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US-South Korea discord raises concerns

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A rare public display of discord between the U.S. and South Korea has raised concerns about a growing rift over efforts to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

At the heart of the issue are fears that Seoul is moving too fast and letting its guard down by embracing North Korea despite a lack of progress in denuclearization, although the longtime allies insist they remain in agreement on the final goal.

Under legislative questioning, South Korea's foreign minister revealed Wednesday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had complained to her about a recent inter-Korean military agreement.

"I wouldn't say he made strong expressions," Kang Kyung-wha said during an annual parliamentary audit. "It was discontent about how he was not briefed sufficiently, and he had a lot of questions."

The two Koreas have agreed to a series of hostility-reduction steps in and around their heavily fortified border, including halting military drills, setting

up a no-fly zone and beginning to remove land mines and guard posts.

Kang also touched on a topic that is sacrosanct for the Trump administration — sanctions aimed at tightening the economic noose on the North.

She told lawmakers that Seoul was considering lifting a 2010 trade-and-investment embargo slapped on Pyongyang following a deadly attack on a South Korean warship.

The unilateral measures have little more than symbolic effect, and Seoul consistently has expressed support for U.S.-led international sanctions.

Kang and other government officials quickly backtracked on the idea, which also proved unpopular with conservative lawmakers.

But her suggestion was enough to prompt a blunt retort from President Donald Trump.

"They won't do that without our approval. They do nothing without our approval," he told reporters when asked about Kang's comments.

The president has expressed a fondness for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and said a second U.S.-North Korean summit will be held after the

U.S. midterm elections. But he also has insisted on maintaining economic pressure on the North.

South Korean critics, meanwhile, took aim at Trump's use of the word "approval," which many interpreted as a threat to national sovereignty.

Student activists staged a protest in central Seoul on Friday, chanting "Trump needs to apologize" and waving a banner that read, "South Korea is not a U.S. colony," according to the Korea Herald. The newspaper also reported that lawmakers had complained about the U.S. president's comments.

Overall, South Korean support for the alliance remains strong. But it's clear that trouble could be brewing as South Korean President Moon Jae-in seeks to improve relations with the North and to restore peace while Trump insists that Pyongyang first take concrete measures on denuclearization.

The allies also face divisions over Trump's persistent calls for Seoul to pay more to offset the costs of stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops on the peninsula and the deployment of other strategic assets, including an advanced U.S. mis-

sile defense system known as THAAD.

Negotiators from the two countries plan to begin another round of talks Tuesday on renewing a cost-sharing agreement that expires at the end of this year.

"I'm worried that the fault line between U.S. and [South Korea] is potentially greater now than at any time previously," said Euan Graham, a senior fellow at the Lowy Institute, an Australia-based think tank.

"Trump's recent comments (on sanctions and burden-sharing) threw petrol on a bonfire. Totally unforced and unnecessary," he added. "The only parties that benefit from a growing rift between Seoul and Washington are Pyongyang and Beijing."

Moon — who has been dubbed the middle man as he struggles to keep nuclear talks on track — played down the differences and dismissed criticism of Trump's remark about sanctions.

"What he meant was that up to a certain point, the U.S. and South Korea need to be in lock-step in terms of consultations regarding sanctions," Moon told the BBC in an interview last week.

Trump: Mattis 'sort of a Democrat'; not sure if he'll leave

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he is unsure whether Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will leave the administration and described him as "sort of a Democrat" amid reports of friction between the two.

Trump made the remarks in an interview with CBS News' "60 Minutes" that airs Sunday night. An excerpt of the interview was released Sunday morning.

"Well, I don't know; he hasn't told me that," Trump said when asked whether

Mattis might be leaving his position.

Trump said that he has a "very good relationship" with Mattis and that the two had lunch together "two days ago," but the president added that "it could be that he is" leaving.

"I think he's sort of a Democrat, if you want to know the truth," Trump said. "But General Mattis is a good guy. We get along very well. He may leave. I mean, at some point, everybody leaves. Everybody. People leave. That's Washington."

Mattis often publicly has walked back

some of Trump's more controversial statements on foreign policy, and the two have a strained relationship, veteran journalist Bob Woodward reported in his book "Fear."

Mattis has denied making disparaging comments about Trump, and the president said last month that the retired general was "doing a fantastic job."

In the "60 Minutes" interview, Trump also described reports of chaos within his administration as "so false," dismissing concerns about the rate of turnover among his top officials.

Instructor plan eyed to keep Navy pilots

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The Navy hopes a new program scheduled to kick off sometime next year will help combat manning shortages in the service's pilot community.

The Professional Flight Instructor program will provide well-qualified pilots and naval flight officers a chance to continue as flight instructors later in their careers, according to a naval administrative message issued Sept. 28.

Serving as an alternative to the traditional sea/shore rotational career path, the new program will offer greater assignment stability for those selected, the message said.

Officers selected to become flight instructors can remain in the program until they choose to withdraw or retire, the Navy message said. Those who leave will no longer be eligible for command consideration, though they can still qualify for a statutory promotion board consideration.

The Navy is now accepting applications from qualified aviators and flight officers for the first PFI board, scheduled for Nov. 20, the message said. The program is expected to start sometime in 2019.

The Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps all are facing a pilot-retention crisis. The Air Force and the Navy began offering bonuses to their pilots earlier this year.

