very important issue for those families," he added. "We think in the next couple of weeks we'll have the first remains returned. That's the commitment."

Kim's agreement to resume the long-stalled search for the remains of thousands of Americans believed lost in the North, "including the immediate repatriation of those already identified," was one of the four points in the final summit declaration along with a general promise to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the divided peninsula.

A U.S. official told Stars and Stripes that the North might return as many as 55 sets of remains on July 27, which is the 65th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the

war, although that date could change as more talks were needed to finalize the details.

Pompeo's remarks followed the tone set by Trump this week, when the president said "we have no time limit" since the North hasn't test-fired a missile in nearly eight months. He also said Russia has agreed to help with the North but did not say how.

"There is no rush, the sanctions remain! Big benefits and exciting future for North Korea at end of process!" Trump added in a tweet Wednesday.

The president has maintained optimism despite criticism that the North has not agreed to any specific measures, timelines or even a definition of denuclearization.

He frequently points out that the diplomatic outreach has tamped down tensions that spiked last year as the countries traded threats and the North demonstrated rapid progress in the development of an intercontinental ballistic missile and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

# Delayed 'Forever' GI Bill poised for launch

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A major expansion of veterans' education benefits — a protracted process beset by communication and information technology challenges — is finally on track to launch next month, Department of Veterans Affairs officials testified Wednesday before a House committee panel.

Last year, the VA said it would hire 200 temporary workers and shell out \$70 million to implement the "Forever" GI Bill, which contains 34 changes to veterans' education benefits and boosts spending by \$3 billion for 10 years. Higher-than-anticipated costs have been one of a number of problems that the agency faced in the year-long charge to implement the plan, which most recently had a July 16 target date that had to be postponed.

"This is a complex, heavy-lift effort," retired Maj. Gen. Robert Worley II, director of VA education services, told the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs subpanel on economic opportunity. "We made very good progress to date. We didn't get to the (July 16) date we were hoping for; we need to slip that about a month and that's where we are. We have a handful of defects left."

Worley, who testified alongside a witness panel of VA officials, went to Capitol Hill on Wednesday to update lawmakers on implementation of H.R. 3218, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act. The effort, which was named for the author of the original GI Bill of Rights, increases payments to veterans with less than one year of active-duty service, restores benefits to veterans whose schools abruptly close, awards full GI Bill benefits to all Purple Heart recipients and increases aid for veterans pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees, among other things.

It was dubbed the "Forever" GI Bill by supporters because it ends a 15-year limit on education benefits for veterans whose last discharge or release from active duty came on or after Jan. 1, 2013. Advocates have called it the most sweeping expansion of veterans education benefits in a decade.

"It is critical that we work to ensure that this bill is implemented in a way that is consistent with Congress' intent and that veterans receive the benefits in a timely and consistent manner," Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, chairman of the subcommittee on economic opportunity, said in opening remarks for Wednesday's hearing.

The bill was signed into law Aug. 16, 2017, and most of its provisions go into ef-

fect Aug. 1. Of the 34 measures in the bill, 22 require "significant changes" to the VA's IT systems. The agency determined costs to program its IT systems to recognize the changes in benefits would cost about \$70 million — an amount more than double the \$30 million originally estimated for the task.

By late last year, Worley said the VA was in the process of hiring 200 temporary employees who would process claims by hand until the IT system was improved with a 40- to 50-person team that would be responsible for deciding which veterans would be eligible for increased aid for STEM degrees. Worley and other VA officials said late last year that they were confident the expansion would be fully in place before the start of the 2018-19 school year.

"We expect a wave of enrollments to come in between now and the early part of the fall, so that will be an increased workload, and that's why we have more people and overtime scheduled and those kinds of things," Worley said. "We will need to do some reworks for enrollments that come in between now and mid-August." A full breakdown of changes to the GI Bill is available on the VA website at [benefits.va.gov](http://benefits.va.gov), and veterans can follow updates on its implementation at the VA's Post-9/11 GI Bill Facebook page.

## Air Force One set for red, white and blue makeover

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says Air Force One is getting a patriotic makeover.

