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S. Korea: War game halt 'not irreversible'

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's foreign minister warned Wednesday that the suspension of war games with the United States is "not irreversible" as she urged the North to take concrete action toward abandoning its nuclear weapons program.

The comments came a day after Washington and Seoul announced that they were canceling a major military exercise that had been scheduled for August, following through on a promise made by President Donald Trump during his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Critics expressed concern that the decision may undermine the defense of the South as the North has massive artillery and more than a million soldiers poised across the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula. Many also said Trump made a major concession to the North while getting little in return.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said the suspension of joint drills was aimed at building trust and overcoming hostilities and could be lifted.

"I think we made it clear that this is a goodwill gesture to strengthen the dialogue momentum at this point, but they are not irreversible," she told reporters at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

"They could quickly come back should we see the dialogue momentum losing speed or North Korea not living up to its denuclearization commitments," she said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has met with Kim twice since April, also said the ball was in North Korea's court.

"I think North Korea needs to present more concrete denuclearization actions, and the United States needs to swiftly propose corresponding measures ... and they need to implement those together," he said, according to a transcript from his office.

Moon was speaking to Russian reporters ahead of his state visit to Moscow later this week.

The annual drills — a cornerstone of the longstanding U.S.-South Korean alliance — have been a frequent source of tension with the North, which considers them rehearsals for an invasion and has long called for them to be canceled.

The August exercise, known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian, is a two-week computerized simulation of possible war scenarios.

The Pentagon said it had suspended all planning for the exercise but "no decisions on subsequent war games have been made."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton are to hold a meeting on the issue at the Pentagon later this week, spokeswoman Dana White said.

Trump surprised many officials and allies when he announced plans to end the exercises during a press conference after his summit with Kim.

Kang declined to say if her government was given advance notice but said she received a phone call from Pompeo immediately after the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit was held in Singapore.

"I can assure you that the level of consultation between us and the United States at all levels has never been so close and so frequent," she said.

N. Korean, Chinese leaders meet amid warming ties

Associated Press

BEIJING — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday in a visit designed to convey the countries' growing closeness.

Kim and Xi held a second day of talks at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, whose grounds China's official Xinhua News Agency described in unusually lyrical terms as being full of "verdant greenery and splendid flowers," adding to what the propaganda outlet said was the "close and friendly atmosphere" of the talks.

The pomp and circumstance looked geared toward showing off the major improvement in relations between the communist neighbors, along with China's important role in keeping North Korea on track.

But it cast no new light on the main question that hangs over the previously reclusive North Korean leader's surge in diplomatic activity in recent months: What

next steps, if any, will Kim take to dismantle his country's nuclear program?

At his summit with President Donald Trump last week in Singapore, Kim pledged to work toward denuclearization in exchange for U.S. security guarantees. The U.S. and South Korea also suspended a major joint military exercise that was planned for August in what was seen as a major victory for North Korea and its chief allies, China and Russia.

Chinese state media quoted Xi as hailing the warming friendship with Kim but included no mention of any specific discussions on making progress on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Xi said China is pleased that "the momentum for dialogue and easing of situation on the Korean Peninsula has been effectively strengthened," according to Xinhua.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged North Korea to present actionable plans on how it will scrap its nu-

clear program, and for the United States to swiftly take unspecified corresponding measures.

"It's necessary for North Korea to present far more concrete denuclearization plans, and I think it's necessary for the United States to swiftly reciprocate by coming up with comprehensive measures," Moon said. Moon's office said he made the remarks to Russian media ahead of his trip to Moscow later this week.

Moon, who has met with Kim twice in recent months, said the North Korean leader is willing to give up his nuclear program and focus on economic development if he's provided with a reliable security guarantee. Moon described Kim as "forthright," "careful" and "polite."

China backs the North's call for a "phased and synchronous" approach to denuclearization, as opposed to Washington's demand for an instant, total and irreversible end to the North's nuclear programs.

B-1B Lancers are cleared to resume flights

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force's B-1B Lancers have been cleared to resume flying after a safety stand-down that grounded the fleet on June 7 because of concerns about the plane's ejection seat components, officials said.

Air Force Global Strike Command announced Tuesday that the B-1B would return to the skies sometime this week despite an ongoing investigation into what caused an ejection seat to malfunction during an in-flight emergency on one of the bombers last month.

A B-1 was forced to make an emergency landing May 1 at Midland, Texas, about 150 miles west of where it's assigned at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene.

"We have high confidence that the fleet's egress systems are capable and the fleet is ready to return to normal flight operations," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 8th Air Force commander, in a statement Tuesday. Bussiere is responsible for the Air Force bomber force.

On June 8, a day after Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, ordered the safety stand-down, the Air Force revealed that during an investigation of the Midland incident, an issue with ejection seat components was discovered, prompting the fleet's grounding.

The stand-down allowed the command time to thoroughly evaluate the egress components and determine potential risks before returning to flight, officials said Tuesday. The investigation is ongoing.

The B-1's four crewmembers landed safely and were not injured, Dyess officials said at the time. There were no munitions on the aircraft.

