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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Blast mars cease-fire celebrations

BY CHAD GARLAND
AND J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

PUL-E-ALAM, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered an indefinite extension to a government cease-fire with the Taliban late Saturday, even as a blast in eastern Afghanistan cast a pall over a countrywide celebration of the Eid al-Fitr holiday and historic dual cease-fires.

Ghani last week announced an eight-day cessation of offensive operations against the Taliban surrounding the end of the Muslim holy month of fasting. U.S. and other foreign forces said they would honor the temporary truce, part of a gambit to induce the Taliban to lay down their weapons and to enter peace talks to end the 17-year Afghan War.

Days later, the Taliban said they would observe an unprecedented, three-day cease-fire with government forces during the Eid holiday, which began Friday.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement Saturday that the U.S. supports Ghani's cease-fire extension and call to begin peace talks, which would include looking at the role of international forces. The Taliban have long called for the with-

drawal of the Kabul government's foreign backers.

"Peace talks, by necessity, would include a discussion of the role of international actors and forces," Pompeo said. "The United States is prepared to support, facilitate, and participate in these discussions."

Ghani's announcement came via televised address and followed more than 24 hours of celebrations that had seen Afghan soldiers hugging and greeting Taliban militants in city centers to mark the cease-fires and the end of the Muslim holy month of fasting.

The first day of celebrations brought a strange sight — presumed Taliban fighters walking up to Afghan soldiers at checkpoints and taking selfies with them. Friday, dozens of armed men believed to be Taliban walked freely through the bazaar in the capital of Logar province.

But by Saturday evening, shortly before Ghani's address, more familiar news of violence broke the spell when a deadly blast rocked a stadium in Nangarhar province where civilians, Taliban and Afghan government officials were celebrating the cease-fires. Attaullah Khogyani, the provincial governor's spokesman, said at least

26 people were killed and 16 wounded in the blast. The local Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. forces are focusing on fighting the local ISIS franchise and other militant groups not covered by the Kabul government's cease-fire. Afghans and others had feared the terrorist group might use the lull in fighting to strike.

Earlier Saturday, jihadis across Afghanistan appeared to be enjoying the dual cease-fires declared last week by the Afghan government and the Taliban leadership. Social media users posted photos and videos of men on both sides of the conflict embracing or participating in impromptu parades. In Logar province, young men piled atop an Afghan Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, waving both the Afghan and Taliban flags.

After hearing reports of the Taliban in the bazaar on Friday, Brig. Gen. Abdul Raziq Safi, commander of the 203rd Corps' 4th Brigade, went to check it out.

"They're 100 percent Taliban," he said, after getting out of his SUV among a crowd of militants and hugging them.

Franz J. Marty and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

Children recall fallen for Father's Day

The Washington Post

On Father's Day, Haley Hartwick usually stops by Texas Roadhouse, which was her father's favorite restaurant, to get a takeout dinner of steak and potatoes. She then likes to go home and watch the movie "Quest for Camelot," a film they enjoyed watching together.

Her father, Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hartwick, was killed in 2006 in Iraq when his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire. She was 10 years old.

"I usually pay tribute to him with little things," said Hartwick, 22, who lives in Reston, Va. "Father's Day has a bit

of a bittersweet, melancholy feeling."

She and other children who lost a father in the line of duty wrote letters to their dads for Father's Day this year in part as a grief exercise, in part to honor their fathers' legacies — and also to be part of a project started by the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, a nonprofit organization that pays full tuition for gold-star children to attend college.

The Father's Day letter-writing initiative began because more than 97 percent of servicemembers killed in the line of duty are men, according to the foundation, leaving most of

the foundation's beneficiaries feeling adrift on that day.

For anyone who has lost a dad — whether recently or long ago — Father's Day can be somewhere between wistful and gut-wrenching.

For Hartwick, writing the letter helped her feel closer to the father she lost years ago, she said.

"I felt a sense of peace after I wrote it," she said.

And it felt fitting because she has a postcard her father wrote her on the day he died, April 1, 2006. "I have his last words to me that he left me," she said. "And I feel like I'm leaving this letter for him."

She paraphrased his last letter to her as saying: "I am writing because I was thinking of you this morning. Only three more months until I get to see you. Please take care of your mother and brother."

Her Father's Day letter to him reads, in part: "To my pilot, my hero, my sweet father, this day is for you. ... You still serve as my inspiration and the person that fuels my passion. I only hope to make you proud & continue to achieve the dreams you had for me."

She ends her letter, "Love always, your little girl Haley."

Trump: N. Korea to return US remains

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's been more than a decade since North Korea turned over the remains of American troops missing from the Korean War. So, President Donald Trump's suggestion Friday that Pyongyang has begun delivering remains to the U.S. raised the hopes of families who have sought closure for more than 60 years.

Still, they've been on this roller coaster before, so they are hedging their bets. And U.S. officials across the government quietly acknowledged that so far, no remains have been turned over to the U.S. from the North since Trump's historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

As of Friday, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency had not received any new remains, according to spokesman Chuck Pritchard. The last time North Korea turned over remains was in 2007, when Bill Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and New Mexico governor, secured the return of six sets from North Korea.

