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Korean military pact may ease tensions

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea wasn't at the table when military commanders from the U.S.-led United Nations Command and the joint Chinese-North Korean forces signed the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War. Then-President Syngman Rhee opposed peace talks.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in isn't letting that happen again. The 65-year-old former human rights attorney has sent clear signals that Seoul is moving forward with improving relations with the North despite slow progress on the nuclear front.

Efforts to resume economic cooperation are limited by U.S.-led sanctions linked to the North's banned nuclear weapons program.

But a far-reaching military agreement signed during Moon's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week outlines ambitious steps to reduce tensions along the heavily fortified border, which has bisected the peninsula since the end of the three-year Korean War.

While his efforts to revive nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington got the most attention, Moon called the mili-

tary accord "the most important" result for relations between the two countries.

"This development would go beyond ending the Korean War that has remained unfinished since the signing of the armistice agreement, eradicating any possibility of war between the two Koreas in the future," he said during a press conference after returning to Seoul on Thursday.

Conservatives in South Korea and other critics have expressed concern that Moon's administration is letting down its guard too soon considering the North's track record of renegeing on past agreements.

It's also unclear how the military measures may affect the armistice agreement, which is enforced by the United Nations Command under the command of Army Gen. Vincent Brooks, who also leads U.S. Forces Korea.

The UNC, which would likely need to sign off on key points, said it would "thoroughly review" the agreement "to ensure compliance with the Armistice Agreement."

The command will cooperate with South Korea's Defense Ministry and "as appropriate" with the North Korean military "to work through the details of the agreement," according to a UNC official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The two sides agreed to cease military exercises including live-fire artillery drills and maritime maneuver exercises in front-line areas effective Nov. 1.

The rivals also announced a blueprint to transform the DMZ, a 2.5-mile-wide no man's land that is lined with barbed wire and land mines, into a peace zone, as agreed during the first Moon-Kim summit on April 27.

That included plans to remove all mines and disarm troops in the Joint Security Area in the truce village of Panmunjom. The agreement said a trilateral consultative body including the two Koreas and the UNC would be established to oversee the process.

"If implemented, these measures will reduce tensions, and will also make incidents at the DMZ significantly less likely — even though it will hardly prevent either side from staging a clash when/if it is seen as politically expedient," North Korea expert Andrei Lankov wrote in a commentary for NK News.

"But given that many earlier incidents were seemingly provoked by human error, these measures are likely to save the lives of soldiers from both sides," he said.

Hope seen on N. Korea ahead of UN meeting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — North Korea's Kim Jong Un is "little rocket man" no more. President Donald Trump isn't a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

In the year since Trump's searing, debut U.N. speech fueled fears of nuclear conflict with North Korea, the two leaders have turned from threats to flattery.

And there's fresh hope that the U.S. president's abrupt shift from coercion to negotiation can yield results in getting Kim to halt, if not abandon, his nuclear weapons program.

Trump will address world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday on the back of an upbeat summit between South and North Korea, where Kim promised to dismantle a major rocket launch site and the North's main nuclear complex at Nyongbyon if it gets some incentive from Washington.

North Korea remains a long, long way from relinquishing its nuclear arsenal, and the U.S. has been adding to, not easing, sanctions. Yet the past 12 months have seen a remarkable change in atmosphere between the adversaries that has surprised even the former U.S. envoy on

North Korea.

"If someone had told me last year that North Korea will stop nuclear tests, will stop missile tests and that they will release the remaining American prisoners and that they would be even considering dismantling Nyongbyon, I would have taken that in a heartbeat," said Joseph Yun, who resigned in March and has since left the U.S. foreign service.

Since Trump and Kim held the first summit between U.S. and North Korean leaders in Singapore in June, Trump has missed no chance to praise "Chairman Kim," and Kim

has expressed "trust and confidence" in the American president he once branded "senile."

But progress has been slow toward the vague goal they agreed upon — denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which has eluded U.S. presidents for the past quarter-century. The U.S. wants to achieve that by January 2021, when Trump completes his first term in office.

Although Kim won't be going to New York this week, meetings there could prove critical in deciding whether a second Trump-Kim summit will take place anytime soon.

Dog tag is bond to father ID'd from Korean War remains

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC, Hawaii — On Friday, brothers Charles and Larry McDaniel ascended the Punchbowl Cemetery's monument displaying the names of roughly 24,000 servicemembers who remain missing from the Korean War and the Pacific theater of World War II.

They climbed up scaffolding to reach the spot where their father's name, Charles McDaniel Sr., is inscribed in stone and placed a bronze rosette next to his name, indicating he is missing no more.

During an earlier ceremony at the cemetery observing the annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Charles McDaniel Jr. told an audience of 300 how the remains of his father were suddenly and dramatically found.

When North Korea turned over 55 boxes possibly holding the remains of Americans who died in the Korean War in July, McDaniel greeted the news with caution.

He was 3½ when he last saw his father, who was declared missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, during the Korean War.

The elder McDaniel, who was a medic, was one of more than 5,000 American servicemembers whose remains are believed to be in North Korea.

"So I figured, 55 sets of remains: 1 percent chance or less" his father's remains would be among them, McDaniel said.