Trump says the familiar baby blue color on the presidential aircraft will give way to a red, white and blue color scheme. Updated models could be in service before the end of a potential Trump second term.

"Air Force One is going to be incredible," Trump told CBS News. "It's going to be top of the line, the top in the world, and it's going to be red, white and blue, which I think is appropriate."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday that the Air Force awarded Chicago-based Boeing Co. a \$3.9 billion contract for two presidential planes that will be ready in 2024. They

will replace a pair of Boeing 747 jumbo jets that are now 31 years old.

The contract confirms a deal reached in February by Trump, the Air Force and Boeing. Sanders said the final price represented a savings of \$1.4 billion from an initial proposal.

The presidential plane — it goes by the radio call sign of Air Force One when the president is on board — was once a Boeing 707 that had orange above and below the nose and "United States of America" painted on the sides in blocky, all-caps lettering.

According to Boeing history, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy picked new colors for the plane used by her husband, President John F. Kennedy. A swath of baby blue covers the nose and runs along the fuselage.

## US to give Philippines counterterrorism funding

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. will give the Philippines \$26.5 million during the next two years to boost police counterterrorism efforts.

"The assistance will include training, equipment, and other support to build comprehensive law enforcement capacity within a rule of law framework to deny terrorist operations, funding, and movement," the U.S. Embassy in Manila said Thursday in a statement.

The Philippines is battling Islamic State-inspired terrorists, including those ejected from the southern city of Marawi following a bloody siege last year. Leftist groups such as the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army also pose a terrorism threat.

The U.S. Agency for International Development said it has committed \$26.4 million to helping communities affected by the Marawi conflict.

The U.S. gave Philippine law enforcement \$32 million in 2016 but canceled the provision of 26,000 M4 assault rifles to police over concerns about extrajudicial killings in President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war.

Under President Donald Trump, ties have warmed with an end to public criticism by U.S. officials of the counternarcotics effort and more robust military engagement.

The new law enforcement funding will help pay for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases and programs to counter radicalization to violence and violent extremism, the embassy said.

# Russian officials to meet suspected spy

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian Embassy officials were to meet Thursday with a Siberian gun rights activist jailed in Washington on charges of spying on the United States as Moscow blasted the arrest as “anti-Russian hysteria.”

The embassy said in a Facebook post that consular officials will meet with Maria Butina for the first time since her Sunday arrest and will provide her “all necessary help.”

Butina, 29, denies wrongdoing, and the Russian government claims the arrest was driven by U.S. domestic politics and an overall anti-Russia mood.

U.S. federal prosecutors accuse Butina of being a covert Russian agent, having contacts with the KGB successor agency FSB, and using sex and deception to forge influential U.S. connections.

Court documents released at her hearing Wednesday outlined ways Butina allegedly

worked covertly to establish back-channel lines of communication to the Kremlin and infiltrate U.S. political organizations, including the National Rifle Association.

Her father, Valery Butin, said the family has been unable to speak to Butina since her arrest, according to the TASS news agency.

Butina grew up in a modest apartment building in the Siberian city of Barnaul, closer to the Mongolian and Kazakh borders than Moscow.

One of her former teachers told The Associated Press that Butina initially thought she would follow her father’s footsteps as an entrepreneur, and opened a string of furniture stores. But she developed an appetite for high-level politics after going to a special camp for young political hopefuls run by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party, said Konstantin Emeshin, founder of the School of Real Politics in Barnaul, where Butina got her first degree.

“She came back inspired, having met lots of people,” he said.

Butina later moved to Moscow, started a gun rights group, and then moved to the U.S., where she got a graduate degree in May from American University. U.S. prosecutors say her studies were a cover for her covert activities.

Emeshin said that Butina was considering a job in Silicon Valley after graduation and told him she felt herself “at a crossroads.”

A week before her arrest, Emeshin said, she contacted him on Facebook and asked for the contacts of specialists who defend “victims of political repression.” She didn’t elaborate. Butina had already been questioned by the U.S. Senate and had her apartment searched by the FBI in recent months.

Butina awaits trial on charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Russia. She pleaded not guilty Wednesday but was ordered held in jail as the case moves forward because of fears she would flee the country.