There are 7,697 U.S. troops still unaccounted for from the Korean War, and about 5,300 of those were lost in North Korea.

Speaking with Fox News on the North Lawn of the White House, Trump said, "They are already starting to produce the remains of these great young soldiers who were left in North Korea. We're getting the

remains, and nobody thought that was possible."

Trump also appeared to exaggerate the number of those who could be retrieved from North Korea. He said Kim is "giving us back the remains of probably 7,500 soldiers," adding that the North Koreans "know where many of these bodies are."

Keen to talk up the most important diplomacy of his presidency, Trump has made a number of questionable assertions about how the summit in Singapore has transformed relations with Pyongyang. He has said it no longer poses a nuclear threat, although the meeting produced no details on how or when weapons might be eliminated or even reduced.

On Friday, Trump pushed

back against those who criticized him for meeting Kim, asserting, "If you don't agree to meet, you know what you're going to have? You're going to have nuclear war."

Richard Downes, executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs, expressed excitement and approval at how Trump had raised the MIA issue with Kim and had gotten a commitment to return remains. His airman father, Lt. Hal Downes, has been missing in action since his plane went down over North Korea in 1952.

"It's exciting. It's special," he said about Trump's comments. "But it's just words right now. Now, some action has to be taken."

President's praise of Kim marks embrace of dictators

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's praise Friday for Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule in North Korea — and his apparent envy that people there "sit up at attention" when the dictator speaks — marked an escalation of the American president's open embrace of totalitarian leaders around the world.

Reflecting on his impressions of Kim, 35, following their Singapore summit, Trump told Fox News Channel, "He's the head of a country, and I mean he's the strong head. Don't let anyone think anything different. He speaks, and his people sit up at attention. I want my people to do the same."

It was unclear whether Trump was referring to Americans generally or only to his staff. His interview took place along the West Wing driveway, and as the president talked about "my people," he gestured toward the White House.

Later, when pressed by a CNN reporter about the comment, Trump claimed it had been a joke. "I'm kidding," he said. "You don't understand sarcasm."

Whether jesting or not, no U.S. president has been as free in his admiration of dictators and absolute power as the 45th, historians say. And Trump's interest in the subject seems to be growing as he becomes better acquainted with some of the world's authoritarian leaders, including Kim, Chinese

President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom Trump said he may try to meet one-on-one this summer.

'Dictator envy'

"Trump has dictator envy," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "You start being more attracted to people like Kim and Putin because they look like they could be presidents for life. And if they have enemies, they don't have to resort to (former president Richard) Nixon keeping an enemies list. You just destroy your enemies' lives with a phone call. That's attractive to Trump."

The president last week declared the media to be "our country's biggest enemy," and he repeatedly has voiced his desire to punish journalists who air criticisms of him. Trump remarked during his Singapore trip about how positive a female news anchor was toward Kim on state-run North Korean television and joked that even Trump-friendly Fox News was not as lavish in its praise.

Trump condoned violence against protesters during his campaign rallies, and as president has encouraged jailing his political opponents and perceived enemies, including former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and former FBI Director James Comey. Trump also has embraced his presidential clemency powers as a mechanism to help some loyalists, person-

ally undoing judgments of the judicial system that he considers unfair.

'Authoritarian impulses'

"Trump has been remarkably consistent as long as he's been on the public stage in exhibiting authoritarian instincts," said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard University professor who recently co-authored a book on the subject, "How Democracies Die."

He added, "Any time any society elects a leader with authoritarian impulses, it's a risk for democracy, but the second half of the story is society's and our institutions' abilities to constrain him."

Eliot Cohen, a Trump critic and former senior State Department official under George W. Bush, said Trump "has classic traits of the authoritarian leader. The one that's always struck me most is this visceral instinct of people's weaknesses and a corresponding desire to be seen as strong and respected and admired."

During his visit to Singapore, Trump showered praise on Kim, calling him a "very talented man," a "smart guy" and a "very good negotiator." He also complimented Kim's "great personality."

Trump was more muted when it came to Kim's record of human rights atrocities. Kim starves many of his citizens, sentences opponents to labor camps and executes people he perceives as threats to his power, including assassinating family members.

2nd sheriff's deputy dies after shooting in Kansas

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — A second sheriff's deputy died early Saturday from injuries suffered when an inmate who was being transported in Kansas City overpowered two officers and shot them.

Kansas City, Kan., police confirmed on their Facebook page that Deputy Theresa King, 44, died just after midnight following the shooting on Friday. Officer Patrick Rohrer, 35, died earlier.

The inmate also was shot during the confrontation in a gated area near the Wyandotte County Courthouse and was taken to a hospital.

His condition was not known. Investigators said the inmate may have grabbed a weapon from one of the deputies during a struggle after he got out of a van late Friday morning.

"It is very possible that with

their own firearm, they were both shot," Wyandotte County sheriff's Maj. Kelli Bailiff said during a news conference Friday at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Rohrer had been with the department for seven years and King for 13 years.