Media reports: Former Marine admits part in Taiwan slaying

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Local media reports say a former Marine arrested during the summer in connection with a grisly, drug-related homicide in Taiwan has confessed to the crime.

Ewart Odane Bent, 30, was taken into custody Aug. 24 by Taiwanese police in the death of Ramgahan Sanjay Ryan, 43, a Canadian man who was killed and then was dismembered with machetes on the evening of Aug. 21, according to the English-language Taiwan News.

Both Bent and Ryan were English teachers who reportedly were involved with a local drug ring.

Bent confessed to premeditated homicide and took investigators to the scene of the crime earlier this month, according to Taiwan News, which cited the nation's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

The reported confession came on the heels of the extradition of a second suspect. Israeli-American tattoo shop owner and former Israel Defense Forces soldier Oren Shlomo Mayer, 37, fled Taiwan for the Philippines after the killing. He was extradited back to Taiwan on Sept. 17.

Bent served in the Marines from Dec. 6, 2006, to Aug. 7, 2009, as a cryogenics equipment operator, Marine officials told Stars and Stripes. His last duty station was in Okinawa with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Taiwanese media reports said Bent moved to the country at the behest of Mayer.

Bent, Mayer and Ryan began collaborating on selling marijuana, mostly to foreigners, Taiwan News said.

Taiwanese media said the victim, Ryan, became known to police after an investigation into marijuana sales led them to him earlier this year. It was reported he was arrested with a large amount of marijuana but was released later.

Bent and Mayer suspected he had become a police informant when some of their colleagues were arrested on drug-related charges, Taiwan News said.

Bent told authorities that he and Mayer "lured" Ryan to a riverside park in New Taipei City where he usually walked his dog and conducted business, Taiwan News said. The pair struck up a casual conversation with Ryan and played with the animal, the report said.

The trio then proceeded down an embankment to the river, where they drank beer.

Bent told authorities that Mayer choked an inebriated Ryan to death with a wire cord, Taiwan News reported. The pair then chopped up his body, placed the pieces into plastic trash bags and threw them into the river.

The dog ran home and reportedly led two of Ryan's friends to his body the next day.

Police began to focus their homicide investigation on Bent because Ryan's phone showed they had argued over drugs, Taiwan News reported. Bent's phone also placed him in the area at the time of the killing.

Bent told authorities that he waited until Mayer was in custody to confess to his role in the crime because he feared retribution, Taiwan News reported.

Lakenheath hosts massive aerial war games

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — American air power took over the British skies last week as the 48th Fighter Wing hosted massive aerial war games for visiting F-22 Raptor and U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet squadrons.

During the training, 24 fourth- and fifth-generation fighter jets roared into the sky in rapid succession during multiple day- and night-training scenarios that pitted the jets against mock adversaries.

"We're going out there to do large-force exercise training to practice our air-to-air

and air-to-ground skill sets, simulating like we're going to a war," said Lt. Col. William "Wild" Wooten, 492nd Fighter Squadron commander. "Here in England, especially, it's very rare that we'll have F-22s, F-15Cs and Es and F-18s all on the same ramp."

As the fourth-generation fighters integrated their tactics with fifth-generation F-22s, KC-135 Stratotankers kept the training moving with a continuous fuel supply, and a NATO E-3 Sentry provided command and control.

"It's all complementary because each airframe is much better at certain aspects," said the 27th Fighter Squadron command-

er, whose name has been withheld for operational security reasons. "Each has their niche, and it's easy to take that competition and figure out who's good at what and who's not as good."

While the exercise is unique, large-scale aerial war games are surprisingly common as different forces train together to learn how to fight as a coalition in contingency operations, said U.S. Navy Commander E.P. "Blue" Hadler.

Two squadrons of local F-15s are scheduled to train with eight visiting F-18s and six F-22s until about Oct. 22, according to the Air Force.

Fla. 'back to frontier days' after Michael

The Washington Post

DRY CREEK, Fla. — Up a red dirt road in the center of the Florida Panhandle, past fields of ripening cotton, the piney woods looks like pick-up sticks. Some trees are bent like praying mantises, and the few power poles still standing lean at precarious angles, their wires doing loop-the-loops around outstretched limbs.

Until Saturday, when neighbors broke through with chain saws and an excavator, the Lipford home, sitting on 160 acres the family has owned since the Civil War, was cut off from civilization. The only way into the property was on an all-terrain vehicle crossing the waterlogged pastures and over bridges built of wooden pallets.

"We're back to frontier days," said Jean Lipford, 50. Since Hurricane Michael struck this

town Wednesday, she has been washing clothes in a bucket and bathing in the creek where her husband made a dam with small stones. Her daughter, Whitney, 23, has been wielding a chain saw, returning to the house every two hours to breastfeed her 6-week-old son.

"I want power and water. The rest of it we can deal with," Lipford said.

After smashing Panama City and obliterating Mexico Beach, the eye of the storm swept north-northeast like a scythe, delivering misery to one of the poorest regions of Florida and neighboring Alabama and Georgia.

A large percentage of people live in mobile homes and other vulnerable structures. The destruction extends far inland. Michael retained hurricane strength all the way through

Georgia's pecan groves and cotton fields.

More than 250,000 customers across Florida were still without power Saturday. Sixteen shelters housed 1,800 people.