# Israel approves contentious Jewish nation bill

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel’s parliament approved a controversial piece of legislation on Thursday that defines the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people but which critics warn sidelines minorities.

The government says the bill, passed in the early-morning hours, will merely enshrine into law Israel’s existing character. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called its passage a “historic moment in the history of Zionism and the history of the state of Israel.”

“Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people, which honors the individual rights

of all its citizens,” he said. “I repeat this is our state. The Jewish state.

“Lately, there are people who are trying to destabilize this and therefore destabilize the foundations of our existence and our rights,” he added. “So today we have made a law in stone. This is our country. This is our language. This is our anthem and this is our flag. Long live the state of Israel.”

Israel’s 1948 declaration of independence defined its nature as a Jewish and democratic state, a delicate balance the country has grappled to maintain for 70 years.

Opponents of the new bill say it marginalizes the country’s Arab minority of around 20 percent and also downgrades

Arabic language from official to “special” standing.

The law passed with 62-55 backing, with two members of the Knesset abstaining. The legislation, defined as a “basic law,” granting it quasi-constitutional status, will likely face a challenge at the Supreme Court.

Lawmakers took turns to passionately express their views in a rowdy, hourslong debate in parliament overnight.

Benny Begin, son of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the founder of Netanyahu’s ruling Likud party, abstained from voting, warning of the party’s growing disconnect from human rights.

# Turkish court denies request for release of US pastor

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — A Turkish court on Wednesday again denied a request for the release from custody of an American pastor based in Turkey who is on trial on charges of aiding terrorist groups and engaging espionage.

Andrew Craig Brunson, 50, an evangelical pastor from Black Mountain, N.C., was arrested in the aftermath of a 2016 coup attempt for alleged links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, as well as a network led by U.S.-based Mus-

lim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Turkey blames for the unrest.

Brunson, who faces up to 35 years in prison for “committing crimes on behalf of terror groups without being a member” and “espionage,” strongly denies the charges. Gulen has denied involvement in the coup attempt.

At the end of the third hearing, the court inside a prison complex in the town of Aliaga in western Turkey rejected Brunson’s lawyer’s request that he be freed pending the outcome of the trial. The case was adjourned until Oct. 12.

Brunson’s case has added to already strained Turkish-U.S. relations, with some U.S. politicians calling for sanctions against Turkey if Brunson is not released.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the hearing, the United States’ top diplomat in Turkey expressed disappointment.

“I have read the indictment. I have attended three hearings. I don’t believe there is any indication that Pastor Brunson is guilty of any sort of criminal or terrorist activity,” said Philip Kosnett, the U.S. Embassy charge d’affaires.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Trapped tourists call wrong Lisbon police

**ME** LISBON — Two tourists who became trapped in an elevator accidentally called the wrong Lisbon police department for help.

Dispatcher Cathy Roy told WCSH-TV on Tuesday she was working at the Lisbon Police Department in Maine a few weeks ago when she received a call from the trapped tourists. The only problem was they were in Lisbon, Portugal.

Roy said the two women had pressed the elevator's emergency button for help. No one answered, so the women searched online for "Lisbon Police" and called the first number listed.

Roy says she stayed on the phone with the women and found the right Lisbon police department to call.

## Woman finds spider in store's grapes

**CT** BRANFORD — A Connecticut woman said she found a black widow spider in a package of grapes from the grocery store.

The woman said she bought the organic grapes from a Stop & Shop in Branford on Monday morning, and she and her 11-year-old son were eating the grapes together when they found the spider.

The woman said the venomous spider didn't bite, and the store offered her a full refund. She declined to give her name.

## Police: Woman faked terminal illness

**NJ** EGG HARBOR — Police arrested a New Jersey woman who they say faked having a terminal illness and persuaded a family to take care

of her for more than a month.

Authorities said Tuesday that Kiley White, 26, of Galloway was charged July 12 with theft by deception and harassment after staying with an Egg Harbor Township family for five weeks.

Linda Evans told WCAU-TV her family cared for White, and "every day was just like she has one more day to live."

Police said White pulled a similar scheme in Pennsylvania, but she was never charged with a crime.