Bailiff said the inmate was being taken across the street from the jail to the services building for a court hearing. The inmate was taken in a van to a gated area behind the building, and when he got out of the van, he somehow overpowered and shot the deputies, Bailiff said.

Bailiff said investigators did not believe the public is in any danger. Video from the scene showed the courthouse surrounded by yellow police tape, several police vehicles parked in the street and numerous uniformed law enforcement officers walking the grounds.

Ky. man gets 30 days for attack on Sen. Rand Paul

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Sen. Rand Paul's neighbor was sentenced Friday to 30 days in prison for tackling the lawmaker while he was out doing yardwork at his Kentucky home.

Paul, who suffered broken ribs, had hoped for a harsher penalty. He said in a statement that the 21 months in prison sought by prosecutors "would have been the appropriate punishment."

Rene Boucher, 60, pleaded guilty in March to assaulting a member of Congress in the Nov. 3 attack. Boucher said he was triggered by Paul repeatedly stacking debris near their property line in Bowling Green and "lost his temper."

U.S. District Judge Marianne Battani, a special judge called in from Michigan, said she surmised the attack to be a "dispute between neighbors" and an "isolated incident," not

motivated by politics.

Boucher's attorney, Matt Baker, said his client, a retired physician, was irritated by the debris and removed the waste on his own three times.

Battani told Boucher he should have spoken directly to Paul about the problem but also suggested Paul would have known "by your removal that you did not like those debris being there."

Boucher must serve a year of supervised release after the prison time, stay away from the Paul family and pay a \$10,000 fine. They remain next-door neighbors.

Paul said in the statement that "no one deserves to be violently assaulted. A felony conviction is appropriate and hopefully will deter the attacker from further violence."

Boucher spoke in court Friday to ask the judge for leniency. "What I did was wrong," he said.

Boy says family shot by driver in Colorado

Associated Press

DENVER — A 12-year-old boy told police he saw a driver open fire on his family during a road rage confrontation in Colorado, killing his older brother and critically wounding his mother and younger brother, authorities said Friday.

Police arrested Jeremy Webster, 23, hours after the shooting that killed a 13-year-old boy and also wounded a bystander not related to the family. Webster acknowledged shooting four people in a suburban Denver parking lot and told officers he "has mental health issues," according to a search warrant, which did not specify his mental status.

The 12-year-old, who was not injured, told police that his mother and another driver were involved "in some type of road rage incident" near a business complex in the city of Westminster.

He said the driver followed the family's car into the parking lot and argued briefly with his mother before opening fire, according to the warrant filed in court Friday.

Other witnesses told police

that they saw Webster park his black Toyota Corolla behind the woman's vehicle in the middle of the lot. They said Webster shot the woman, then turned and shot two of her children "multiple times," according to the warrant.

Police have not identified the victims. The mother, 41, and the brother, 8, were in critical condition, while the bystander was less seriously wounded, authorities said. The man was shot while driving with his 9-year-old daughter in a pickup, but she was not hurt, the warrant said.

The 12-year-old boy told police that his mother took a photo of the driver's license plate on her phone before they got out of the car. Authorities used the photo to look up the vehicle's owner and compared it to witness descriptions.

Webster was arrested Thursday evening when police spotted his car traveling on a freeway near Colorado Springs.

Webster faces charges of first-degree murder, first-degree assault and attempt to commit a felony. He is being held in jail without bond, according to online records.

Appeals court reinstates California right-to-die law

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A state appeals court has reinstated — at least for now — California's law allowing terminally ill people to end their lives.

The Fourth District Court of Appeals in Riverside issued an immediate stay Friday, putting the End of Life Option back into effect. The court also gave opponents of its decision until July 2 to file objections.

The law allows an adult to obtain a prescription for life-ending drugs if a doctor has

determined that they have six months or less to live.

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Daniel Ottolia declared the law unconstitutional last month, stating that it had been adopted illegally because lawmakers passed it during a special Legislative session called to address other matters.

Ottolia didn't address the issue of whether it's proper for people to end their lives.

Right-to-die advocates hailed Friday's action.

Pakistan: Taliban chief's killing 'significant'

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Nasir-ul-Mulk described the killing of Pakistan Taliban chief Mullah Fazlullah in a U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan as a "significant development in the fight against terrorism."

Mulk made the comment in a telephone conversation Friday night with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and thanked him for sharing information about Fazlullah's killing, said a Pakistan government statement.

The call was initiated by Ghani, who tweeted that Fazlullah's killing was "the result of tireless human intel by Afghan security agencies."

A U.S. official said the U.S. believes that it is likely the strike killed Fazlullah, but efforts are ongoing to confirm his death. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss preliminary information.

In his tweet, Ghani said he also called Pakistan's Army Chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. In both conversations, Ghani said he urged Pakistan "to take practical steps to bring Afghan Taliban residing in Pakistan to the negotiation table."

Thursday's drone strike, which reportedly killed Fazlullah and five other insurgents when missiles slammed into the car in which they were driving, occurred just hours before Afghanistan's Taliban began

a three-day cease fire.

The cease-fire, which took effect at midnight Thursday, marks the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which follows the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when the faithful fast from sunrise to sunset. The Afghan Taliban announced their cease-fire after Ghani unilaterally declared a temporary cease-fire for the holidays on June 7.

