

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump, Kim in Singapore for summit

The Washington Post

SINGAPORE — President Donald Trump arrived here Sunday night ahead of a potentially historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the first meeting between the leaders of two countries that have been sworn enemies for almost seven decades.

Air Force One touched down with little fanfare at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore, landing a few hours after Kim arrived in the island state. Trump waved as he stepped off the presidential aircraft, briefly greeted Singaporean officials on the tarmac and quickly climbed into a limousine to head to his hotel for the evening.

Asked upon his arrival how he was feeling about the summit, Trump told reporters, “Very good.”

Trump and Kim are scheduled to meet face-to-face Tuesday morning. It remains far from clear what kind of agreement on North Korea’s nuclear program the two leaders will be able to forge.

Trump was upbeat as he departed Canada on Saturday for his daylong journey halfway around the globe, which included a refueling stop on the Greek island of Crete. The president told reporters he would rely on his intuition to size up Kim’s intentions regarding a deal to abandon his nuclear arsenal. “Within the first minute, I’ll know,” he said. “My touch, my feel — that’s what I do.”

Singapore’s prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, welcomed Kim and his entourage to the Istana, his palatial office, for talks laying the groundwork for Tuesday’s summit. Trump is due to meet with Lee on Monday.

“From our point of view, it’s important that the meeting take place and that the meeting sets developments on a new trajectory — one that will be conducive to the security and stability of the region,” Lee told reporters here earlier in the afternoon.

The plan

Kim and Trump will sit down for talks at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Capella Hotel on the resort island of Sentosa, usually better known for hosting Singapore’s Universal Studios amusement park.

Video broadcast by the prime minister’s office showed Kim and Lee shaking hands and posing for photos at the Istana on Sunday evening. Kim could then be seen in-

roducing Lee to his senior officials while Kim’s sister and close aide, Kim Yo Jong, could be seen in the background.

The North Korean leader landed at Singapore’s Changi airport shortly before 3 p.m. local time Sunday and traveled in his armored Mercedes-Benz limousine through one of the island state’s swankiest shopping districts to the five-star St. Regis Hotel.

The streets were lined with tourists and journalists trying to catch a glimpse of the enigmatic North Korean leader, who has embarked on his farthest journey since taking power at the end of 2011 — and the journey with the highest stakes.

Kim has engaged in a flurry of diplomacy this year, holding two meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and two with China’s Xi Jinping, leading to this first-ever summit between a North Korean leader and a sitting U.S. president.

After overseeing rapid advances in North Korea’s nuclear and missile technology last year, Kim now appears to be turning his attention to his country’s economy and particularly to getting rid of the international sanctions that are hampering its growth.

The nuclear program has enabled Kim to project confidence, analysts say, and he is now trying to metamorphose from a nuclear-armed tyrant into a responsible international statesman.

Travel intrigue

Kim’s 3,000-mile journey from North Korea was full of intrigue, with three planes departing from Pyongyang on Sunday morning.

The first was a cargo plane believed to be carrying vehicles and supplies for the North Korean leader.

The second was an Air China Boeing 747, usually used by the Chinese government to carry high-level officials, that took off at 8:30 a.m., about an hour after it arrived from Beijing.

Then Kim’s private jet, a Soviet-made Ilyushin-62, officially called “Chammae-1” after North Korea’s national bird but sometimes jokingly referred to as “Air Force Un,” departed about 10 a.m. local time.

Kim had taken that third plane when he traveled to the Chinese city of Dalian in May to meet President Xi Jinping, a trip that was viewed as a practice run for the Singapore journey.

But Kim was in fact on the Air China

plane, despite the fact that Singapore, which is 3,000 miles from Pyongyang, was technically within reach of his jet, which can fly 6,200 miles.

His sister arrived in Singapore on the North Korean jet about an hour after her brother.

Commentators in South Korea speculated that this was part of an effort to create a decoy so that no one — not even the Chinese — knew which plane the North Korean leader was traveling on.

Thorny issue

Kim Jong Un, who came to power in North Korea at age 27 with no qualifications other than having been born into the totalitarian family that has ruled the state with an iron grip since 1948, has shown eagerness for this summit.

After Trump abruptly called off the summit late last month, citing North Korea’s “tremendous anger,” the Kim regime immediately made clear it still wanted to talk and hurriedly arranged a second face-to-face meeting between Kim Jong Un and South Korea’s Moon to get the preparations back on track. Departing from Canada, where he had been attending a G-7 meeting, Trump signaled that he had high hopes that Kim would deliver.

“I think that he’s going to surprise on the upside, very much on the upside. We’ll see,” Trump said at a news conference in Quebec on Saturday. “But this has never been done, never been tested.”

Trump had been trying to lower expectations, saying that he wanted at a minimum to “start a dialogue” with Kim and acknowledging that this would be a process, not a quick diplomatic success.

The summit will tackle of the thorny issue of North Korea’s nuclear program, a problem that has bedeviled diplomats for a quarter-century and has become only more difficult with the astonishing advances of last year.

But the concerted efforts to reduce expectations suggested that the summit would go smoothly, said Joseph Yun, who was the State Department’s point man on North Korea until February.

“If it’s just a meet-and-greet — a ‘getting to know you,’ as Trump would say — then it will still be welcome in the region, in Singapore and in South Korea and in Japan,” Yun said.