## Ice cream truck driver accused of DUI in crash

**VA** VIRGINIA BEACH — Authorities said a woman drunkenly crashed an ice cream truck into a car, injuring three people on National Ice Cream Day.

News outlets reported Elaine Durham, 35, was charged with driving while intoxicated and three counts of hit-and-run for the Sunday crash.

Virginia Beach Police said Durham was driving the truck through the area around 6:30 p.m. when she hit a car and injured the car's occupants.

The three crash victims were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

## Twins run for seats as political opponents

**MI** KENTWOOD — Twin sisters from western Michigan are running for county commissioner seats, but they aren't endorsing one another.

Monica Sparks is running as a Democrat for Kent County's 12th district seat while her Republican sister, Jessica Ann Tyson, hopes to represent the 13th district.

Tyson's decision to run inspired her sister to launch her

own campaign.

The sisters say they don't clash on the issues but that they'll remain loyal to their parties and endorse each other's opponents.

They told WXMI-TV that they were adopted into a family that taught them to be civically engaged.

## Board rejects change to mountain's name

**VT** MONTPELIER — A Vermont state board has unanimously rejected a man's request to change the name of Mount Ascutney to the original Abenaki name.

The board voted 5-0 Monday against the petition because of the overwhelming opposition to the name change.

Hartland resident Rob Hutchins said the name Ascutney was made up by settlers and the original name of the summit was Kaskadenak, which means "wide mountain" in the Abenaki language.

The State of Vermont Board of Libraries is responsible for geographic naming in Vermont. On Monday, it also approved naming a mountain in Johnson Mount Emery after a family that has long lived on the land.

## Woman injured in encounter with bear

**NH** GROTON — New Hampshire's Fish and Game Department said a 71-year-old woman suffered serious head injuries from an encounter with a bear in her home.

The department said the bear somehow got inside the woman's home about 1:15 a.m. Tuesday in Groton. The woman, who uses a wheelchair, was hospitalized.

WMUR-TV reported evi-

dence suggests the bear was trapped in the kitchen area before its encounter with the woman. The bear managed to get out of the home afterward.

## Bicyclist falls into gap on lift bridge

**WI** MENASHA — Police said a bicyclist who weaved past the gates blocking access to a bridge over a river in eastern Wisconsin escaped serious injury after falling into the gap that was created when the bridge started to rise.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation surveillance video shot July 4 shows the woman ignoring the barrier and red flashing lights at the bridge.

The woman and her bike then drop into the gap and she disappears. Police said the 37-year-old woman was treated for facial injuries.

## 2 boys blamed for damage to museum

**IL** SOUTH ELGIN — Authorities said two boys ages 11 and 13 are responsible for more than \$100,000 in damage at the Fox River Trolley Museum in suburban Chicago.

The South Elgin museum said in a statement that dozens of windows were broken sometime between July 4 and July 7 and additional damage was done to eight cars. The museum said one car had 26 windows that were punched out by pick axes and spikes.

Jeff Bennett, the museum's chief car officer, said repair estimates vary from \$110,000 to \$150,000 and could increase. The boys are facing prosecution in Kane County Juvenile Court.

From wire reports

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# Dodgers acquire All-Star SS Machado

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the Manny Machado sweepstakes, getting the prized All-Star shortstop from the Baltimore Orioles in a trade Wednesday night.

The Orioles received five prospects: outfielder Yusniel Diaz, right-handers Dean Kremer and Zach Pop, and third basemen Rylan Bannon and Breyvic Valera.

Machado, a 26-year-old power hitter with extraordinary fielding skills, greatly improves the Dodgers' chances of reaching the World Series for a second consecutive year. He led Baltimore in batting average (.315), home runs (24) and RBIs (65).

Machado is expected to be introduced in Milwaukee on Friday before the Dodgers open a series against the Brewers.

"We viewed Manny Machado as a big difference maker," Dodgers general manager Farhan Zaidi said.

The Dodgers are in a close race in the NL West, leading Arizona by a half-game going into the second half.

"Our first hope is we have a division-winning roster," Zaidi said. "Any time you have a chance to add an impact player in a tight division race that's something you have to look at closely."