In Afghanistan's eastern Logar provincial capital of Pul-e-Alam, dozens of unarmed Taliban celebrated the Eid holiday, several greeting Afghan security forces, provincial police chief spokesman Shahpur Ahmadzai said Saturday in a telephone interview.

"We didn't allow them to enter the city with their weapons," said Ahmadzai, adding at least 80 Taliban entered the city in the past two days to visit their families.

The Associated Press spoke to Abdullah Faizani, a Taliban fighter from Logar's Baraki district, who said it has been seven years since he has been to the provincial capital. He said he and 32 friends were in the capital on their motorcycles, many of them festooned with the Afghan flag.

"I am so happy for the cease-fire and it is sad when every day, Afghans are killing each other," said Faizani, adding that 15 of his friends died in battles with Afghan security forces in one year. They were all Taliban.

Although he wants an extended cease-fire, he said he would not lay down his weapons permanently until "all the foreign troops leave Afghanistan."

Atta-ul-Rahman Salim, deputy head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, said Taliban fighters from across the country reportedly were entering into government-controlled areas to visit their families "and they were being welcomed by government security forces."

Meanwhile, in his conversation with Ghani, Mulk said that Fazlullah's death would be received throughout Pakistan with relief as Pakistanis had borne the brunt of terrorist attacks by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, which Fazlullah headed.

The Pakistan government statement also said an "action had finally been taken against an enemy of the people and state of Pakistan."

Fazlullah was killed in Afghanistan's northeastern Kunar province. He had ordered the assassination of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a telephone interview that he could not confirm Fazlullah's death because of the remoteness of the area but also because Afghanistan's Taliban are not present in that area.

Saudi-led forces seize Yemen airport

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Saudi-led forces heading an assault on Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida seized control of its international airport Saturday, officials loyal to Yemen's exiled government said, as fierce fighting continued for the starving nation's main gateway for food shipments.

Engineers worked to clear mines from areas around Hodeida International Airport, just south of the city of some 600,000 people on the Red Sea, the military of Yemen's exiled government said.

"The armed forces, which are supported by the Arab coalition, have freed the al-Hodeida International Airport from the Houthi militias, and the engineering teams have started to clean the airport and its surroundings from mines and bombs," the military said on its official Twitter account.

Other government officials and witnesses later said coalition forces had not yet

fully taken control of the airport. They said fighting was heavy just outside the airport gates.

Sadek Dawad, spokesman of the Republican Guards force that is loyal to the Saudis, said government forces had battled onto the airport grounds.

Dawad also said the southern gate of Hodeida city was captured by pro-coalition forces.

"The military operations to liberate the city of Hodeida will not be stopped until we secure the city and its strategic port, and that won't last too long," he told The Associated Press.

Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, who hold the country's capital of Sanaa, did not immediately acknowledge losing the airport.

The Houthi-run Almasirah satellite news channel aired footage it described as being from near Hodeida showing a burned-out truck, corpses of irregular fighters and a damaged Emirati armored vehicle. The

Iranian-aligned fighters rifled through a military ledger from the vehicle before chanting their slogan: "Death to America, death to Israel, damn the Jews, victory to Islam!"

Yemeni officials and witnesses said forces from the United Arab Emirates-backed Amaleqa brigades, backed by air cover from the Saudi-led coalition, were heading to eastern Hodeida province to attempt to cut off the main road that links it with the capital, Sanaa.

The officials said if government forces capture the Kilo 16 Road, they will trap the rebels in Hodeida and the western coast and prevent them from receiving supplies from the capital. The rebels are then expected to have no choice but to head to the northern province of Hajjah.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media and the witnesses for fear of reprisals.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man tries on gloves, leaves a ring inside

IL SUGAR GROVE — An Illinois hardware store is looking for a man who apparently tried on a pair of snug work gloves and left a ring inside.

Mark Driscoll, owner of Ace Hardware in Sugar Grove, said he found the ring when he went to buy a pair of gloves before a trip to Wisconsin.

He told the Aurora Beacon-News that it could be a wedding band, but he doesn't want to give many details. He said the ring owner must provide a good description. Two women called on behalf of their husbands, but it's not their ring.

Man rescues fawn from sewer sludge

MT FORT BENTON — A north-central Montana man rescued a tired fawn from a bed of drying sewer sludge while others helped reunite the baby deer with its mother nearby.

Joe Bauer said Wednesday's rescue was a rewarding experience, but nobody wanted to be around him until he showered and changed his clothes.

Fort Benton city crewmembers were working on the sewage lagoon when someone told work Superintendent Skip Ross a fawn was stuck in the black sludge.

Ross told the Great Falls Tribune he tasked Bauer, 19, with the rescue. Bauer slogged more than 100 yards through the thigh-deep sludge to reach the distressed fawn. He carried it to the bank of the nearby Missouri River.

After the fawn regained its strength, Ross said, others guided it back to its mother, avoiding the short cut across the sludge.

Deputy: Man chugs beer during DUI stop

FL BIG COPPITT KEY — Authorities said a man raised a can of beer and chugged it after a sheriff's deputy stopped him on suspicion of drunk driving.

