

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, October 18, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump threatens to send troops to shut down border

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to send the U.S. military to close the nation's southern border if Mexico cannot stop migrants traveling north from Guatemala toward the U.S.

In three tweets directed at Democrats and Central American countries, the president called the loosely organized group of migrants, now commonly referred to as a caravan, an "assault on our country by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador." He said the caravan includes criminals and he blamed the Democratic Party, claiming they advocate for open borders and weak immigration laws.

This week, Trump threatened to stop U.S. monetary aid to those Central American nations if they could not curb migration of their citizens to the U.S.

"In addition to stopping all payments to these countries, which seem to have almost no control over their population, I must, in the strongest of terms, ask Mexico to stop this onslaught — and if unable to do so I will call up the U.S. Military and CLOSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER!" Trump wrote in one of the Thursday tweets.

Pentagon officials, who apparently were caught off guard by Trump's announcement, did not provide an immediate response to the president's latest warning of stationing U.S. troops on the southern border.

It also was not clear Thursday if the military could legally be used to shut down the U.S.-Mexico border. Federal law prohibits American servicemembers from performing civilian law enforcement duties on U.S. soil outside of military installations.

There are already about 2,000 National Guard troops stationed along the U.S. border with Mexico, where they have been deployed since Trump ordered them there in April in response to another group of migrants that attempted to seek refugee status in the United States. Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters last week that those soldiers were working in all four states that share a border with Mexico to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents.

The Pentagon has authorized up to 4,000 National Guard troops to support the border mission. But the troops serving there have very limited duties and cannot detain or arrest suspected undocumented immigrants nor can most of them carry weapons.

While some troops are helping with surveillance, most are working to maintain Border Patrol vehicles or performing administrative tasks to free up Border Patrol agents to perform law enforcement work, a defense official said Thursday.

Trump has long touted a need for increased border security, warning that criminals and drugs were regularly pouring across the southern border. He made the building of a border wall to curb illegal immigration a central theme of his presidential campaign. As president, he has continued to push Congress for funding for its construction and implemented a "zero tolerance" immigration policy.

Trump's tweets Thursday came one day after The Washington Post reported record numbers of migrant parents attempting to enter the U.S. with their children during the last three months after the administration ended a controversial policy of separating families at the border.

US general escapes deadly Afghan attack

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan survived an attack Thursday in the southern province of Kandahar in which a famed Afghan police general and the local intelligence chief were killed and two Americans were wounded, officials said.

A bodyguard for Kandahar's governor opened fire inside a building where senior officials had met to discuss the security situation in the south, Agha Lalay Datagiri, Kandahar's deputy governor, told Stars and Stripes.

In addition to Kandahar police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq's death, the local leader of the country's main intelligence agency and a journalist were killed, Datagiri said.

He said the governor, Zalmay Wesa, was wounded and was taken to a hospital. Datagiri could not immediately confirm whether the governor was still alive. But The Associated Press reported that Wesa died of his injuries at a hospital.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and said the target was Gen. Scott Miller, who commands U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, and Raziq.

The loss of so many key Afghan security figures was a major blow to U.S. and Afghan efforts to subdue the Taliban in the volatile south.

Raziq, who was about 40, was among the best known and most effective police commanders in Afghanistan and had survived numerous assassination attempts — some of which left him wounded.

He rose through the police

ranks after the U.S.-led invasion of 2001 that ousted the Taliban, serving for a time as commander of the protection force along Kandahar province's sensitive southern border with Pakistan. As provincial police commander, he was credited widely with having curbed guerrilla activity around the city of Kandahar, where the Taliban movement was born in the 1990s.

Miller assumed command last month from Gen. John Nicholson and was still carrying out initial assessments of the security situation in Afghanistan.

NATO's Resolute Support mission confirmed that an incident had occurred at Kandahar Palace on the governor's compound.

"This was an Afghan-on-Afghan incident," tweeted Col. David Butler, spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan.

Of the wounded Americans, one is a servicemember and the other is a civilian. A wounded contractor from a coalition country and the two Americans were medically evacuated and were stable, according to an email from Resolute Support.

"General Miller is uninjured," Butler added. "We are being told the area is secure. The attacker is dead."

The Pentagon said the attack would not affect the U.S.' resolve in Afghanistan.

"If anything, it makes us more resolute," said Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner, a Pentagon spokesman.

Photos of the gunman have been posted on social media. Mohammad Yousaf Younasi, a provincial council member, told Stars and Stripes that the man in the photo belonged to the Afghan Border Police.

Okinawa Marines sample healthier menu

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marines on Okinawa have been trying out healthy chow hall options like packaged salads, wraps and flatbread and panini sandwiches ahead of a servicewide rollout slated for sometime next year.

The new “Fresh Line” items — available at the 12th Marines Mess Hall at Camp Hansen since February — replace popular but fattening options like chili macaroni and cheese that are high in sodium and calories, said Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Clifford Toole, a food services subsistence chief for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

“Overall when you look at the new-age Marine, they do care more about a healthier lifestyle,” he said. “The newer Marine

is more conscious about what they eat and what they put in their bodies.”