Marines pick aging amphibious assault vehicles' replacement

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Fleet Marines are set to get a more reliable, faster and better protected amphibious fighting vehicle starting in late 2020 as the Corps begins replacing its decades-old amphibious assault vehicle.

On Tuesday, the service announced that U.K.-based BAE Systems was awarded a \$198 million contract option to begin low-rate initial production of 30 vehicles, dubbed Amphibious Combat Vehicle 1.1, after it beat out SAIC's prototype in competitive trials.

The Corps could end up purchasing as many as 204 vehicles over the next few years to outfit some of its 10 amphibious assault companies — the first phase of an incremental approach to replacing the AAV, which entered service in 1972.

The contract's total value, if all options are executed, could amount to \$1.2 billion, BAE Systems said in a statement Tuesday. The first vehicles are expected to be delivered by the fall of 2019.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force's 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is expected to be the first to get them the following year.

The ACV 1.1 offers better armor and land maneuver capabilities than the AAV, but it won't fully replace its 46-year-old predecessor. About 400 of the older vehicles, which officials have called "nearly obsolete," are being upgraded to protect against threats such as roadside bombs and keep them in service until 2035.

"The ACV provides a mobile capability that mechanizes the force to maintain tempo with

the remainder of the (Marine Air-Ground Task Force), specifically the M1A1 tank," Col. Kirk Mullins, ACV 1.1 product manager, said in a Marine Corps news release. "It isn't maintenance intensive ... and it also provides greater protection against threats we encounter on the battlefield."

The Corps plans to build in additional capabilities in further iterations, eventually fielding a version capable of traveling at twice the old AAV's water speed so it can launch from warships beyond view of the shore and land on the beach without the aid of landing craft.

The next phase, ACV 1.2, is expected to improve on the ACV 1.1's amphibious capabilities, but Marine officials have said BAE's vehicle is already close to that target.

Survivor, 97, feted before leaving Pearl Harbor

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — For 76 years, Ray Emory has carried around a spent brass casing from the .50-caliber machine gun he fired at incoming Japanese planes the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

"I just reached over and picked it up and put it in my right hip pocket," said Emory, 97, who was aboard the USS Honolulu docked at Pearl Harbor that day.

He doesn't remember why he plucked it from the deck in the wake of the firefight, but he knows why he's held onto it.

"It's just part of me, I guess," said the longtime Hawaii resident. "It's just part of me."

On Tuesday morning, 520 sailors in dress whites formed a dockside honor cordon and ship-

rail salute to Emory as he made a farewell visit to Bravo-21 pier where the USS Honolulu was berthed in 1941. He will soon go to the mainland to live with family after the death of his wife, Jinny, a month ago.

During a short ceremony, Emory told the sailors gathered there that he was ready to "head for the mainland and get my head screwed back on." He later told reporters, "As of right now, I just want to go and clear my mind — just go fishing."

He was joined by his sister, grandson and other family members during the ceremony, which was held beside the base's official monument honoring the USS Honolulu's place in the historic attack.

Emory went on to serve on ships involved in the invasions of Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf and Iwo Jima. He got out of

the Navy in 1946 as a chief boatswain's mate and later earned a degree in architecture.

Emory toiled for years to identify the remains of servicemen who died aboard the USS Oklahoma during the Dec. 7 Japanese attack and were buried as "unknowns" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, also known as the Punchbowl. He lobbied to have the remains exhumed and scientifically identified.

"Ray fought and fought hard," Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison to Navy Region Hawaii, told the audience.

Taylor presented Emory with a shadowbox holding an official POW-MIA flag.

"The bottom line is, you are not forgotten," Taylor said. "And all those 100 people that you have personally been involved in identifying, they were not forgotten."

Twins laid to rest together at Normandy

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY, France — Seventy-four years to the day after a German mine ended their lives off Omaha Beach, Petty Officers 2nd Class Julius “Henry” Pieper and Ludwig “Louie” Pieper are together again.

Henry’s burial at his brother’s side — the first Normandy burial since at least 1956, officials at the site said — is a culmination of improbable actions and events that included the review of a grave marked “unknown” in Belgium, a high school history project, a military forensics team review and a family gathering in small-town Nebraska.

A group of Naples-based sailors carried Henry’s flag-draped casket to a grave marked by a marble white cross lying next to Louie’s grave, which was moved from another plot for the occasion.

The sailors folded the flag and Rear Adm. Shawn E. Duane presented it to Linda Pieper Sutor, the brothers’ niece and next of kin.

“It’s a life-changing event for me,” said Sutor, of Green Valley, Ariz., who plans to meet with the local American Legion and talk with high school students about the sacrifices made by servicemembers like the Pieper brothers.

Henry and Louie Pieper joined the Navy together in 1943, following the path of their brother Fred, who went on to serve in the Guadalcanal campaign.

They trained as radiomen and were about to be separated until their father, Otto, wrote a letter to their commanding officer asking them to remain together.