Machado's contract expires at the end of the season, and the last-place Orioles decided against negotiating an expensive, multi-year extension because they have too many holes as the team moves into a

rebuilding mode.

"We tried to maintain a competitive club this year, and that's why we resisted the offers we had in the offseason to trade Manny," Dan Duquette, the Orioles' executive vice president of baseball operations, said. "But when it became obvious that it was time to look to the future, trading Manny is the first step in the plan to rebuild our ballclub."

Asked if the Dodgers would re-sign Machado, Zaidi demurred.

"Let's have him at least show up in a Dodger uniform before we start asking those questions," he said. "We hope he plays well and creates a good market for himself. We're not worried about what happens past 2018."

Though only a summer rental, Machado was coveted by a variety of contenders, including Philadelphia, Milwaukee, the Chicago Cubs and Arizona.

"We liked the depth of the Dodger package, we liked the quality of the players in the package and we liked Yusniel Diaz, a player we feel is a gifted hitter," Duquette said. "We felt he was clearly the best player offered to us during this recent market. He was the key to the trade. But the other players in the trade are also very talented."

The 21-year-old Diaz hit two home runs in the All-Star Futures Game last weekend. He's hitting .314 with a .905 OPS with six homers, 30 RBIs and 36 runs scored

this season.

Duquette said Valera will be optioned to Triple-A Norfolk, and the other four players will be sent to Double-A Bowie.

Los Angeles gets a four-time AL All-Star with two Gold Gloves who has 129 homers over the last 3½ seasons. Machado was drafted third overall by the Orioles in 2010, made his big league debut in 2012 and spent his entire major league career in Baltimore.

"Obviously, it's a bittersweet day for our organization," Duquette said. "We watched Manny grow up in our franchise the past eight years. We all know what an exceptional talent he is, from the great plays that he made to his elite hitting. He's always going to be a part of our important part of our club's history."

The Dodgers are filling a gaping hole at shortstop created by the loss of Corey Seager, who is out for the season after undergoing Tommy John surgery in May.

And Machado moves from a cellar-dweller to a division-leading club in the middle of a pennant race. Not only that, but Machado likely gets to stay at shortstop, the position he manned this year after previously playing third base for Baltimore.

"I love playing short. I mean, I love it," Machado said last week. "I'm more excited playing shortstop than I've ever been. I'm more into the game. This is where I've always wanted to be, this is what brings the best player out of me."

## Hitting available for teams in need of help at the plate

Associated Press

Manny Machado will be wearing a new uniform when he plays his next game, and other hitters will be on the move in the next couple of weeks.

Even after Machado was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers, teams seeking to boost their offense will have several options to land a big bat. The four-time All-Star with the Baltimore Orioles was the most coveted player available on the trade market.

Here eight other hitters who may have new teams before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline:

**Mike Moustakas:** After smacking a career-best 38 homers for the Kansas City Royals last year, the two-time All-Star third baseman didn't get a lucrative deal in free agency and

returned on a one-year deal for \$6.5 million plus a mutual option for 2019. He has 19 homers and 58 RBIs but is only batting .249 for the worst team in the majors.

**Scouter Gennett:** The Cincinnati Reds aren't going anywhere and they'd be selling high on their All-Star second baseman. Gennett, a waiver claim last year, had a breakout season in 2017 when he swatted 27 homers and drove in 97 runs. He's batting .326 with 16 homers and 63 RBIs this season. Gennett is a fan favorite in his hometown and can't become a free agent until 2020, so prying him away might be difficult.

**Asdrubal Cabrera:** The 32-year-old infielder is batting .281 with 17 homers and 52 RBIs for the hapless New York

Mets. Cabrera is a switch hitter who would give a team versatility and pop. He'll also be a free agent after the season.

**Shin-soo Choo:** A first-time All-Star, Choo has 18 homers and is on pace to swat a career-best 30 for the last-place Texas Rangers. Choo is batting .291 with a .405 on-base percentage, but just turned 36 and is owed \$42 million over the next two seasons.