Turkey bacon is served instead of pork, and brown rice is offered instead of white, which is lacking in nutrients. The menu also includes mango and fruit punch smoothies.

“The Marine Corps actually hired a chef to create new menu items that were healthier but still had taste,” said mess hall manager Master Sgt. Jerwon Donta Stephens. “It’s easy to go healthy, but if it’s not tasty, no one is going to eat it.”

The ongoing trial period has been tracking the new line’s popularity, along with how much manpower and money will be required to keep it up and running. So far, the reviews appear to be positive.

“I prefer Fresh Line items instead of hav-

ing any other processed foods,” Lance Cpl. Jacob Flores told Stars and Stripes while waiting for his food at the chow hall Friday. “I usually get wraps or chicken.”

The new line is part of the service’s “Fuel to Fight” initiative, which aims to make it easy for Marines to identify healthier food choices, the service said in a statement earlier this year. “Foods are color coded as either red, yellow or green based upon the food’s total fat and saturated fat percentage of total calories.”

Both Stephens and Toole said they hope the Fresh Line will encourage healthier choices at bases where an abundance of fast-food options can often be tempting.

“Our body is our temple,” Stephens said. “If our body is not functioning correctly, our body can’t get back to the mission.”

Mattis meets with his Chinese counterpart

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — U.S. officials say they sense that relations with the Chinese military, after a rocky few months, may be stabilizing, although face-to-face talks between their respective defense chiefs Thursday produced no new agreements.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met for nearly 90 minutes, 30 minutes longer than scheduled, on the sidelines of an Asian security conference with his Chinese counterpart, Gen. Wei Fenghe. A participant, Randall Schriver, the Pentagon’s top official for Asia-Pacific affairs, said Mattis described the talks as “straightforward and candid” and asserted that high-level talks are especially valuable during times of tension.

Schriver said the discussions covered nu-

merous issues but focused especially on the disputed South China Sea, where Chinese military activity is viewed by Washington as irresponsible and Beijing complains of an inappropriate U.S. military presence. Mattis asserted that the U.S. view is widely shared in the region and beyond.

“That’s an area where we will continue to have differences and talk through,” Schriver told reporters after the meeting.

Mattis and Wei discussed an existing U.S. invitation for Wei to visit the U.S., but details remain to be worked out, Schriver said.

“There was a commitment on both sides to try to find a time” for such a meeting, he added.

China did not immediately comment to U.S. media outlets at the conference after the meeting between Mattis and Wei.

Just weeks ago, Mattis had planned to

travel to Beijing for talks with Wei, but that fell through when the Chinese made it known that Wei would be unavailable, one of several signs that tension in the overall U.S.-China relationship was spilling over into the military arena.

Wei and Mattis were in Singapore this week for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference.

Schriver had told reporters on Wednesday that the Chinese had requested the Singapore meeting with Mattis. He said U.S. officials took that as a sign the Chinese are interested in stabilizing the military relationship.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him earlier this week, Mattis acknowledged that the relationship has been difficult in recent times.

Air Force IDs Calif. guardsman killed in Ukraine crash

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The California guardsman killed Tuesday in a fighter jet crash in Ukraine has been identified as Lt. Col. Seth “Jethro” Nehring.

Nehring’s unit, the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, released his name late Wednesday night in a statement posted on the unit’s Facebook page.

“It’s with a heavy heart we share the news that we lost a member of our team yesterday,” the statement said. “A loss of any kind is always difficult and our thoughts and prayers go out to Jethro’s family and friends.”

Nehring was serving as operations officer in the Joint Operations Center. In that job, he was the liaison between the exercise director, California Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Clay Garrison, and

all flying operations, the unit said.

The Air Force said Nehring was hand-picked for the position due to his operational experience and his long history with his unit.

Nehring and a Ukrainian pilot were killed Tuesday while flying in Clear Sky 2018, the largest aviation exercise held in Ukraine in decades. Ukraine’s air force identified the Ukrainian pilot who died as Col. Ivan Petrenko.

Navy alters procedures after Atsugi helo incident

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — After a window fell from a Navy MH-53E helicopter at Naval Air Facility Atsugi in July and made Japanese headlines, the service this week announced new maintenance procedures to help prevent future occurrences.

On July 27, an MH-53E Sea Dragon was hovering about 6 to 8 feet above the flight line when a window fell off the aircraft, according to a Navy statement. No one was hurt, and the helicopter landed safely afterward.

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told reporters in July that members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force saw the window falling soon after the helicopter took off, according to a July 28 report by Kyodo News.

The Navy responded by grounding all MH-53E aircraft in the region and opened an investigation. The results — released this week — showed “the accident was most likely caused by inadvertent release of a loose emergency handle,” the service said.

Though the investigation has concluded, the Navy said all remaining MH-53E Sea Dragons in Japan are being “individually reviewed for clearance” before they are returned to normal flight operations.

A Kanagawa Prefectural Office official said they are aware of the investigation report’s release and are seeking details through the South Kanto Defense Bureau, which regularly communicates with U.S. Forces Japan. A base affairs official at the prefectural office said there are concerns that such accidents could cause greater danger if they occur above a residential area.