“Their feeling was that they came into this life together, and whatever happened to them, they wanted to be together,” said Susan Lawrence, another of the brothers’ nieces.

The Piepers’ ship, Landing Ship Tank 523, transported troops and supplies during the Normandy invasion, beginning

on June 6, 1944.

LST-523 left Portsmouth, England, for another troop transport mission on June 18, 1944, according to Tec 5 Clifford C. Alexander, whose testimony was included in a December 1944 investigation report. They were about a mile and a half from Utah Beach at 1 p.m. the following day when they raised their anchor.

They “had been underway several minutes when a tremendous explosion occurred somewhat aft of the center of the ship,” Alexander said in the report.

Many of those aboard, who included crewmembers and soldiers from the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion, were in the mess line near the center of the ship and died soon after a German magnetic mine tore it in two.

Rescue ships showed up 10 to 20 minutes after the blast, according to several accounts. Of the 145 onboard, 117 died. Louie’s body was recovered in the water and buried at Normandy American Cemetery.

Henry’s name was placed alongside more than 1,500 others on the cemetery’s Walls of the Missing.

In 1961, a French salvage group dived down to the LST-523 wreck and found multiple sets of remains.

No one notified the Piepers of the excavation.

In 1965, remains from the ship were transferred to a grave marked “unknown” at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Neuville, Belgium.

A special school project

Nearly 50 years later, Vanessa Taylor, a sophomore at Ainsworth High School, Neb., and her teacher, Nichole Flynn, were among 15 student-teacher teams selected by the nonprofit National History Day to participate in the annual Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute.

Their task was to research a “silent hero” from their home state whose story hadn’t been told.

In 2015, Taylor came upon two sailors with the same last name after searching the Normandy cemetery’s database.

She became intrigued and, through continued research, confirmed that they were twins and contacted Henry and Louie’s sister, Mary Ann Lawrence.

“Having the chance to talk with her, it really felt like [the brothers] were real people whose stories needed to be told rather than just something from a textbook,” Taylor said by phone from Kearney, Neb., where she now attends college.

Taylor and Flynn requested Henry Pieper’s deceased personnel file, which documents a servicemember’s death and the disposition of remains. Meanwhile, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, had already been looking generally at cases of graves marked unknown.

The file request put Henry Pieper’s case in the spotlight.

“If (Taylor) hadn’t made the request at the time, we don’t know when this (ceremony) would have happened,” Tim Nosal, spokesman for the American Battle Monuments Commission, said Tuesday.

Further research determined that the remains in the unknown grave came from the LST-523 radio room. DPAA requested the remains be sent to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., for laboratory analysis and medical record comparisons.

On Memorial Day 2016, Flynn and Taylor traveled about three hours to Creston, Neb., which became Henry and Louie’s home after they moved from Esmond, S.D., as children.

The Pieper family flew in from all over the country and spoke with them. They heard details they never knew about the brothers, who died as 19-year-olds.

Taylor went on to give her eulogy of Henry at Normandy as part of the National History

Day program. The text is available at a project website she created, <http://78868238.nhd.weebly.com/>.

Family members said they heard little about Henry and Louie growing up. The painful memories were largely avoided.

But on Tuesday, they shared the anecdotes passed down to them of two fun-loving, nearly inseparable twins.

“The only time they were separated is when they had different girlfriends,” said Henry Pieper, who was named after his uncle. “And they even had twins as girlfriends.”

Mary Ann Lawrence, Susan’s mother, joined the Naval Reserve under the WAVES program. She was the last alive of Henry and Louie’s siblings. She found out that Henry’s remains had been accounted for just before Thanksgiving last year.

“I was shocked and surprised and happy,” Mary Ann Lawrence told the Omaha World-Herald in January.

Mary Ann Lawrence died May 5. That she lived to know what happened provided solace, as does the family’s faith that she is with her brothers now.

“Nothing could have been better for Thanksgiving, at last, to have that knowledge,” Susan Lawrence said. “It was a kind of burden she had been holding all this time.”

On Tuesday, some of the Piepers and their spouses shed tears as Navy Chaplain Lt. Ken Stiles gave the benediction. They put flowers on Henry’s casket, and later Sutor placed a rosette next to his name on the Walls of the Missing, formally marking him in a known grave.

Each of the family members expressed gratitude to everyone who made the day’s events possible.

“I just don’t know how to put it into words, I really don’t,” Susan Lawrence said. “It’s such a blessing overall, such a blessing.”

Many homes in Puerto Rico still lack roofs

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Hurricane Maria ripped away part of the steel roof from Carmen Lidia Torres Mercado's home in the Puerto Rican capital. Nine months later, she is still relying on a blue plastic tarp to protect her home, even with a new storm season already 2 weeks old.

Torres, 60-year-old retiree, said she has no money to fix it on her own and doesn't have the documents proving home ownership that she needs to qualify for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"In truth, this isn't a suitable place to live," Torres said in an interview at her home on a recent morning.

There are thousands of people in similar circumstances across Puerto Rico nearly nine months since the most devastating storm to strike the island in decades. Blue tarps or sturdier plastic sheets installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are still widely visible around the island, though FEMA and local government agencies say they can't say for certain how many roofs still need to be replaced.

