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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Taliban nearly wipe out Afghan army camp

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have killed at least 58 Afghan security forces in a wave of attacks across the country overnight, including an assault that nearly wiped out an army camp in southern Kandahar province, officials said Thursday.

The attack on the army camp took place late on Wednesday and involved two suicide car bombs, said spokesman Dawlat Wazir. It set off hours of fighting, killing at least 43 soldiers.

Nine other soldiers were wounded and six have gone missing, Wazir said, adding that 10 attackers were killed.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a media statement.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a Taliban ambush in the northern Balkh province late Wednesday

killed six policemen, according to Shir Jan Durani, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

And a Taliban attack on police posts in western Farah province, also late Wednesday, killed nine policemen, said police chief Abdul Marouf Foulad. He said 22 insurgents were killed in the ensuing gunbattle.

Afghan forces have struggled to combat a resurgent Taliban since U.S. and NATO forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014, switching to a counterterrorism and support role.

The attacks Tuesday killed at least 74 people, officials said.

Among those killed in one of the attacks was a provincial police chief. Scores were also wounded, both policemen and civilians. Afghanistan's deputy interior minister, Murad Ali Murad, called Tuesday's on-

slaught the "biggest terrorist attack this year."

Over the past two years and after the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops, the Taliban have stepped up attacks and spread from their southern heartland across the country. Attacks in the north have also increased.

In such a climate, the Kabul government has dismissed peace talks with the Taliban but CIA Director Mike Pompeo said Thursday that the U.S. is going to do everything it can to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table in Afghanistan.

However, for that to happen, Pakistan must first deny the militants a safe haven on its soil, said Pompeo. For talks to move ahead, the Taliban must have no hope of winning on the battlefield in Afghanistan, and that means making it no longer

possible to cross the Afghan-Pakistani border and hide inside Pakistan. That strategy was outlined by President Donald Trump this summer as part of his approach to ending the 16-year war, in addition to an incremental increase in U.S. forces there.

Pompeo said in a speech at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank, that the U.S. "is going to do everything we can, to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table in Afghanistan, with the Taliban having zero hope that they can win this thing on the battlefield."

U.S. officials have long accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye or assisting the Afghan Taliban and the allied Haqqani network. Pakistan routinely denies colluding with the militants.

USS O'Kane deployment to ship-short 7th Fleet extended

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A Hawaii-based destroyer's upcoming deployment to the 7th Fleet will last longer than planned because of a ship shortage caused by deadly collisions and maintenance issues.

The USS O'Kane, which belongs to the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet, was previously scheduled to deploy to the Western Pacific but will stay in the area longer to provide additional support to the fleet, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Paul Newell told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

"[O'Kane] will extend their time here to help sustain the naval presence in 7th Fleet and provide uninterrupted mission support following the recent collisions involving USS

Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain," he said.

The McCain and Fitzgerald collisions, which killed a total of 17 sailors, were among several accidents involving U.S. warships in the region this year.

In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay; in June, a collision between the Fitzgerald and a merchant ship killed seven sailors; and in August, a collision between the McCain and an oil tanker killed 10 sailors.

Maintenance issues have also taken a toll on the 7th Fleet's ship inventory. In July, Navy officials announced that the destroyer USS Milius' forward deployment to Japan had been pushed to 2018 despite a need for additional ships in the busy

Asia-Pacific region. Naval Surface Forces delayed the Milius' arrival to complete its maintenance and modernization.

"I am concerned about the number of ships that we have out here," Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift said in an interview with Stars and Stripes on June 26, prior to the McCain collision. "Milius was coming out to help get us down to the (operations) tempo that we can really sustain. We've got such an incredible amount of work out here that I need Milius plus another ship."

Navy officials also announced last month that unexpected engineering problems will keep the USS Blue Ridge, the 7th Fleet's flagship, in dry dock through early next year — months past its scheduled completion date of August 2017.

The O'Kane deployment extension comes at a time when the 7th Fleet is grappling with a high operational tempo, a fact that some attribute as partly to blame for the recent mishaps in the Pacific.

Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, who took charge of the fleet in August after his predecessor was relieved for the incidents, told Singapore media last week that the 7th Fleet's operational demands were so high that training and preparation suffered, The Straits Times reported.

Sawyer added that even if he had the entire Navy's assets he "still would not be able to do all the things that everybody would want me to do," and that as commander he would "prioritize those and execute those things that we can execute."

Sex assault probes mar DOD progress claims

The Washington Post

The Army is grappling with a resurgence of cases in which troops responsible for preventing sexual assault have been accused of rape and related crimes, undercutting the Pentagon's claims that it is making progress against sexual violence in the ranks.

In the most recent case, an Army prosecutor in charge of sexual assault investigations in the Southwest was charged by the military last month with putting a knife to the throat of a lawyer he had been dating and raping her on two occasions, according to documents obtained by *The Washington Post*.

Additionally, a soldier at Fort Sill, Okla., who was certified as a sexual assault prevention officer, was convicted at a court-martial in May of five counts of raping a preteen girl.

Army officials confirmed to *The Washington Post* that eight other soldiers and civilians trained to deter sex offenses or to help victims have been investigated during the past year in connection with sexual assault. The Army would not provide details, saying that many of the investigations are pending.

Other branches of the armed forces have faced their own embarrassments. The deputy director of the Air Force's office of sexual assault prevention at the Pentagon resigned last year after the Air Force inspector general rebuked him for making sexually inappropriate comments and creating "an intimidating and offensive working environment," according to a confidential report obtained by *The Post* under the Freedom of Information Act.