Search and rescue operations continue, not only in Mexico Beach, which was bulldozed by a storm surge that may have reached 14 feet, but also in the backcountry, where residents are fending for themselves and, in some cases, fearing they've been forgotten by the outside world.

Deborah Bayer rode out Hurricane Michael clutching her Bible in the bathroom of her mobile home in Lynn Haven, a small city just north of Panama Beach. The sky darkened, the power went out, the wind howled and she felt the whole structure shift on its foundation. A tree crashed onto the roof.

"It was a fun ride. I just sat there reading my Bible, had some candles on. I just hunkered down waiting for it to pass over," recalled Bayer, 47, who lives in a trailer park.

She and other residents had been told by elected officials to evacuate in advance of the hurricane. But how? To where? She's a minimum-wage worker at a call center. She couldn't afford a hotel room.

In Bristol, a tiny town in Florida's smallest county, Liberty, where the biggest road has two lanes and half the land is in a national forest, Emergency Management Director Rhonda Lewis found herself cut off from the rest of the world. No power, no landlines or cellphone connections, no internet. A satellite phone wouldn't work. It kept saying "searching ... searching ... searching," Lewis said.

In Ky., president rallies voters, lauds McConnell

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ky. — President Donald Trump heaped praise on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, crediting the veteran Kentucky lawmaker's political toughness and acumen during the ugly battle that concluded with Brett Kavanaugh becoming a Supreme Court justice.

"He's Kentucky tough," Trump declared Saturday night.

Kavanaugh took his seat on the high court last week after overcoming allegations of sexual misconduct dating to his high school and college years. He forcefully denied the charges, and Trump and McConnell firmly backed Kavanaugh as part of their combined quest to populate the judiciary with conservative judges. Kavanaugh could tilt the political balance of the high court in the conservative direction for generations.

"We stuck with him all the way because we knew the facts," Trump said, speaking of him-

self and McConnell, Kentucky's senior U.S. senator.

"There's nobody tougher. There's nobody smarter. He refused to cave to the radical Democrats' shameful campaign of personal and political destruction," Trump said at a political rally at Eastern Kentucky University before he called McConnell to the microphone.

"He stared down the angry, left-wing mob. He never blinked and he never looked back and he got us a man who will be one of our great, great Supreme Court justices," Trump said.

McConnell returned the compliment and told the president to continue nominating judges and "we'll keep confirming them."

Democrats fiercely and vocally opposed Kavanaugh, opposition that hardened after Christine Blasey Ford accused him of sexually assaulting her when they were in high school. Other women accused him of other sexually inappropriate behavior.

Mourners pack funeral for 8 of 20 killed in NY limo crash

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. — Mourners at a funeral for four sisters and their family members killed in a New York limousine crash were assured Saturday that their loved ones can still see their tears and feel their heartache.

On a damp, chilly day, hundreds of people packed the pews of an old brick church in Amsterdam for the service for eight of the 20 people killed Oct. 6 when the limousine they hired for a 30th birthday celebration crashed. The stretch limo barreled down a hill past a stop sign into another vehicle in the parking lot. All 17 passengers and the driver were killed, as well as two pedestrians standing in the parking lot.

"The question that is in the hearts of so many is: Why?" The Rev. O. Robert DeMartinis told hundreds of mourners. "Why did these 20 individuals have to be taken from us so quickly and so unexpectedly?"

DeMartinis spoke on an altar flanked by pictures of Allison

King; sister Abigail Jackson and her husband, Adam Jackson; sister Mary Dyson and her husband, Robert Dyson; sister Amy Steenburg and her husband, Axel Steenburg; and his older brother, Richard Steenburg.

Urns containing their remains were placed beneath the pictures, with each of the three married couples sharing urns. Five teddy bears lay by the urns, one for each young child who lost a parent.

A week ago, the group — most of them in their 30s — was headed to a birthday party for Amy Steenburg at a local brewery in Cooperstown, N.Y. DeMartinis said he believes Amy and her friends were able to celebrate Amy's 30th birthday, but in their afterlife. He told mourners to take solace in their eternal life.

The sisters grew up in Amsterdam, a small upstate New York city, and many of the victims have deep ties to the area. The city has been stricken with grief amid a series of funerals.

Taliban attack Afghanistan army base

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban attacked an army base in western Afghanistan, killing 17 Afghan soldiers and abducting 11 others, officials said Sunday.

Ghausuddin Noorzai, the district chief in Pusht Rod, said another four soldiers were wounded in the attack, which began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning. He said the Taliban also overran two checkpoints near the base, seizing weapons and

ammunition.

Abdul Samad Salehi, a member of the provincial council in Farah, confirmed the death toll and said the troops defending the base received no air support or reinforcements.

The Taliban claimed the attack, the latest in their near-daily assaults on Afghan security forces. The Taliban have seized a number of districts across the country in recent years as Afghan forces have struggled to hold rural areas and to defend against coordinated attacks.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a young girl was killed and three others were wounded in the crossfire of a battle between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the western Herat province, according to Gelani Farhad, the spokesman for provincial governor.

Farhad said the main highway between the southern province of Kandahar and Herat was blocked for several hours.