But then, a representative from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency called with a stunning update: the sole dog tag found in the boxes of remains belonged to his father.

"Last week I got another call," McDaniel explained. "Didn't expect it so soon. Wait-

ed 68 years for this.

"They said, 'We've identified your father,'" McDaniel said, gasping as he swallowed a sob.

On Thursday, the brothers were shown their father's remains at the DPAA headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

McDaniel held onto a precious few things that made his father real.

He had a handwritten letter sent by his father to his mother, mailed from Ogden, Utah, as he headed to war in Korea.

"Give my love to the boys," the letter closes, words that took on almost the relevance of Scripture to McDaniel, who went on to a career as an Army chaplain.

He has only one memory of his father, a moment when he ran toward him to greet him coming home, his dad sweeping him up in his arms.

Now there is the dog tag.

Soldiers give thanks at final Chuseok holiday dinner

BY MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea — The 2nd Infantry Division held its last Chuseok dinner Thursday in the northern city of Uijeongbu — a final night of thanks before the headquarters and its soldiers relocate 60 miles south to Camp Humphreys later this year.

Chuseok is a three-day Thanksgiving-like celebration in which Korean families trek to their ancestral homes to visit relatives and enjoy traditional foods and games.

"We are here to celebrate Chuseok ... to understand the culture of our hosts; we are also celebrating our time as guests in Uijeongbu, as this is our final event that we will host at Camp Red Cloud," said 2ID's commander, Maj. Gen. Scott McKean, according to an audio recording of the event provided by the Army.

Instead of returning to their roots, Camp Red Cloud soldiers will soon pack up and leave an installation that's hosted U.S. servicemembers since the Korean War. The 2ID museum, a fixture at the base, boxed up its artifacts last week, and Camp Red Cloud's old stone brick chapel will be decommissioned next month.

The handover of Camp Red Cloud — which lies between Seoul and the Demilitarized Zone — will fulfill a major part of the often-delayed 2004 agreement between Washington and Seoul to move the bulk of U.S. forces to sprawling Humphreys in Pyeongtaek.

Two Korean war veterans were on hand for Thursday's Chuseok feast, during which Indianhead soldiers broke bread with their Korean hosts.

Uijeongbu Mayor Ahn Byung Yong said the 2ID has exemplified what it means to be in the "blood-forged alliance."

IG: Poor upkeep at Europe supply caches

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Army and Marine Corps combat stocks intended to supply thousands of troops in an emergency or conflict showed signs of corrosion and poor upkeep at multiple sites in Europe, a Pentagon watchdog said.

The Defense Department Inspector General's findings "raise potential concerns" that at least \$204 million worth of equipment isn't being properly stored and maintained since the maintenance protocols observed at four sites apply at other locations, according to a report published Thursday.

The report did not specify how many total storage sites there are in Europe.

"Without adequately managed pre-positioned equipment,

the Army and the Marine Corps may not be able to fully support a request to provide immediate crisis response when the need arises in Europe or Africa," said the report.

The Pentagon has beefed up stocks of tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artillery and other equipment across Europe in the wake of Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine.

Having those pieces in place gives EUCOM the ability to respond to a developing crisis in a fraction of the time it would take to move the supplies from the United States.

But the audit found that some equipment may not be serviceable quickly enough. In some cases, humidity levels weren't controlled, causing equipment to corrode. There was also a lack of maintenance documen-

tation on some weapons and vehicles.

The problems were noted at four of five sites reviewed — the Leghorn Army Depot at Camp Darby in Livorno, Italy, and at three caves in Norway where the Marine Corps stores and maintains equipment in partnership with the Norwegians.

Pentagon inspectors found that relative humidity wasn't controlled at the Bjugn, Frigaard and Tromsdal caves in Norway, where the Marines keep large stocks.

Also, routine maintenance was not performed on more than 100 vehicles inspected at the caves. Leaks were observed on 16 of 53 mission-essential vehicles, including an armored bridge vehicle, the report said.

Kavanaugh's accuser commits to hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON —Attorneys for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, and the Senate Judiciary Committee have reached agreement for a public hearing Thursday as talks continued Sunday to resolve potentially make-or-break details, such as potential witnesses who could corroborate her decades-old sexual assault claim.

Ford committed to an "open" hearing after negotiators convened a call on Sunday, her attorneys said in a statement. A spokesman for the committee's

chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, confirmed the meeting would be set at 10 a.m. Thursday.

"We've made important progress," said Ford's attorneys Debra S. Katz, Lisa J. Banks, and Michael R. Bromwich. "Dr. Ford believes it is important for senators to hear directly from her about the sexual assault committed against her. She has agreed to move forward."

Terms of their appearances are still being negotiated, but several details have been resolved. Ford agreed that she will testify after Kavanaugh, rather than going first, as she had preferred, according to a

source familiar with the talks who was unauthorized to discuss the talks publicly and was granted anonymity.

Who will be asking the questions remains unresolved, the lawyers said. Republicans have been trying to hire an outside female counsel who could take over the questioning. The 11 senators on the GOP side of the dais are all men, which could send an unwanted message on live television against the backdrop of the #MeToo era so close to the midterm election. They could also use staff attorneys to the Republican majority on the committee.