Air Force staff members complained that the senior executive, Jay Aanrud, made sexist remarks about tight pants and Hooters models, and said it is women's work to shop and to eat bonbons, according to the report. Aanrud, a former pilot whose call sign was "Hoser," told investigators that he was joking and that his remarks were misconstrued.

Despite the investigation, the Air Force rehired Aanrud last month to work at the Pentagon as a technical specialist on aviation issues. An Air Force spokeswoman said he doesn't supervise anyone in his new job. Aanrud declined to comment.

For the armed forces, the cases are a painful reminder of similar scandals that erupted in 2013.

That year, the Air Force's chief sexual assault prevention officer at the Pentagon was accused of groping a woman outside a bar; he later was acquitted by a civilian jury but was reprimanded by the military. An Army sergeant in charge of helping

sexual assault victims at Fort Hood, Tex., was convicted of pandering for pimping female soldiers.

In addition, each of the military services was tainted by reports of young women being assaulted by uniformed recruiters.

With angry lawmakers in Congress demanding a crackdown, then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the armed forces in May 2013 to retrain and rescreen tens of thousands of military recruiters and sexual assault prevention officers.

Despite the new measures, incidents kept happening. Five months after Hagel's order, a soldier attending a sexual assault prevention conference in Orlando was accused of getting drunk and raping a woman he met at his hotel. The Army investigated but did not file charges because the woman declined to cooperate.

Since then, the military has invested millions of additional dollars in sexual assault awareness programs. Training is mandatory for everyone in uniform. Top brass have promised to redouble their efforts to punish offenders and to protect victims.

"We've been putting extraordinary resources into this area," said Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee for military personnel. "Of all the issues we have on my committee, we have spent more time on sexual assault than any other issue."

Coffman said military leaders have come a long way in addressing the problem but added that more needs to be done. He said Army leaders have briefed him about the sexual assault prevention officers who have gotten into trouble and said they are reviewing how people are selected for those posts.

Last year, the Defense Department received 6,172 reports of sexual assault in the ranks — a new high and almost twice as many as were reported in 2010. Pentagon officials have called the increase an encouraging sign that more victims are willing to come forward and trust the military to help them.

To tackle the problem, the Army employs 650 full-time sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates, plus 2,200 others who work part-time.

In the past year, eight of them have been accused of sexual assault, triggering criminal investigations by a combination of military and civilian authorities, said William Sharp, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

Officials from the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force told *The Post* that none of their personnel involved in sexual assault prevention has been investigated for sex crimes over the past year.

Lt. Col. Jennifer R. Johnson, an Army

spokeswoman, said the service adopted new standards in 2013 for screening sexual assault prevention personnel, drill instructors, recruiters and others who hold positions of "significant trust."

She said that the standards are more stringent than what the Defense Department requires, but that the Army has decided to review them again "to determine if any changes are required."

Few personnel get more screening than the Army's special victim prosecutors, a team of 23 lawyers who oversee sex crime and domestic violence cases across the country. The job is considered an elite position within the Judge Advocate General's Corps, and those who hold it are handpicked by the Army's top uniformed lawyer.

The program was thrown into turmoil in 2014 when its supervisor was placed under investigation on suspicion of groping a female lawyer — at a sexual assault prevention conference.

The supervisor, Lt. Col. Jay Morse, acknowledged having an intimate encounter with the woman but denied touching her without consent. Army officials ultimately decided that they lacked evidence to press criminal charges, but reprimanded Morse for misconduct. He retired soon afterward.

The Army has since been rattled by another case involving a special victim prosecutor.

In August 2016, a lawyer who worked for the Army walked into the Comanche County Courthouse in Lawton, Okla., to seek a protective order against a man she had been dating: Capt. Scott Hockenberry, who handled cases at Fort Sill and other posts in the region.

The woman alleged in court papers that their relationship had turned violent and that Hockenberry had raped her three times during the previous month. She also alleged that he had placed a knife against her throat during one of the assaults and injured her jaw on another occasion, according to her protective order application.

Hockenberry disputed the allegations and has filed a defamation claim against the woman in state court in Oklahoma, documents show.

The Army reassigned him to the Military District of Washington and conducted a lengthy criminal investigation.

Last month, it charged Hockenberry with sexually assaulting the woman on two occasions, placing a knife against her throat and striking her in the face, according to military charging documents obtained by *The Post*. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for later this month.

Baby delivered on USNS Comfort

BY STEPHEN CARLSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Tania Rodriguiz Ramos was pregnant and due any day as Hurricane Maria barreled toward Ponce, the second-largest city on Puerto Rico, located on the southern coast of the island.

Puerto Rico suffered catastrophic damage to its electrical power and health-care infrastructure from the storm when the hurricane made land-fall Sept. 20.

Ponce was ravaged with massive flooding that left the local hospital severely overcrowded when Ramos arrived there for a scheduled doctor's appointment to plan for the delivery of her baby.

Unable to receive care in Ponce, Ramos was evacuated to the hospital ship USNS Comfort due to the impending birth of her child.

On Saturday, Sara Victoria Llull Rodriguiz was born, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces, Navy officials said.

Ramos had been aboard the Comfort for five days, and she and her daughter were discharged Tuesday, according to the Navy.

