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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Military drones monitor Calif. wildfires

Los Angeles Times

WAWONA, Calif. — The smoke creeping up from a steep hillside near this small community 27 miles south of Yosemite Valley was a sure sign a spot fire was burning, hidden beneath the tall pine trees.

In years past, firefighters might have proceeded with the limited information provided by a helicopter operator struggling to see through the haze. Instead, a California Air National Guard aircraft with infrared capability flying thousands of feet above the Ferguson Fire was able to determine that firefighters were facing not one spot fire but seven quickly growing together.

Amid weeks of blazes and heat waves that have shattered grim records across California, the Ferguson Fire has made good history: It marked the first time incident commanders battling a wildfire have been able to tell firefighters what was being reported from high above the fire in exact detail in near real time.

“For firefighting, it’s a game changer, no doubt. And it’s only going to get better,” said Damian Guilliani, situation unit leader on California Interagency Incident Management Team 4, which helped battle the Ferguson Fire.

Firefighting technology in California took a big leap five

years ago when the Guard first used a large drone to fly over the Rim fire in San Diego County. It sent video footage back to an operations facility.

Since then, the Guard’s 163rd Attack Wing has helped fight more than 20 wildland fires.

The California Air National Guard arrived at the Ferguson Fire on July 18, initially employing drones as well as a manned aircraft. (The drones soon were diverted to the Carr and Mendocino Complex fires.)

Command leaders fighting the blaze that has closed Yosemite Valley indefinitely have taken the Guard intel and gotten it to their troops on the ground — hotshot crews, incident map-

makers and air assault teams — within 15 minutes.

The Guard’s aircraft can fly at night and at high altitudes, above the smoke, recording video via infrared technology. It also can fly around the fire’s perimeter faster than a helicopter.

“The technology is absolutely amazing,” Guilliani said. “Not only can they see live video, but you can actually see at 25,000 feet when they shoot down on the fire line, you can actually see people walking around and see fire trucks through infrared.”

By knowing a wildfire’s exact behavior in real time, fire chiefs can place firefighters more strategically — and, hopefully, keep them safer.

US bases in Japan brace for 2nd typhoon in 2 weeks

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVY BASE, Japan — U.S. military bases are feeling the first signs of potentially destructive winds and rain as the second typhoon in two weeks barrels toward mainland Japan.

Typhoon Shanshan is projected to pass 92 miles east of Yokosuka and 110 miles east of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Camp Zama and Yokota Air Base between 2 and 4 a.m. Thursday. Destructive 58 mph winds are forecast to extend between 40 and 46 miles west from the storm’s center.

On Wednesday evening, Kanto-area bases were at a Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness 1 — meaning destructive winds of 50 knots or greater will occur within 12 hours.

During TCCOR-1, the services discontinue outdoor activities “except those in direct support of critical military or civil mis-

sions,” according to a document on TCCOR definitions.

Yokosuka Navy Hospital canceled all scheduled appointments after 1 p.m. Wednesday, though it said in an online announcement that the emergency room and ambulance services would remain in operation.

At Yokota Air Base, the wing commander delayed reporting for duty until 10 a.m. Thursday, according to a base announcement. The base recommended that residents leave their homes for emergencies only between 3 and 9 a.m. Thursday.

“All routine appointments that are scheduled before [10 a.m.] will have to be rescheduled,” the base said in the announcement. “The [Urgent Care Clinic] will remain open for urgent care needs.”

Many 7th Fleet ships were sent to sea to avoid the bad weather earlier in the week, said Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight.

“USS Antietam, USS Benfold

and USS Stethem got underway [Monday] and USS Ronald Reagan and USS McCampbell got underway [Tuesday],” he said in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Others, including the USS Blue Ridge, USS John S. McCain and USS Shiloh, cannot ship out because they are undergoing maintenance.

“The remaining vessels in port have taken all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the ships and the crews,” Knight said.