"We were told no decision

has been made on this important issue, even though various senators have been dismissive of her account and should have to shoulder their responsibility to ask her questions," the attorneys said.

The attorneys said they did not know when they would have answers to the unresolved issues.

A final accord could bring to a close days of brinkmanship that have roiled Washington ahead of midterm elections and threatened to jeopardize Kavanaugh's confirmation to the court, even as some Republicans say the additional hearings may do little to change their support for him.

A week later, Florence's flooding lingers

Associated Press

BLADENBORO, N.C. — Major flooding remains in eastern North Carolina more than a week after Hurricane Florence made landfall.

Gov. Roy Cooper said Saturday that nine of the state's river gauges are at major flood stage and four others are at moderate stage, while parts of Interstates 95 and 40 will remain underwater for another week or more. Emergency management officials said residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed will begin moving into hotel rooms this week.

South Carolina also has ordered more evacuations as rivers continue to rise in the aftermath of a storm that has claimed at least 43 lives since slamming into the coast more than a week ago.

The small farming community of Nichols, S.C., about 40 miles from the coast, was completely inundated by water, Mayor Lawson Batter said Saturday. He called the situation "worse than Matthew," the 2016 hurricane that destroyed almost 90 percent of the town's 261 homes. Batter said flooding from Florence has wiped out the 150 or so homes rebuilt afterward.

In Wilmington, where Hurricane Florence made landfall and which had been cut off by floodwaters, officials said they'd identified three safe routes into town. They encouraged people to avoid travel in areas where the risk of flooding remains.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry said Saturday that eastern counties continue to see major flooding, including areas along the Black, Lumber, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers. The Cape Fear river was expected to crest Sunday and remain at flood stage through early this week.

He said residents who regis-

ter with the Federal Emergency Management Agency can begin moving into hotels Monday. The program initially will be open to residents in nine counties, then will be expanded. A FEMA coordinator said about 69,000 people from North Carolina already have registered for assistance.

The National Weather Service confirmed Saturday that 10 tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Florence touched down Sept. 17 in Virginia, the strongest of which leveled a flooring company in Chesterfield and killed one worker.

Rains deluge Oklahoma; 1 dead in Texas flooding

Associated Press

DALLAS — A storm system dumped record amounts of rain in parts of Oklahoma and caused flooding in Texas, including in the Dallas area, where floodwaters swept a man from a bridge to his death near the University of Texas' campus in nearby Arlington.

"(A) witness ... stated that the victim was swept under a bridge by rushing waters,"

shortly before midnight Friday, according to Arlington Fire Department Lt. Mike Joiner.

The man's body was found a few hours later. His name hasn't been released.

The Dallas Fire Department said at least 15 people were rescued from the rising waters about 7 a.m. Saturday, including five Dallas police officers and a motorist. The officers became trapped while trying to rescue the motorist.

Up to 45 homes in Everman, south of Fort Worth, were damaged by floodwaters as some residents were forced to scramble onto roofs to escape rising water.

Austin fire officials said some 60 people attending a wedding reception were rescued from rising waters that surrounded the venue early Saturday. Some at the reception were forced to climb trees to avoid the water, officials said.

A record 14 inches of rain fell Friday at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey's site in Fittstown, about 75 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, and more than 2 additional inches fell before noon Saturday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Forrest Mitchell in Norman.

The previous record of just less than 7 inches was set in July 1997, according to Mesonet records.

WHO cites 3M alcohol deaths

Associated Press

Drinking too much alcohol killed more than 3 million people in 2016, mostly men, the World Health Organization said.

The U.N. health agency also warned that current policy responses are not sufficient to reverse trends predicting an increase in consumption over the next 10 years.

In a new report Friday, the agency said about 237 million men and 46 million women faced alcohol problems, with the highest prevalence in Europe and the Americas. Europe has the highest global per capita alcohol consumption, even though it has dropped by 10 percent since 2010.

Around a third of alcohol-related deaths were a result of injuries, including car crashes

and self-harm, while about one in five were due to either digestive disorders or cardiovascular diseases. Cancers, infectious diseases, mental disorders and other health conditions were also to blame.

“Far too many people, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the harmful use of alcohol through violence, injuries, mental health problems and diseases like cancer and stroke,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the WHO. “It’s time to step up action to prevent this serious threat to the development of healthy societies.”

The average daily consumption of alcohol by people who consume it is about two glasses of wine, a large bottle of beer or two shots of spirits. Globally,

about 2.3 billion people are current drinkers.

The report, the third in a series after ones in 2010 and 2014, relies on information from 2016 — the latest data available. The WHO said the trends and projections point to an expected increase in global alcohol per capita consumption over the next decade, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Americas.

The Distilled Spirits Council, which advocates for the industry in the U.S., said in a statement it supports the WHO’s goal to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

“However, we are concerned that some policy recommendations such as increasing alcohol taxes are misguided and don’t effectively address harmful consumption,” it said.

Iran blames US in attack that killed 25

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that an unnamed U.S.-allied country in the Persian Gulf was behind an attack on a military parade that killed 25 people and wounded nearly 70.

Rouhani did not identify those behind Saturday’s attack, which was claimed by an Arab separatist group. He could have been referring to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates or Bahrain — close U.S. military allies that view Iran as a regional menace over its support for militant groups across the Middle East.