Marines may woo older servicemembers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The head of the Marine Corps says it's time the U.S. military branch known for its fierce, young warriors becomes a little more mature.

The Marine Corps is considering offering bonuses and other perks to entice older, more experienced Marines to re-enlist as it builds up its cyberoperations to defend the nation, especially against cyberattacks from Russia and China. About 62 percent of Marines are 25 or younger, with many serving only four years.

The move marks a historic change that could transform a force made up primarily of high school graduates, lured by the bravado and physical challenges of joining a branch that prides itself on being the "tip of the spear," the first to go into battle and knock in doors. It's part of the Marine Corps' modernizing efforts after 16 years of largely low-tech counterinsur-

gency fights.

"It's going to be a Marine Corps that's a little bit older, a little more experienced, because as much as we love our young Marines ... we need a little bit older because it takes longer to learn these skills," Gen. Robert Neller told defense leaders at a San Diego conference. "And so we're an organization looking at the whole way we do business, and it's going to change our culture."

Marine Corps officials are quick to emphasize the core recruiting mission will remain the same for the branch that boasts having the toughest warriors in the U.S. military.

Getting more Marines to re-enlist could inadvertently ease pressure on recruiters. Less than 30 percent of the U.S. population is qualified physically, mentally and morally to serve, according to military leaders. A greater number of older Marines could also help lessen behavior problems like excessive

drinking that can be more prevalent among junior Marines.

"By older Marines, we're not talking guys with walkers but rather second- and third-tour enlisted Marines," said Gary Solis, a military expert at Georgetown University who served 26 years in the Marine Corps. "They may be only a few years older than the 18- and 19-year-old Marines, but those three or four years difference could make a hell of a difference as far as maturity when it comes to their outlook and unit cohesion."

The commandant said it also ensures the military gets a return on the money and time it spends training troops in cyberoperations, something that could take three or more years.

The 2018 defense budget earmarked money for the Marine Corps to add 1,000 Marines, many who will work in cyber and electronic warfare.

Tampering with networks that control the operations of

air defense, for example, could be as lethal as — or more lethal than — firepower in the future. Extremists have also been able to use mobile technology and social media to recruit members and raise money to become a real threat.

The Marine Corps is opening jobs in October in its new cyberspace occupational field. After the announcement of the field, Neller tweeted: "Trigger fingers turn to Twitter fingers? Not exactly, but this is the next step in professionalizing our cyber force, which will be critical to our success, now and in the future."

The Marine Corps floated the idea of allowing people with cyber skills to bypass boot camp, but Neller opposed that, saying a Marine should be a Marine. Any applicant over the age of 28 will still be evaluated to ensure they exhibit the physical stamina to undergo the rigors of recruit training.

4 Pendleton Marines facing charges; 2 others guilty

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Four servicemen in Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Logistics Group are facing serious criminal charges and another pair recently pleaded guilty at court-martial.

The charges include rape, kidnapping, firearms violations, drug use and domestic abuse.

The most senior Marine awaiting court-martial is Gunnery Sgt. Shawn C. Moulton, according to charge sheets released under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

A senior noncommissioned officer in Combat Logistics Battalion 7 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Moulton engaged in a forbidden relationship with a junior Marine for more than a year before it ended in September, prosecutors allege.

When he was ordered by his captain to stop the "unduly fa-

miliar relationship," Moulton allegedly kept texting the Marine, according to the charge sheets.

The trial of Moulton, an 18-year veteran of the Corps, is slated to begin on Aug. 20.

Lance Cpl. Calixto Gonzalez Jr. pleaded guilty on May 31 after being charged with violating nine specifications of military law, including rape and burglary.

Assigned to Headquarters Regiment at Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Logistics Group, the Texan was charged with sexually assaulting two Marines on Sept. 8 and another on Nov. 10.

At least one of the women was unconscious, according to his charge sheet.

Gonzalez pleaded guilty to three specifications of sexual assault and was sentenced to four years in prison, a dishonorable discharge and reduction in rank to private.

Twice found guilty of previous crimes by his command and administratively punished, Pvt. Jordan D. Anderson, of Texas, is confined while awaiting an Aug. 6 court-martial.

The finance technician in Service Company, Headquarters Regiment, is accused of 24 specifications of violating military law, including soliciting prostitution, firearms crimes, stealing military property, obstructing justice and marijuana abuse.

Cpl. Michael J. Williamson, an engineer equipment operator in 1st Transportation Support Battalion, is accused of beating his ex-girlfriend, a Marine sergeant at Camp Pendleton, on Dec. 30.

Williamson, who is in pretrial confinement pending a court-martial scheduled to begin Monday, allegedly dragged her to the floor of her bed, pushed her against a wall, covered her

mouth and nose and choked her with his hand, according to this charge sheet.

Cpl. Richard B. Sawyer, of 7th Engineer Support Battalion on Camp Pendleton, pleaded guilty on May 2 to possessing drug paraphernalia and cocaine. No longer in confinement, the South Carolina man was reduced to the rank of private and will receive a bad conduct discharge from the Corps.

A sailor assigned to 1st Dental Battalion at 1st Marine Logistics Group also faces charges.

Hospitalman Henry L. McGill is in pretrial confinement pending a court-martial scheduled to begin on July 30.