Those precautions include working in coordination with base officials and Yokosuka’s Ship Repair Facility “to ensure that the vessels have extra lines and are securely moored to the pier,” “all loose and moveable items are secured” and “the ships are moved to the piers that offer the most protection,” he added.

Essential personnel are riding out the storm inside the ships at port, and tugboats, and pilots will be available throughout the

storm should a vessel need help, Knight said.

The ships also sortied less than two weeks ago ahead of Typhoon Jongdari, which ended up passing about 110 miles southwest of Yokosuka on July 28 with minimal effects, such as downed tree limbs and blown-away yard items.

In an interview Monday with AFN Tokyo, Yokosuka base commander Capt. Jeffrey Kim said Shanshan is stronger than Jongdari as indicated by the forecast. “I want everyone in our community to be ready,” he said.

The commissary and Navy Exchange parking lots were full throughout the day with long lines of customers inside piling provisions into their carts until they closed in the afternoon in preparation for the storm.

Yokosuka began canceling community activities, such as its planned National Night Out event, when the TCCOR-3 was issued Tuesday.

Sailor killed in Calif. when fuel tank detaches from helo

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Navy helicopter crew member was killed and another suffered minor injuries last week at a California base when a fuel tank detached from a utility helicopter and landed on them, Navy officials said Tuesday.

Navy Helicopter Aircrewman 1st Class Jonathan Richard Clement died July 30 when an auxiliary fuel tank fell on him from an HH-60H Sea Hawk during “hotseat” operations at Naval Air Station North Island, said Navy Cmdr. Ron Flanders, a spokesman for Naval Air Forces. During hotseat operations, a helicopter typically lands, is refueled or the crew is switched out while it is still running, and quickly takes off again.

The helicopter was on the ground when the fuel tank fell, Flanders said. It contained fuel and potentially weighed some 1,500 pounds.

Clement, 31, was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead, Flanders

said. The other sailor, an unnamed petty officer second class, was treated and released.

The incident is under investigation, Flanders said.

The Navy did not announce Clement’s death publicly. The incident was made public in a Naval Safety Center report released Monday, which did not identify him by name. Military.com first reported the incident Tuesday.

“A decision was made [not to announce Clement’s death] to spare the family added trauma from media contact,” Flanders said.

A native of Florida, Clement was an 11-year Navy veteran, according to his service biography. He had been assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 85 at North Island, near San Diego, for nearly two years.

Clement was an Enlisted Naval Aircrew Warfare specialist and an Enlisted Aviation Warfare specialist and his awards included four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals.

Okinawa’s anti-base Gov. Onaga dies of cancer

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa’s anti-U.S. base governor died of pancreatic cancer Wednesday evening, less than two hours after officials announced he would step down temporarily due to health concerns.

Gov. Takeshi Onaga, 67, was pronounced dead at 6:43 p.m. at Urasoe Hospital, according to the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper. Other Japanese media outlets also reported the death, citing a source close to the governor.

No one answered calls to the governor’s office Wednesday evening, and no public officials had commented about the death.

At 5 p.m. Wednesday, vice governor Kiichiroh Jahana held a press conference at the prefectural offices to announce that Onaga would be temporarily stepping down. Jahana was scheduled to assume the governorship on a temporary basis until Sunday.

After that, Onaga’s other vice governor, Moritake Tominaga, was to take on the role “until further notice.”

The governor’s election is scheduled for November, Jahana said.

Onaga was swept into office in November 2014 on a wave of popular support. He defeated incumbent Hirokazu Nakaima by 100,000 votes on a platform that vowed to block relocating Marine Corps air operations within the prefecture and sought the removal of MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft.

Onaga caused significant delays in moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to the remote northern coastal base of Camp Schwab with a series of unsuccessful court challenges, the most recent ending in March.

US: Afghan police not killed by airstrike

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. airstrike in eastern Afghanistan this week did not kill any members of Afghan security forces despite contrary claims by local officials, the U.S. military said in a statement Wednesday.