“All of those small mercenary countries that we see in this region are backed by America. It is Americans who instigate them and provide them with necessary means to commit these crimes,” Rouhani said.

Saturday’s attack, in which militants disguised as soldiers opened fire on an annual Iranian military parade in Ahvaz, in the oil-rich southwest, was the deadliest attack in the country in nearly a decade.

The region’s Arab separatists, once only known for nighttime attacks on unguarded oil pipelines, claimed responsibility for the assault, and Iranian officials appeared to believe the claim. Iran summoned diplomats from Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands early Sunday for allegedly harboring “members of the terrorist group” that launched the attack.

The ministry later summoned the envoy of the United Arab Emirates as well over what it called the “irresponsible and insulting statements” of an Emirati adviser, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had earlier blamed regional countries and their “U.S. masters” for funding and arming the separatists.

The U.S. government strongly condemned Saturday’s attack and expressed its sympathy, saying it “condemns all acts of terrorism and the loss of any innocent lives.”

Tourists return to changed volcano park

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A national park in Hawaii has reopened after being closed for more than four months because of Kilauea volcano’s latest eruption, which caused widespread damage to park infrastructure and dramatically changed its landscape.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park officials said there were no lines or waiting for visitors to catch a glimpse of the volcano that made headlines across the world when it began erupting in May. Admission was free Saturday.

The eruption destroyed hundreds of homes outside the park while changing the popular summit crater inside the park.

The national park — normally the state’s most-visited tourist attraction — had been closed for 135 days as volcanic activity caused explosive eruptions, earthquakes and the collapse of the famed Halemaumau crater. Ash clouds shot skyward from the summit crater and blanketed the region in volcanic debris.

Kilauea has been active for decades. But the eruption that

began in May has transformed both the park and the rural Big Island coastline that surrounds it.

Outside the park, lava flows consumed entire neighborhoods, filled an ocean bay and created miles of new shoreline with fresh black sand beaches and jagged rocky outcrops.

Inside the park, molten rock drained from the summit lava lake and vanished from view as the landscape underwent a monumental change.

The summit crater floor sunk 1,500 feet, and the overall Kilauea caldera widened — expanding more than 1 square mile, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It quadrupled in size as lava drained out of the active vent.

“This eruption was really unprecedented in the historic record,” Ingrid Johanson, a research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey’s Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. “The changes we’ve seen at the summit are much more dramatic than anything that’s happened in the last 200 years.”

The crater looks “completely different,” Johanson said. “I think people are going to be really awestruck when they see it.”

However, one of the park’s biggest draws — the radiant red light from the lava lake that has been a Kilauea hallmark for more than a decade — is completely gone.

“There is no glow at all,” said Shanelle Saunders, the park’s acting spokeswoman. “You can’t even see your hand in front your face it’s so dark in a lot of these areas. I mean, the stars right now are incredible, but there’s actually no flowing lava.”

The park will be open 24 hours a day, but visitors should be careful at night because of new cracks in trails and walkways. “Even if people are really familiar with those trails, they may have changed since they’ve been here,” Saunders said.

Public access to the volcano remains limited because of damage to its infrastructure. But visitors can once again hike around some parts of the summit area and see the aftermath of the historic eruption.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

University's tree may get room to grow

LA LAFAYETTE — A state champion tree at a Louisiana university campus may get more room to grow larger.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is considering moving a greenhouse to make room for the big Montezuma cypress. Workers have removed four concrete parking spaces, and university officials are planning for a deck with seating around the tree.

The tree is native to Mexico and Guatemala and found in south Texas and south New Mexico. Nobody's certain how this one came to be planted at the Lafayette campus. It's 60 feet tall and 16 feet around with branches spreading out 80 feet across.

Restaurant that gave lobsters pot probed

ME SOUTHWEST HARBOR — State health inspectors are investigating a Maine lobster pound that hoped to mellow out lobsters with marijuana.

The Portland Press Herald reported that Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor has stopped allowing customers to request meat from lobsters sedated with marijuana.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Emily Spencer said Friday that whether Gill's plan complies with regulations is up to the Maine Medical Marijuana Program.

Teen girl accused of stabbing student

PA PHILADELPHIA — An eighth-grade girl stabbed a 13-year-old boy in the

abdomen with scissors after an altercation in science class Friday, police and school district officials said.

The boy was in stable condition at a hospital.

The stabbing happened as students were transitioning to their next class at the William Dick School, said Lee Whack, a spokesman for the School District of Philadelphia. The students had an altercation during science class, but the teacher de-escalated it and thought it was resolved, he said.

The girl was arrested and the weapon was recovered, according to police.

Vandalism prevents medical flight landing

AK KASIGLUK — An emergency medical flight attempting to land at an Alaska village had to turn back because lights on the runway had been vandalized.

Someone broke 43 runway lights at the airport in Kasigluk, a village of 630 people about 26 miles northwest of Bethel, Alaska State Troopers said.

It was the latest incident in a recurring problem at rural airports, said Alaska Department of Transportation spokeswoman Shannon McCarthy.

On Wednesday, someone in the village needed a flight out. Around midnight, a medical flight approached to pick up the patient but was unable to land because lights could not be activated.

Damage to the lights is estimated at \$1,600.