The Comfort arrived in Puerto Rico on Oct. 3 as part of the federal response to the

widespread destruction. Basic necessities such as food, water and medical care are still difficult to access, despite more than 13,000 military and federal personnel, nearly 100 aircraft and Navy ships such as the Comfort responding to the crisis.

But despite U.S. response and the success of Sara's birth, getting patients from Puerto Rico aboard the ship for medical treatment has been difficult.

The Comfort is a Level III oceangoing medical facility capable of initial treatment, surgical operations and post-operative care.

Its mission, along with its sister ship USNS Mercy, is to support combat military casualties and provide medical services during humanitarian and disaster relief operations. The ship has 250 hospital beds, but only 33 are being used, despite being positioned off Puerto Rico's coast for two weeks, said Lt. Cmdr. David Lloyd, a spokesman for the Comfort.

Comfort mission commander Capt. Kevin Robinson told CNN that they have the capacity but are waiting for Puerto Rican health officials to forward them more patients.

"Every time that we've been tasked by (Puerto Rico's) medical operation center to respond

or bring a patient on, we have responded," he said.

Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello said in the CNN report that there is a serious breakdown in communications and that referrals to the Comfort will improve.

"I asked for a complete revision of that so that we can now start sending more patients over there," he said.

"The breakdown was in the original protocol," Rossello said in a video conference Tuesday with CBS.

"Whatever was acute and was sort of an overflow would go to the boat. In my estimation that was really not the best use of the Comfort. We really need to maximize the use (of the Comfort).

"The hospitals have to play more of a role in this, allowing and facilitating patients to go," the governor said in the video, acknowledging the widespread confusion of the referral process to get patients access to the hospital ship.

The Comfort's first mission was Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and the ship has been involved in multiple humanitarian missions including the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, which was the last occasion a woman gave birth on the ship.

The ship also was activated for Operation Noble Eagle in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, helped respond to Hurricane Katrina and was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We stood up the labor and delivery ward prior to getting underway," said Lt. Karri Washbon, a labor and delivery nurse aboard Comfort who assisted with Sara's birth. "We expected to see a lot of patients, but we weren't sure how often we'd get to utilize this aspect.

"With every birth, there is a unique story, and we are glad to be a part of their experience. Now everyone just wants to see the baby!"

Sara's 6-year-old brother, Alonzo, and 4-year-old sister, Sofia, stayed with family on the island during their baby sister's birth, and Ramos was eager to get back to Puerto Rico to see them again, despite poor conditions in Ponce.

"They are so excited to meet her," Ramos said.

"I got the chance to call my family and let them know that I am OK and that the baby is healthy and happy. It's a huge blessing for Sara to be here. I owe everything to the doctors and nurses and everyone on board."

Colonel convicted of soliciting minor for sex

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Florida Air National Guard colonel was convicted Tuesday in federal court of soliciting a minor for sex, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Air Force Col. Michael Shawn Garrett, 45, arranged to meet with an undercover police officer who he believed was a 14-year-old boy to engage in sexual activity, according to evidence U.S. attorneys presented during a two-day trial in Pana-

ma City, Justice Department spokeswoman Amy Alexander said Wednesday in a prepared statement.

Garrett is set to be sentenced Jan. 11. He faces at least 10 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment without parole.

Panama City police officers announced Garrett's arrest in May after he responded to a Craigslist advertisement and engaged in an extensive conversation with the undercover officer. Police took Garrett into custody without incident May 15 after

he drove to a location that he believed was the child's home, according to a Panama City police statement at the time.

Alexander said the online conversation lasted 90 minutes.

"Garrett discussed the sex acts he wished to perform with the boy," Alexander's statement read. "Through his email communications, Garrett repeatedly requested the physical address of the boy, offering to pick up the boy to engage in the sexual encounter."

The case was part of an on-

line investigation to identify child predators that included the Panama City police, the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to the Justice Department.

Garrett is assigned to the 101st Air and Space Operations Group at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, according to the Air Force. He has served in the Air Force since 1991 and has been assigned to Tyndall since 2015.

Kin give varying accounts on Trump condolence outreach

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump, in a personal phone call to a grieving military father, offered him \$25,000 and said he would direct his staff to establish an online fundraiser for the family, but neither happened, the father said.

Chris Baldrige, the father of Army Sgt. Dillon Baldrige, 22, said that Trump called him at his home in Zebulon, N.C., a few weeks after his son and two fellow soldiers were gunned down by an Afghan police officer on June 10. Their phone conversation lasted about 15 minutes, Baldrige said, and centered for a time on the father's struggle with the manner in which his son was killed — shot by someone he was training.

"I said, 'Me and my wife would rather our son died in trench warfare,'" Baldrige said. "I feel like he got murdered over there."

Trump's offer of \$25,000 adds another dimension to his relations with Gold Star families, and the disclosure follows questions about how often the president has called or written to the parents or spouses of those killed.

The Washington Post contacted the White House about Baldrige's account on Wednesday morning. Officials declined to discuss the events in detail.

But in a statement Wednesday afternoon, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said: "The check has been sent. It's disgusting that the media is taking something that should be recognized as a generous and sincere gesture, made privately by the president, and using it to advance the media's biased agenda."

It was 18 months before then-President Barack Obama fulfilled a similar promise made to the family of Kayla Mueller, who was killed in 2015 while she was held captive by Islamic State militants in Syria. Obama's undisclosed sum, for a charity set up in Mueller's name, arrived only after a report by ABC News called attention to what the president later called an oversight.