He's accused of conspiring with a Marine friend to kidnap McGill's civilian adult girlfriend near Vista, Calif., and take her to Mexico, according to his charge sheet. He allegedly tried to spirit her away on both Sept. 5 and Oct. 20 in Escondido, Calif.

US troops wounded in Somalia attack treated; dead soldier identified

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Four U.S. servicemembers who were wounded in an extremist attack in Somalia that killed one special operations soldier have been treated and discharged, the U.S. military said Saturday.

A U.S. Africa Command statement said the four were in the care of the U.S. Embassy medical team in neighboring Kenya. They were awaiting transportation “for additional medical evaluation.”

The Pentagon said Staff Sgt. Alexander W. Conrad, 26, of Chandler, Ariz., died Friday of injuries sustained from what it called enemy indirect fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C. The names of those wounded were not released.

Conrad joined the Army in June 2010 and deployed as a human intelligence collector twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, once for nine months in 2012-13 and once for four months in 2014, according to a biography released by U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

After graduating from a French language course at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in 2016, Conrad was assigned to 3rd Group as a human intelligence noncommissioned officer.

Among his other training were Army Airborne School and a series of human intelligence courses.

Conrad’s various awards and decorations include three Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and a Meritorious Service Medal.

This was the first public announcement of a U.S. military combat death in Africa since four U.S. servicemembers were killed in a militant ambush in the West African nation of Niger in October.

Taliban offshoot declares an open-ended cease-fire

By **CHAD GARLAND**

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A breakaway Taliban group has declared a truce with the Afghan government following news last week that Kabul would stand down its offensive operations against insurgents at the end of Ramadan through the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

The splinter group, led by Mullah Mohammad Rasul, said late Saturday its stand-down would begin immediately and would last until an unspecified future date.

The group promised that government employees would be free to enter areas under its control during the cease-fire. One of several factions that have broken away from the Taliban’s core, known as the Quetta Shura, the Rasul group is mainly active in southern and western Afghanistan.

In announcing its cease-fire, it acknowledged it was reciprocating the government’s eight-day truce, unlike the main Taliban group, which had earlier announced a three-day cease-fire during the Eid holiday without mention of Kabul’s peace gesture.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a unilateral cease-fire Thursday, a gambit intended to apply pressure to the Taliban as Afghan civilians have begun pleading more vocally for peace after decades of conflict. It followed a religious edict that said the insurgency violated Islamic law.

Speaking to Stars and Stripes, a

Rasul group official acknowledged the public’s recent calls for an end to fighting.

“Peace is the order of almighty Allah,” said Maulavi Abdul Rahman Niazi, a former member and spokesman of the Rasul group’s high peace council. “Afghans are tired of fighting and they are thirsty for peace.”

Kabul has been seeking to woo breakaway commanders to lay down their weapons to work out a political settlement to the nearly 17-year insurgency and to isolate the Taliban leadership based in Quetta, Pakistan.

A representative of Rasul’s group reportedly had met with Afghan officials to discuss peace talks informally in Turkey last winter, though the meeting later was denied by all sides. Kabul and the Rasul group also have denied reports that the government supplied the faction with cash, ammunition and weapons to fight its Taliban rivals.

The group split off from the core Taliban in 2015 following news that the group’s founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, had died two years earlier in Pakistan and that his death had been hidden from many of his followers.

The news caused a deep rift among insurgent commanders. Many leaders rejected the selection of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour as Omar’s successor and objected to the group’s establishment of a political office in Qatar, a country that they accused of making secret deals with the U.S. government.

IG: Air Force cuts F-15C upgrades, plans to retire jets

By **JAMES BOLINGER**

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force canceled expensive upgrades to 196 F-15C fighters last year as it hammered out a plan to retire the jets, according to a recently declassified report.

The fighters were supposed to get new electronic warfare equipment known as the Eagle Passive/Active Warning and Survivability System, said the Department of Defense Inspector General report declassified

on May 21.

The Air Force had planned to spend \$3.4 billion installing the gear on all F-15Cs and on 217 F-15Es, giving them “electronic warfare capabilities to detect and identify air and ground threats, employ countermeasures and jam enemy radar signals,” the report said.

However, in February 2017, the service ordered a 47 percent cut in the number of jets getting the new equipment, which replaces a dated 1970s electronic warfare package

and is designed to increase the F-15Cs’ survivability in a contested environment.

The IG report outlined a timeline for retiring the jets, but many details were redacted.

Before that happens, Air Force officials must brief Congress on options to replace F-15C Air Superiority Mission capabilities, validate whether upgraded F-16s are a viable replacement and identify transition plans for locations that support F-15C aircraft, person-

nel, operations or maintenance activities, the report said.

Officials from the service told lawmakers in March 2017 that they would consider retiring the aircraft during budget planning for the 2019 fiscal year.

If Congress doesn’t approve the retirement, the Air Force will restore funds to install the electronic warfare gear on F-15Cs based on mission requirements, an Air Force official said in the report.

Puerto Rican pride, concerns on display at annual parade

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Puerto Rican Parade in New York turned into its usual boisterous celebration Sunday, but many participants also saw it as an occasion to express their more somber concerns over the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria.

Along the parade route in the heart of Manhattan, people carried signs with tributes like “New York stands with Puerto Rico,” “You will not be forgotten” and “Decolonize Puerto Rico.”

Many also waved Puerto Rican flags and danced as they made their way down Fifth Avenue.