Many people lack insurance or other resources to rebuild on their own. While the U.S. and Puerto Rican government have helped with grants and loans, they haven't been enough on an island where nearly half the people live in poverty.

Some are renters like Gabriel Figueroa, a self-employed handyman in San Juan, who said the owner of the house moved to the U.S. and hasn't bothered to replace the roof panels that were blown away in the storm. He's saving up the \$2,000 he needs to do it himself, but isn't there yet.

There has been significant progress in recovery in general. Power, water and cellphone service have been restored to more than 95 percent of Puerto Ricans. Businesses are operating and the roads are no longer free-for-alls.

But housing remains a challenge.

Trump to sign order to end border separations of families

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump abruptly reversed course Wednesday, saying he would sign an executive order ending family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border after a public uproar over his administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy.

The plan, as described by administration officials, would keep families together in federal custody while awaiting prosecution for illegal border crossings, potentially violating a 1997 court settlement limiting the duration of child detentions.

"We have to be very strong on the border, but at the same time we want to be very compassionate," Trump said at the White House during a meeting with lawmakers that was opened to the media.

Trump had repeatedly defend-

ed his immigration crackdown, including forcibly separating migrant children from their parents after they crossed the border. But images of young children in tears, housed in metal cages, set off an international outcry.

For days, Trump and his top administration officials were unwilling to unilaterally reverse the separation policy and insisted that congressional action was required. The inaction sparked international outrage, including criticism from Pope Francis and opposition from world leaders.

Trump's remarks came shortly after House Republican leaders vowed to bring broader immigration legislation up for votes Thursday to address the crisis, despite widespread skepticism that a bill could pass.

One administration official said Trump's order would end separations by keeping families together in immigration deten-

tion centers.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates two large detention centers for families in Texas and a smaller one in Pennsylvania, but their combined capacity is about 3,000 beds.

As of mid-June, the three centers were nearly full, meaning ICE would potentially need to place children in its much larger network of immigration jails for adults. That would most likely violate the 1997 "Flores Settlement" agreement that limits the government's ability to keep children in detention.

A subsequent ruling in 2016 required the government to release underage migrants from immigration detention within 72 hours and place them in the "least restrictive" settings possible, while generally barring the government from keeping children in family detention centers for more than 20 days.

GOP turns up heat in DOJ standoff

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans escalated their monthslong standoff with the Justice Department, saying the FBI hasn't adequately addressed bias within the agency and threatening to hold top department officials in contempt — or even impeach them.

The stepped-up criticism followed the department's internal watchdog report, released last week, criticizing the FBI's handling of the 2016 probe into Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails. It said political bias didn't affect the outcome of the investigation that eventually cleared her.

Bolstered by President Donald Trump, some Republicans say there's no way that bias against then-candidate Trump found among some employees didn't taint the Clinton probe

— and, by extension, special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Trump's Republican campaign and Russia.

At a House hearing Tuesday, Republicans angrily asked Justice Department inspector general Michael Horowitz how anti-Trump texts found between two employees who worked on the Clinton probe didn't influence the outcome. They also complained that they have not yet received some of the documents they have demanded from the department.

"We can't survive with a justice system we don't trust," said Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, of South Carolina, the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Horowitz said in the report and repeated at the hearing that he had concluded the outcome of the investigation was

determined by prosecutors' assessment of the facts, not by bias.

Democrats accused the Republicans of trying to distract from or undermine the Mueller investigation by focusing on a few employees who were biased. Several Democrats talked about children separated from their parents at the border, asking why the committee's focus was still on the candidate who lost the presidency in 2016 instead of on current crises.

Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin, of Maryland, said Republicans were stuck in a "time warp." Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell, of California, noted that the Judiciary Committee oversees immigration issues and should be focused on that.

The inspector general report did not touch on the Russia investigation.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman accused of stealing car and dog

GA GAINESVILLE — A woman was accused of stealing a car and its passenger, a nearly 5-year-old Pomeranian named Bear.

The Gainesville Times reported Matt Sanders loaded Bear into the car Sunday and ran back inside his Georgia home for his phone. Sanders said he returned to see the unidentified woman drive off with Bear. Sanders and Bear were reunited Monday.

Braselton Police Chief Terry Esco said the department received a complaint around 3 a.m. Monday about a woman with heart problems at a hotel. Officers arrived and found Bear unharmed in the room's bathroom.

Woodchuck may be culprit in stolen flags

MA ADAMS — Authorities said a furry critter, not vandals, is likely to blame for the disappearance of American flags from veterans' graves in Massachusetts.

The flags at Bellevue Cemetery in Adams were reported missing earlier this month. Residents volunteered to replace the flags by hand, but then those went missing, too.

Police were called to investigate, and Chief Richard Tarsa told The Boston Globe that officers found evidence that a woodchuck is likely using the flags in its burrow.

Cat parasite blamed for monk seal deaths

HI HONOLULU — Hawaii officials said three monk seals found dead on Oahu last month were killed by the parasite found in cat feces.