Officials in Logar province had said a U.S. airstrike Tuesday morning mistakenly hit a police outpost in Azra district, killing several local Afghan police. However, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said footage of the incident shows insurgents are to blame for the officers’ deaths rather than the airstrike.

“The footage clearly depicts an attack on an Afghan security force observation post by a group of fighting-aged males using multiple heavy weapons and tactics, techniques and procedures employed by the Taliban, from an open position on a ridgeline above the observation post,” Lt. Col. Martin O’Donnell, a USFOR-A spokesman, said.

From staff reports

Turkish lawyers target GIs

BY WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

A group of pro-government lawyers in Turkey has filed charges against several U.S. officers associated with Incirlik Air Base, seeking their arrest for alleged ties to terrorist groups.

The accusations come amid increased tensions between the U.S. and Turkey, a NATO ally that has cracked down in recent years on political opposition and tightened control of the court system, according to international aid groups.

The lawyers are seeking a temporarily halt to all flights leaving the base and access to execute a search warrant, according to court papers filed last week by the Association for Social Justice and Aid. The group is a well-known nongovernmental organization made up of backers of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Stockholm Center for Freedom, a group of exiled

journalists from Turkey, said the warrants were likely filed in response to the U.S. levying economic sanctions on Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu and Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul for their roles in the detention of American pastor Andrew Brunson. Brunson has been in prison since October 2016 on charges of belonging to a terrorist organization, allegations the U.S. government refutes.

The U.S. imposed the sanctions after Turkey refused to free Brunson, who was last week moved from prison to house arrest in Izmir for pre-trial detention. Erdogan has publicly linked the release of Brunson to a request for the U.S. to deport Muhammed Fethullah Gulen, a religious leader living in Pennsylvania the Turkish government says is responsible for the July 2016 coup attempt in Turkey.

The Air Force said it is aware of the reports but referred all questions to the Turkish government for comment.

Votes cast but Ohio, Kan. await results

Associated Press

WESTERVILLE, Ohio — Two high-stakes elections that tested President Donald Trump's clout and cost both parties millions of dollars were too close to call early Wednesday. Trump claimed victory in one nevertheless.

In battleground Ohio, the president took credit for Republican Troy Balderson's performance, calling it "a great victory," even though the contest could be headed to a recount. Democrats could also celebrate their showing in a district that has gone Republican for decades.

"We're not stopping now," Democrat Danny O'Connor told cheering supporters. He'll reprise his campaign against Balderson from now through November's general election.

In Kansas, the Republican primary for governor was too close to call.

With election officials in Kansas halting the vote count Wednesday morning, Secretary of State Kris Kobach led incumbent Gov. Jeff Colyer by fewer than 200 votes. It could be a few days before all absentee

votes are counted.

The day's races in five states, like many before them, tested the persistence of Trump's fiery supporters and the momentum of the Democratic Party's anti-Trump resistance.

The results were helping determine the political landscape — and Trump's standing within his own party — as the GOP defends its House and Senate majorities this fall.

In Kansas, Republicans were fighting among themselves in an unusual battle for governor in which the president sided with the incumbent's challenger.

Kobach received a late endorsement from Trump. Colyer received the endorsement of the National Rifle Association and had the backing of Kansas political legend Bob Dole.

Should the polarizing Kobach win the primary, some Republican operatives fear he could lose the governorship to Democrats this fall. The race could become further disrupted if Kansas City-area businessman Greg Orman makes it onto the

November ballot. He submitted petitions Monday with more than 10,000 signatures for what could become the most serious independent run for Kansas governor in decades.

In Ohio, the script for the special election was somewhat familiar. An experienced Trump loyalist, Balderson, was fighting a strong challenge from O'Connor, a fresh-faced Democrat in the state's 12th congressional District, a Columbus-area suburban area held by the Republican Party for more than three decades. As voters were going to the polls, Trump said Balderson would make a "great congressman."