Remembering those still struggling in Puerto Rico “makes today important, but it also makes it bittersweet,” said Nora Ortiz.

Ortiz, 53, of Brooklyn, and other parade-goers voiced frustration over what they said was an under-reporting of the death toll in Puerto Rico and a tepid emergency response by the administration of President Donald Trump.

A recent study from Harvard University estimated there were up to 4,600 more deaths than usual in the three months after Hurricane Maria, although some independent experts questioned the methods and the number in that study. The official federal death toll is at 64.

“We’re part of the United States,” Ortiz said. “We are Americans, and I think that I came to represent the fact that no one wants to admit that almost 5,000 lives were lost in Hurricane Maria.”

Julio Pabon led a group of demonstrators who chanted “Respect Puerto Rico” as it passed Trump Tower. They also waved flags in the direction of the luxury high-rise.

“Maria unmasked that we are a colony,” said Pabon, 66, of the Bronx. “I’m just tired of the way my island has been treated.”

Trump pulls out of joint G-7 statement, attacks Trudeau

Associated Press

LA MALBAIE, Quebec — The annual G-7 summit appeared to have weathered tensions over President Donald Trump’s threats of a tariff-fueled trade war until the mercurial American pulled out of a joint statement while citing “false statements” by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

It was an unprecedented attack on the leader of the U.S. neighbor and ally.

Trump was aboard Air Force One, heading to a historic summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un, when he issued a pair of tweets Saturday criticizing the G-7 host and stepping back from the generally positive tone that had ended the two-day meeting. A few hours earlier, Trudeau had told re-

porters that all seven leaders had come together to sign the joint declaration.

Trudeau said he had reiterated to Trump that tariffs would harm industries and workers on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. He said unleashing retaliatory measures “is not something I relish doing” but that he wouldn’t hesitate to do so because “I will always protect Canadian workers and Canadian interests.”

“As Canadians, we are polite, we’re reasonable, but also we will not be pushed around,” Trudeau said, and he described all seven leaders coming together to sign a joint declaration despite having “some strong, firm conversations on trade, and specifically on American tariffs.”

In the air by then, Trump

tweeted: “Based on Justin’s false statements at his news conference, and the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs to our U.S. farmers, workers and companies, I have instructed our U.S. Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the U.S. Market!”

He followed up by tweeting: “PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our @G7 meetings only to give a news conference after I left saying that, “US Tariffs were kind of insulting” and he “will not be pushed around.” Very dishonest & weak. Our Tariffs are in response to his of 270% on dairy!”

A spokesman for Trudeau did not address Trump’s insults in a statement.

Mattis aims to reassure in chaotic time

Philly.com

BRUSSELS, Belgium — As President Donald Trump feuded with some of America’s closest allies last week and talked about inviting one of their great rivals, Russia, back into an exclusive economic club, Jim Mattis was here, sounding a very different note.

Standing at a lectern inside NATO’s gleaming new headquarters — marked by reminders of the transatlantic alliance’s powerful history — Trump’s defense secretary declared that “the American people remain committed to this alliance, and we look forward to working together.”

It was yet another example of Mattis, a former Marine general, reassuring America’s closest friends that their bonds remain strong, a familiar, soothing contrast to the combative tone coming from the White House.

It’s a role that has made Mat-

tis a critical American voice on the world stage.

“He is, without question, within Europe, and really, I would argue, around the world, the most respected person in President Trump’s Cabinet,” said Derek Chollet, a former assistant secretary of defense, who managed Europe and NATO policy under two of Mattis’ Obama-era predecessors.

There are looming questions, though, over how far Mattis’ words can go when contrasted with the president’s increasingly bruising approach to allies such as Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

International strains were growing even as Mattis crossed the Atlantic for a gathering of NATO defense ministers.

The previous week, Trump had imposed tariffs hitting Canada and American allies in Europe — citing national security reasons as he targeted some of the U.S.’ oldest friends. Europe

hit back by imposing levies on American products including bourbon, peanut butter and Harley-Davidsons.

The trade fight was only the latest example of months of friction.

Speaking to reporters, Mattis downplayed the idea that Trump’s actions could disrupt key alliances. One or two disagreements, he said, aren’t enough to shake shared democratic values and decades of collaboration on security.

“It’s almost like you have an orchestra playing, but you got cymbals clashing. We’ll address the cymbals, no problem ... but that does not refute the fact that the violins are in harmony,” said Mattis.

Mattis acknowledged the anxiety he was likely to face in Europe.

“The reason I’m traveling there is to listen, to take notes, to work these things forward,” he said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Monkey escapes and attacks store worker

FL OKEECHOBEE — A diaper-wearing monkey escaped a truck and attacked a Home Depot employee as the worker tried to locate the monkey's owner.

The monkey bit and scratched Marilyn Howard on the back, arm and face during the attack last week in Okeechobee.

Howard encountered the leashed monkey in the parking lot and was taking it to the service desk inside in an effort to locate the owner.

A witness' video obtained by television station WPBF shows the monkey getting startled when passing through the store's sliding doors.

The monkey's owner was able to locate the monkey and bring her under control.

Chicken that survived truck spill dies

DE MILFORD — A chicken that had been the sole survivor of a truck spill that killed thousands of birds died.

News outlets reported that the chicken died Thursday despite a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$1,300 for its care.

Animal rights activists found the chicken amid the wreckage from Wednesday's accident and named it June.