Daryl Royal Riedel, 48, told Monroe County Sheriff's investigators he was scared when he fled in his pickup truck as Deputy Anthony Lopez stepped out of his patrol car Thursday. Riedel drove for a short distance before stopping.

Riedel has three prior DUI convictions between 2003 and 2010, and a fourth is pending from 2017. The report says Riedel got out of his truck, beer can in his hand, and chugged it.

Riedel faces numerous charges, including felony DUI, fleeing a deputy, driving with a suspended license and failure to submit a breath test.

Signs seeking heirloom: 'My mother will kill me'

MA MEDFORD — A recent college graduate desperate to recover a family heirloom mistakenly left curbside when he moved out of his apartment is plastering his neighborhood with signs warning, "My mother will kill me."

Colin Trimmer is offering a reward for the return of his great-grandmother's iron-and-brass bed frame, given to him by his mother when he moved into his apartment near Tufts University.

The bed frame was left curbside last month by new tenants of the apartment, who mistakenly thought Trimmer had already moved out and that it was trash.

Trimmer's mother, Carol Kazmer, told the Boston Globe the bed frame was one of the few items her grandmother had to leave to her 17 grandchildren.

Occupied truck lifted, moved during storm

IA ROCKFORD — A northern Iowa man was driving through a storm when his truck was lifted into the air and carried into a farm field.

The Globe Gazette reported that Parker Brumm, 22, left Rockford on June 9 before the storm became severe to visit a friend in Nora Springs. Brumm said conditions worsened so he decided to turn back, but the storm lifted his vehicle off the ground before he could return home.

Rockford volunteer firefighters Corey Johnson and Jim Moore spotted Brumm's truck in the air. The pair helped Brumm to safety once his truck hit the ground. Moore estimates that the storm carried the truck about 50 feet.

The National Weather Service said it can't confirm tornado activity in Rockford on Saturday.

Man pleads guilty in domino game killing

AL DECATUR — An Alabama man will serve 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to killing an opponent who was shot to death over a game of dominoes.

The Decatur Daily reported that Sterling Gerome Warren, 68, received the sentence Wednesday after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the death of Thomas Jerome Bibb Jr., 32, in 2013.

Warren was charged with murder but agreed to a plea deal involving a reduced charge as his trial was about to begin.

Evidence showed the two men were playing dominoes at Warren's home when they got into a dispute over the score.

Testimony during a previous

hearing showed that the altercation turned physical.

Prosecutor Stacy Adams said Bibb lost his life over 10 points in a game.

Woman gets head stuck in oversized tailpipe

MN WINSTED — A young woman endured an exhausting ordeal when she got her head stuck in a truck's oversized tailpipe at a Minnesota music festival.

Firefighters used a power saw to free the woman from her predicament at last weekend's Winstock Music Festival in Winsted, about 40 miles west of Minneapolis. Video of the rescue was posted on Facebook.

Trucks' collision causes fire and spills Fireball

AR NORTH LITTLE ROCK — Add Fireball to the menu served up by Arkansas roads.

Two tractor-trailers collided Thursday on Interstate 40 in central Arkansas, causing one to spill hundreds of minibottles of the cinnamon-flavored whiskey on the highway.

Over the past year, Arkansas drivers have endured a veritable feast spilled on their roadways. Trucks carrying bourbon, frozen pizzas, pasta sauce and gin have all dumped their wares on the asphalt.

State Department of Transportation spokesman Danny Straessle said investigators are still looking into the cause of Thursday's wreck, which caused major delays in both directions for a few hours.

He said one truck's cab caught fire, and at least one person was treated for injuries that were not life-threatening.

From wire reports

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Johnson up by 4 strokes in US Open

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Shinnecock Hills is no longer the only challenge at this U.S. Open.

On a course that can cause problems in any weather, where triple bogeys or worse have been recorded on all but six holes, perhaps the most daunting prospect going into the weekend is Dustin Johnson with a four-shot lead.

Johnson played smart on the few occasions he was out of position, holed a 45-foot birdie putt on the par-3 seventh green and endured wind and two hours of rain Friday morning for a 3-under 67.

He was at 4-under 136, the only player still under par going into the weekend. Scott Piercy (71) and Charley Hoffman (69) were at even par.

"You've got to play really good golf if you want to shoot a good score, and I like where par is a good score on every hole, no matter what club you've got in your hand, what hole it is," Johnson said.

Only six other players in the U.S. Open have led by as many

as four shots after 36 holes. All but one — Tom McNamara in 1909 — went on to win.

Even so, there's plenty of reminders of how it can all go wrong — some of them from Johnson's own experiences, most of them from the final few hours Friday afternoon in perfect weather from those trying to catch him.

Shinnecock can punish anyone in a New York minute.

"There's a disaster on every single hole," Ian Poulter said moments after he went through one.

Poulter was one shot out of the lead and in the middle of the fairway with two holes to go when one bad shot led to a few more that were just as bad — a bunker shot that sailed over the green, a chunked chip into the hay, a chop short of the green and a triple bogey on No. 8. He made bogey on his last hole for a 72.