From the probe’s results, the Navy has implemented new procedures for maintenance inspections “to prevent this from happening again,” according to the Navy statement.

US Marines, sailors conduct cold weather training in Iceland

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marines have kicked off training operations in Iceland, conducting an air assault drill and battling the elements in the island nation’s uniquely picturesque environment.

Approximately 2,000 Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit are participating in the Iceland operations, which started Wednesday as part of Exercise Trident Juncture.

The Marines are joined by as many sailors, serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima, amphibious dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall and amphibious transport dock ship USS New York. The combined force plans to highlight the power of the NATO alliance when it comes to amphibious operations.

About 50,000 NATO troops are taking part in this year’s Trident Juncture, the alliance’s largest exercise since 2002.

“Trident Juncture is all about showcasing NATO as a defensive alliance, demonstrating our credible capability and deterring potential adversaries,” said Marine spokesman Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway. “Ultimately, we want to

demonstrate the Navy-Marine team’s ability to respond faster from longer ranges with greater capabilities across the range of military operations than other conventional forces.”

During the air assault portion Wednesday, Marines loaded into CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters and MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft aboard ships, landed near the coast of the island and secured the area by setting up a bridgehead for further operations. The Marines are then heading inland, to conduct cold weather training among Iceland’s jet-blue glaciers.

As Iceland has no standing armed forces of its own, the Americans are being aided by Iceland’s police and coast guard.

“[Iceland’s] landscape provides us with distinctive training opportunities, and we are appreciative to the government of Iceland for allowing us to conduct this portion of Trident Juncture in their country,” Rankine-Galloway said.

The Navy and the Marine Corps plan to continue amphibious operations in conjunction with Exercise Trident Juncture later this month in Norway, where a mock amphibious assault is planned.

Former Marine receives Medal of Honor

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nearly 51 years after the battle that would launch John L. Canley into the annals of Marine lore, the retired sergeant major stood stoic in the White House on Wednesday as he received the nation’s highest military honor.

Shouts of “Oorah,” the Marine Corps’ famed battle cry, rang through the East Room and the standing-room-only crowd of Canley’s fellow Vietnam veterans and top military brass cheered him as President Donald Trump presented him with the Medal of Honor. The Marines who fought alongside Canley in Vietnam’s brutal Battle of Hue had worked for years to see him receive the award — an upgrade of the Navy Cross that he was awarded in 1970.

Canley, 80, is the 300th Marine to receive the medal.

Trump, echoing the comments of Canley’s fellow troops, said Canley had showed

throughout his entire life that he was a Marine’s Marine.

He is “a Marine warrior, who is bigger than life and beyond the reach of death. He is truly larger than life,” Trump said before turning to Canley. “There are very few people — brave, brave people — like you, John.”

On Jan. 31, 1968, Canley was called upon suddenly for a job that he never expected to have. With his company commander severely wounded as his unit made its way toward the besieged city of Hue in northern South Vietnam, then-Gunnery Sgt. Canley took control of Alpha Company, a job typically reserved for a commissioned officer.

For the next six days, Canley led the 1st Marines unit as it charged into the city to pry it from the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces who had captured it during the unanticipated Tet Offensive.

In the midst of one of the most ferocious fights of the Vietnam

War, Canley organized assaults on enemy positions, killing countless enemy fighters as his team retook buildings in the city, according to award citations. Twice, the noncommissioned officer braved fire to scale a wall in “full view of the enemy to pick up wounded Marines and carry them to safety.”

Trump said Wednesday that Canley had saved at least 20 Marines’ lives during that “house-to-house, very vicious, very hard combat.”

“In one instance after another, John risked his own life to save his Marines,” the president said. “He just continued to face the enemy with no regard for his own life.”

Canley, of Oxnard, Calif., has credited the Marines that he served with for his receiving the award and his numerous acts of valor during that fight.

The Medal of Honor “means a lot to me,” Canley said in an interview earlier this year with USA Today.

Turkey critics see double standard amid probe

Associated Press

Under global scrutiny, Turkey vows to get to the bottom of the suspected killing of a Saudi journalist at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. But some observers see a double standard in promises of transparency from a government accused of stifling freedom of expression.

Since an attempted coup in 2016, critics say President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has turned Turkey into an increasingly authoritarian state, using emergency powers to arrest tens of thousands of suspects, purging many more from state institutions and jailing dozens of journalists. Officials even have admitted that they seized dozens of Turks in anti-terrorism operations in other countries.

Turkey says the government is dealing with multiple threats to its security and sovereignty in a volatile region and denies allegations it used the crackdown to target legitimate opposition and silence criti-

cal media that had nothing to do with the failed coup.

While there might be parallels between some restrictions on freedoms in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the Turkish reports about Jamal Khashoggi, a columnist for *The Washington Post*, are horrifically unprecedented.

The reports say an official hit squad from Saudi Arabia killed the writer, who once wrote of the persecution of people who "dare to speak their minds" in his home country. Saudi Arabia denies it, though some U.S. media reports suggest Saudi Arabia might say Khashoggi was killed in a botched interrogation.