The death toll from an attack on an election rally Saturday in the northern Takhar province climbed from 14 to 22, accord-

ing to Jawad Hajri, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

He said another 36 people were wounded in the attack, in which a motorbike loaded with explosives exploded near the rally for Nazefa Yusoufi Beg, a female candidate running for parliament in the Oct. 20 elections.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Taliban are active in the province and have claimed previous attacks there.

Saudis reject Trump threat as stocks plunge

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia warned Sunday it will respond to any “threats” against it as its stock market plunged following President Donald Trump’s warning of “severe punishment” over the disappearance of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump made a point of visiting the kingdom on his first overseas trip as president and has touted arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But both the White House and the kingdom are under mounting pressure as concern grows over the fate of the veteran journalist, who hasn’t been seen since

he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom’s upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as “Davos in the Desert.”

“The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations,” a statement published by the state-run Saudi Press Agency read. “The kingdom also affirms that if it receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom’s economy has

an influential and vital role in the global economy.”

The statement from the world’s top oil exporter came after the Tadawul stock exchange in Riyadh dropped by 7 percent at one point during the week’s first day of trading, with 182 of its 186 listed stocks showing losses by the early afternoon. The market clawed back some of the losses, closing down 3.5 percent for the day.

Turkish officials say they fear Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi after he entered the consulate, saying they have audio and video recordings of it that they have not released. The kingdom has called the allegations “baseless”

but has offered no evidence the writer ever left the consulate.

In an interview to be aired Sunday, Trump told CBS’ “60 Minutes” that the consequences of Saudi Arabia being involved would be “severe.”

“There’s something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we’re going to have to see,” Trump said. “We’re going to get to the bottom of it, and there will be severe punishment.”

However, Trump in the same interview said: “As of this moment, they deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes.”

Trump said he would meet with Khashoggi’s family.

Reservist who was MP in Afghanistan now a convicted pimp

The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

Military policeman in Afghanistan. Pimp in Charlotte, N.C.

Those two sides of Xaver Boston, 29, crashed head-on last week in an uptown Charlotte federal courtroom. There, the former Army Reserve corporal was convicted of running a five-year sex-trafficking ring that preyed on young, drug-addicted women.

Three of those women testified against Boston during his three-day trial. After seven

hours of deliberations, Boston’s jury found him guilty of six counts of sex trafficking and one count of using an interstate facility to promote a prostitution enterprise, prosecutors say.

Boston, nicknamed “Romeo,” faces 15 years to life and a \$250,000 fine for each trafficking conviction. He will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Robert Conrad at a later date. Boston remained in custody Friday at the Mecklenburg County Jail.

After the verdict, U.S. Attorney Andrew Murray described

Boston as a predator “who ran a criminal enterprise that violated the most basic standards of human decency.” Boston, according to Murray, “preyed on and abused vulnerable young women ... and used violence and drugs to exert his control.”

According to court documents, Boston recruited women, including one teenager, who were struggling with addiction. He promised them drugs both to feed their habits and to control them.

Boston began operations in

2012 and shut down the ring only once — in 2016 when he was deployed to Afghanistan to join the security detail of a U.S. major general stationed in Kabul, documents say.

Shortly after returning home in March 2017, Boston slipped into his daughters’ elementary school in Winston-Salem for a surprise visit.

Soon afterward, according to court documents, Boston returned to Charlotte and reopened his sex ring.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teacher suspended for Trump aide tale

CA SANTA MONICA — A Southern California school district has suspended a teacher who recounted how a senior aide to President Donald Trump ate glue as a third-grader.

Nikki Fiske, 72, told the Hollywood Reporter that when Stephen Miller was a student in her classroom, he was a loner with a messy desk who played with glue. She called Miller “a strange dude.”

The Los Angeles Times reported Thursday that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District placed Fiske on “home assignment” while it decides what to do—if anything—about the disclosures. The district said it’s concerned about the release of student information.

Driver acquitted in fatal crash

NE PAPILLION — The driver of a loaded concrete truck that tipped onto a car last year near Omaha, killing two people, has been found not guilty of two counts of misdemeanor motor vehicle homicide.

Television station KETV reported that a jury found Austin Holloway, 21, of Fremont, not guilty on Friday. Holloway was on trial for the Oct. 25, 2017, deaths of Michael Dearden and Phillip Hertel, both 23, who were killed when Holloway’s truck tipped while turning at a La Vista intersection.

Prosecutors argued that Holloway was going too fast for the turn. Holloway’s attorneys said Holloway’s employer, Consolidated Concrete, overloaded the truck, causing it to tip. They also said the company had ignored Holloway’s written complaints that the truck was unsafe.

WWII explosive used as garden decoration

FL VERO BEACH — Air Force explosive experts removed a World War II-era artillery rocket that was being used as a garden decoration in a Florida neighborhood.

TCPalm.com reported that the Army Corps of Engineers employees were working in a Vero Beach neighborhood Thursday when they noticed the 2-foot training rocket. They notified the explosives team at nearby Patrick Air Force Base who examined the rocket and said while it appeared to be disarmed, it may still contain explosives.

The Vero Beach area was a major military training site during World War II, and the Air Force believes the rocket came from that era.

Bomb suspect found insane, not guilty

OK TULSA — A man accused of detonating a pipe bomb outside an Oklahoma military recruiting station has been found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Court records in Tulsa indicate a federal judge handed down the verdict Tuesday to Benjamin Roden, 29. The former Air Force senior airman was indicted for destruction of government property after a pipe bomb exploded in front of an unoccupied Air Force recruiting station near Tulsa on July 10, 2017. No one was hurt.