"I felt stupid knifing the first one," he said. "I felt even more stupid semi-chunking the next one, and I didn't do much better on the next one, either. So maybe it makes a few people

happy out there that, you know, we kind of mess up just as good as everyone else."

Poulter didn't lose sight of being in a tie for fourth, five shots out of the lead.

Hoffman was the only other player under par until he missed the 18th fairway and had to chop it down the fairway and make a 5-foot putt to escape with bogey.

"Dustin plays a whole different golf game than I play, so I'm not going to play the guy," Hoffman said. "I'm just going to keep playing my game. You're going to try to hit fairways. Because if you don't hit the fairway, you're not getting to the green."

Tiger Woods won't be around to see how it unfolds, and plenty of star power joined him on the way out of town.

Woods closed with back-to-back birdies to salvage a 72. He still missed the cut in a major for the fifth time in his last eight tries, this time by two shots. Rory McIlroy missed the cut for the third straight year in the U.S. Open, unable to recover from his opening

80. Jason Day opened with a 79 and missed the cut.

Jordan Spieth joined them in the most unlikely fashion. He took three shots to get up the slope and onto the 10th green, making double bogey. He was three shots over the cut line with six holes to play when he ran off four straight birdies to get inside the number — only to three-putt for bogey on the 17th, stub a chip from the collar of a bunker on the 18th and miss the par putt for a 71. He had not missed the cut in a major since the 2014 PGA Championship.

Piercy, a runner-up to Johnson at Oakmont two years ago, had a 71 and will play in the final group with him Saturday. Piercy's day was not without regrets, especially when he three-putted from 4 feet for bogey on the par-5 16th.

Defending champion Brooks Koepka made six birdies over his last 11 holes for a 66, matching Tommy Fleetwood for the low round of the tournament. They were at 141, along with Henrik Stenson and Justin Rose, each with a 70, and Poulter.

Sports briefs

Source says Leonard wants Spurs to trade him

Associated Press

Kawhi Leonard's time with the San Antonio Spurs may soon be over.

A person familiar with the situation says Leonard has told the Spurs that he would like to be traded this summer, the clearest sign yet that the relationship between the team and the All-Star is in disrepair.

The person said Leonard has decided that he is "unhappy with the situation" in San Antonio. The person spoke with The Associated Press on Friday on condition of anonymity because neither the player nor the team commented publicly.

Yahoo Sports and the San

Antonio Express-News first reported Leonard's hope for a trade.

Leonard played in only nine games with the Spurs this past season because of a leg injury — officially described as right quadriceps tendinopathy, and the Spurs listed him as out on their injury reports for much of the year citing "injury management." In the 2016-17 season, he averaged a career-best 25.5 points and was third in the MVP voting.

Leonard is due just over \$20 million next season, and can become a free agent in the summer of 2019. It's unclear if the Spurs will go ahead and try to trade him, or if the team

will try to patch things up with the 2014 NBA Finals MVP and two-time NBA defensive player of the year.

'Big O' to get Lifetime Achievement Award

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson will be honored with the NBA's Lifetime Achievement Award at the NBA Awards on June 25.

Robertson, the career leader with 181 triple-doubles and the first player to average one for a season, was the NBA's Rookie of the Year in 1961, MVP in 1964 and won a championship with Milwaukee in 1971. The

guard was a nine-time selection to the All-NBA first team and was voted one of the league's 50 greatest players.

He also was co-captain of the 1960 U.S. team that won an Olympic gold medal and led Crispus Attucks High School to consecutive Indiana state championships, the first all African-American team in the nation to win a state title.

Robertson also was president of the National Basketball Players Association from 1965-74, and the settlement of his anti-trust lawsuit against the NBA — known as the Oscar Robertson Rule — ushered in free agency in the league.

Iceland holds Argentina to draw

Associated Press

MOSCOW — If there is one flaw in Lionel Messi's genius, it might be his failure to score penalty kicks in big games.

Add Messi's saved attempt against Iceland on Saturday at the World Cup to misses for Argentina in shootouts for the Copa America title, and for Barcelona in a Champions League semifinal match that was later lost.

At least Messi's miss in the 64th minute at Spartak Stadium — his fourth in his last seven penalty attempts for his club and his country — was not in a losing cause. A 1-1 draw with impressive World Cup newcomer Iceland is far from a fatal blow to Argentina's chances of advancing from a well-balanced group that also includes Croatia and Nigeria.

"It hurt missing the penalty. It could have given us the lead and that could have changed the match," Messi said. "It would have changed their game plan, too. They probably would open a little bit more and we could get more space."

The day after Cristiano Ronaldo scored three times from three shots on target — including a penalty and a spectacular free kick — to salvage a point for Portugal against Spain, Messi's tally of 11 shots, only three on target, and no goals was curious.

The score was already 1-1 when Argentina was awarded the penalty after Hordur Magnusson's tumbling fall over Sergio Aguero as both chased Messi's floated cross. Messi placed his shot to the right of Hannes Halldorsson, but the Iceland goalkeeper dived and got two hands behind the ball.