Turkey has followed the law and international agreements and has taken "open and transparent actions" in the Khashoggi case, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu told the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Getting less international attention this week were Turkish media reports that an

Istanbul court issued a "red notice" for journalists Can Dunder, who lives in Germany, and U.S.-based Ilhan Tanir on espionage charges.

A red notice serves as a request to member countries of Interpol to arrest a suspect, though Western concerns about freedom of expression in Turkey likely would slow the government's international pursuit of the pair. Dunder was the former chief editor of *Cumhuriyet*, an anti-government newspaper, and previously had been jailed in Turkey for reports that were deemed subversive.

Dunder has tweeted about Turkey's handling of the Khashoggi investigation, asking why the Saudi consul general was allowed to leave Turkey despite a Turkish media report that a purported audio recording of the suspected slaying indicates the diplomat was a witness. Saudi officials have not responded to repeated requests for comment from *The Associated Press*.

Mexico Beach residents return to rubble

Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. — With stunned faces and tears, residents of hard-hit Mexico Beach returned home for the first time Wednesday about a week after Hurricane Michael hit to find pieces of their lives scattered across the sand and a community altered.

Nancy Register sobbed uncontrollably after finding no trace of the large camper where she'd lived with her husband. She was particularly distraught over the loss of an old, black-and-white photo of her mother, who died of cancer.

Husband Taylor Register said he found nothing but a stool that he uses for cutting

his hair, a hose and a keepsake rock that was given to him by a friend 40 years ago.

"That's my belongings," he said, pointing to a small pile beside his red pickup. Choking up, he said: "I appreciate God humbling me. Everybody needs it."

Just up the road, tears ran down Lanie Eden's face as she and husband Ron Eden sifted through sand in search of items they left before evacuating from the small beach house they've rented each October for years. They didn't find much — just a large pack of toilet paper that somehow stayed dry and a son's camp chair.

The Edens, who are from Fort Knox, Ky., and are temporarily staying in Alabama,

were stunned to see mountains of debris and countless destroyed buildings as they drove into town for the first time. In a state of condominium towers, Mexico Beach was one of the few remaining places with small houses and a 1950s feel.

"Basically, we lost 'old Florida.' It's all gone," said Lanie Eden.

Residents among the community of about 1,200 people who rode out the storm at home have been in Mexico Beach since Michael hit. But officials used the city's Facebook page to tell others to stay away for a week after the Category 4 storm ravaged the beach town with 155 mph winds and a strong storm surge.

US retreats on South Koreans' base access in Japan

BY LEON COOK AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. military has removed South Korea from a list of nations whose citizens must undergo extra scrutiny before they can visit friends or attend events on American bases in Japan.

The U-turn, announced Thursday at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, follows complaints that South Koreans had been turned away at Yokota and

other installations in Japan.

Stars and Stripes reported Monday that America's longtime Pacific ally had been added to a list of more than 50 nations whose citizens must receive additional screening ahead of base visits — a process that can take up to 30 days.

An updated document that included South Korea was approved in May, but officials only recently had started enforcing it.

"U.S. Forces Japan is reviewing its policies and procedures for third country na-

tional access to US military installations in Japan," Maj. Genieve White, a USFJ spokeswoman, told Stars and Stripes on Thursday. "Until that review is complete, the previous policies and procedures enacted in 2016 will remain in effect."

White did not provide a reason for the reversion.

Some South Korean commentators suggested this week that the extra checks for their citizens could be related to friction with the U.S. over rapidly warming ties to the North.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Cops share doughnuts after stolen van found

FL CLEARWATER — It was a lucky day for some Florida police officers who recovered a stolen van filled with Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Clearwater police posted a photo on Facebook of a group of officers standing in front of the van holding boxes of the tasty treats.

The Tampa Bay Times reported the van was stolen Tuesday morning in Lake City.

The Facebook posting said the store manager donated the cargo to the officers. They saved some doughnuts to eat and handed out the rest to the area's homeless.

Goat on road jams morning traffic

MD GERMANTOWN — The appearance of a goat on a road in a Maryland suburb of Washington created traffic delays.

The Washington Post reported the goat was found Monday on Muncaster Mill Road in Germantown, but it's unclear where he came from.

A video from a commuter shows a brown goat planted in the middle of the road as cars inch past in the rain. During the eight-second clip, the goat appears mostly unfazed as he looks around.

Montgomery County police said animal services reunited the goat with his owner.

15 tons of packaged food products recalled

LA NEW ORLEANS — A Louisiana company recalled 15 tons of packaged ready-to-eat chicken and pork products produced since January 2017 for five restaurants in Louisiana and Texas.

A recall notice late Monday

from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said A La Carte Foods of Belle Rose made the six products with sausage that hadn't been federally inspected. They include jambalaya, gumbo and red beans with sausage, all sent frozen in 12-pound packages.