**Eduardo Escobar:** The versatile infielder has a .271 average, 14 homers and 57 RBIs with 35 doubles for the Minnesota Twins. Escobar can play shortstop, second base or third base, plus he's started in left field during his career. He's making \$4.85 million this season and will be a free agent in the fall.

**Wilson Ramos:** An All-Star

catcher for the second time in three years, Ramos is batting .297 with 14 homers and 53 RBIs for the Tampa Bay Rays. But he injured his hamstring and is heading to the disabled list, decreasing his trade value.

**Nick Castellanos:** He's having another strong season for the Detroit Tigers after hitting 26 homers and knocking in 101 runs last year. The 26-year-old is batting .305 with 15 homers and 56 RBIs and is under team control for another season.

**Josh Donaldson:** The 2015 AL MVP is struggling through an injury-riddled season and has only played 36 games for the Toronto Blue Jays, but he averaged 35 homers and 100 RBIs between 2014-17 and is entering free agency after the season.

# Raptors taking risk with Leonard deal

Associated Press

Raptors boss Masai Ujiri better have some magic plan.

Because if he doesn't, Lakers boss Magic Johnson will.

Before Kawhi Leonard and DeMar DeRozan — the headline pieces in a four-player trade between San Antonio and Toronto on Wednesday — play a single game for their new teams, this much is clear: The Spurs got better, the Raptors are taking a gargantuan risk and the Los Angeles Lakers are going to sit back and see what happens.

San Antonio essentially swapped one All-Star for another, ridded itself of a headache — the Leonard-wants-out saga — and got a first-round draft pick as well. Hard to argue.

In DeRozan, Toronto traded away a guard who led the Raptors in scoring in each of the last five seasons for a player who, without hardly ever saying a word, has made clear that he wants to be in Los Angeles. A bold strategy, but if Ujiri can win over Leonard in a year just like Sam Presti and Oklahoma City did with Paul George, it could work out like gangbusters for the Raptors.

And if Leonard doesn't see the virtue in making Toronto home for the long term, the Lakers will be waiting.

Remember what Johnson said earlier this offseason about the Lakers' strategy: that it will be a two-year mission. Getting LeBron James to sign with LA earlier this month was a big part of the plan, but

it wasn't the whole plan. Phase 2 is surrounding James with superstar talent, and it's hard to see any reason why Leonard doesn't end up in purple and gold at some point in 2019 — whether through a trade or free agency.

Leonard probably isn't happy, but he almost certainly can't run the risk of sitting out another year.

DeRozan clearly isn't happy. That's no disrespect to San Antonio — the Spurs are a model franchise and Gregg Popovich is a coach almost anyone would want to play for — but DeRozan rather would have stayed in Toronto.

DeRozan got plenty of support from his NBA peers, including Dwyane Wade, who told The Associated Press that he hopes this trade reminds fans that teams will do what they want when they feel it's time to move a player — so players shouldn't be derided when they exercise their options to move on through free agency, either.

"DeRozan gave everything to Toronto, everything they asked him to do from the standpoint of loyalty," Wade said. "That's why I hate loyalty and sports, those two words, they shouldn't go together. You just feel for guys and their family. He committed to them. It's a business and you understand the business, but from a player standpoint, it just sucks."

The Spurs were never going to trade Leonard to the Lakers. It made no sense. Why would San Antonio help a fellow Western Conference team get better, especially when the best team in basketball — Golden

State — seems to have a chokehold on the Larry O'Brien Trophy with no plans of letting go anytime soon?

Plus, the Lakers didn't have the sort of assets the Spurs would have wanted for an elite player like Leonard. He played in nine games for the Spurs last season and was barely a factor. DeRozan will almost certainly give San Antonio more next year than Leonard gave the Spurs last year. Hence, they just got a lot better.

Boston had the required assets but apparently wasn't willing to part with them. Philadelphia did, too. But Toronto, to its credit, saw no reason why it shouldn't be bold this summer. Dwane Casey was the coach of the year who won 59 games and led the Raptors to the No. 1 seed in the East last season. He got fired because the Raptors never figured out how to beat James in the playoffs.