The winner takes the seat previously held by Pat Tiberi, a nine-term incumbent who resigned to take a job with an Ohio business group.

Balderson and O'Connor will reprise their race in the general election in just three months. There were at least 3,367 provisional ballots left to be reviewed. That's enough for O'Connor to potentially pick up enough to force a recount.

Campaign material runs afoul of DOD ethics rules

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

The Hawaii Army National Guard has instructed Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard to take down or amend certain campaign material from her VoteTulsi Facebook page because it violates military ethics rules.

Gabbard, like other politicians with military experience, often uses images and video of herself in uniform in campaign ads. But the Department of Defense has policies in place aimed at making sure those ads are not seen as an endorsement from any branch of the military. Campaign material must include a "prominent and clearly displayed disclaimer" that the ad or image is not a military endorsement.

Candidates are also forbidden from using images of themselves in uniform as the primary graphic in campaign material.

Gabbard is a major in Hawaii's Army National Guard and member of the Reserve

forces. She served two tours of duty in the Middle East before being elected to Congress in 2012.

Gabbard's campaign, as of Monday afternoon, appeared to have already removed a video of Gabbard in uniform on the VoteTulsi Facebook page that the National Guard had flagged. Her campaign also added a disclaimer to the website's banner image — a photograph of Gabbard in uniform in a veterans cemetery — that notes the image does not imply an endorsement by the military. However, the disclaimer is visible only if one clicks on the photograph.

Jeff Hickman, a spokesman for the Hawaii Army National Guard, said Gabbard also ran afoul of the military ethics rules during one of her prior congressional campaigns.

Gabbard's campaign released a statement Monday saying that the congresswoman was compliant with DOD regulations relating to sharing photos of her service in military uniform.

Probe looks at former SEAL lawmaker's ballot petition

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A special prosecutor in Virginia was appointed Tuesday to investigate potential election law violations in a tight congressional race that could help Democrats reclaim the U.S. House.

Political observers said the probe could hurt Republican Rep. Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, in what's become an increasingly competitive district along Virginia's coast. But it will likely depend on the investigation's outcome.

The special prosecutor will focus on possible discrepancies among signatures that were gathered by Taylor's campaign staff to help an independent congressional candidate get on November's ballot. The move was widely seen as an effort by Taylor's campaign to split the Democratic vote in Virginia's 2nd District. Taylor is running against Elaine Luria, a former Navy commander who is backed by national Democrats. The independent candidate is

Shaun Brown, a former Democrat who lost to Taylor in 2016.

This week, four people told local public radio station WHRO-FM that they never signed a petition to get Brown on the ballot, even though their names appear among the signatures collected by Taylor's staff.

Another woman told the station that her dead husband's name is on the petition. And Virginia Del. Glenn Davis, a Republican, has told media outlets that his name appeared on two petitions. He said he signed one. His first name was misspelled and his address was incorrect on another.

The revelations prompted the commonwealth's attorney for Virginia Beach to request a special prosecutor. A judge appointed Donald R. Caldwell, the commonwealth's attorney for Roanoke.

Taylor's office said he was aware that his staff had volunteered to collect signatures for Brown. But he said he was not at all involved.

GOP congressman charged with insider trading

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Republican U.S. Rep. Christopher Collins, of New York, was arrested Wednesday on charges he fed inside information that he gleaned from sitting on the board of a biotechnology company to his son, helping others dodge hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses when bad news came out.

The charges were announced against Collins, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump who is up for re-election in November.

An indictment unsealed in federal court in Manhattan charges Collins, the congressman's son and the father of the son's fiancée with conspiracy, wire fraud and other counts.

Prosecutors say the charges relate to a scheme to gain insider information about Innate Immunotherapeutics Limited, a biotechnology company headquartered in Sydney.

According to the indictment, the defendants tried to get early word on the results of trials of a drug the Australian company developed to treat multiple sclerosis.