Reward offered to nail thieves of sculpture

CA HEALDSBURG — The artist who created an 800-pound sculpture of a hammer that was stolen from a Northern California community center is offering a \$1,000 reward to nail the thieves.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported Tuesday that Healdsburg artist Doug Unkrey made the offer. He made the 800-pound ball-peen hammer out of mixed metals. It has a long redwood handle and measures 21 feet long; 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.

Police: Kennel owners engaged in bestiality

VA SUFFOLK — Police in Virginia said a couple who owned a dog kennel engaged in bestiality caught on video.

Citing a Monday news release from Suffolk police, The Virginian-Pilot reported Christina Patterson, 42, was charged with multiple counts of bestiality and animal cruelty more than a year after the investigation began. Police said any state charges against Richard Allen Patterson, 47, cannot proceed until his federal firearms charges from July 2017 are resolved.

An investigator in the firearms case obtained a search warrant that led to the discovery of the videos.

Zoo asks for branches downed during storm

NE OMAHA — Omaha's zoo wants area residents to share their broken tree limbs as tasty treats for some animals.

The Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium posted a Facebook request for limbs downed during last weekend's snowstorm.

The zoo said it can't accept branches from trees treated with pesticides or from dead, dying or diseased trees. Tree species favored for the animals include birch, elm, hackberry, honey locust, linden, mulberry and willow.

Boy, 4, helps deputies find hidden fugitive

PA GREENSBURG — A fugitive in western Pennsylvania was no match for a 4-year-old.

Sheriff's deputies in Westmoreland County were searching for Jesse Vaughn Lawson, 24, recently on an arrest warrant for burglary and receiving stolen property.

While checking at an apartment in Greensburg, Lawson's girlfriend told them she hadn't seen Lawson in five days. But the woman's 4-year-old son was more than happy to help.

The Tribune-Review reported the boy told deputies, "Come on, I'll show you," and led them to an electrical closet where Lawson was hiding.

Antelope escapes its zoo enclosure

CA SACRAMENTO — Officials are trying to determine how a young antelope named Taylor Swift managed to get out of its enclosure at the Sacramento Zoo.

The bongo calf's escape led officials to briefly close the zoo.

Zoo spokeswoman Laurel Vincent told the Sacramento Bee the 1-year-old was with its mother when visitors reported it had gotten out. Visitors were escorted away while the main gate was closed.

Vincent said staff used baffle boards and tables to gently guide the antelope to an off-exhibit holding area less than 15 minutes after it went missing.

Piglet who went wild in traffic is now home

ME AUGUSTA — Police in Maine's capital said a 50-pound piglet that wore itself out dodging traffic after escaping has been safely returned home.

Augusta police said they found the piglet Saturday after receiving reports of the hog running wild. A good Samaritan caught the pig before officers arrived.

Augusta Police Sgt. Christian Behr said the pig was confirmed to be owned by someone with property nearby.

Man shot at own booby-trapped door

NC SHELBY — Authorities said a North Carolina man was wounded when he opened a back door in his home which he had rigged to fire a shotgun.

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office told the Shelby Star that Eddie Smith, 68, set up a shotgun facing his back door. The sheriff's office said Smith went outside to feed some squirrels Monday and opened the booby-trapped door and triggered the shotgun, which shot him in his right arm.

Capt. Jon Wright said the man was severely wounded but alert when he was taken to the hospital.

From wire reports

On a mission to provide objective reporting to America's military, wherever they serve.
Read us online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Kershaw rebounds, Dodgers go up 3-2

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw put his previous flop behind him and pushed the Los Angeles Dodgers forward — one victory from a return trip to the World Series.

With so much at stake, the three-time Cy Young Award winner bounced back from one of his worst postseason starts with one of his best, pitching the Dodgers past the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 Wednesday for a 3-2 lead in the NL Championship Series.

“I don’t really think about the one before. And after this one I’m not going to think about this one, either,” Kershaw said.

Max Muncy hit a go-ahead single in the sixth inning for the defending NL champs. Kershaw held the lead, scoring an insurance run in the seventh and then exiting.

Roughed up in the NLCS opener, Kershaw mixed his fastball and slider on a hot day to shut down the Brewers. The Dodgers ace didn’t allow a baserunner past the third inning.

“He just has a knack,” Brewers star Christian Yelich said. “He has the ability

to punch guys out.”

Game 6 is Friday night in Milwaukee. The Brewers will start left-hander Wade Miley, who walked Cody Bellinger to open Game 5 before getting pulled in an interesting piece of strategy by manager Craig Counsell. Hyun-Jin Ryu will go for the Dodgers.

“To go back to Milwaukee up 3-2 as opposed to being down 3-2 is huge for us,” Kershaw said. “It’s been a battle every single game we’ve played them so far and we don’t expect anything different when we go back.”

The Dodgers haven’t been in back-to-back World Series since losing to the Yankees in 1977 and ‘78. They were beaten by Houston in Game 7 last year.

“You’ve seen it this entire postseason, even when we’re behind, we’re battling back, putting ourselves in a position to possibly tie games or take the lead late,” Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner said. “That’s where our experience comes in. We never count ourselves out.”