Man admits shipping gun parts to countries

CO PUEBLO — A Colorado man has acknowledged illegally shipping rifle barrels, gun magazines and other firearms parts to Saudi Arabia and Colombia on mul-

tiple occasions.

The Pueblo Chieftain reported Valentino Lopez pleaded guilty in federal court last week to outbound smuggling, which happened in 2014 and 2015.

The Pueblo man shipped some of the firearms parts to a recipient who turned out to be an undercover federal agent, and a search of Lopez's home in December 2015 turned up 254 rifle magazines and 63 rifle barrels.

Lopez acknowledged selling the parts over the internet and shipping them to the two countries despite knowing that it was illegal.

Target shooters spark wildfires near Reno

NV RENO — Federal officials confirmed Friday that target shooters started separate wildfires outside Reno and they're asking for the public's help finding a red ATV seen leaving the area where the one broke out in the Washoe Valley.

Neither of the fires, which were reported within an hour of each other around noon Thursday, caused any property damage or threatened structures.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said a red side-by-side utility terrain vehicle was seen driving on Goni Road toward Carson City shortly after the Duck Hill fire was reported. It burned about 12 acres before it was snuffed out.

The Chimney Fire burned about 184 acres north of Sun Valley Regional Park north of Reno.

Woman gets prison in kidnapping scam

TX HOUSTON — A Texas woman was sentenced to more than seven years in federal prison for her role in what investigators called a "virtual kidnapping" extortion scam

with ties to Mexico.

Yanette Rodriguez Acosta was sentenced Thursday to 88 months in prison. The 35-year-old Houston woman pleaded guilty in February to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Investigators last year warned about the scam, in which callers from Mexico tell parents that their children have been abducted and demand ransoms.

Man who shot shaving video meant no harm

NY NEW YORK — The commuter who filmed another man shaving on a New Jersey Transit train and posted the video on social media said he never intended any harm.

In a tweet Tuesday, Pete Bentivegna said there's been a lot of licensing interest in the video and that all proceeds will go to support Anthony Torres and his family.

The viral video shows Torres steadily swiping away with a razor at his lathered face.

The 56-year-old said he was just trying to clean up before visiting his family after spending days in a homeless shelter.

3 radio stations off air after copper thefts

AR JONESBORO — Three Jonesboro radio stations are back on the air after copper thieves disrupted operations and damaged the transmitter building and a backup generator.

The outages affected East Arkansas Broadcasters stations KIYS, KIYS HD2 and KBTM Sept. 17.

EAP Chief Operating Officer Scott Siler told The Jonesboro Sun that the stations returned to the air the same day.

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Army nearly stops Sooners

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Army couldn't have played much better against Oklahoma.

The Black Knights, more than four-touchdown underdogs on the road, held on to the ball for nearly 45 minutes and ran 87 plays to Oklahoma's 40. They had a goal-line stand in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma missed a field goal at the end of regulation that could have won the game. Everything seemed to be falling Army's way.

In the end, it wasn't enough. Oklahoma's Kyler Murray threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to CeeDee Lamb in overtime, and Parnell Motley intercepted Kelvin Hopkins' fourth-down pass to help the Sooners escape with a 28-21 victory on Saturday night.

A loss but much respect all around for the Black Knights.

"This Army team, them boys were tough," said Curtis Bolton, who had 23 tackles for the busy Oklahoma defense. "You can say what you want. It's a little outdated, the triple option. But at the end of the day, them boys are out there trying to win a football game. They played a hell of a football game. I'm glad we came out with the W."

Oklahoma knew the triple op-

tion was coming and Hopkins ran it nearly to perfection. He ran for 102 yards and a touchdown while constantly fooling the Sooners with his ball handling, but he threw two critical late interceptions.

"That's what makes it even more disappointing to lose, because our guys fought so hard and gutted it out," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "I'm sure there were very few people who gave our guys a chance to win. We had a chance to win the football game and we're disappointed that we didn't."

Monken said the Black Knights would have gone for two and the win if they had scored a touchdown on their overtime possession. The Black Knights were 4 for 4 on fourth-down conversions until Motley's interception.

"Every loss is tough," Hopkins said. "It hurts right now, but our job tomorrow is to come back and find what we can do better to get another win next weekend. That's what we're going to do. Like I said, it hurts, but we can't dwell on it too long."

Army won 10 games last season for the second time in its long and storied history. The Black Knights are 2-2 this season, losing only to undefeated Duke and undefeated Oklaho-

ma, both on the road. They will pay a visit to another undefeated team, Buffalo, next weekend.

In this one, Oklahoma led 21-14 at halftime after Army had 16-play, 75-yard touchdown drives on its first two possessions. Hopkins ran for 55 yards in the first half, including a nifty 5-yard touchdown run. Army ran 39 times for 183 yards in the first half and had the ball for 22:01, leaving Oklahoma time enough to run only 20 plays.

The Black Knights tied the game at 21 with 1:51 remaining in the third quarter after a 19-play, 85-yard drive that took 10:47 off the clock.

Oklahoma drove to the Army 1, but the Black Knights got the stop on fourth-and-goal and took over with 12:23 to go.

Sooners fans applauded Army's players as they left the field. Even with the loss, the Black Knights left feeling good about themselves.