Trump said this week that he has "called every family of somebody that's died, and it's the hardest call to make." At least 20 Americans have been killed in action since he became commander in chief in January. The Washington Post interviewed the families of 13. About half had received phone calls, they said. The others said they had not heard from the president.

In his call with Trump, Baldrige, a construction worker, expressed frustration with the military's survivor-benefits program. Because his ex-wife was listed as

their son's beneficiary, she was expected to receive the Pentagon's \$100,000 death gratuity — even though "I can barely rub two nickels together," he told Trump.

The president's response shocked him.

"He said, 'I'm going to write you a check out of my personal account for \$25,000,' and I was just floored," Baldrige said. "I could not believe he was saying that, and I wish I had it recorded because the man did say this. He said, 'No other president has ever done something like this,' but he said, 'I'm going to do it.'"

The president has been on the defensive since details emerged of his phone call Tuesday with the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, who was killed Oct. 4 along with three other U.S. soldiers in Niger. After not addressing the incident for 12 days, Trump on Monday falsely claimed that previous presidents never or rarely called the families of fallen servicemembers. In fact, they did so regularly.

White House officials circulated a statement of sympathy for the soldiers killed in Niger after the attack, but it was never released, Politico reported Wednesday. It is not clear why the statement was never released, but it was prepared when the Pentagon had said that three soldiers were killed and before officials disclosed that a fourth soldier, Johnson, also was killed. His body was recovered Oct. 6, two days after the attack.

Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., said Trump called Johnson's widow, Myeshia Johnson, on Tuesday and said her husband "knew what he was signing up for, but I guess it hurts anyway." Wilson was riding in a limousine with the widow and said she heard the conversation on speakerphone.

Trump denied the allegation Wednesday, saying in a tweet that Wilson had "totally fabricated" what happened and that he had "proof." But the soldier's childhood guardian, Cowanda Jones-Johnson, told The Post that she also was in the car when Trump called, and said that "President Trump did disrespect my son and my daughter and also me and my husband."

Baldrige said that after the president made his \$25,000 offer, he joked with Trump that he would bail him out if he got arrested for helping. The White House has done nothing else other than send a condolence letter from Trump, the father said.

"I opened it up and read it, and I was hoping to see a check in there, to be honest," the father said. "I know it was kind of far-fetched thinking. But I was like, 'Damn, no check.' Just a letter saying, 'I'm sorry.'"

White House debates Trump visit to DMZ

The Washington Post

It has become the ultimate symbol of American resolve against the threat of North Korea: a visit by the U.S. commander in chief to "freedom's frontier," the heavily guarded demilitarized zone that has separated the North and South for 64 years.

Wearing bomber-style jackets, surrounded by military officers, peering through binoculars, all but one president since Ronald Reagan has gazed across the barren strip of land at the 38th parallel from an observation post — and has been moved to talk tough. In April, Vice President Mike Pence, undertaking the same solemn ritual, said he toured the DMZ so the North Koreans could "see our resolve in my face."

But as President Donald Trump prepares for a 12-day swing next month through five Asian nations to bolster international pressure on Pyongyang, the administration is divided over whether he should make the pilgrimage, an issue that remains unresolved. Some aides worry a visit could further inflame tensions on the Korean Peninsula, while others have expressed concern over Trump's personal safety, according to people who have spoken to administration officials.

Asian foreign policy veterans of both the Obama and George W. Bush administrations said it would be foolish for Trump not to go. But the White House is facing opposition from South Korean President Moon Jae-in's administration and the U.S. State Department over fears that a visit would ratchet up Trump's war of words with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

A White House spokesman declined to comment, saying the administration was not ready to release the full itinerary for Trump's trip, which is scheduled to last from Nov. 3 to Nov. 14.

Asked during a news conference this week whether a DMZ visit would provoke Pyongyang, Trump said the trip's details were not finalized and added, "I didn't hear in terms of provoking, but we will certainly take a look at that."

Trump has already done plenty of provoking amid reports that North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs are making more rapid advances than expected. Trump has mocked Kim as "Little Rocket Man," and he declared during a United Nations speech last month that the U.S. is prepared to "totally destroy" the North if necessary.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man recovers bat taken from Griffey statue

WA SEATTLE — A Seattle man said he chased down a suspected thief who ripped the bat off the statue of baseball player Ken Griffey Jr.

KING-TV reported the suspect was apprehended Tuesday after Kelsey Klevenberg followed the man who ditched the bat in a garbage can during the chase.

Klevenberg said he was across the street from Safeco Field when he saw the man bending the bat back and forth until it snapped off of the statue of the Seattle Mariners star.

Klevenberg said he chased the man because “if there’s one thing you don’t do in Seattle, Washington, it’s mess with the statue of Ken Griffey Jr.”

Old locomotive heading to Netherlands museum

IA MASON CITY — An old locomotive is on its way from northern Iowa to a new European home at a museum in the Netherlands.

The Dutch Railway Museum had been searching for a World War II-era Whitcomb diesel locomotive and learned of one that had been sitting idle for more than 10 years at the Lehigh Cement facility in Mason City. The museum intends to fully restore the donated locomotive and use it to take tourists for rides.

‘Fatberg’ removed from city’s sewer pipe

MD BALTIMORE — A “fatberg” that may have taken more than half a century to grow below Baltimore has been removed.

News outlets reported the city’s Public Works department

used a camera, pressure washer and truck-mounted industrial vacuum to clear the mass of curdled grease, wet wipes and other waste. Workers resorted to the strategy Monday after they’d begun scraping pieces off last month.