If the Brewers rally to win the series and this ends up being Kershaw’s last start for

the Dodgers, he left behind a gem. The left-hander can opt out of the last two years and \$70 million remaining on his contract after the World Series and become a free agent. He said Tuesday he hasn’t made a decision about his future.

The teams reconvened less than 15 hours after the Dodgers eked out a 2-1 victory Tuesday night on Cody Bellinger’s RBI single with two outs in a 13-inning game that lasted over five hours.

Pitching in 82-degree sunshine, Kershaw was well-rested and masterful in allowing one run and three hits over seven. He struck out nine, all on breaking pitches, and walked two.

Kershaw recovered from the shortest postseason start of his career. He lasted just three innings in losing the NLCS opener while giving up five runs — four earned — at Miller Park.

“I don’t know if it was that much, just a little bit better execution maybe,” Kershaw said of his repertoire. “Maybe I threw some more curveballs today than I did in Game 1.”

NBA roundup

Davis dominant as Pelicans rout Rockets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Anthony Davis couldn’t help but notice James Harden’s freshly minted MVP trophy sitting at midcourt before a ceremony during warmups on Wednesday night.

After Harden hoisted the trophy for the first time before the Toyota Center home crowd and received a few MVP chants throughout the night, Davis began to make an MVP case of his own.

Davis had 32 points, 16 rebounds and a career-high eight assists while Nikola Mirotic scored 30 points to lead the New Orleans Pelicans to a 131-112 win over the Houston Rockets in their season opener.

“When it was sitting there before the game, I glanced at it, and then I had to lock back in for the game,” Davis said. “That stuff will take care of itself. As long as we keep doing what we’re doing as a team, the

rest will come on its own.”

Davis added three blocks and three steals, while Mirotic shot a sizzling 6 of 8 from 3-point range, and Julius Randle had 25 points off the bench.

Spurs 112, Timberwolves 108: DeMar DeRozan had 28 points in his San Antonio debut, LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points and 19 rebounds and the host Spurs overcame a 23-point performance by Minnesota’s Jimmy Butler.

Knicks 126, Hawks 107: Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 31 points, sparking the Knicks during their franchise-record, 49-point second quarter, and host New York beat Atlanta in its first game under coach David Fizdale.

Raptors 116, Cavaliers 104: Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 12 rebounds in his Toronto debut, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and the Raptors beat visiting Cleveland.

Bucks 113, Hornets 112: At Charlotte, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points, 18 rebounds and eight assists, and Milwaukee spoiled the Hornets’ celebration of 30 years of basketball.

Charlotte’s Kemba Walker scored 41 points on 15 of 29 shooting from the field, hitting seven three-pointers.

Pacers 111, Grizzlies 83: Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 to help host Indiana rout Memphis in the largest-opening night victory margin in the franchise’s NBA era.

Pistons 103, Nets 100: Andre Drummond had 24 points and 20 rebounds, and host Detroit won its opener under new coach Dwane Casey.

Magic 104, Heat 101: Rookie Mohamed Bamba dunked twice and blocked a shot during host Orlando’s 9-0 run in the fourth quarter and the Magic

held off Miami.

Jazz 123, Kings 117: Donovan Mitchell scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Utah overcame an uneven performance on both ends of the floor to beat Sacramento in the season opener for both teams.

Suns 121, Mavericks 100: Devin Booker scored 19 of his 35 points in the final 6:44 and lifted host Phoenix over Dallas in the teams’ season opener.

Deandre Ayton, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, made 8 of 11 shots for 18 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and had six assists. Dallas’ Luka Doncic, the No. 3 overall pick, struggled from the field, making 5 of 16 shots — 0 of 5 three-pointers — for 10 points.

Nuggets 107, Clippers 98: Nikola Jokic scored 21 points, Gary Harris added 20 for visiting Denver in its win over Los Angeles.

Benintendi, Red Sox hold off Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andrew Benintendi charged in hard and left his feet.

Make the catch, Boston wins.

If not ... no telling.

On this night, though, even a ball the Red Sox didn't grab went their way.

Benintendi made a diving play in left field with the bases loaded for the final out, and Boston held off the Houston Astros 8-6 Wednesday to take a 3-1 lead in the AL Championship Series.

"I thought I could catch it and timed it up well," Benintendi said. "At that point, it was either do or die."

Boosted by a questionable fan interference call and another home run from Jackie Bradley Jr. in a gripping, back-and-forth game, the Red Sox moved within one victory of their first World Series trip since winning the 2013 title.

Craig Kimbrel earned a shaky six-out save, helped by a rocket throw from right fielder Mookie Betts and Benintendi's daring grab of Alex Bregman's sinking liner. Had the ball

scooted past Benintendi, it easily could have scored three runs and won the game for Houston.

"Beni took a shot. Had a great jump. And he got it," Boston manager Alex Cora said.

With that, the Red Sox improved to 4-0 on the road in these playoffs and inched closer to eliminating the defending World Series champions.

"This game was incredibly good on both sides — great at-bats, great plays," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "The difference in that game literally was a couple inches."