The ruling states psychological examinations of Roden proved he had “a severe mental disease or defect” and didn’t understand what he was doing when the offense occurred. Federal prosecutors agreed to the verdict.

The judge ordered Roden

to remain in custody for treatment.

Couple accuses Uber driver of sex assault

MO JOPLIN — A former Uber driver is charged with crawling into bed with a Missouri couple and sexually assaulting the woman after giving them a ride home from a bar.

The Joplin Globe reported that Malachi Murdock, 24, was charged Tuesday with first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse.

Joplin police Capt. Trevor Duncan said the boyfriend invited Murdock in for a drink after he gave the couple a ride. They then let him sleep on their couch because he was intoxicated.

The affidavit said the woman awoke to Murdock fondling her. She said that she awakened her boyfriend, who told Murdock to leave. Duncan said Murdock then returned the next night, and the couple again told him to leave.

Uber said in a statement that it removed the driver’s access to the ride-sharing app upon learning of the allegations.

Sculpture adorned with giant Red Sox hat

MA BOSTON — Even the late conductor of the Boston Pops is celebrating the Boston Red Sox victory over the New York Yankees in the American League Division Series.

The nonprofit Esplanade Association and a local knitwear company with an unprintable name teamed up to create a giant Red Sox beanie to perch atop a sculpture of Arthur Fiedler’s head along the Charles River.

Michael Nichols, executive director of the association, told the Boston Globe that the

hat, 17 feet in circumference, links two great Boston traditions “with an homage as grand as Arthur Fiedler’s legacy.” Fiedler died in 1979.

Friend in spat shot with rubber bullets

ME WINDHAM — A South Carolina man is accused of shooting his best friend three times with a gun loaded with rubber bullets in an argument about the friend’s wife.

The Portland Press Herald reported that Ace Haseltine, 43, was released Tuesday from Cumberland County Jail on \$10,000 bail. He’s charged with elevated aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for shooting Galen Gullatt on Sept. 29 in Windham.

Haseltine told the newspaper he used the gun after an argument escalated into a brawl. It was unclear who owned the gun.

Giant hammer artwork stolen

CA HEALDSBURG — The Santa Rosa Press-Democrat reported that police in Healdsburg are looking for an enormous artwork that vanished over the weekend of Oct. 5.

The artwork was an 800-pound ball-peen hammer made of metal with a long redwood handle. The hammer measures 21 feet long, and the head is 6 feet tall.

The piece, valued at \$15,000, was loaned by the artist about a year ago to the Healdsburg Community Center.

The artist, Doug Unkrey, said it would have required about eight people or a flatbed trailer with a winch to carry away his work.

From wire reports

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Dodgers rally, take Game 2 from Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Justin Turner and the Los Angeles Dodgers know all about performing in the postseason.

Backed into a tough spot Saturday, the red-headed slugger delivered — again.

Shut down for most of the afternoon, Los Angeles staged another late rally and Turner hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to send the Dodgers over the Milwaukee Brewers 4-3 and even the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

The high-powered Dodgers had two mealy singles off Wade Miley before breaking through against a vaunted bullpen. After forcing the Brewers to use six relievers in Milwaukee's 6-5 victory Friday night, the NL West champions put that extended look to good use in Game 2, especially against faltering All-Star Jeremy Jeffress.

"As long as we have outs left, we know we're in the game," Turner said.

Milwaukee wasted a terrific performance by Miley in its first loss in three weeks, ending a 12-game winning streak that produced free burgers for its fans as part of a promotion by a local restaurant chain. Miley pitched 5²/₃ scoreless innings in his second career playoff start and had two hits in his first multihit game since 2014.

"We were in really good shape with the effort that Wade gave us," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "He pitched beautifully."

The best-of-seven series moves to Los Angeles for Game 3 on Monday. Walker Buehler pitches for Los Angeles and Jhoulys Chacin gets the ball for Milwaukee.

Miley handed a 2-0 lead over to his bullpen in a surprisingly long start, and Travis Shaw tacked on a solo drive in the sixth, delighting a yellow towel-waving crowd of 43,905 at Miller Park. But that was the last run for the Brewers, and the Dodgers finished off their rally this time around after nearly taking Game 1.

Turner had a career-worst four strikeouts in the opener but bounced back with his seventh career playoff homer. He was co-MVP of the NLCS last year with Taylor when Los Angeles made it to the World Series for the first time since 1988.

The Dodgers are making their sixth straight appearance in the playoffs while the upstart Brewers are in the postseason for the first time since 2011.

Bullpen cracking?: Told he had the day off after pitching three shutout innings in the NLCS opener, hard-throwing Milwaukee left-hander Josh Hader wasn't expecting a call to the bullpen.

After watching Brewers relievers blow a late three-run lead in Game 2, Hader would have embraced back-to-back outings, high pitch count and all.

"Adrenaline can do a lot things," he said when asked if he could have pitched.

Hader, who broke a 44-year-old record for regular-season strikeouts by a left-handed reliever, had thrown 46 pitches in the opener.

The best-of-seven series is tied at a game apiece after the Dodgers dented the rest of the Brewers' hard-throwing relievers in the late innings for a second straight day.