The notorious glob was clogging up to 85 percent of a 24-inch pipe near Penn Station. It’s blamed for causing more than 1 million gallons of sewage to flow into Jones Falls stream. It’s the culmination of objects caked along a pipe’s walls that shouldn’t go down drains.

‘Pikachu’ jumps over White House barrier

DC WASHINGTON — A Kentucky man dressed as the Pokemon character Pikachu jumped a concrete barrier outside the White House on Tuesday and was quickly taken into custody, according to the Secret Service and a police report.

D.C. police said the person — dressed as the short, chubby yellow cartoon character — dropped a backpack near the southern fence along E Street Northwest. Police and fire departments were called to the scene. Police and the Secret Service said the backpack contained nothing hazardous.

Curtis Combs, 36, of Somerset, Ky., was charged with unlawful entry.

Memorial set for US site where British gave in

NY SCHUYLERVILLE — Work is expected to begin next year on a memorial to be built on the exact spot where a British general turned over his sword to his American counterpart after the Battles of Saratoga during the American Revolution.

Officials held a ceremonial groundbreaking just outside

Schuylerville on Tuesday, the 240th anniversary of the British surrender on Oct. 17, 1777.

The \$1 million memorial is set for the site where British Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to American Gen. Horatio Gates following the history-changing battles fought nearby. The property will be turned over to the National Park Service and become part of Saratoga National Historical Park, which operates the nearby battlefield.

Reputed haunted castle is now on the market

ME CAPE ELIZABETH — An elaborate Maine castle that has a reputation for being haunted is now on the market just in time for Halloween.

The Bangor Daily News reported Beckett’s Castle in Cape Elizabeth is listed for sale at \$3.35 million. The castle home boasts a 30-foot-tall tower, secret garden areas and a guest house on its nearly 2,000-square-foot property.

Former owner Nancy Harvey died recently, and her family is selling the estate. The castle is back on the market for the first time in more than 40 years.

Woman unharmed after train rolls over her

CO GRAND JUNCTION — A Colorado woman who fell asleep on train tracks was unharmed after being rolled over by a train.

The Daily Sentinel reported the woman fell asleep on the tracks near Whitewater on Sunday. Lands End Fire Protection District Fire Chief Brian Lurvey said she was already up and off the tracks by the time first responders got there.

Lurvey said the woman was using earphones and didn’t hear the train approaching.

The woman did not want to be assessed by medical crews, so very little is known about her or the reason for her behavior.

Man surrenders, brings doughnuts for officers

MI REDFORD TOWNSHIP — A 21-year-old man wanted for probation violations surrendered at a suburban Detroit police station — with a dozen doughnuts for officers.

The sweet gesture didn’t help Michael Zaydel. He still was sentenced to 39 days in jail Tuesday, a day after walking into the Redford Township police department.

Sgt. Duane Gregg said Zaydel had promised to turn himself in if a post on the department’s Facebook page was shared 1,000 times. The threshold was easily met. Gregg said Zaydel was arrested when he appeared Monday with a bag of doughnuts and a bagel.

Gregg got the bagel. Did other officers eat the doughnuts? The sergeant said, “No comment.”

Deputies find \$4,000 on ‘penniless’ man

OH COLUMBUS — An Ohio defendant who vowed he was penniless and couldn’t pay a fine now faces a big one after deputies escorting him from court found he had more than \$4,000 in his clothes.

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Lawrence Knox, 36, swore he was indigent during an Oct. 5 hearing after pleading guilty to a drug charge in Franklin County court. Deputies taking him to be processed for his six-year prison sentence then found he had \$4,060. When the judge learned that, he gave Knox the maximum fine of \$20,000, plus court costs.

From wire reports

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Yankees seize 3-2 series lead on Astros

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This time, it was Masahiro Tanaka who was untouchable on the mound.

And when the New York Yankees sent Houston ace Dallas Keuchel to an early exit, their rollicking crowd let loose with a cathartic roar that must have boomed all over the Bronx.

"New York is no joke," Keuchel said afterward.

One more big win, and these Yankees are World Series-bound.

Tanaka pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and New York finally solved a long-time nemesis at just the right moment, beating Keuchel and the Astros 5-0 on Wednesday for a 3-2 lead in the AL Championship Series.

"What a performance," Yankees third baseman Todd Frazier said about Tanaka. "Just gutsy."

Gary Sanchez hit an RBI single off Keuchel and later homered to help the wild-card Yankees win for the third straight day at home, moving them within one victory of their first pennant since 2009 and record 41st overall.

The teams head back to Houston for Game 6 on Friday night, when Justin Verlander and the reeling Astros will try to re-

gain their footing following an off day and force a decisive Game 7. Luis Severino is scheduled to start for New York.

To take the series, the Yankees knew they needed to win at least one game started by Keuchel or Verlander, both Cy Young Award winners. Now they've done that — and they don't want to let Houston back up.

"Don't wake that sleeping dog. So we've got to just keep on rolling," Frazier said. "They're going to be ready to go. We know that."

Houston arrived up two games to none and appeared to be closing in on its second World Series appearance. But the Astros, like defending AL champion Cleveland before them, have been unable to put away these poised Yankees, who improved to 6-0 at home this postseason in front of their cheering, chanting fans.

New York has won 19 of its past 22 games at Yankee Stadium.

"It's been unbelievable. I haven't seen anything like it in Major League Baseball," veteran Chase Headley said. "Reminds me of college football games. They're going crazy the entire game. It's a huge advantage for us."