Game 5 is Thursday night in Houston, where ace Justin Verlander will pitch for the Astros with their season on the line. David Price, who was warming up in the bullpen late in Game 4, will start for Boston on three days' rest after Chris Sale was ruled out Wednesday while recovering from a stomach illness.

Bradley hit a go-ahead homer in the sixth inning, his latest huge swing for a Red Sox team that was beaten in last year's playoffs by Houston in the Division Series.

Boston has won three straight after a Game 1 loss, and this one

came with some controversy.

Astros star Jose Altuve was denied a potential two-run homer in the first inning and called out after fans reaching for the ball interfered with Betts' attempt at a leaping catch.

Boston trailed by one with two outs in the sixth when Christian Vazquez doubled to deep right-center. Center fielder George Springer nearly made a jumping grab, but the ball glanced off his glove.

Bradley, who hit a grand slam in Game 3 and a three-run double in Game 2, put the Red Sox on top 6-5 with his soaring shot to right field on the next pitch from rookie Josh James.

"I'm very proud of him, what he's done in the second part of the season and what he's done tonight and in this series. It's amazing," Cora said about Bradley.

Boston got some insurance in the seventh when Lance McCullers walked in a run after taking over for Ryan Pressly with the bases loaded and two outs. J.D. Martinez added an RBI single in the eighth.

Houston cut the margin to two on an RBI groundout by Altuve in the eighth. Right fielder

Josh Reddick made a diving catch of Betts' liner with the bases loaded to end the top of the ninth.

Red Sox starter Rick Porcello allowed seven hits and four runs over four innings in a wild game that took 4 hours, 33 minutes. Joe Kelly was the winner after giving up a run in the fifth.

Rafael Devers and Xander Bogaerts had two RBIs apiece for the Red Sox, who have outscored their opponents 36-12 on the road this postseason.

Houston's Carlos Correa, who has struggled with back problems for months, had three hits and two RBIs for his first multihit game this postseason. Springer and Tony Kemp each hit a solo homer for the Astros, who left 13 runners on base.

A rusty Charlie Morton gave up three hits, three runs and two walks in just 2¹/₃ innings. He also threw two wild pitches in his first outing for the Astros since the regular-season finale on Sept. 30.

The disputed call came in the bottom of the inning when umpires ruled a fan interfered with Betts as he tried to snag Altuve's drive above the right-field wall.

Fan interferes on possible early Altuve HR

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve was sure he'd hit a tying home run for the Houston Astros in Game 4 of the AL Championship Series. He thought it was a double, at least, when he watched the ball ricochet back onto the field.

Then, he saw the signal: He was out, and couldn't believe it.

Altuve's potential homer was wiped away when umpire Joe West ruled that fans reaching for the ball interfered with Boston right fielder Mookie Betts attempting to make a leaping catch.

Now Houston's chances to repeat as World Series champions are nearly out of reach after an 8-6 loss Wednesday night that put the Red Sox ahead 3-1 in the best-of-seven matchup.

"I normally don't get mad at the umpire's call. That one, I was a little upset," Altuve said. "All of a sudden, it wasn't even a double, it was an out. Two runs the game ended

up ... that make me a little bit more upset."

Denied Altuve's two-run drive in the first inning, the Astros wound up falling two runs short.

"That's just a tough call right now," said Houston's George Springer, who later homered over that same wall. "I understand it's not easy to make that call. You would like to see a two-run homer be a two-run homer, especially to tie the game."

West, the crew chief working the right-field line at Minute Maid Park, signaled fan interference after Betts was unable to make a jumping grab. Fans made contact with Betts' glove, though it wasn't clear if they had reached over the fence.

The call stood after a replay review that lasted 3 minutes, 13 seconds. Altuve was ruled out and Springer was sent back to first base.

West told a pool reporter the ball had not crossed the top of the wall when "the spectator reached out of the stands and hit him

over the playing field and closed his glove."

Betts, one of the best defenders in the majors, said he had it all the way.

"That was a ball I could catch. I'm 100 percent positive I was going to be able to catch that one," he said.

"I jumped and went over, reached my hand up, I felt like somebody was kind of pushing my glove out of the way or something," Betts said.

A fan wearing an orange Astros jersey, who identified himself as Troy Caldwell, insisted he wasn't reaching out over the yellow line atop the 7-foot-high fence when the ball hit his hand.

"That ball was gone no matter what," said Caldwell, a lifelong Astros fan from Houston who now lives in Atlanta.

The play came the same day MLB cleared the Astros of wrongdoing after a Houston employee was caught pointing his cellphone into opposing dugouts during playoff games in Cleveland and Boston.

US women win CONCACAF championship

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Rose Lavelle is still trying to regain some of the confidence that was shaken when she was injured.

Lavelle has been back to full strength for a while since battling a nagging hamstring injury, but it's the mental part that she's been working hard to overcome.

On Wednesday night she scored within the first two minutes and the U.S. women beat rival Canada 2-0 in the championship match of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament.

"It's a little weird because it's been a while since I've been back, I've been back for a couple of months now. I really didn't think it would take that long," said Lavelle, who at 23 is one of the team's young stars. "I think when I'm playing my best I'm not thinking, and things are coming naturally. I'm not quite there yet. I think I'm getting there, and I know I'll get there, but I'm not there yet."