Collins, 68, a conservative who was first elected in 2014 to represent parts of western New York between Buffalo and Rochester, has denied any wrongdoing. When the House Ethics Committee began investigating the stock trades a year ago, his spokeswoman called it a "partisan witch hunt."

"We will answer the charges filed against Congressman Collins in court and will

mount a vigorous defense to clear his good name," his attorneys, Jonathan Barr and Jonathan New, said in a statement Wednesday. "It is notable that even the government does not allege that Congressman Collins traded a single share of Innate Therapeutics stock. We are confident he will be completely vindicated and exonerated."

All three defendants were in federal custody Wednesday.

Collins has a track record of publicly backing Trump, including being one of the first sitting members of Congress to endorse his candidacy. Most recently, Collins called for an end to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into campaign collusion and blamed the Obama administration for failing to push back on Russia.

Manafort lawyer attacks Gates' 'many lies'

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The questioning of Paul Manafort's protege was confrontational and personal. Manafort's lawyer hammered Rick Gates about his own crimes, an extramarital affair and a guilty plea with prosecutors that may spare him severe punishment.

Gates, who faced a bruising cross-examination, returned to the witness stand Wednesday for additional questioning from a Manafort lawyer who accused the government's star witness of being immersed in "so many lies" that he can't even remember them all and who demanded to know how a jury could possibly trust him.

Lawyers for Manafort, the former Trump

campaign chairman, are determined to impugn the credibility of Gates. Defense attorney Kevin Downing began his cross-examination of Gates by confronting him on his own lies to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators, getting him to admit to an affair and pressing him about hundreds of thousands of dollars he admitted to embezzling from his former boss.

The aggressive questioning was aimed at shifting blame from Manafort onto Gates, who pleaded guilty in Mueller's investigation and agreed to cooperate with investigators by testifying in the financial fraud trial.

Prosecutors had braced for the tough questioning by getting Gates to come clean

about his own crimes. He recounted how he and Manafort used more than a dozen offshore shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus to funnel the money, all while concealing the accounts and the income from the IRS.

But the grilling got more intense, and personal, Tuesday afternoon when Downing pressed Gates about a "secret life" he said was funded by embezzlement, including an extramarital affair that Gates acknowledged.

After Gates struggled to recall precisely what he had told Mueller's team, Downing asked if he had been confronted with "so many lies" that he can't keep his story straight.

1st military base Wahlburgers to be at Lewis-McChord

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Troops tired of Anthony's pizza, Charleys' subs and Auntie Anne's pretzels will have a new food option named after someone they may actually recognize when Wahlburgers opens on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

It will be the first military installation to host the fast-casual burger joint founded by chef Paul Wahlberg and his actor brothers Mark and Donnie Wahlberg, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service said Tuesday, announcing an agreement with the restaurant chain.

The location at the JBLM Lewis Exchange food court is slated to open in

spring of 2020, following renovations slated for this fall.

A partnership between AAFES and Wahlburgers is expected to be announced during the season finale of the A&E reality show about the celebrity brothers' burger chain on Wednesday.

"The Wahlberg family is incredibly proud of this partnership," Mark Wahlberg said. "We look forward to bringing the Wahlburgers experience to military families at Joint Base Lewis-McChord."

The Massachusetts natives, from a family of nine kids, opened their first Wahlburgers in 2011 in Hingham, Mass., south of Boston. They've expanded to more than two dozen locations across North America since, including a Boston-based food truck.

The A&E series this season followed the brothers' plans to double the company's size in a year.

The new partnership is part of AAFES commitment to serving "the best customers in the world — soldiers, airmen and their families," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, the Exchange's senior enlisted adviser.

Donnie and Mark Wahlberg rose to stardom in the 1990s as pop music stars — Donnie Wahlberg was a member of New Kids on the Block and his brother, known by the moniker Marky Mark, headed up the hip-hop group the Funky Bunch. Both are perhaps better known for their film roles now, which include a number of military and police roles.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Portland named food City of the Year

ME PORTLAND — One of the most widely read food magazines said there's no better city for restaurants than Portland.