Aaron Judge, Greg Bird and Didi Gregorius also delivered big hits as New York chased Keuchel in the fifth and handed

him his first postseason loss.

Keuchel had been Yankees kryptonite, entering 6-2 with a 1.09 ERA in eight career starts against New York — including a pair of scoreless outings in playoff wins.

Both of those came at the expense of Tanaka, who lost 3-0 to Keuchel in the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium and 2-1 in Game 1 of this series. The ace lefty with the long, bushy beard entered 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 26²/₃ postseason innings overall.

"The most frustrating part is the fact that I didn't pick the guys up and they were looking towards me to kind of saddle up and get this thing back going again," Keuchel said. "That's a talented group over there and 1 through 9 right now the bats have woken up and it's quite a challenge."

Despite beautiful weather in the Bronx, the Astros didn't take batting practice on the field. If they were hoping that might help their slumping hitters reset, it didn't.

The highest-scoring team in the majors this season, Houston is batting .147 in the series and Tanaka is a major reason. The normally reserved right-hander from Japan, who can opt out of his \$155 million contract this winter, has been at the top of his game in October and showed rare emotion on the mound during this one.

Houston happy to head home after Bronx bashings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dallas Keuchel walked from the mound to the dugout during the top of the fifth inning, a blank look on his face, his glove resting on a hip.

Jose Altuve flung his bat.

Josh Reddick slammed his helmet.

Feeling a bit spaced out, the Houston Astros will be happy to get home after a three-day bashing in the Bronx.

"This is a wild place to play, to say the least," George Springer said after a 5-0 loss Wednesday night gave the New York Yankees a 3-2 lead in the AL Championship Series. "The fans are into the game and they expect their team to win, and they act as if they'd won 27 world championships."

Houston hit .120 in the three-game wipeout, was outscored 19-5 and outhit 25-12. Just one

of the Astros' last 15 batters reached base in Game 5. The series resumes Friday at Minute Maid Park.

"Every home team has won this series," Astros manager A.J. Hinch pointed out. "So if that trend continues, we'll be in pretty good shape."

Houston's pair of 2-1 wins at the Juice Box

last weekend were distant memories after three days unsuccessfully fending off New York's noisy bats and fans. The Astros' Big Apple experience was about the same as the tourist couple in "The Out of Towners."

"New York is no joke," Keuchel said. "Yankee Stadium is a tough place to play and it was rockin' these three games. But it's going to be rockin' on Friday for us."

Keuchel had pitched 13 scoreless innings against the

Yankees in postseason play, including seven to win the opener. The bushy bearded ace was 6-2 against New York, never allowing more than three runs.

But those precise pitches were a smidgeon off as Greg Bird, Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and Didi Gregorius had run-scoring hits to chase him after 4²/₃ innings. It was Keuchel's shortest outing since finding his groove in August after struggling in his return from a neck injury.

Houston led the major leagues with a .282 average and 896 runs during the regular season. But the Astros have just nine runs in the ALCS and are batting .147. Houston is hitting .077 (3-for-39) the first time through the batting order and .148 (4-for-27) with runners in scoring position after going 0-for-8 RISP in Game 5.

Fish rot at the head, and it

has been no different at the top of the Astros' batting order. Springer is 2-for-18 as the lead-off man and Reddick is 0-for-17 in the No. 2 hole.

Altuve and Carlos Correa have combined for 10 hits. The rest of the Astros are hitting .106 (12-for-113).

Justin Verlander, 8-0 with the Astros after his five-hitter won Game 2, takes the mound Friday night hoping to save the Astros' season. The 101 regular-season wins and five in the playoffs don't matter now. If the Astros are to win their first title or even reach the World Series for the first time since 2005, they'll have to do their work at home.

At 40 the senior member of the roster, Carlos Beltran addressed teammates after the game.

"We cannot feel sorry for ourselves," he recalled saying.

Cubs avoid sweep

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Javier Baez sensed he was ready to bust out of his slump and give the Chicago Cubs the lift they needed.

As breakthroughs go, this was a big one. Just in time to keep the season going for the defending champs.

Baez snapped an 0-for-20 skid with two home runs, Wade Davis hung on for a six-out save and the Cubs avoided a sweep, holding off the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Wednesday night in Game 4 of the NL Championship Series.

"We have to be much more offensive," manager Joe Maddon said. "It's got to start happening tomorrow. We're going to do this. Going to pull this off, we have to become more offensive tomorrow."

Baez finally got going with a pair of solo drives.

Jake Arrieta pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning to help the Cubs close their deficit to 3-1. Maddon got ejected for the second time in this series in the eighth, and a packed Wrigley Field crowd watched Davis get Cody Bellinger to ground into a game-ending double play.

Maddon was heavily criticized for not using Davis during a 4-1 loss in Game 2. This time, the Cubs closer threw 48 pitches to finish the job.

Willson Contreras also homered for the Cubs. Bellinger and Justin Turner connected for the Dodgers, who had won a team-record six straight playoff games.

Game 5 is Thursday, with Jose Quintana pitching for Chicago against Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw.

"They're the world champs, and you know they're going to fight to the end," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "So today, they did. We got beat today."

Baez hit solo drives in the second and fifth after going hitless in his first 20 playoff at-bats. He had been watching videos and felt his timing was starting to come back in recent trips to the plate.

"I just need to take a step

back and see what's going on," he said.

Contreras added a long homer against Alex Wood.