Alex Morgan also scored

for the United States, which outscored the field 26-0 to improve to 16-0-2 so far in 2018. The team has gone undefeated in 26 straight matches (23-0-3) dating to last year.

Both had already secured spots in next year's World Cup in France with victories in the semifinals. CONCACAF sends the top three finishers in the tournament to the World Cup.

Jamaica earned a trip to France on penalties after a 2-2 draw with Panama in the third-place match at Toyota Stadium earlier on Wednesday. Panama will still have a chance to qualify for France with a two-legged playoff against Argentina next month. It will be Jamaica's first trip to the World Cup, and the island nation is the first team from the Caribbean to earn a spot.

The United States, the top-ranked team in the world, is the defending World Cup champion. The Americans beat Japan in the 2015 World Cup final in Canada.

Lavelle's left-footed goal from distance came less than

two minutes into the match. It was the sixth of her career, and third of the tournament.

Lavelle, who played at Wisconsin, was the first pick of the National Women's Soccer League draft in 2017. She currently plays for the Washington Spirit. She's made 18 total appearances for the national team.

The game between the two rivals was tense from the start, and Tobin Heath was handed a yellow card after exchanging words and pushes with Canadian defender Allysha Chapman.

Morgan collided with Canadian goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe on a good U.S. chance in the 61st minute. Morgan recovered to take a shot that was diverted away by Shelina Zadorsky.

Morgan was just wide on another effort in the 80th minute, but finally broke through with her goal in the 89th. She has 24 goals in her last 24 games.

Morgan was the top scorer of the tournament with seven total goals. The United States did not concede a goal in the

five matches.

"Canada made it hard for us at times tonight," Morgan said. "I just think part of this, when you play your rivals in a tournament like this, it's sometimes very much about heart, and will. So I think to get the late goal was incredible rewarding for the mentality piece. It's something you can take away and lean on later."

The match was played in steady rain and temperatures in the 50s. Attendance was announced as 6,986.

Canada, ranked fifth in the world, has seen its profile raised in recent years with back-to-back bronze medals at the Olympics. The two teams met in an epic semifinal match at the 2012 London Games, with the United States coming out on top 4-3 in overtime.

The U.S. defeated Jamaica 6-0 on Sunday in the semifinals, with Morgan and Heath scoring two goals apiece. Christine Sinclair scored twice in Canada's 7-0 semifinal victory over Panama.

NHL roundup

Ovechkin scores twice as Capitals edge Rangers in OT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin scored two power-play goals and Matt Niskanen had the winner in the Washington Capitals' 4-3 overtime victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Ovechkin has six goals in six games to start the season after scoring 49 last season. He has 24 career goals against Henrik Lundqvist, his most against any goaltender in the NHL.

Niskanen beat Lundqvist 2:18 into overtime, putting the puck into an empty net as Lundqvist lunged to try to stop the shot. John Carlson had Washington's other goal.

Capitals goalie Braden Holtby stopped 29 of the 32 shots he

faced in arguably his best game of this season. One of his biggest saves came with time running out in the second period when he denied Kevin Hayes on a short-handed breakaway, and Ovechkin tied up Neal Pionk's stick to prevent a rebound goal.

Mika Zibanejad, Jimmy Vesey and Chris Kreider scored for New York.

Canadiens 3, Blues 2: Brendan Gallagher scored with 11 seconds left to give host Montreal its third straight victory.

Gallagher tipped a loose puck past goalie Jake Allen after jumping on a bad giveaway by defenseman Colton Parayko in front of the net.

Max Domi and Mike Reilly each scored their first goal of the season to help Montreal

improve to 4-1-1. Carey Price made 23 saves after missing two games because of the flu.

Vince Dunn and Brayden Schenn scored for St. Louis, and Allen made 20 saves. The Blues dropped to 1-3-2.

Flames 5, Bruins 2: Michael Frolik scored two goals to lead host Calgary past Boston.

Johnny Gaudreau collected his 100th NHL goal and rookie defenseman Juusu Valimaki scored his first for the Flames. Matthew Tkachuk added an empty-net goal.

Mikael Backlund and Michael Stone each had two assists as Calgary won its second straight home game. Goaltender Mike Smith stopped 24 of 26 shots in the win. Patrice Bergeron had a goal and an as-

sist for the Bruins.

Brad Marchand also scored. Tuukka Rask turned away 24 shots in the loss.

Ducks 4, Islanders 1: Ryan Kesler scored twice to help host Anaheim continue its hot start.

Adam Henrique added a third goal for the Ducks and Hampus Lindholm an empty-netter in the final seconds. Anaheim is 5-1-1 this season.

The Islanders fell to 2-3-0.

Anaheim goalie John Gibson lost his shutout with 34.8 seconds left when Ross Johnson's shot deflected off Casey Cizikas and then Anaheim's Luke Schenn and into the net.

Gibson stopped 34 of New York's 35 shots. Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss turned away 21 of Anaheim's 24 shots.