"To be part of a football team, to come in here tonight and about pull off a victory against a great football program — I'm just incredibly proud to be part of this football team," Monken said. "I'm proud of our players. It's just a privilege to be part of a group of people who just care so much. It's fun to be part of something like that."

Academies

SMU edges Navy in OT

Associated Press

DALLAS—Hunter Thedford caught a two-point conversion pass in the first overtime on a play that led to several minutes of discussion by officials and a review before it was upheld, and SMU beat Navy 31-30 on Saturday for its first win over the Midshipmen in 20 years.

After Ben Hicks threw a four-yard touchdown pass to James Proche, new coach Sonny Dykes decided to go for his first win at SMU right then. Offensive lineman Chad Pursley went in motion from the tight end spot on the left to the slot right, and Hicks threw to Thedford over leaping linebacker Taylon Heflin in the end zone.

The officials met for several minutes as players slowly returned to the sidelines and fans chanted "S-M-U," then started booing, before referee Adam Savoie announced a review. Not too long after that, he announced the play was legal.

"They kind of hid a guy out on us and we didn't see him," he said. "Those are things we have to get ready for and we weren't ready for it. So hats off to them, nice design on the play but we weren't ready for it."

Navy (2-2, 1-1 American Athletic) started overtime with a nine-play possession that ended with quarterback Garret Lewis' plunge from inside the one-yard line.

The Mustangs (1-3, 1-0) beat Navy for the first time since 1998, ending an eight-game losing streak in the series. It was SMU's first home win over Navy since 1966.

C.J. Williams ran 52 yards for a tying touchdown for the Midshipmen with 6:19 left in the fourth quarter.

Utah State 42, Air Force 32: Jordan Love threw for a career-high 356 yards and two touchdowns to help host Utah State rally past Air Force.

Ron'quavion Tarver had 128 yards on nine receptions, and Gerold Bright added 101 yards rushing and two scores for the Aggies (3-1).

Old Dominion surprises Hokies

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — This was supposed to be a relatively easy road trip for Virginia Tech. Cross the state, connect with some its fans and maybe a few recruits there, and pick up a routine victory against Old Dominion.

The Monarchs and their backup quarterback turned the Hokies first visit to their stadium into maybe the most notable victory in school history — in any sport.

Blake LaRussa came off the bench to throw for 495 yards and four touchdowns to lead Old Dominion to a 49-35 upset of No. 13 Virginia Tech on Saturday in the Hokies' first game at the cross-state school that restarted its football program in 2009.

LaRussa, who entered the game on ODU's second series, completed 30 of 49 and rushed for a touchdown to lead the 28½-point underdog Monarchs (1-3) to a stunning win over the Hokies (2-

1) from the Atlantic Coast Conference. Virginia Tech started the season with a decisive victory as an underdog against Florida State and now the Hokies are on the receiving end of what will likely be one of the biggest upsets of the season.

"I told them, 'I liked you guys a lot better when everybody told you you were terrible,'" Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said about his team. "When everybody told you you didn't have any chance in that first game, and all you did was work your tails off.' And then now we get all feeling good about ourselves and we got brought back down to earth. We got what we deserved."

Jeremy Cox's 40-yard touchdown run with 1:34 remaining sealed the stunner. After the game, the ODU faithful stormed the field.

Longtime ODU coach Bobby Wilder called it "one of the biggest moments in Hampton Roads sports history."

Virginia Tech beat ODU 38-0 in Blacksburg last year.

Top 25 roundup

No. 1 'Bama cruises past A&M

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Tua Tagovailoa passed for 387 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another score to lead Alabama to a 45-23 victory.

The Crimson Tide (4-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) easily passed the first test against a ranked team. Kellen Mond and the Aggies (2-2, 0-1) couldn't put up nearly the fight they had in a 28-26 loss to No. 3 Clemson.

Tagovailoa completed 22 of 30 passes before leaving after Henry Ruggs III took a shuttle pass 57 yards for a score late in the third. His first attempt went for a 30-yard touchdown to a diving DeVonta Smith, and he hit tight end Hale Hentges for two more scores.

No. 2 Georgia 43, Missouri 29: Jake Fromm threw three touchdown passes and the visiting Bulldogshad a defensive touchdown and returned a blocked punt for a score.

No. 3 Clemson 49, Georgia Tech 21: At Atlanta, freshman Trevor Lawrence took a leading role in the Tigers' quarterback rotation, coming off the bench to throw four touchdown passes against the Yellow Jackets.

After starter Kelly Bryant produced just 13 yards and one first down on Clemson's first two possessions, Lawrence entered the game early in the second quarter. The youngster, finished with 176 yards on 13-of-18 passing for the Tigers (4-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

No. 4 Ohio State 42, Tulane 6: Dwayne Haskins Jr. threw for 304 yards and five touchdowns in the first half and the Buckeyes routed visiting Tulane in coach Urban Meyer's return to the sideline following a three-game suspension.

No. 6 LSU 38, Louisiana Tech 21: Nick Brossette scored three touchdowns, Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for a career-high 136 yards and two TDs, and the host Tigers beat the Bulldogs

No. 7 Stanford 38, No. 20 Oregon 31 (OT): K.J. Costello

threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns, the last a 23-yarder to Colby Parkinson in overtime, and visiting Stanford rallied to beat Oregon.