Milwaukee had the fifth-best bullpen ERA during the regular season at 3.47, including a best-in-the-majors 1.98 in September.

But the bullpen has been showing cracks. Milwaukee pitchers made 72 appearances during the Brewers' 12-game winning streak, including 24 in the first four games of the playoffs. It's a heavy workload.

Other than Hader, the Brewers' bullpen has allowed eight runs in 7¹/₃ innings against Los Angeles, a 9.82 ERA.

A travel day might allow the bullpen to reset heading into Game 3 Monday at Dodger Stadium, though Counsell said he would check with how his big three of Jeffress, Hader and Corey Knebel felt on the day off.

Astros' Verlander ices Red Sox in opener

Associated Press

BOSTON — With temperatures dipping into the 40s, numbing their fingertips as they tried to grip the baseball, Justin Verlander and Chris Sale both struggled to get the ball over the plate.

Verlander recovered quickly. Sale never did.

After walking in one run and giving up the tying score on a wild pitch, Verlander struck out Andrew Benintendi on a contested called third strike, and the Houston Astros pulled away to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-2 on Saturday night in the AL Championship Series opener.

The teams combined for just eight hits, but Red Sox pitchers walked 10 and hit three batters. Verlander walked four — tying a career postseason high, and more than he had in any outing in the regular season this year.

Three of them and one of his two wild pitches came in a fifth inning that almost chased him from the game.

"That inning I had kind of lost my feel a bit. Couldn't point a finger to why," Verlander said. "The tying run scoring was a little disappointing. ... But once that happens, then you've got to reset and not relinquish the lead."

Verlander pitched six innings of two-hit ball and Carlos Correa fisted a single into left field to break a sixth-inning tie. Josh Reddick hit a solo homer to lead off the ninth and Yuli Gurriel curled a three-run shot into the front row beyond the Pesky Pole to give the defending World Series champions their fifth straight postseason victory.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series was Sunday night, with Boston left-hander David Price trying to end his postseason

skid against Astros righty Gerrit Cole. Cora has expressed confidence in Price, a Cy Young Award winner who is 0-9 in 10 postseason starts, and the 108-win Red Sox will need him to be better than Sale was in the opener.

In a rematch of last year's Division Series opener, when the Astros hit back-to-back homers in the first inning and pounded Sale for seven runs in all, Verlander improved to 13-2 in the AL playoffs. Houston only got one hit off of Sale, but he loaded the bases with two outs in the second on two walks and a hit batter before reigning World Series MVP George Springer singled in two runs past the glove of third baseman Eduardo Nunez, who slipped as he stretched for the ball.

Verlander was charged with two runs and four walks while striking out six. He has allowed only nine hits in his past four

postseason starts, matching Don Larsen (1955-57) as the only pitchers to allow nine hits over a span of four-postseason starts, according to STATS.

"The tying run scoring was a little disappointing," Verlander said. "But once that happens, then you've got to reset and not relinquish the lead."

Sale's struggles: Sale, who took the mound without long sleeves, left after the fourth inning — his only 1-2-3 inning of the game — having thrown 86 pitches. Sale gave up two runs, one hit, four walks and a hit batter, and his average fastball velocity of 92 mph was down 3 mph from the Division Series.

"I still like our chances," he said. "We've got D.P. on the mound and we got a bunch of guys in here that are fired up over tonight. We're not gonna hang our heads in the locker room."

Top 25 roundup

No. 13 LSU beats No. 2 Georgia

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Joe Burrow passed for 200 yards and had two short touchdown runs, LSU's defense staggered Georgia's normally prolific offense, and the 13th-ranked Tigers beat the No. 2 Bulldogs 36-16 on Saturday to give coach Ed Orgeron a signature victory.

Five fourth-down decisions by Orgeron influenced the result. LSU converted all four times it ran an offensive play on fourth down, sustaining three drives that produced a total of 13 points.

In another instance, Orgeron called timeout and elected to punt on fourth-and-2 after the offense initially remained on the field. That decision pinned Georgia at its 4, and Kristian Fulton's interception of Jake Fromm's pass shortly afterward set up another of Cole Tracy's five field goals.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for 133 yards for LSU (6-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference), and Justin Jefferson caught six passes for 108 yards, including a 41-yard snag of a pass rifled over the middle and between converging defenders. That catch set up Burrow's second TD in the fourth quarter.

Nick Brossette added a short touchdown in the final minutes after Burrow's 59-yard scamper. Fans rushed the field, ignoring pleas not to do so from the public address announcer, as the game ended.

Fromm had by far his worst game of the season for Georgia (6-1, 4-1), completing 16 of 34 passes for 209 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Iowa State 30, No. 6 West Virginia 14: Freshman Brock Purdy threw for 254 yards and three TDs and the host Cyclones throttled the Mountaineers, handing West Virginia its first loss in emphatic fashion.

David Montgomery had a career-high 189 yards rushing for the Cyclones (3-3, 2-2 Big 12), who capped a wild day by beating a Top 25 team for the fifth time in seven tries.

No. 17 Oregon 30, No. 7 Washington 27 (OT): C.J. Verdell scored on a 6-yard run in overtime and Oregon knocked off visiting Washington.