Bon Appetit published an article on its website Tuesday that declared Maine's largest city the 2018 Restaurant City of the Year. Deputy editor Andrew Knowlton wrote the article, which says the "sheer number of outstanding openings" in the city have made it the top food destination in the country this year.

Other recent City of the Year winners have included much larger metropolises like Washington and Chicago. Portland is the smallest city to get the honor.

Storm rips steeple from roof of church

SC LANGLEY — Workers were assessing the damage after a storm tore the steeple off the roof of a church, where it fell in a courtyard.

Crews were working to stabilize the steeple's base at Langley First Baptist Church. The base was still perched atop the sanctuary after the main part of the structure crashed to the ground Monday afternoon.

The Augusta Chronicle reported that no one was injured.

The National Weather Service's Columbia office reported winds of around 20 to 30 mph during a storm.

Police wait for drug evidence to emerge

MA TEWKSBURY — Police in Massachusetts sought a search warrant for the bowel movements of a man suspected of swallowing heroin they think he intended to sell.

The Boston Herald reported that undercover Tewksbury officers pulled over Raul Sanchez-Gomez and Hector Guerrero, suspected of planning to sell heroin. Both were charged with drug trafficking. Two detectives reported that the two suspects had sold them heroin.

Although a police dog did not find any drugs in their vehicle, officers said Sanchez-Gomez appeared to be choking while trying to swallow drugs.

Tewksbury Police Chief Timothy Sheehan told The Sun of Lowell that Sanchez-Gomez remained under surveillance in jail.

Bachelor party guest drowns during contest

GA MILLEDGEVILLE — A bachelor party contest to see who could stay underwater the longest ended in death when one competitor didn't resurface, police said.

Baldwin County sheriff's Capt. Brad King told news outlets Robert Zachary "Zach" Bunsu, 23, of Basking Ridge, N.J., drowned Saturday at Georgia's Lake Sinclair.

King said Bunsu was trying to see how long he could hold his breath, but didn't come back up.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Cpl. Lynn Stanford said around 15 men at the party didn't realize he was still in the water, and went to the house to look for him.

Stanford said it was more than seven minutes before someone realized he was still in the lake. One of them dived down and pulled him out.

Police say woman took off in ambulance

KY MOUNT VERNON — Police said a Kentucky woman became frustrated while waiting for a ride from a

hospital, and drove off in a running ambulance.

Mount Vernon Police Chief Brian Carter told news outlets Pamela Cash, 51, became impatient waiting for relatives at Rockcastle County Hospital on Monday. Nearby, an ambulance was left running as hospital staff prepared a patient for transport.

So, Carter said, Cash got in and drove off.

She drove around 3 miles to the Christian Appalachian Project, where an employee, Jenny King, said she saw Cash looking into parked cars.

Cash was arrested on charges of criminal mischief and theft by unlawful taking over \$10,000.

Cops: Woman left kids in car, attacked caller

LA KENNER — Police said a woman was accused of leaving her 3-year-old and her 11-month-old children inside a hot vehicle with the windows rolled up in Louisiana.

A Kenner police news release said Shawnise Sherman, 22, arrived in the parking lot of a shopping strip Sunday and left the children unattended more than an hour. Recorded temperatures that day were around 90 degrees.

News outlets reported a bystander found the children and removed them from the locked vehicle with the help of others. At some point, Sherman approached the witnesses and physically attacked the person who called 911.

Sherman was arrested and charged with child desertion and simple battery.

UConn's mascot part of wedding party

CT SIMSBURY — The Siberian husky that serves as the mascot for the University of Connecticut helped

two alumni get married.

Jonathan XIV served as an assistant ring bearer for Daniel and Holly Bronko last month as they tied the knot in Simsbury. He had the ring box on his collar as he walked up the aisle.

The pair, who live in South Windsor, met in 2013 while studying elementary education and working at the UConn recreation center.