Officials from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources and the state Department of Health said the deaths of the endangered seals were caused by toxoplasmosis.

According to the departments, cats are the only known host of the parasite, which reproduces in the animal's digestive system. The parasite can infect other species, including humans.

Officials said the seals were likely infected from feral cats.

Artist dog centerpiece of a charity art show

NY MASSAPEQUA — A Long Island dog named Dagger, who moonlights as a canine artist known as DogVinci, will be the featured artist in a June 23 art show aiming to support an animal shelter.

The show is called "Gimme Shelter" and will feature more than 40 DogVinci original paintings for sale. WNBC-TV reported the show will benefit the Babylon Animal Shelter.

The red beret-wearing dog from Massapequa was taught to paint by watching his owner, Yvonne Dagger, who is an artist. They have sold more than 400 paintings, which have raised more than \$45,000 in donations for various charities and causes.

Police warning about doughnut sale scam

VT SWANTON — Police in Vermont are warning people two women are pretending to sell doughnuts to Swanton residents as part of a scam.

Swanton police said a woman and her daughter were selling doughnuts, raffle tickets and Hannaford's gift certificates. WCAX-TV reported the women were collecting money

but never giving victims the product.

Police said at least 10 people were scammed.

Police said the mother could face charges of false pretense and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

2 are suspended for firehouse porn

OH AKRON — Two firefighters in Ohio were suspended for allegedly making pornographic videos at a firehouse.

Akron officials said Arthur Dean and Deann Eller were placed on administrative leave while the city launched an investigation into the matter.

Fire Chief Clarence Tucker said someone told a firefighter last week about the acts possibly being committed on city property. The firefighter reported it to his supervisor, who then told the chief.

Tucker and Mayor Dan Horigan said in a joint statement that Dean and Eller did not work at the same fire station, but were known to be in a long-term relationship.

Ex ordered to pay over lost scholarship

TN NASHVILLE — A woman was ordered to pay more than \$200,000 to her ex-boyfriend for sabotaging his opportunity at a prestigious scholarship because she didn't want him to leave.

Eric Abramowitz, currently with the Nashville Symphony in Tennessee, is a Canadian clarinetist who in 2013 applied to study at Los Angeles' Coburn Conservatory of Music. When his acceptance email came in, his girlfriend, Jennifer Lee, intercepted the email and deleted it, according to a lawsuit filed in Canada's Ontario Superior

Court of Justice.

The lawsuit said Lee accessed Abramowitz's email account to decline the scholarship offer. She also sent him a faked rejection letter from the school.

Trooper praised for stopping slow driver

IN INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana State Police trooper who tweeted a photo of a vehicle he stopped for driving too slowly in the left lane said he's overwhelmed by the widespread praise he's receiving online.

Sgt. Stephen Wheelles stopped the driver on Interstate 65 about 35 miles south of Indianapolis after about 20 vehicles had slowed behind her. Wheelles said she was traveling under the 70 mph speed limit. Indiana law requires drivers to move to the right lane to allow faster traffic to pass.

The post has been retweeted by IndyCar driver Graham Rahal, who said, "This guy is my hero." Others suggested he win a Nobel Prize or asked him to relocate to their states.

3 dispatchers gone after sleeping on job

CT MADISON — Police said three emergency dispatchers in Connecticut were caught sleeping on the job.

Madison Police Capt. Joseph Race said last week two of the dispatchers resigned in February and May and one was fired in May as a result of an investigation into the matter.

Race said all three Madison dispatchers worked the overnight shift from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., and they were all found sleeping on the job more than once.

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OU's Young waits, watches NBA Draft

Associated Press

Trae Young went into college basketball feeling like he had something to prove to his doubters.

A year later, here he goes again.

Young was the most electrifying player in the college game this past season, his stellar numbers in his only season at Oklahoma more than silencing anyone who felt like he wasn't elite. And now he expects that he'll need to prove himself once again, starting right when his name gets called in Thursday night's NBA Draft in Brooklyn.

"I'll always have a chip on my shoulder," Young said, "until I hang my shoes up."

That chip served him well at Oklahoma, when he led the nation with averages of 27.4 points and 8.7 assists per game. He'll be snagged in the lottery on Thursday, by a team that apparently will be willing to turn its offense over to a 6-foot-2 guard who tries to emulate Steve Nash and counts Rod Strickland as

one of his many mentors.

He thinks he's the best player in the draft, and very easily could be the first guard to get selected. Young was recruited for years by Oklahoma, his hometown school, and Sooners coach Lon Kruger spent hours and hours with him this past season breaking down film — probably all the while knowing that his star guard was going the one-and-done route.

"I knew how good he was, but I didn't even realize he was this good," said Kentucky coach John Calipari, who also recruited Young heavily. "The biggest thing in this, and it's a great lesson — Lon Kruger, who I have unbelievable respect for, basically said, 'We're going to play through you, it's all going through you, you're going to shoot when you want.' And he did not lie."