Verdell finished with 111 yards but none were sweeter for the Ducks than the final 6, when he sprinted nearly untouched on third-and-goal and set off a wild celebration in the east end zone of Autzen Stadium.

No. 5 Notre Dame 19, Pittsburgh 14: Ian Book threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Miles Boykin with 5:43 remaining and the host Fighting Irish remained unbeaten.

Notre Dame is 7-0 for the first time since 2012, the year they went to the BCS title game.

Michigan State 21, No. 8 Penn State 17: Brian Lewerke threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Felton Davis with 19 seconds left to lift the visiting Spartans past the Nittany Lions, making it two consecutive seasons that Michigan State used a late score to hand Penn State a second straight loss.

No. 1 Alabama 39, Missouri 10: Tua Tagovailoa passed for 265 yards and three touchdowns before leaving early in the host Crimson Tide's victory over the Tigers.

Tagovailoa went to the medical tent on the sideline after aggravating a sprained right knee. He was joined by his parents, and Jalen Hurts led the Tide the rest of the way with a big lead over the Tigers (3-3, 0-3). Tagovailoa was playing with a brace on his right knee, sprained last week against Arkansas.

No. 3 Ohio State 30, Minnesota 14: Dwayne Haskins threw for 412 yards and three touchdowns and the host Buckeyes held off the persistent Golden Gophers.

No. 9 Texas 23, Baylor 17: Shane Buechele came on for injured quarterback Sam Ehlinger early in the first quarter and the host Longhorns beat the Bears when Baylor's final pass sailed through the back of the end zone.

No. 10 UCF 31, Memphis 30: McKenzie Milton threw for 296 yards and ran for the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter for visiting Central Florida.

No. 12 Michigan 38, No. 15 Wisconsin 13: Shea Patterson accounted for 214 yards of offense and a touchdown, leading the host Wolverines past the Badgers.

No. 14 Florida 37, Vanderbilt 27: At Nashville, Tenn., Jordan Scarlett ran 48 yards for the go-ahead touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter, and the Gators rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat the Boilermakers in a game marred by a near brawl, with both head coaches yelling as each team spilled onto the field.

An official held back Florida coach Dan Mullen as he yelled at Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason, who was near the Gators' sideline after checking on the Commodores defender whose helmet was knocked off by a hit by linebacker James Houston IV. Both teams spilled onto the field, drawing unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.

Virginia 16, No. 16 Miami 13: Jordan Ellis ran for a touchdown and the host Cavaliers kept the Hurricanes' high-powered offense from ever getting going.

Southern California 31, No. 19 Colorado 20: Michael Pittman Jr. caught two of J.T. Daniels' three touchdown passes, and the host Trojans' defense dominated in a victory over the previously unbeaten Buffaloes.

Tennessee 30, No. 21 Auburn 24: Jarrett Guarantano passed for 328 yards and two touchdowns and the visiting Volunteers snapped an 11-game Southeastern Conference losing streak.

No. 22 Texas A&M 26, South Carolina 23: Kellen Mond threw for 353 yards and freshman Seth Small had four field goals, including the go-ahead kick in the fourth quarter, for the visiting Aggies.

Academies

Hopkins leads Army's rout of San Jose St.

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kelvin Hopkins Jr. ran for 99 yards and a season-high three touchdowns and threw for a fourth, and Army beat San Jose State 52-3 on Saturday.

Coming off a bye week and making their first trip to the West Coast in four years, the Black Knights (4-2) trailed 3-0 early in the second quarter before Hopkins and Army's running game got going.

Knocked out of the game briefly on the first series, Hopkins returned to engineer three long scoring drives to put Army comfortably ahead in the first-ever meeting between the teams.

Hopkins threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to running back Jordan Asberry, scored on a one-yard sneak in the second quarter, then added a dazzling 24-yard run on an option keeper.

It's the first time an Army quarterback has scored three rushing touchdowns in one game since A.J. Schurr's four against Hawaii on Nov. 23, 2013.

Darnell Woolfolk and Cam Thomas each had a touchdown run and John Abercrombie made his first career field goal. The Knights outgained the Spartans on the ground 341-36.

Army also got a big lift from its defense, which forced three turnovers during a five-play span in the third quarter and had four overall.

Temple 24, Navy 17: Anthony Russo threw for 300 yards with a 62-yard touchdown pass to Ventell Bryant midway through the fourth quarter and Temple won for the fourth time in five games by running past host Navy on Saturday.

Owls fullback Rob Ritrovato tied the game at 17 on a 1-yard plunge within 5:53 left in the third quarter. From there, the defense for Temple (4-3, 3-0 American Athletic Conference) contained Navy's triple-option attack.

NHL roundup

Pastrnak's 3 goals keep Wings winless

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Pastrnak scored three times, giving him 101 goals in his career, and Patrice Bergeron had three assists as the Boston Bruins kept Detroit winless with an 8-2 victory over the Red Wings on Saturday.

It was the second career hat trick for Pastrnak, who has scored seven times in five games this season.

Jake DeBrusk scored twice and David Krejci had a pair of assists for the Bruins, who also got goals from Charlie McAvoy, Anders Bjork and Sean Kuraly.

Tuukka Rask had 32 saves to help Boston win its fourth straight while outscoring opponents 20-6 since getting shut out by Washington 7-0 in the season opener.