A tractor-trailer hauling the chickens to a Perdue Farms processing plant overturned near Middletown.

Historic tall ship returns to Boston

MA BOSTON — A majestic tall ship from Portugal sailed back to Boston.

Sagres, a three-masted Portuguese Navy barque, was open

for public viewing over the weekend.

The 294-foot vessel is used for training in its home country.

Ship watchers in Boston may remember Sagres for the distinctive red crosses that decorate 10 of its 22 sails.

The ship has visited more than 60 countries and circumnavigated the globe three times, most recently in 2010 during a voyage of approximately 35,000 miles.

Register of Historic Places adds windmill

MI HOLLAND — A windmill in western Michigan that's a popular tourist attraction has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service said the De Zwaan Windmill at Windmill Island Gardens in Holland was added to the register following several years of efforts to have it recognized. The windmill earlier was recognized with a state historical marker.

The city of Holland is known for its Dutch heritage and hosts the annual Tulip Time festival.

The windmill, which was brought to Michigan from the Netherlands in the 1960s, was rededicated in 2014 after it underwent about \$760,000 in restoration and repairs.

Waffle House reopens after rodent problem

DE SMYRNA — A Delaware Waffle House where inspectors found mouse droppings in the kitchen and mold in the ice cream machine has been allowed to reopen.

Division of Public Health spokeswoman Jen Brestel said the Waffle House in Smyrna met all of its requirements and was allowed to reopen for

business.

A Burger King in Delaware had been ordered closed after a video of rodents among hamburger buns went viral, but it was permitted to reopen June 4.

Deputy fired after unseating sheriff

SD TYNDALL — A South Dakota sheriff's department was inundated with phone calls condemning a sheriff for firing a deputy who defeated him in a primary race.

The Bon Homme County sheriff's department alerted county commissioners last week that the overwhelming response to the firing is affecting the agency's ability to do its job, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

Sheriff Lenny Gramkow fired deputy Mark Maggs almost immediately after Maggs defeated him by a vote of 878-331 in last Tuesday's Republican primary.

Maggs will assume office in January, but the father of four is jobless for now.

Caller complains over team's practice music

WY LARAMIE — Somebody called the police on Wyoming's only college football team.

The caller complained that University of Wyoming football players were playing music too loudly during practice at War Memorial Stadium. The stadium got a jumbotron with an improved speaker system a couple years ago.

Laramie police got the call at 7 a.m. Friday — too early, apparently, for at least one person in the neighborhood to listen to loud workout music.

Wyoming receiver Austin

Conway tweeted later, "Who calls the police on their football team?"

Town spends \$40K per year to unclog sewers

CT STONINGTON — Officials in Connecticut say a town is spending about \$40,000 annually unclogging sewer system pumps that are damaged by flushable wipes and grease.

Stonington Water Pollution Control Authority Director Douglas Nettleton told The Day that sewer systems and pumps aren't designed to handle garbage. Nettleton said plastic bags, feminine products and other items increase the chances of a system failure.

Customers are charged higher fees to offset the cost of unclogging and repairing sewer systems. Rates have increased for the last three years.

Big Boy is back in downtown Cincinnati

OH CINCINNATI — A popular Cincinnati restaurant chain made its return to the city's downtown last week.

Frisch's opened its Carey Tower location to the public Wednesday. It closed its last downtown Cincinnati restaurant in 2004.

Atlanta-based private equity firm NRD Capital bought the chain from its family ownership in 2015.

Long an iconic Cincinnati brand, Frisch's has the Big Boy trademark in the region and operates restaurants in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

From wire reports

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Justify completes rare Triple Crown

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justify defied all the odds on his way to achieving Triple Crown immortality.

The late bloomer won the Belmont Stakes by 1¾ lengths on Saturday, giving the sport its 13th Triple Crown champion. American Pharoah ended a 37-year drought in 2015 and now just four years later, racing is celebrating another sweep of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont.

Justify began his racing career on Feb. 18, a scant 77 days before the Derby. He won his first three races by a combined 19 lengths, making trainer Bob Baffert a believer.

The big chestnut colt with the appetite to match burst onto the national scene with a 2½-length victory on a sloppy track in the Derby. Two weeks later, he survived a challenge in the fog-shrouded Preakness, winning by a half-length, again in the slop to set up a Triple Crown try.

“The raw talent is there,” Baffert said. “He just came on there and broke every curse there was. It was meant to be.”

On a cloudy 80-degree day at Belmont Park, Justify proved a cool customer.

He didn’t flinch when greeted by 90,327 roaring fans as he walked onto the track. He stood so quietly in the starting gate that jockey Mike Smith wondered if he’d respond when it sprang open.

Did he ever.

Justify led all the way in achieving one of the sports world’s toughest feats 45 years to the day that Secretariat won the Belmont by a record 31 lengths. Baffert called Justify one of the all-time greats.

“I think he’s the greatest of all time,” Smith said. “I just won the Triple Crown, man. He’s my champion.”

Justify accomplished a lot in a very short time.

At 6-0, he joins Seattle Slew in 1977 as the only two undefeated Triple Crown winners; he’s the first to sweep the series without racing at age 2 (because of a pulled muscle); and he’s the only horse to beat nine rivals in the Belmont with a Triple try on the line. Slew also was a wire-to-wire Belmont winner.