The Raptors are really good. Second-best record in the regular season a year ago, behind only Houston. But they know they're not good enough to win a title, and while they stopped short of blowing up the team they sure gave the foundation a couple of good thwacks with a wrecking ball in dumping Casey and trading DeRozan.

Can Leonard get them over the hump? Maybe. If he's healthy, he could be the best player in the Eastern Conference, largely because of the way he can take over a game on the defensive end.

That's a player worth the risk.

So now we see if Ujiri can work some magic.

## Popovich, Spurs move on following trade

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The most tumultuous offseason in Gregg Popovich's two decades with the Spurs ended with the trade of star Kawhi Leonard to Toronto.

And Popovich says he is fine with that.

The Spurs traded Leonard and Danny Green to the Toronto Raptors for DeMar DeRozan, Jakob Poeltl and a conditional 2019 first-round pick on Wednesday. It was clear that Leonard was ready to go despite years of success with Popovich and the Spurs.

"At this point, my main interest is definitely not to

look back," Popovich said. "It doesn't do us any good whatsoever. I'm thrilled to have DeMar and Jakob join us. From that point on, that's where my focus will be."

Popovich was jovial and heartfelt in speaking to the media for the first time since his wife, Erin, died April 18. Popovich did not coach the Spurs in the final three games of their first-round playoff loss to Golden State.

Popovich said this offseason has been "difficult" for him, but it has not dampened the 69-year-old's desire to continue coaching.

"When I can't do it anymore or don't want to do it or people

don't want to do it with me, then I'll stop doing it, but I'm fine," he said.

Popovich will be coaching a crop of young talent unseen in San Antonio since the early days of the Big Three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili — a roster the result of some big changes.

In addition to losing Leonard and Green, San Antonio also lost Parker and Kyle Anderson to free agency. It was especially tough losing Parker, with whom Popovich formed a patriarchal bond since the Spurs drafted the then 19-year-old from France.

Led by LaMarcus Aldridge's resurgent season, the Spurs

won 47 games last season and reached the playoffs for a 21st consecutive year. They did so despite playing without Leonard for all but nine games due to a right quadriceps injury the All-Star forward suffered last year.

Popovich said he believes this year's team will be more talented despite the offseason losses.

"I think we've sustained a pretty good level of excellence for a very long time, more than most," Popovich said. "Hopefully that will continue and I'm confident it will with someone like DeMar and a young player like Jakob that can develop."

# Spieth stumbles on closing holes of British's 1st round

Associated Press

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Through 14 holes, Jordan Spieth was challenging for the lead in the British Open and making it look easy.

"Just a clean round of golf," he said.

And then it got messy.

Spieth came undone on the tough closing stretch at Carnoustie, dropping four shots over the final four holes. One shot went into the bunker. Another went into the Barry Burn. Another was closer to the gallery than the green.

He had to sign for a 1-over 72, the fifth time in his last seven majors that he was over par after the opening round.

Kevin Kisner took advantage of light winds and warm temperatures to shoot a 5-under 66 and take the early lead. He needed only 22 putts as he made his way around the Carnoustie links, where wispy rough and fast fairways made for low scores among the early groups. He had a one-shot lead over Erik Van Rooyen, Tony Finau and Zander Lombard.

Kisner, who is staying with Spieth and several other players at a house near the course, said they have been enjoying nightly soccer matches in the yard. But he was up early for his morning tee time, and took advantage of the benign conditions.

What bothered Spieth was not so much a shot, but a decision.

His slide began on the 492-yard 15th hole, when he chose 4-iron off the tee and the ball bounced to the left on the crusty links into wispy fescue. That wasn't a problem. Spieth was 202 yards from the front of the green and decided to hit 6-iron that would land short and roll onto the putting green.

The risk was hitting into a pot bunker, and he found the worst one.

"Even if goes 20 yards over

the green, it's an easy up-and-down," Spieth said. "And that's what I would consider a significant advantage for me is recognizing where the misses are. And I just had had a brain fart."

The crowd knew he was in trouble when he turned to a 90-degree angle and asked a small group of the photographers and officials to move back, even though they were standing in the rough. He blasted out sideways, across the fairway and into the rough.