Davis entered with a 3-1 lead in the eighth. He gave up a lead-off homer to Turner, who went 2-for-2 and drew two walks.

Maddon became incensed that a swinging strike three against Curtis Granderson was ruled a foul after the umpires discussed the play. Maddon got tossed, and Granderson struck out swinging at the next pitch.

And after walking Yasmani Grandal to put runners on first and second, Davis struck out Chase Utley, who is hitless in his last 24 postseason at-bats.

All seven of Chicago's runs in this series have come on homers. And long drives in the second by Contreras and Baez made it 2-0.

"Great to have this win, because if not we were going home tomorrow," Baez said. "But I feel like we're still not on track as a team. But I think if we get back on track, everybody as a team, we're going to be the best again."

Contreras' 491-foot homer banged off the left-field videoboard and Baez sent a towering drive out to left.

Bellinger cut it to 2-1 with his drive to right in the third. But Baez got the lead back up to two with a shot to the left-field bleachers in the fifth, the raucous crowd chanting "Javy! Javy!" for the flashy young star who was co-MVP of the NLCS last year.

No Cubs player had hit two in a playoff game since Alex Gonzalez went deep twice in Game 2 of the 2003 NLCS against Miami.

Arrieta exited with runners on first and second in the seventh after walking Chris Taylor on a 3-2 pitch. He tipped his hat as fans gave him a standing ovation, a fitting show of appreciation for a pitcher with an expiring contract.

"Hopefully, it's not a goodbye, it's a thank you, obviously," Arrieta said. "I still intend to have another start in this ballpark. If that's where it ends, I did my best and I left it all out there."

Roundup

Blues down Blackhawks behind Schwartz's trick

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jaden Schwartz missed the final seven minutes of the first period after taking a big hit and going head-first into the boards. He shook it off in a big way for the St. Louis Blues.

Back for the start of the second period, Schwartz ended up with his third career hat trick to help the Blues beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-2 on Wednesday night.

"My toe pick caught a rivet on the ice," Schwartz said. "Just happened fast, head-first into the boards and couldn't get my hands up."

Schwartz has four goals and six assists this season and has at least one point in six of the Blues' first seven games. It was his 51st career multi-point game and fourth this season.

"This is a guy who is hitting his prime and I think in the last year or so he's just starting to scratch the surface and realize how good he can be," Blues coach Mike Yeo said.

Vladimir Tarasenko had a goal and an assist, Kyle Brodziak also scored, and Jake Allen made 22 saves, including a dazzling stick save on Patrick Kane, who was wide open on the side of the net midway through the third period.

"I just had to try to put something over there and I got my stick inside the post so I had some strength on it to hold it out," Allen said.

The Blues snapped a two-game losing streak.

"I think we did a good job of taking away their time and space," Schwartz said. "They have a lot of skilled players and you don't want to give them a whole lot of time and at the same time I thought we did a good job of hemming them in their zone and creating chances that way."

Duncan Keith and Ryan Hartman had late goals for the Blackhawks, and Corey Crawford made 28 saves.

"It was a bad start," Black-

hawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "It was a bad middle. It wasn't very good. Even a little exciting at the end, but that wasn't very good. That was as close to brutal as you can get."

Schwartz opened the scoring at 4:46 of the first period, tucking in a backhand off Tarasenko's feed.

Schwartz left the game eight minutes later after crashing into the boards on a partial short-handed break.

Schwartz gave the Blues a 2-0 lead at 5:59 of the second. Allen's outlet pass off the boards created a 2-on-1 with Schwartz and Sammy Blais. It was Allen's fourth career assist.

Tarasenko made it 3-0 two minutes later, scoring his fifth of the season by stripping Artem Anisimov in front of the Chicago net.

Maple Leafs 6, Red Wings

3: Curtis McElhinney made 30 saves in his season debut and host Toronto scored four times in the first period in the victory over Detroit.

Starting in place of Frederik Andersen, McElhinney stopped 15 shots in the third period to hold off the Red Wings.

Nazem Kadri, Zach Hyman, Auston Matthews, Connor Brown, Morgan Rielly and William Nylander scored to help Toronto improve to an NHL-best 6-1-0. The Maple Leafs were coming off a 2-0 victory at Washington on Tuesday night.

Henrik Zetterberg, Tomas Tatar, Jonathan Ericsson scored for the Red Wings, and Nick Jensen had three assists.

Kings 5, Canadiens 1: Adrian Kempe had his first career hat trick to lead host Los Angeles over Montreal.

Michael Cammalleri scored the other two goals for the Kings, who have opened their season with their best six-game start (5-0-1) in franchise history.

Montreal (1-5-1) still hasn't won in regulation this season.

Jonathan Quick made 36 saves for the Kings.

NBA roundup

Blazers hand Suns worst loss ever

Associated Press

PHOENIX — If the Phoenix Suns were a Broadway show, they'd close for good after opening night.

The Suns weren't just bad in their 124-76 loss to the Portland Trail Blazers in their season opener on Wednesday night. They were historically awful.

It was the most one-sided season-opening loss by any team in NBA history and the most one-sided loss by the Suns in any game in their 49 years.

Suns coach Earl Watson said he was "embarrassed" by what happened.

"Portland came in here and basically kicked our butts as bad as they could," Watson said. "They didn't have no sympathy."

Damian Lillard scored 27 points and Pat Connaughton added a career-high 24 points, making 4 of 6 three-pointers for Portland.