"I did my homework. I looked at a lot of penalties from Messi," Halldorsson said. "I had a good feeling that he would go this way today."

Messi had a final chance to redeem his team

with the final kick of the game, but his free kick from 25 yards failed to clear a solid defensive wall. It summed up the entire second half of resolute hard work by Iceland.

At the end, Messi retreated alone into the center circle with his head bowed and hands on his knees.

The Argentina great, considered by many to be the best player of all time, has missed more than 20 penalty kicks in his career.

"That's just another statistic, it's part of the past," Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli said of Messi's latest miscue.

Iceland played its debut on soccer's biggest stage like it belonged alongside the 2014 runners-up. Indeed, the result and performance matched its European Championship two years ago. Then, Iceland frustrated and stopped Ronaldo from scoring and rallied to earn a 1-1 draw with Portugal.

The small Nordic island nation's team could have taken an early lead Saturday but Birkir Bjarnason side-footed a shot wide of goal when goalkeeper Willy Caballero was exposed.

Aguero then scored in the 19th minute. Spinning off a defender with his back to goal at the penalty spot, Aguero moved to his right and hooked his left foot around to send a rising shot high into the net.

It was a finish worthy of Argentina great Diego Maradona, who was watching in the VIP seats. The FIFA ambassador was puffing a large cigar despite smoking being banned in all World Cup venues.

Iceland was level four minutes later, however, when Alfred Finnbogason scored after Argentina goalkeeper Willy Caballero pushed a low cross into the forward's path for a volley from eight yards.

Ronaldo nets hat trick in tie

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Cristiano Ronaldo completed a hat trick with a perfectly taken free kick in the 88th minute to give Portugal a 3-3 draw against Spain on Friday at the World Cup.

Ronaldo had twice given Portugal the lead with first-half goals, but Diego Costa equalized for Spain with a goal in each half. Nacho Fernandez then put the 2010 champions ahead with a one-timer from outside the area in the Group B match.

Spain looked to have successfully overcome its dramatic coaching change one the eve of the tournament but Ronaldo curled a late shot over the wall to force the draw.

Ronaldo's opening goal from the penalty spot allowed him to become the fourth player to score in four World Cups, joining Pele, Miroslav Klose and Uwe Seeler. Ronaldo also became the first Portuguese player to appear in four World Cups.

His second goal came on a blunder by Spain keeper David de Gea, who let the ball bounce off his hands and into the net.

Spain badly needed a winning start after the federation fired coach Julen Lopetegui two days before its tournament debut for accepting a job with Real Madrid without letting it know in advance. Sporting director Fernando Hierro, a former player, was picked as Lopetegui's replacement and was on the bench despite no significant previous coaching experience.

It was an exciting start to one of the group-stage's most anticipated matches and it didn't take long before Ronaldo and Portugal struck first.

Ronaldo made a nice stepover move to get past Fernandez, his Real Madrid teammate, and was fouled at the edge of the area. He then calmly sent his shot to the right corner as De Gea went the other way.

During the celebration, Ronaldo rubbed his chin in an apparent reaction to Adidas' "GOAT" promotion with Lionel Messi. GOAT is the acronym for "greatest of all time" and Adidas is running an advertisement featuring Messi with a real goat.

World Cup roundup

Technology helps France get past gritty Aussies

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Technology twice helped France at the World Cup on Saturday in its 2-1 victory over Australia in Group C.

The French team was given a penalty kick, eventually converted by Antoine Griezmann in the 58th minute, after the referee watched the replay of a foul on the sideline.

Paul Pogba later scored the winning goal in the 81st minute, and goal-line technology was used to confirm the ball had crossed the line after bouncing down off the crossbar.

Australia captain Mile Jedinak had briefly equalized for Australia from the penalty spot in the 62nd after Samuel Umtiti handled the ball in the area.

Denmark 1, Peru 0: At Saransk, Russia, Kasper Schmeichel's slew of saves made Yussuf Poulsen's opportunistic second-half goal stand up in a 1-0 victory over Peru on Saturday.

Poulsen squeezed his goal between charging Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese and the left post in the 59th minute after collecting an accurate pass from midfielder Christian Eriksen.

Appearing at the World Cup for the first time in 36 years, Peru had overwhelming fan support in the Mordovia Arena.

Peru striker Paolo Guerrero made his much anticipated appearance as a substitute with about 30 minutes to go and had two scoring chances, one on a header and one on a clever back-heel that rolled just wide.

Span's double rallies M's past Red Sox

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Denard Span came to the plate in the eighth inning, knowing the situation was why the Seattle Mariners traded for him three weeks ago.

The veteran outfielder kept his cool and stroked a pinch-hit double that scored two runs, leading the Mariners to a 7-6 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Friday.

Span, batting for Guillermo Heredia with one out, hit a liner to the right-field corner off Matt Barnes (0-2) after Ryon Healy walked and Ben Gamel singled to left.

"I just tried to stay calm as possible," Span said. "Kind of a calm angry. This is huge for me. I'm the new guy around here and I just want to help these guys as much as I can and feel like I'm one of them."

The Mariners acquired Span and reliever Alex Colome from Tampa Bay on May 25.