Justify’s handlers also made history.

Baffert became the second trainer to win the Triple Crown twice, having overseen American Pharoah. James “Sunny Jim” Fitzsimmons guided Gallant Fox in 1930 and Omaha in 1935.

“It never gets old,” Baffert said. “American Pharoah, he’ll always be my first love.”

At 52, Smith became the oldest jockey to win the Triple Crown. He celebrated by grabbing white carnations from the winner’s blanket and tossing them in the air.

“He just puts an old man out there to sit still, who stays out of the way and lets a good horse be a good horse,” Smith said, crediting Baffert for using him.

Smith and Justify took a curtain call before entering the winner’s circle. Back in New York where he dominated in the 1990s, Smith took Justify on a walk past the packed grandstand, soaking in the cheers and giving the crowd a closer look at racing’s newest hero.

Justify’s victory gives racing its second Triple Crown winner of the decade. The last time there were two Triple Crown champions in the same decade was the 1970s, which produced Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed.

Purchased for \$500,000, Justify earned \$800,000 for his Belmont win, giving him

\$3,798,000 in his brief career.

The powerful colt with the blaze running the length of his face showed no signs that the rigors of running a compressed schedule had gotten to him.

On a fast, dry track, Justify was just as good in his third race in five weeks at his third different track.

Sent off as the 4-5 favorite, Justify ran 1½ miles — the longest race of the series — in 2:28.18 and paid \$3.60, \$3.50 and \$2.80.

“This horse ran a tremendous race, he’s so gifted,” Smith said. “He’s sent from heaven. I tell you, it’s just amazing.”

Baffert had fretted after Justify drew the No. 1 post, a spot he detests for his horses. But Smith turned it into an advantage, gunning Justify to the lead and defying any horse to challenge.

Restoring Hope, also trained by Baffert, ran interference for the champion while traveling second and deterring any threats by forcing them to go extremely wide. Nobody did.

Smith got the colt into a relaxed rhythm under a moderate pace heading into the backstretch, and he had an easy trip from there.

“You can’t doubt him now, there’s no way,” said Bill Mott, trainer of third-place Hofburg. “He did it right up on the pace, and everybody had an opportunity to take their shot. They didn’t do it. They let it go too easy.”

There were mild bids turning for home. Vino Rosso made the most serious move to get within a length. Justify pulled away down the 1,097-yard stretch in front of screaming fans with only 24-1 shot Gronkowski picking off a half-dozen rivals in taking up the chase down the lane.

Nadal beats Thiem for 11th French Open title

Associated Press

PARIS — As Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem warmed up before the French Open final, the booming voice of an announcer at Court Philippe Chatrier called out each player’s bona fides.

Nadal’s introduction included a year-by-year accounting of every time he’d already won the title at Roland Garros. The crowd responded, initially offering polite applause, then adding their voices, rising into a full-throated roar.

Go ahead and 2018 to the

lengthy list. Nadal won his record-extending 11th championship at the French Open on Sunday, overcoming a late problem with a finger on his racket-swinging hand and displaying his foe-rattling best for a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 7 seed Thiem, the only person to beat the Spaniard on clay over the past two seasons.

Up a break at 2-1 in the third set, Nadal stopped serving after a fault because he couldn’t straighten his left middle finger. At the following changeover, Nadal was given

a salt pill by a doctor and had his left forearm massaged by a trainer.

“Tough moment in the third set when I got a little bit cramped on the hand,” Nadal said. “I was very scared.”

Nadal’s form never wavered, though, and soon enough he was celebrating his 17th Grand Slam title overall, second among men only to Roger Federer’s 20. The two stars have combined to win the past six majors.

The victory also allowed the 32-year-old Nadal to hold onto the No. 1 ranking, just ahead of

Federer.

Nadal called it “not even a dream” to gather 11 titles in Paris, saying it was “impossible to think of something like this.”

Thiem, a 24-year-old from Austria, was appearing in a major final for the first time. Not much more of a daunting task than doing so against this particular opponent at the French Open, where Nadal is now 11-0 in finals and 86-2 overall. The only losses came against Robin Soderling in the fourth round in 2009 and Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals in 2015.

Dixon leads final 119 laps for IndyCar win

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Scott Dixon didn't spend much time sharing the spot with Michael Andretti for the third-most wins in Indy-car history.

A week after a matching victory, Dixon led the last 119 laps in the IndyCar Series race at Texas on Saturday night to move ahead of Andretti with career win No. 43.

"It's really cool. Obviously I have massive respect for a lot of these drivers," Dixon said. "But when you look at those names, A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Michael Andretti, the Unsers, to me it still seems very strange that Dixon is on that list too."

Dixon trails only A.J. Foyt's 67 wins and Mario Andretti's 52.

After taking the lead on the 1½-mile Texas oval in the 248-lap race, he never gave it up. It was Dixon's third victory at Texas, a week after he won the first of the two races at Detroit.

"The car was just stuck," Dixon said. "Whatever we did, the car was just nailed. It was a bit loose at times, but I can't thank the team enough. The pit stops were fantastic."

Before separate late incidents involving Will Power and Ed Carpenter, the top two finishers at the Indianapolis 500, Dixon was close to lapping the field.

IndyCar said Power and Carpenter both would be penalized for avoidable contact with rookie drivers.