Kruger's trust in Young was worthwhile. In college, there was something special from Young just about every night.

Young had four games where he scored at least 40 points; no

one in Division I could say that. Young had nine other games where he finished with at least 20 points and 10 assists; again, no other Division I player came close to doing that, either.

Young tied the all-time Division I record with a 22-assist game in December. He was the first player to finish a season simultaneously leading Division I in scoring and assists per game. The accolades kept piling up — highest scoring average for a season by any player from any Big 12 school, consensus All-American, freshman of the year, Bob Cousy Award finalist, Naismith Trophy semifinalist.

He had a sensational year by any measure.

"It was crazy," Young said. "But it was fun ... and it motivated me to get better."

The realistic watching for Young should start with the No. 3 pick, owned by the Atlanta Hawks.

Atlanta worked out Young about a week ago, and the guard looked noticeably stronger than he was a couple of months ago

when his college career ended — he says he's packed on at least 10 pounds of new muscle since then.

The Hawks say their approach will be simple: They'll take the best player still on the board. Young knows it's out of his control.

"This is the first time in my life where I haven't gotten to pick where I'm going," Young said. "AAU, you get to pick what team you play for. College, same. Having to wait to see where you're going, it's definitely something different but I'm not nervous at all."

And when it's time to find his seat at Barclays Center for the draft, Young insists that he's going to savor the moment.

"If you looked back a year ago to now, nobody would think I'd be in this situation," Young said. "So just being here now, I'm just going to enjoy and relax and embrace it all. That draft night is going to be a great feeling for me."

DiVincenzo hopes title game performance pays off

Associated Press

Donte DiVincenzo's plan was to come out and test the NBA Draft waters this spring, with the expectation that he would be returning to Villanova for another season.

And then the national championship game happened.

The hero of Villanova's win over Michigan picked the perfect moment to play the game of his life — 31 points on 10-for-15 shooting, five three-pointers, five rebounds, one epic wink as the Wildcats put the game away. That's what probably got him an invite to the Draft Combine, the event where DiVincenzo saw how he might fit at the NBA level.

His name will likely be called in the first round on Thursday night, guaranteed millions set to come his way. Not bad for a kid who came off the bench

for most of his college career and wasn't even picked as a Big East first-teamer, second-teamer or even honorable mention this past season. He did get recognized by the league as its top sixth man after a season where he averaged 13.4 points, 4.8 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

"When I get into a system, I'm so worried about the team," DiVincenzo said. "I'm not worried about the numbers. I'm just worried about one, winning and two, the impact I have on a team whether it's in the locker room or on the court. If I can do anything to help the team, then I'll do that. That's what I tried to do at Villanova this past year."

His numbers at the combine were probably as eye-popping as what he did in the national title game. No one at the com-

bine in Chicago last month had a higher vertical leap than DiVincenzo — 42 inches with a running start, 34½ inches when standing. He also impressed scouts with his shooting ability, and didn't need long to decide that his best move was to stay in the draft.

Some may have been surprised by his numbers in Chicago. Nova Nation was not.

"He works his butt off and he deserves all this," said now-former Villanova guard Jalen Brunson, The Associated Press' national player of the year this past season who's also in this draft. "And just to see where he's come from since us rooming together freshman year to seeing how his work ethic has gotten better every day ... he just goes at everybody. He just has that mindset that he's a killer. And that's what makes him special."

There's a price of fame, in that it also comes with a much higher level of scrutiny — which put DiVincenzo in a tough spot after the national championship game. While the Wildcats were celebrating and he was being named Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, some of his old tweets were creating headlines as well.

Those posts, mostly from between 2011 through 2013, included racially insensitive and homophobic comments. DiVincenzo's account, which had been dormant since 2016, was shut down not long afterward.

If teams had reservations about his tweeting choices from years ago, their concerns seem to be satisfied. DiVincenzo came away from the combine process convinced that he'll be a first-rounder.

Ronaldo, Portugal eliminate Morocco

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Off the top of his head, Cristiano Ronaldo scored yet another goal, set a European record and eliminated Morocco from the World Cup.

The Portugal forward headed in a fourth-minute cross from the right to give Portugal a 1-0 victory on Wednesday. It was his 85th goal for his country, the most for any European player in almost 150 years of international soccer.

"It was beautiful for me," Ronaldo said after being voted the man of the match for the second straight game.

Ronaldo celebrated his goal by pointing at his chest during a trademark run and soaring leap toward the corner flag at the Luzhniki Stadium.

The goal moved the 33-year-old Ronaldo ahead of Ferenc Puskas, another Real Madrid great who scored his last goal for Hungary in 1956. He is alone in second place worldwide behind Ali Daei's 109 goals for Iran.

"He has a great coach," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said through a translator, laughing when asked about Ronaldo. "He's like a port wine. He knows how to refine his capacity and age at his best."

Ronaldo's four goals top the individual scoring chart at this year's World Cup. Buoyed by his hat trick in a 3-3 draw against Spain on Friday, including a spectacular free kick late in the game, Ronaldo scored against Morocco with his first meaningful touch of the match.

