

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

North Korea deports American even as it boasts of new weapon

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said today it will deport an American citizen it detained for illegal entrance, an apparent concession to the United States that came even as it announced the test of a newly developed but unspecified “ultramodern” weapon that will be seen as a pressuring tactic by Washington.

The two whiplash announcements, which seemed aimed at both appeasing and annoying Washington, suggest North Korea wants to keep alive dialogue with the United States even as it struggles to express its frustration at stalled nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea in the past has held arrested American citizens for an extended period before high-profile U.S. figures traveled to Pyongyang to secure their freedom. Last year, American university student Otto Warmbier died days after he was released in a coma from North Korea after 17 months in captivity.

The Korean Central News Agency said today that American national Bruce Byron Lowrance was detained on Oct. 16 for illegally entering the country from China. It said he told investigators that he was under the “manipulation” of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. It was not clear if the North’s spelling of the man’s name was correct, and past reports from Pyongyang have contained incorrect spellings.

The North’s decision matches its general push for engagement and diplomacy with the United States this year after a string of weapons tests in 2017, and a furious U.S. response, had some fear-war on the Korean Peninsula.

Hand recount begins in Florida for Senate race

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A hand recount began today in Florida’s acrimonious U.S. Senate contest after an initial review by ballot-counting machines showed Republican Gov. Rick Scott and Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson separated by fewer than 13,000 votes out of more than 8 million cast.

Under state law, a hand review is required when the victory margin is 0.25 percentage points or less. A state website’s unofficial results show Scott ahead of Nelson by 0.15 percentage points.

A hand recount in the Senate race does not review all votes that were cast. It will involve only that fraction of ballots in which voters cast either two votes for one race, which is called an overvote, or appeared to choose no candidate,



Pedestrians face a wet snowfall in lower Manhattan.

AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

Exhausted commuters point fingers after crippling snowstorm

TRENTON, N.J. — The first snowfall of the season lingered today in the Northeast as thousands of exhausted commuters pointed their fingers at politicians and meteorologists for leaving them creeping along highways or stuck in mass transit hubs because of a storm that left seven dead as it moved through the Midwest and South.

Some students in West Orange, New Jersey, were forced to sleep at their schools after their buses turned back, while others were taken to a diner to eat because snow-covered roads were clogged with traffic Thursday.

Bridges and major roads in the New York metropolitan area reopened today after many closures caused by crashes during Thursday’s storm.

Some drivers woke up in their cars this morning after being stuck overnight on the Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx. Accidents on the George Washington Bridge halted traffic on the crossing and led to backups in New York and New Jersey.

The wintry weather caused a traffic nightmare on a 30-mile stretch of Interstate 78 in Pennsylvania, with numerous vehicles stuck for several hours from the Lehigh Valley to the New Jersey state line. Police sometimes drove on the opposite side of highway, honking their horns to wake up drivers who had fallen asleep.

About 105,000 homes and businesses were without power today in Pennsylvania, mostly in the western part of the state.

Some areas of Massachusetts received more than nine inches of snow in the storm, which turned to rain overnight to complicate the morning commute.

which is an undervote. The idea is to figure out a voter’s intent.

The margin in the governor’s race between Republican Ron DeSantis and Democrat Andrew Gillum was 0.41 percent. That means the contest for governor appeared all but over Thursday, with a machine recount showing DeSantis with a large enough advantage over Gillum to avoid a hand recount in that race.

Gillum, who conceded on Election Night only to retract his concession later, said in a

statement that “it is not over until every legally casted vote is counted.”

Judge: White House must return credential to CNN reporter

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ordered the Trump administration today to immediately

return the White House press credentials of CNN reporter Jim Acosta, saying Acosta suffered “irreparable harm” from the decision to bar him.

U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly, an appointee of President Donald Trump, announced his decision following a hearing. The judge said Acosta’s credentials would be returned immediately and reactivated to allow him access to the White House.

The White House said it will “temporarily reinstate” the credentials in response to the judge’s order.

The judge granted CNN’s request for a temporary restraining order. A lawsuit that CNN brought against the Trump administration over the issue is continuing.

The White House revoked Acosta’s credentials after he and Trump tangled during a press conference last week.

The judge said the government could not say who initially decided to revoke Acosta’s hard pass. The White House had spelled out its reasons for revoking his credentials in a tweet from White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and in a statement after CNN filed its lawsuit. But the judge said those “belated efforts were hardly sufficient to satisfy due process.”

Trump has made his dislike of CNN clear since before he took office and continuing into his presidency. He has described the network as “fake news” both on Twitter and in public comments.

DeVos proposes overhaul to campus sexual misconduct rules

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos today proposed a major overhaul to the way colleges and universities handle sexual misconduct complaints, adding protections for students accused of assault and harassment and narrowing which cases schools would be required to investigate.

Under the plan, schools would have to investigate complaints only if the alleged incidents occurred on campus or other areas overseen by the school, and only if they were reported to certain campus officials with the authority to take action.

The Education Department said the proposal ensures fairness for students on both sides of accusations, while offering schools greater flexibility to help victims who don’t want to file formal complaints that could trigger an investigation.

DeVos has said the existing rules pressure schools to take heavy action against students accused of misconduct without giving them a fair chance to defend themselves.

Opponents say the proposal would deter victims from reporting assaults, and allow schools to shirk responsibility when they do receive complaints.

A Letter from the Owners of Ken’s Custom Smoker

To all Customers and Friends of,
Ken’s Custom Smoker:

Fall is an exciting time for all of us who love the outdoors and hunting. As you know, each Fall, Ken’s Custom Smoker opens its custom game processing season to help each of you turn your game meat into sausage or pepperoni to be enjoyed with family and friends for the next year. This year is no exception; however, this season is a little different as this will be the last year of our wild game processing service.

My wife Karla and I have personally processed every pound of wild game meat that has come through our facility since we started our business in the Fall of 1992. Our lives, and our business, have changed considerably over the past 26 years. With these changes, maintaining a separation between our wild game meat processing and our USDA inspected meat processing operations gets more difficult every year. Additionally, we are both 26 years older and finding the energy to process wild game meat at night and on weekends has also become more difficult every year. We have always known that the day would come when we could no longer personally process our customers wild game meat and made a decision many years ago that when that day came, we would stop offering the service rather than pass the responsibility off to our employees.

The decision to stop offering our wild game processing service was not taken lightly and was a very difficult decision to make. As many of you know, wild game processing is where it all started for Werner Gourmet Meat Snacks and we would not have the business that we do today without your support over the past 26 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve your wild game processing needs and we are forever grateful to those of you who have been with us from the beginning and to all of you who have trusted us with your wild game meat over the years.

For our final season we will be accepting game meat through March 29, 2019 and will process game meat for the last time on the first weekend in April 2019.

Sincerely,
Ken & Karla Werner