Power held the points lead coming into the race, but Dixon took over that with his 4.3-second win over Simon Pagenaud. Alexander Rossi finished third, with James Hinchcliffe and Ryan Hunter-Reay rounding out the top five in the first night race of the season.

"It's so fun to come here, because you never know what you're going to get except Scott is going to be fast and Team Penske is going to be on pole," Rossi said. "A few common threads."

Team Penske swept the top three qualifying spots. Pagenaud started and finished second, while polesitter Josef Newgarden was 13th and Power finished 18th.

The win gave Dixon a 23-point lead over Rossi after nine of 17 races. Power was third, 36 behind Dixon.

"It's not bad," Dixon said. "But it's going to be hard to hold onto. We'll see how the next races go. The car has had good speed all season and we'll try to keep it going."

Power, who won at Texas last year, was running in the top 10 on lap 205 when he made contact with Zachary Claman De Melo.

Whittaker defeats Romero in rematch at UFC 225

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Robert Whittaker barely got the fight to the judges before they handed him a win in a grueling rematch.

Whittaker survived a staggering blow in the fifth round to beat Yoel Romero in a split decision at UFC 225 on Saturday night.

Whittaker (21-4) won despite being outworked in the fifth. He was shaken up after taking a hard left hand from Romero (13-3) early in the round, and the fight was scored 48-47 by all three judges, one in Romero's favor.

Whittaker also injured his right hand in the first round.

"Yoel hits like a truck and I just had to try and survive and make the comeback," Whittaker said. "I could have seen it going any way because it was tight, but I hit him a lot and I thought I did enough to get three of the five rounds. It was a really tough fight but I want to go back and talk to my team and see what we think should be next."

The fight was in jeopardy when Romero missed weight at 185 pounds Friday morning. Romero was one pound over in the first weigh-in, then .2 over in the second and final weigh-in. The fight was originally for the middleweight championship. The duo fought anyway, but without a belt on the line.

"It's a long flight to Chicago. If I travel 22 hours, I'm fighting someone, mate," said Whittaker, who is from New Zealand.

Romero was tentative in the first round, and Whittaker damaged his right eye in the second with a kick. Romero then exploded in the third, landing a left and bringing down the champ. Romero controlled the third round with a series of combinations, but Whittaker was able to land two significant kicks.

Whittaker kicked Romero below the belt in the fourth round, which put a halt to the fight for about a minute. Whittaker regained control in the fourth, but Romero landed a hard left and right late in the round. In the fifth, Romero controlled the round, bring down Whittaker with a series of left hands, then pounded with a right hand.

At UFC 213, Whittaker gutted out a grueling 25-minute brawl against Romero with all three judges scoring it 48-47.

This card featured five current and former UFC champions in front of a sold-out United Center crowd. In the co-main event, Colby Covington (14-1) defeated

Rafael dos Anjos (28-10) for the interim welterweight championship in a unanimous decision. Covington controlled the five-round title fight by outstriking the former lightweight champ.

The outspoken Covington called out current welterweight champ Tyron Woodley. Woodley has been out indefinitely with a shoulder injury.

"This moment is exactly what I dreamed of," Covington said. "This is what I've been saying all week, to all the media, to all the fans. This is my moment and nobody can say anything about it. I'm the new money fight in UFC. Tell Tyron Woodley that his time is up. This is the real belt."

In his second pro fight, former WWE star CM Punk, a Chicago native, had the crowd chanting his name in the first round, but Punk was unable to show any sense of force in the cage against Mike Jackson (1-1). Jackson peppered Punk (0-2) with punches to the face throughout the fight and won in a lackluster unanimous decision. Punk, who was featured on the main card, didn't help his standing with the UFC after two disappointing showings.

Another Chicago native, Curtis Blaydes, kept climbing the heavyweight rankings with an impressive second-round TKO of Alistair Overeem. Blaydes (10-1-1) dropped Overeem (43-17-1), then damaged the No. 2 contender's face with a series of elbows before the fight was stopped.

Former heavyweight champ Andrei Arlovski (27-16) lost in a slugfest to Tai Tuivasa (10-0). All three judges scored it 29-28. Holly Holm (12-4), former bantamweight champ, was impressive with her pound and ground game beating Megan Anderson (8-3) in a unanimous decision.

In a flyweight fight, Sergio Pettis (17-3) defeated No. 1 contender Joseph Benavidez (25-5) in a split decision. Pettis' striking game was the difference as he bounced back from a unanimous decision loss to No. 2 contender Henry Cejudo.

Former lightweight champ Rashad Evans took a right knee to the face, followed by a right hand by Anthony Smith (29-13) before the fight was stopped in the first round as Evans (24-8-1) lost his fifth straight fight.

During the card, the UFC announced former UFC bantamweight champ Ronda Rousey will be inducted into the UFC Hall of Fame on July 5 in Las Vegas. Rousey was the first female fighter signed by the UFC and had six consecutive title defenses.

NCAA roundup

N. Carolina, Oregon State sweep super regionals

Associated Press

Oregon State and North Carolina became the first two teams to advance to the College World Series, completing sweeps of their best-of-three NCAA Tournament super regionals Saturday.

No. 3 Oregon State advanced after Adley Rutschman's two-run, bases-loaded single in the top of the ninth lifted the Beavers to a 6-3 win over No. 14 Minnesota. The Beavers are in the CWS for the second straight year and sixth time since 2005.