He was too strong for marker Manuel Da Costa and found space in the goalmouth to meet Joao Moutinho's cross following a short corner.

Ronaldo had two more free kick chances, each from less than 20 yards. But both were blocked by a solid wall of defenders as the Portuguese ground out a result from an often poor display, much like it did two years ago on its run to the European Championship title.

There were 42 fouls in the match, and only two Portuguese shots on target. Most of the best play came from Morocco, but the North Africans now have no chance of advancing from the group stage after a second straight 1-0 loss.

Morocco had enough scoring chances, nearly all from set pieces, and three came in a five-minute spell early in the second half. Younes Belhanda was twice denied by goalkeeper Rui Patrício's diving saves, and de-

fender Mehdi Benatia scooped a shot over the bar.

In stoppage time, Benatia lifted another shot too high with an even clearer chance.

"Those who know how to be in the penalty box and know how to make plays are the ones who make all the difference," Morocco coach Herve Renard said.

Benatia, a rugged defender who plays for Juventus, led the effort to stop Ronaldo. His hard tackles from behind, however, earned him a yellow card.

Group dynamics. Portugal looks set to advance to the round of 16 while Morocco will certainly be going home.

Portugal now has four points and leads Group B ahead of the late match between Iran and Spain.

The Portuguese will play Iran in their final match on Monday in Saransk.

Keys to success. Ronaldo was a clinical finisher and also one of Portugal's best defenders. His headed clearances helped out a back line that seems vulnerable to corners and free kicks despite the height of veteran center backs Pepe and Jose Fonte.

Morocco, playing in its first World Cup in 20 years, linked

well through the midfield but relied on set pieces for its clearest chances — a growing theme at this year's tournament.

Its clearest shooting chances fell to a defender, Benatia, who could not keep them on target.

Olympic heights. Ronaldo seems to like Olympic stadiums.

After a hat trick against Spain in the Sochi stadium that staged the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2014 Games, he scored the winning goal against Morocco at the main venue for the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Concussion protocol. Morocco midfielder Nouredine Amrabat started the match wearing protective headgear only five days after sustaining a head injury in the match against Iran.

He discarded the cushioned protector early in Wednesday's match, and played strongly for the rest of the game.

The World Cup does not have formal concussion protocol, and his return seemed to contradict a previous Morocco team statement that he would rest for a full week.

"His spirit is amazing," Renard said, "and I am lucky to have a player like this."

Suarez puts Uruguay, Russia into knockout round

Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Luis Suarez put both Uruguay and host Russia into the second round of the World Cup while eliminating Saudi Arabia and Egypt at the same time.

Suarez scored the winning goal in his 100th international appearance for Uruguay, knocking in a corner kick from Carlos Sanchez in the 23rd minute to give the two-time champions a 1-0 victory over the Saudis on Wednesday.

It was the Barcelona striker's 52nd goal for his country in that century of matches.

"None of the games at the

World Cup are easy to win," Suarez said. "You can never be relaxed."

Uruguay and Russia both have 6 points from their opening two matches, putting them into the round of 16. They will face each other on Monday in Samara with first place in Group A on the line.

"We need to fine-tune some things, but we are more than proud because for three World Cups in a row we have advanced to the knockout round, so we want to enjoy this beautiful moment," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said.

Besides scoring, Suarez led his team with a hard-work-

ing performance. He fell back to defend and raced forward alongside Edinson Cavani on the counterattack.

Cavani nearly made it 2-0 on a solo run through the opposing defense but his attempt was blocked by Saudi Arabia goalkeeper Mohammed Alowais.

Facing elimination, the Saudis fought hard for a goal with Hatan Bahmi getting several early chances. But they were outmatched by the Uruguayan defense and were under regular threat from Suarez and Cavani.

Saudi Arabia also had to play most of the match without trusted midfielder Taisser Aljassam,

who limped off before halftime with an injury after lunging forward for a challenge.

Uruguay has now reached the second round in three straight World Cups under the 71-year-old Tabarez. The 1930 and 1950 champions reached the semifinals in 2010.

"We do want to score more but there are other positives: no yellow cards, no injuries," Tabarez said of this year's performances. "We'll see who we get now (in the next round). You don't see 10-0 games at the World Cup anymore. All the teams out there are good. We respect all of them. That is a cardinal rule for us."

Almora helps Cubs split with Dodgers

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Albert Almora Jr. got even. So did the Chicago Cubs.

Almora hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning, and the Cubs beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1 on Tuesday night to salvage a split of their day-night doubleheader.

Kris Bryant sparked the winning rally with a leadoff triple against Brock Stewart (0-1). After Javier Baez was walked intentionally, Almora hit a liner into right field.

In the Cubs' 4-3 loss to the Dodgers in Game 1, Almora popped out to first with the bases loaded with one out in the eighth. The Dodgers intentionally walked Jason Heyward

before Yimi Garcia retired Almora.

"It was personal for me," Almora said. "I didn't come through. I was a little aggressive."