From there, he hit a pitch-and-run that threaded the bunkers and raced some 30 feet by the hole. Two putts later, he had a double bogey.

A perfect shot with that 6-iron might have given him a reasonable look at birdie. Anything less and he was asking for trouble, which he got.

"I could have hit a 5-iron easily and just said, 'You know what? I'm out of position. Hit it to 50 feet and two-putt,'" he said. "It just took me three more shots to get to that point."

His troubles didn't end there. He missed the green well to the right on the par-3 16th, so far out of position that he did well just to get it on the green and made bogey. And on the closing hole, he hit a weak fade to the right that failed to clear Barry Burn, the winding, rock-walled creek that meanders along the final two holes.

Spieth wasn't about to blame this on bad breaks, because he got his share of good ones to reach 3 under through 14 holes. His tee shot on No. 1 stopped just short of a pot bunker. His approach on No. 2 hopped off a hillock to about 10 feet for birdie. He made a dangerous play from a pot bunker in the seventh fairway, hitting 9-iron from 137 yards that cleared the top of the lip with inches to spare.

Unlike when he opened with a 78 at the U.S. Open, he said he could at least recover from a 72.

## Briefly

# Thomas wins stage with yellow jersey

Associated Press

ALPE D'HUEZ, France — Geraint Thomas sprinted away from Sky teammate Chris Froome to win the legendary climb up Alpe d'Huez while wearing the yellow jersey in the Tour de France on Thursday.

With questions over which rider Sky is backing for victory, it was a bold demonstration of strength by Thomas, who has been Froome's loyal lieutenant for years.

"In my eyes Froomey is still our leader," Thomas said. "I'm just going to enjoy it now."

Thomas took yellow with a victory a day earlier. Now he has become the first British rider to win atop Huez and the first of any nationality to win here in the yellow jersey.

Lance Armstrong won an individual time trial up Huez in 2004 while wearing yellow but that victory was later stripped for doping.

Tom Dumoulin crossed second, two seconds behind, and Romain Bardet was third, three seconds back.

Froome finished fourth, four seconds behind Thomas, as the 12th stage concluded with the famed 21 serpentine bends to the Huez ski resort.

Thomas extended his lead over Froome in the overall standings to 1 minute, 39 seconds. Dumoulin was third overall, 1:50 behind.

## Briscoe wins truck race in OT shootout

ROSSBURG, Ohio — Chase Briscoe held off Grant Enfinger on the dirt at Eldora Speedway in a door-banging overtime shootout Wednesday night in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race.

Briscoe won NASCAR's only national series race on dirt in his first Truck start since taking the season finale last year at Homestead. He drove the No. 27 Ford for Sandusky-based

ThorSport Racing, finishing 0.38 seconds ahead of teammate Enfinger.

"This is our Daytona for dirt guys," Briscoe said.

Stewart Friesen was third in the half-mile oval, followed by 2017 race winner Matt Crafton, Brett Moffitt, Noah Gragson, John Hunter Nemechek, Logan Seavey, Justin Haley and Nick Hoffman.

## Indians bolster bullpen with Hand, Cimber

CLEVELAND — The AL Central-leading Cleveland Indians bolstered their bullpen Thursday with the acquisition of lefty All-Star closer Brad Hand and reliever Adam Cimber from the San Diego Padres in exchange for catching prospect Francisco Mejia.

Hand is coming off his second straight All-Star Game appearance. Known for his slider, he has 24 saves with a 3.05 ERA and 65 strikeouts.

Cimber, a sidearmer, is 3-5 with a 3.17 ERA in 42 relief appearances this season for the rebuilding Padres.

Mejia was batting .279 with seven home runs and 45 RBIs in 79 games for Triple-A Columbus.

## Source: Celtics re-sign Smart to 4-year deal

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics have re-signed guard Marcus Smart.

The 6-foot-4 defensive stalwart is returning to the team that picked him sixth overall in the 2014 draft after finding the market for a restricted free agent wasn't as lucrative as he'd hoped.

A person with knowledge of the agreement tells The Associated Press that Smart signed a four-year, \$52 million contract with the Celtics. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.