Oregon State's Christian Chamberlain, who struck out five of the eight batters he faced, and Jake Mulholland combined for three innings of shutout relief.

The No. 6 national seed Tar Heels scored four runs in the first inning and hung on to win 7-5 over No. 11 Stetson. Carolina will make its first trip to the CWS in Omaha, Neb., since 2013.

North Carolina, playing at home in Chapel Hill, survived ninth-inning drama for the second straight day to secure its seventh CWS berth and 11th overall.

Vanderbilt and Cal State Fullerton forced Game 3s in their series. JJ Bleday hit a walk-off home run in the ninth inning to give the Commodores a 4-3 win over Mississippi State, and Tommy Wilson pitched seven strong innings to lead the Titans past Washington 5-2.

In super regional openers, defending national champion and No. 1 overall seed Florida beat Auburn and top draft pick Casey Mize 8-2; Tennessee Tech closer Ethan Roberts held No. 13 Texas to one run in four innings in a 5-4 win; Big 12 freshman of the year Gabe Holt drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lead No. 9 Texas Tech past Duke 8-4; and Carson Shaddy drove in four runs in No. 5 Arkansas' 9-3 win over South Carolina.

Judge HR lifts Yanks over Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once this Subway Series showdown turned into a game of home run derby, there was no doubt who was going to win.

The only real question: Who would go deep for the Yankees?

It was Aaron Judge, hitting a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning that sent the Yankees over the Mets 4-3 Saturday night for their sixth straight victory in the all-New York matchup.

"Obviously, our team hits a lot of balls into the seats," winning pitcher David Robertson said.

Rookies Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar also homered at Citi Field, ensuring the Empire State Building would be sparkling in Yankees team colors. They have won four in a row overall

and nine of 10.

On a night when every run scored on a homer, the team with the power-packed lineup from top to bottom launched the winning longball.

"Who are you going to try to go after?" Judge said. "It's kind of fun to watch."

The Mets built a 3-0 lead on first-inning homers by Todd Frazier and Asdrubal Cabrera, but still lost their eighth in a row — their longest skid since an 11-game slide in 2004.

"I felt all night like we were going to win a game tonight," manager Mickey Callaway said.

The Mets have dropped 10 straight at Citi Field, their worst drought at home since losing a team-record 15 in a row at Shea Stadium in 2002, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

MLB roundup

Cubs 1-hit Pirates for 11th win in 13 games

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, and the Cubs took advantage of a first-inning slip by center fielder Starling Marte in a 2-0 victory Saturday over the Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago's 11th win in 13 games.

Lester (7-2) allowed a two-out triple in the third to Austin Meadows, then retired Starling Marte on a groundout. Lester struck out five and walked two in seven innings, improving to 5-1 in his past six starts.

Justin Wilson and Steve Cishek each pitched a perfect inning. Cishek got his second save as the Cubs remained a half-game behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Nick Kingham (2-3) allowed both runs and four hits in 6¹/₃ innings. Pittsburgh lost for the sixth time in seven games and is 5-16 following a 26-17 start, losing seven straight series.

Brewers 12, Phillies 3: Ji-Man Choi hit a go-ahead, pinch-hit grand slam in the sixth inning, and Jesus Aguilar and Jonathan Villar also went deep in visiting Milwaukee's victory over Philadelphia.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 7: Paul Goldschmidt had his second straight two-homer game and drove in four runs, and Arizona took advantage of

a double error by Brian Shaw to rally past host Colorado.

Goldschmidt went 3-for-4 — his fourth straight game with at least three hits — and has 16 hits in eight games in June after collecting 14 hits in 27 games in May.

Nationals 7, Giants 5: Bryce Harper hit his National League-leading 19th homer, and Washington beat visiting San Francisco.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4: Yadier Molina doubled with the bases loaded, and Michael Wacha pitched two-run ball into the sixth inning, leading St. Louis to its 13th straight win over host Cincinnati.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 2: J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, David Price pitched six solid innings to win his fifth straight decision and Boston rebounded from a series-opening loss to beat visiting Chicago.

Astros 4, Rangers 3: George Springer hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, and Houston overcame a wild start from Charlie Morton to beat host Texas.

Morton tied an American League record with four hit batters and had a career-high six walks as the Astros allowed 10 walks, a season high. But the Rangers tied a club record with 17 runners left on base in

a nine-inning game, most in the majors without extra innings this season.

Royals 2, Athletics 0: Danny Duffy pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, and visiting Kansas City beat Oakland to snap a six-game skid.

Angels 2, Twins 1: Albert Pujols hit his 623rd career homer and tied Stan Musial for seventh on the career RBI list with 1,951, helping Los Angeles beat host Minnesota after a four-hour rain delay.

Tigers 4, Indians 2 (12): Jeimer Candelario's two-run homer in the 12th inning gave Detroit the victory over visiting Cleveland.

Braves 5, Dodgers 3: Freddie Freeman had three hits, Tyler Flowers drove in three runs and Atlanta beat host Los Angeles.

Rays 7, Mariners 3: Blake Snell overcame occasional wildness to go six effective innings as host Tampa Bay stopped an eight-game skid by beating Seattle.

Padres 5, Marlins 4: Travis Jankowski hit a go-ahead bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to lift San Diego over host Miami.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3 (10): Luke Maile drove in the winning run with a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, and Toronto beat visiting Baltimore.