"I learned from the first mistake and I didn't do too much (in the second game), but I really wanted that one pretty bad. It was just a little bit of revenge from the first game."

Rob Zastryzny (1-0), the fifth Cubs reliever, got Yasmani Grandal to fly out with the bases loaded in the top of the 10th to earn the win.

The rematch of the last two NL Championship Series was set to begin on Monday night, but the opener was postponed by a mixture of poor weather

and a limited power outage at Wrigley Field. It's the only scheduled visit for Los Angeles, leading to the day-night doubleheader.

"It was two really interesting games," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "Could have lost both, could have won both. It's nice to walk off."

Los Angeles began the long day with its 4-3 victory on pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer's two-run double in the ninth. Joc Pederson led off the game with his ninth homer and Yasiel Puig drove in a run with a bloop double.

The Dodgers jumped in front in the nightcap on Austin Barnes' RBI single in the sixth. But the Cubs tied it on

Kyle Schwarber's 13th homer, a drive to right against Erik Goeddel in the seventh.

Los Angeles wasted an impressive return for Rich Hill, who pitched six innings of three-hit ball in his first major league start in a month. Hill was placed on the disabled list on May 20 with a blister on his left middle finger, a recurring problem for the veteran left-hander.

"The fastball command, the curveball command, it was on point tonight," manager Dave Roberts said. "You hope to get something like that, but you never know what you're going to get making his first start back from injury, but again, he was outstanding."

MLB roundup

Tampa Bay ends Houston's winning streak at 12 games

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros relied on their powerful offense to win 12 straight games.

On Tuesday night that offense went cold, and their streak ended with a 2-1 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Astros went 1-for-6 with runners in scoring position to come up one victory shy of setting the franchise record for longest winning streak in franchise history. After averaging more than seven runs in their last 12 games, Houston managed just five singles to end a stretch of 34 straight games with at least one extra-base hit.

C.J. Cron homered early and Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning to lift the Rays to the victory.

Blake Snell (9-4) allowed just three hits and one run in seven innings, but had to pitch around a career-high seven walks for his fifth straight win. Sergio Romo pitched for the third straight game, taking over with one out in the ninth and allowing one hit for his third save a

night after blowing the save in Houston's 5-4 win.

"We didn't hit enough and we were shut down by a pretty good pitcher," manager A.J. Hinch said. "We kept putting up pretty decent at-bats, but that big hit just eluded us again."

Matt Duffy doubled to start the eighth and advanced to third on a groundout by Jake Bauers. The Rays took a 2-1 lead when the single by Ramos sailed just over the head of a leaping Yuli Gurriel and into left field to allow Duffy to score.

Yankees 7, Mariners 2: Domingo German (2-4) pitched two-hit ball over a career-high seven innings and Giancarlo Stanton hit one of his team's four home runs in host New York's victory over Seattle.

Nationals 9, Orioles 7: Trea Turner went 4-for-4 with a homer, Anthony Rendon drove in three runs and host Washington extended its recent domination of Baltimore.

Brewers 3, Pirates 2: Rookie Freddy Peralta (2-0) allowed two hits in six stellar innings, Jesus Aguilar hammered his

14th home run of the season and visiting Milwaukee cooled off Pittsburgh.

Braves 11, Blue Jays 4: Johan Camargo hit his first career grand slam and went 4-for-5 with five RBIs, and visiting Atlanta snapped Toronto's home winning streak at seven games.

Reds 9, Tigers 5: Joey Votto ended a long homer drought with his third career grand slam, powering host Cincinnati to a victory that ended Detroit's longest winning streak in two years at five games.

Indians 6, White Sox 3: Mike Clevinger (6-2) struck out 10 and allowed one run in 7²/₃ innings, and host Cleveland defeated Chicago.

Rangers 4, Royals 1: Cole Hamels (4-6) allowed four hits over seven innings, Delino DeShields doubled home two runs and visiting Texas beat Kansas City.

Cardinals 7, Phillies 6: Matt Carpenter hit a tiebreaking solo homer with two out in the ninth, helping visiting St. Louis edge Philadelphia.

Twins 6, Red Sox 2: Edu-

ardo Escobar hit two go-ahead doubles, a two-run delivery off Chris Sale in the sixth inning and one that sparked a four-run eighth for host Minnesota in a victory over Boston.

Rockies 10, Mets 8: Nolan Arenado, Trevor Story and Ian Desmond homered in succession during a six-run third inning, German Marquez (5-7) pitched effectively for six innings and host Colorado beat New York.

Athletics 4, Padres 2 (10): Stephen Piscotty homered with two outs in the ninth inning to tie the game and Jed Lowie hit a two-run shot with two outs in the 10th to lift visiting Oakland over San Diego.

Angels 5, Diamondbacks 4: Mike Trout drove in two runs, Kole Calhoun and Ian Kinsler added solo homers and host Los Angeles held on to beat Arizona.

Giants 6, Marlins 3: Buster Posey homered in the first, Gorkys Hernandez hit a two-run drive in the second and an RBI double later, and host San Francisco held its lead this time to beat Miami.