No. 8 Notre Dame 56, Wake Forest 27: Ian Book rushed for three touchdowns and threw for two more for the visiting Fighting Irish.

No. 9 Auburn 34, Arkansas 3: Noah Igbinoghene scored on a 96-yard kickoff return, and a partially blocked punt by Jordyn Peters set up another touchdown as big plays on special teams on special teams helped the host Tigers beat the Razorbacks.

No. 10 Washington 27, Arizona State 20: Jake Browning threw a pair of touchdown passes in the first quarter, added a third TD toss early in the fourth quarter and No. 10 Washington outlasted the visiting Sun Devils.

No. 12 West Virginia 35, Kansas State 6: Will Grier threw five touchdown passes for the fifth time in his career and the host Mountaineers shook off a sloppy start in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

Kentucky 28, No. 14 Mississippi State 7: Benny Snell Jr. rushed for four touchdowns to break a Kentucky career record, including two in the fourth quarter, and the host Wildcats held the Bulldogs to 56 yards rushing.

Texas Tech 41, No. 15 Oklahoma State 17: Alan Bowman threw for 397 yards and two touchdowns and Texas Tech ended a nine-game losing streak to host Oklahoma State.

The win is the third straight since a season-opening loss to Mississippi for the Red Raiders (3-1, 1-0 Big 12), whose last victory over Oklahoma State came in 2008.

Texas 31, No. 17 TCU 16: Sam Ehlinger passed for two touchdowns and ran for a score, all in the second half, and the host Longhorns ended a four-game losing streak to the Horned Frogs in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

The victory gives Texas (3-1)

its first three-game win streak since 2014. The Longhorns also have their first back-to-back wins over ranked opponents since winning three in a row in 2008, a run that vaulted Texas to No. 1 that season.

No. 18 Wisconsin 28, Iowa 17: Alex Hornibrook threw a 17-yard TD pass to A.J. Taylor with 57 seconds left and the visiting Badgers bounced back from last week's loss to BYU.

Jonathan Taylor had 113 yards rushing and Alec Ingold ran for a 33-yard score with 22 seconds left for the Badgers (3-1, 1-0 Big Ten), who also got a major leg up on the Hawkeyes (3-1, 0-1) — perhaps their biggest threat in the Big Ten West race — in their league opener.

No. 19 Michigan 56, Nebraska 10: Karan Higdon ran for 136 yards and a touchdown in the first half for the host Wolverines, and the Cornhuskers stumbled to their worst start since 1945.

Nebraska (0-3, 0-1) has lost seven in a row for the first time since 1957.

No. 21 Miami 31, FIU 17: N'Kosi Perry came off the bench to throw three touchdown passes, and the host Hurricanes' defense was airtight for most of the day.

Purdue 30, No. 23 Boston College 13: Rondale Moore caught two touchdown passes and the host Boilermakers picked off four passes.

No. 24 Michigan State 35, Indiana 21: Brian Lewerke threw two touchdown passes, had his first career catch and made the perfect pitch to kicker Matt Coghlin for a 6-yard scoring run the visiting Spartans.

Michigan State (2-1, 1-0 Big Ten) won the Old Brass Spitoon for the 13th time in 15 games, getting a crucial victory in the conference opener.

No. 25 BYU 30, Mcneese State 3: Freshmen Lopini Katoa ran for two touchdowns, Skyler Southam kicked three field goals and the host Cougars took advantage of McNeese State's second-quarter mistakes.

Woods on cusp of first win since '13

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tiger Woods made it look and sound as if he had never been gone.

More than turning back time, every hole seemed like the one before Saturday at the Tour Championship. A tee shot striped down the middle of the fairway. The clean strike of an iron as he held his pose. A sonic boom of the cheers from around the green. Another birdie.

"I got off to an ideal start," Woods said. "And the next thing you know, I was off and running."

With the most dynamic golf he has played all year, Woods built a five-shot lead in seven holes before he cooled from there, settled for a 5-under 65 that gave him a three-shot lead over Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose and an ideal chance to end this comeback season with a moment that has defined his career.

Winning.

Woods has the 54-hole lead for the first time since his last victory in 2013 at the Bridgestone Invitational. He has never lost an official tournament when leading by more than two shots going into the final round, and his closing record with the lead is 42-2 on the PGA Tour.

He has never been in better position to show he's all the way back from four back surgeries that once made him fear he might never play again.

"I've gone through a lot this year to get myself to this point, and understanding and fighting my way through it," Woods said. "I'm certainly much more equipped than I was in March because of what I've gone through."

Wood was at 12-under 198 and will be paired for the first time in final group with McIlroy on the PGA Tour.

"It's obviously exciting for the golf tournament. It's exciting for golf in general that he's up there," McIlroy said. "But for me, all I can do is concentrate on myself. The game is hard enough without looking at other people."

Yankees wrap up wild card

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Hicks and the New York Yankees reached the playoffs the same way they played the regular season: They got hurt, stood up and kept on going.

Hicks doubled home the winning run in the 11th inning, just after a foul ball to an ankle sent him sprawling to the dirt face-first in pain, and the Yankees clinched an AL wild card with a 3-2 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday.