Golden Knights 1, Flyers 0: Cody Eakin scored with 1:25 left and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 26 shots to lead Vegas past visiting Philadelphia.

Eakin ended the scoreless tie with a sensational sequence for the winner. He made a dive for the puck to keep it away from Flyers center Sean Couturier in Philly's end of the ice. Ryan Carpenter snared the puck and passed it back to Eakin, who fired it from the circle past Brian Elliott for the winner.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 3

(OT): Johnathan Toews scored his third goal of the game 2:20 into overtime and Chicago won at St. Louis. Toes tied it at 4-all at 6:59 of the third period when he corralled the rebound of Alex DeBrincat's slap shot and pushed it past Blues goalie Jake Allen.

Toews scored the winner on a breakaway to give him his sixth career hat trick, and the Blackhawks their second consecutive overtime victory.

Oilers 2, Rangers 1: Connor McDavid scored the go-ahead goal on the power play and added an assist, lifting Edmonton to its first win of the season over visiting New York.

McDavid scored his second of the season at 6:23 of the third period, redirecting the puck past goaltender Henrik Lundqvist with Rangers forward Vladislav Namestnikov in the penalty box for holding.

Hurricanes 5, Wild 4 (OT): Sebastian Aho scored his second goal of the game in overtime to lift Carolina at Minnesota. Justin Williams tied it for the Hurricanes with 1:09 left in the third period, and Carolina matched the best five-game start in franchise history by tying the 4-0-1 Hartford Whalers in 1995-96.

Lightning 8, Blue Jackets 2: Victor Hedman, Cedric Paquette and Yannick Gourde

had first-period goals, and host Tampa Bay beat Columbus.

Brayden Point scored in both the second and third periods, and Andrei Vasilevskiy had 30 saves for the Lightning. Alex Killorn, Nikita Kucherov and J.T. Miller also scored for Tampa Bay.

Maple Leafs 4, Capitals 2: Auston Matthews scored a goal in his sixth consecutive game to start the season, Frederick Andersen made 25 saves and Toronto won at Washington.

Moments after Andersen made several solid saves to preserve the lead, Matthews provided insurance with his NHL-leading 10th goal.

Canucks 3, Panthers 2: Bo Horvat scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, leading Vancouver past host Florida.

Antoine Roussel and Elias Pettersson also scored for the Canucks, and Anders Nilsson stopped 24 shots.

Canadiens 4, Penguins 3 (SO): Paul Byron and Jonathan Drouin scored in the shootout to lift Montreal past visiting Pittsburgh. Tomas Tatar had two goals and an assist, and Brendan Gallagher had a goal and an assist for the Canadiens. Antti Niemi stopped 25 shots through overtime in his first start of the season.

Predators 5, Islanders 2: Filip Forsberg scored twice,

Viktor Arvidsson had a goal and an assist, and host Nashville beat New York for the second time in eight days. Calle Jarnkrok and Kyle Turris also scored for Nashville, which has won four of its first five games. Juuse Saros stopped 20 shots and won both games against the Islanders.

Stars 5, Ducks 3: John Klingberg scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period, when Dallas scored on four of its team-record 30 shots, and the Stars beat visiting Anaheim.

Sabres 3, Coyotes 0: Linus Ullmark stopped 36 shots for his first career shutout, and rookie Rasmus Dahlin scored his first career goal to lead Buffalo at Arizona.

Jeff Skinner had a goal and an assist, and Conor Sheary also scored for the Sabres.

Senators 5, Kings 1: Chris Wideman got his first two goals in nearly a year, and Craig Anderson made 36 saves to lead host Ottawa. Wideman tore a hamstring last November and missed the rest of the season. The 28-year-old had been without a point in his first four games this season.

Flames 3, Avalanche 2 (OT): Elias Lindholm scored the tying goal with 1:54 left in regulation and Johnny Gaudreau won it in the first minute overtime as visiting Calgary beat Colorado.

49ers, Packers look to cut down on turnovers

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Turnovers might be the most important statistic in football.

Just ask the San Francisco 49ers and Green Bay Packers.

The 49ers last week had a 33-10 edge in first downs against Arizona but still lost by 10 following five giveaways.

The Packers (2-2-1) almost doubled the Lions in total offense (521-264) and still lost

31-23 after coughing up three turnovers.

Guess what the Packers have been focusing on in practice as they prepare to host the 49ers on Monday night?

"Sometimes that ball bounces your way and sometimes it doesn't. But you have to create more opportunities," coach Mike McCarthy said on Thursday. "We've created too many giveaway opportunities and we clearly don't have enough take-away opportunities."

A team considered one of the top contenders in the NFC is off to a choppy start. Other than a 22-0 win over Buffalo, the Packers have alternated one bad half with one good one.

The first half has been the problem in three games, which has forced Green Bay to play catch-up. It worked in the season opener, when Aaron Rodgers tossed three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter for a 24-23 win over Chicago.

But slow starts have doomed

the Packers in losses at Washington and Detroit. Against the Lions last week, the Packers fell behind 24-0 at the half before losing 31-23.

"That's not how you start games and expect to win, especially against a good opponent. We've got to start faster than that," receiver Davante Adams said after the Detroit loss.

The 49ers (1-4) were sloppier, overshadowing the gaudy stats they put up on offense. They also failed to force a turnover.