"He's a huge addition to our club," said Seattle manager Scott Servais. "He has so much experience in those situations, so he understands how to slow things down. We're going to have a lot more situations like that this season."

Ryan Cook (1-0) got the win with a scoreless eighth inning and Edwin Diaz earned his major league-leading 26th save by working the ninth.

But Rob Whalen, who was recalled from Triple-A Tacoma on Thursday, was the difference, pitching four scoreless innings of relief.

It was the 20th time this season the Mariners have come from behind to win. Seattle is 22-10 in one-run games. Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer

as part of a six-run third inning that gave Boston a 6-3 lead, but a spectacular defensive play by Seattle second baseman Dee Gordon on a hard-hit ball up the middle by Bogaerts that ended the sixth inning and kept the Red Sox from adding another run.

The Mariners led 3-0 when Boston sent 11 men to the plate and had six hits and walk to chase starter James Paxton. The Mariners also committed two errors in the inning.

Paxton entered the game with a 0.39 ERA and 2-0 record in three previous starts against the Red Sox. Five of the six runs against Paxton were earned. He also threw two wild pitches.

"Pax had good stuff tonight, we just didn't help him," Servais said. "The defense was shaky early. Paxton has car-

ried us this year, so it was nice to get him off the hook."

Boston tied the game at 3 on four singles and an error by third basemen Kyle Seager, before Bogaerts hit his 11th home run.

Jean Segura gave the Mariners a 1-0 lead in the first inning when he launched Rick Porcello's fastball over the scoreboard in left field, a 420-foot shot.

Mike Zunino knocked in two runs, including his 11th home run of the season to start the bottom of the seventh and cut it to 6-5 before Span came through one inning later.

"With him, you have to attack," Boston manager Alex Cora said of Span. "He keeps working the count. He's a veteran guy. If you're ahead, you have to bury him and we didn't."

MLB roundup

Loaisiga wins major league debut with Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jonathan Loaisiga pitched three-hit ball over five impressive innings to win his major league debut, and the New York Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-0 on Friday night.

Didi Gregorius homered off ex-Yankee Nathan Eovaldi, and Gary Sanchez broke out of a long slump with a three-run double in the eighth. Giancarlo Stanton had a sacrifice fly for New York, which improved the best record in the majors to 45-20.

Loaisiga (1-0) was called up from Double-A Trenton to fill in for injured starter Masahiro Tanaka. The 23-year-old righty, who walked only four batters in 45 minor league innings this year, struggled a little with his command, issuing four walks while striking out six.

Twins 6, Indians 3: Corey Kluber had a rare rocky performance, lasting just five innings

and losing for the first time in seven starts as Kyle Gibson outpitched the Cy Young winner and Brian Dozier hit a two-run homer to lead visiting Minnesota past Cleveland.

Cubs 13, Cardinals 5: Kris Bryant ended a 24-game homerless drought, the longest of his career, and Ian Happ and Kyle Schwarber also went deep as Chicago routed host St. Louis.

Dodgers 3, Giants 2: Ross Stripling pitched four-hit ball over 6¹/₃ innings, Enrique Hernandez and Matt Kemp went deep to give the Dodgers a major league-leading 32 homers this month, and Los Angeles beat visiting San Francisco in their series opener.

Angels 8, Athletics 4: Ian Kinsler homered and drew a bases-loaded walk, Mike Trout had three hits and a sacrifice fly, and injury-plagued Los Angeles beat host Oakland to snap a four-game skid.

Pirates 3, Reds 2: Chad

Kuhl pitched six solid innings to win for the first time in more than a month, and Pittsburgh edged visiting Cincinnati and Matt Harvey.

Marlins 2, Orioles 0: Jose Urena pitched eight innings of three-hit ball, Lewis Brinson tripled twice and Miami beat host Baltimore stretch the Orioles' losing streak to a season-high eight games.

Blue Jays 6, Nationals 5: Yangervis Solarte homered from both sides of the plate, Devon Travis also connected and Toronto beat visiting Washington for its fifth straight home victory.

Padres 9, Braves 3: Hunter Renfroe hit a go-ahead, two-run single in San Diego's five-run seventh inning, Freddy Galvis had a three-run homer and went 5-for-5, and the Padres beat host Atlanta.

Astros 7, Royals 3: Evan Gattis hit a go-ahead grand slam, Alex Bregman and Car-

los Correa also went deep and visiting Houston beat Kansas City for its ninth consecutive win.

Brewers 13, Phillies 2: Brent Suter drove in two runs and pitched a season-high seven innings, Christian Yelich, Hernan Perez and Jesus Aguilar homered and host Milwaukee beat Jake Arrieta and Philadelphia.

Rockies 9, Rangers 5: Ian Desmond homered twice and Trevor Story had a pair of RBI hits in his first game near home as visiting Colorado overcame a quick five-run deficit to beat Texas.

Diamondbacks 7, Mets 3: Paul Goldschmidt and Daniel Descalso homered, Zack Godley pitched effectively into the seventh inning and host Arizona beat the staggering Mets.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3: John Hicks homered and scored the go-ahead run on a fielder's choice in the eighth inning as