The Trail Blazers outshot, outrebounded and outhustled the Suns from the opening tip.

Portland tied the second-largest margin of victory in franchise history. Only a 50-point win against Cleveland (129-79) on Nov. 21, 1982 was larger.

"The obvious statement is we played really well," Portland coach Terry Stotts said.

The 48-point rout exceeded Denver's 139-93 (46-point) victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on opening day in 1987.

The blowout also topped Phoenix's 44-point loss to Seattle (151-107) on April 2, 1988.

The Blazers dominated even though they were without one of their best players, guard C.J. McCollum, who was suspended one game for leaving the bench area during a tussle involving the Suns' Alex Len and Caleb Swanigan in a preseason game a week ago.

Bucks 108, Celtics 100: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 16 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting Milwaukee opened its season with a victory to spoil the homecoming of a Boston team coming off a late and emotional season opener.

One night after a gruesome broken ankle just six minutes into the season cost Boston top free agent Gordon Hayward, the Celtics fell to 0-2 by giving up an 11-1 run that left Milwaukee with a 97-90 lead and under three minutes to play.

Spurs 107, Timberwolves 99: LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and host San Antonio held on to beat Minnesota while opening the season without leading scorer Kawhi Leonard.

The Spurs were without Leonard and Tony Parker, but had enough to hold off the revamped Timberwolves.

Aldridge had one of his most complete games with the Spurs, two days after signing a three-year, \$72 million extension. He shot 9-for-21 from the field and had four assists.

Pistons 102, Hornets 90: Tobias Harris scored 17 of his 27 points in the first quarter, helping host Detroit celebrate its return downtown with the victory over Charlotte.

The Pistons and Hornets opened the season in Little Caesars Arena, a new facility that brought them back to the city for the first time in nearly four decades. Eminem made a surprise appearance, grabbing the microphone to fire up the crowd just before tipoff. Kid Rock, another Motor City musical artist, sat in a baseline seat near Detroit's bench.

Wizards 120, 76ers 115: John Wall scored 28 points, Bradley Beal rebounded from a rough start to add 25 and host Washington beat Philadelphia to spoil the NBA debuts of top picks Ben Simmons and Markelle Fultz.

The Sixers cut their deficit to two in the final minute. A pair of Philadelphia turnovers and a three-point miss by J.J. Redick allowed the Wizards to hold on.

Pacers 140, Nets 131: Victor Oladipo scored 22 points in his debut with his new team, Darren Collison added 21 points and 11 assists in his return to Indianapolis, and Indiana held off Brooklyn.

The Pacers, in their first game since trading All-Star Paul George, had their highest point total since a 144-point game against Denver on Nov. 9, 2010. Myles Turner had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Thaddeus Young added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Hawks 117, Mavericks 111: Dennis Schroder scored 28 points in his first game as the front man for his new team and rebuilding Atlanta spoiled rookie Dennis Smith Jr.'s solid home debut with Dallas.

Marco Belinelli, a familiar face for the Mavericks as a former rival with San Antonio, added 20 points and was 4-for-6 from three-point range for the Hawks in their first game after letting Paul Millsap leave in free agency and dumping Dwight Howard.

Magic 116, Heat 109: Evan Fournier scored 23 points, Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and 13 rebounds and host Orlando held off Miami.

Fournier stalled the Heat's rally by scoring seven points in the final 2:27, including a driving basket with 30 seconds left. The Heat trailed by 17 early in the fourth quarter, but cut the deficit to two with 2:39 to play.

Grizzlies 103, Pelicans 91: Mike Conley scored 27 points, rookie Dillon Brooks added 19 and host Memphis beat New Orleans.

Marc Gasol had 14 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out with 3:05 left. Memphis won its opener for the second straight year, a first in franchise history.

Jazz 106, Nuggets 96: Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 10 rebounds in host Utah's victory over Denver.

The new-look Jazz trailed most of the night before Alec Burks took over with a spectacular fourth quarter.

Rockets 105, Kings 100: James Harden had 27 points and nine assists, and Houston made it a perfect two-game road trip to start the season despite playing this one without Chris Paul, beating Sacramento.

Hayward sends message

Associated Press

BOSTON — Celtics forward Gordon Hayward sent a video message from his hospital bed before heading into surgery on Wednesday night, telling Boston fans at the team's home opener: "It's hurting me that I can't be there."

The crowd at the TD Garden for the Celtics' game against the Milwaukee Bucks cheered when Marcus Smart directed fans' attention to the scoreboard, where Hayward appeared wearing a hospital gown and sitting up in bed. The arena hushed to hear the brief message, then erupted in another cheer when it was over.

"What's up, everybody? Just wanted to say thank you to everyone who's had me in their thoughts and prayers," Hayward said in the 30-second message, which was also sent out by the team on Twitter.

"I'm going to be all right," Hayward said. "It's hurting me that I can't be there for the home opener. I want nothing more than to be with my teammates and walk out on that floor tonight. But I'll be supporting you guys from here, and wishing you the best of luck."

After signing with Boston in the offseason as a free agent, Hayward was injured in the sixth minute of his first game for the Celtics, crumpling to the floor Tuesday in Cleveland with a gruesome ankle injury.

"Having known him as long as I've known him, it's tough to see him go through this," said Stevens, who was Hayward's college coach at Butler. "We'll make sure he knows that we've got our arms around him."

Stevens said that doctors diagnosed Hayward with a dislocated left ankle and broken tibia and was headed into surgery as the game was tipping off.