"It hurts. It's going to be sore tomorrow, that's for sure," Hicks said after limping to his locker, his left ankle taped. "It was kind of all adrenaline."

Rookie manager Aaron Boone will lead New York into the winner-take-all Oct. 3 wild-card game, likely against Oakland.

Braves secure NL East title

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Freddie Freeman stood, soaked in champagne, music blaring and his teammates jamming in celebration — just how the longtime star first baseman envisioned it when the Atlanta Braves began spring training seven months ago.

"You could tell after the first week of workouts that we had the talent to do something special," Freeman said. "Obviously, we still needed to put it together. But this is what happens. You win the division after three straight 90-loss seasons."

The Braves capped a most surprising season by clinching their first NL East crown since 2013, with Mike Foltynewicz (12-10) taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning Saturday in a 5-3 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

A year after going 70-92, manager Brian Snitker and his Baby Braves surged back into

the playoffs. A loud crowd at SunTrust Park joined the party when rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. caught a flyball for the final out, setting off another round of the Tomahawk Chop and a big celebration on the field.

"When we started this series, we knew it was within our grasp," Snitker said. "We knew we couldn't lose track of today."

"I know I'm redundant saying that all the time, but I felt we just needed to stay current and worry about today's game. These guys have done an unbelievable job of that this year."

The Braves will make their first postseason appearance since 2013 on Oct. 4 in the NL Division Series.

It has not yet been determined who or where the youth-filled club will play in the best-of-five round. Atlanta won its 18th division title, tying the New York Yankees for the most in the majors since division play began in 1969.

The Braves won their fourth

straight game and beat second-place Philadelphia for the third day in a row. The Phillies also startled a lot of fans this year and led the division in early August, but faded while going 6-14 this month.

Atlanta was not projected to contend when the season began. It was coming off three straight 90-loss seasons, had no proven ace and was counting on several young position players to complement Freeman, the lone big bat in the lineup.

The team had been embarrassed off the field with former general manager John Coppolella banned from baseball in a signing scandal, but Atlanta moved into first place on May 2 and never trailed in the division race after a 9-1 win over Miami on Aug. 13.

Fueled by young budding stars like Acuna, second baseman Ozzie Albies and third baseman Camargo, the Braves won the NL East with an 8½-game lead.

Roundup

Athletics close in on first playoff berth in four years

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Piscotty's alert baserunning helped the Oakland Athletics inch closer to their first playoff berth in four years.

Piscotty doubled leading off the ninth inning and scored the winning run on Trevor Hildenberger's bases-loaded wild pitch with two outs. The A's cut their magic number to clinch a spot in the postseason to one with their second straight walk-off win over the Minnesota Twins, 3-2 on Saturday night.

Marcus Semien homered for Oakland, which opened a 7½-game lead over Tampa Bay for the AL's second wild card. The A's trail AL West-leading Houston by 3½ games and are 1½ games behind the New York Yankees, who clinched the first wild card earlier Saturday.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 2: At Toronto, rookie left-hander Thomas Pannone (4-1) allowed two runs and six hits in 6⅔ innings to win his third straight start.

Cubs 8, White Sox 3: Javier Baez homered and the visiting Cubs took advantage

of a huge mistake by Ryan LaMarre to move 2½ games ahead of Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Pirates 3, Brewers 0: Trevor Williams (14-9) combined with three relievers on a five-hitter, cutting visiting Milwaukee's wild-card lead to two games over St. Louis.

Cardinals 5, Giants 4: Tyler O'Neill hit a solo home run off Mark Melancon (0-3) with two outs in the 10th inning, and host St. Louis remained 1½ games ahead of Colorado for the second NL wild-card spot.

Dodgers 7, Padres 2: Manny Machado hit a three-run homer on his bobblehead night to highlight a five-run third inning, and host Los Angeles maintained a 1½-game lead over second-place Colorado in the NL West.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 1: Antonio Senzatela (6-6) allowed three hits in seven innings for visiting Colorado.

Astros 10, Angels 5: Jose Altuve capped a nine-run eighth with a two-run homer as host Houston overcame a 5-1 deficit. The AL West-leading Astros remained 3½ games ahead of second-place Oakland.

Mariners 13, Rangers 0: Robinson

Cano broke a scoreless tie with a three-run homer in the fifth inning while Marco Gonzales allowed one hit over six innings, but visiting Seattle was eliminated from postseason contention despite routing Texas.

The longest playoff drought among the four major pro sports was extended to 17 years when Oakland beat Minnesota 3-2, eliminating the Mariners from the AL wild-card race.

Indians 5, Red Sox 4: Michael Brantley singled in the winning run in the 11th inning off Drew Pomeranz (2-6), delaying visiting Boston's bid for a club record 106th victory.

Nationals 6, Mets 0: Rookie Austin Voth (1-1) and four relievers combined on a one-hitter, hours after host Washington was eliminated from playoff contention.

Tigers 5, Royals 4: Mikie Mahtook hit a two-run homer in the eighth, and host Detroit was a winner in Victor Martinez's final major league game.

Marlins 5, Reds 1: At Miami, Austin Dean homered and drove in three runs, and five pitchers combined on a six-hitter in a matchup of last-place teams.