Man starts 'Amish' ride-hailing service

MI COLON — Look out Lyft, move over Uber. A southern Michigan man has launched a horse-and-buggy ride-hailing service.

WWMT-TV reported Timothy Hochstedler dubs his service "Amish Uber," though he's not a driver for the company. A sign on the side of his buggy reads, "Amish Horse & Buggy Rides \$5," and he offers trips around the St. Joseph County community of Colon.

There's no app to hail this horse-and-buggy; would-be customers have to flag it down.

Officials: Sinkhole to take 2 years to fill

NM CARLSBAD — A massive sinkhole on the southern edge of Carlsbad and along a busy intersection will take officials two years to fill.

The Hobbs News-Sun reported New Mexico Department of Transportation engineer Tim Parker said recently the \$43 million project will proceed 24 hours a day, seven days a week as workers fill in the sinkhole with 300,000 to 1 million cubic yards of materials.

He said 26 to 28 wells will be drilled over the sinkhole in a grid pattern which will be used to pump materials into the sinkhole.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

PGA Championship marks milestones

Associated Press

The PGA Championship has all the trappings of a big celebration this year.

Thanks to a Sunday afternoon on the other side of the Atlantic, it feels even bigger.

This is the 100th edition of the only major championship restricted to professionals, and it's a farewell to the muggy heat of summer. The PGA Championship is leaving its August date after some 40 years and moving to May. Jordan Spieth was always sure to get plenty of attention as he gets a second crack at trying to complete the career Grand Slam, a feat achieved by only five other players, never at the PGA Championship.

And now Tiger Woods is in focus like never before.

Just the sight of his name atop the leaderboard in the final round of the British Open, even if it was there alone for only about 30 minutes, was enough to turn cynics into cheerleaders. Woods has gone 10 years,

five surgeries and one divorce since his last major. He started the year with uncertainty about his health and his swing. He reaches the final major without a victory, but with a game that suggests another trophy — even the biggest variety — might not be far off.

He finished one shot behind at the Valspar Championship in March. He finished three shots behind at Carnoustie.

"I think that I went from just hoping to be able to play the tour," Woods said. "Now that I feel that I can play the tour, I certainly can win again. I've had an opportunity to win a couple times this year. I had a great chance at Valspar early in the year, and even a week ago (at the British Open) I had a great shot at it. Yeah, my game has gotten better and good enough where I feel like I can win again."

The PGA Championship returns to Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, and a victory for Woods would be his fifth Wana-

maker Trophy, tying the record held by Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen, and his 15th major championship.

Bellerive is a course Woods doesn't know very well, and he's not alone.

It last hosted the PGA Championship in 1992 when Nick Price won the first of his three majors. Bellerive also was the site of the BMW Championship in 2008, which Woods missed while recovering from knee surgery. Only 13 players from that event are in the field for the PGA.

Woods was last at Bellerive for the tournament it didn't host — the American Express Championship in 2001, canceled because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. That was the only time Woods played the course, a Tuesday practice round with Mark Calcavecchia in which a PGA Tour security official was filling him in on the attacks as he played. Woods drove 17 hours home to Florida by himself the next day.

"Pretty much everything was a blur," he said when asked about his recollections of the golf course.

Justin Thomas is the defending champion and one of the few players who has seen Bellerive, back in June as part of his media promotion tour. Based on its spot on the schedule, the PGA Championship rarely allows time for players to get a preview.

The British Open ended on July 22, and players like world No. 1 Dustin Johnson and U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka went straight to Canada, and then Ohio for a World Golf Championship. Woods was in Switzerland on a holiday.

"I contemplated going over to Bellerive for a day and checking it out," Rory McIlroy said. "But I told myself I've never done it before for a PGA and I've won it a couple times and I played well. So why would I change what I've always done?"

Georgia uses 2017 to build strong recruiting classes

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Momentum created by Georgia's 2017 success has helped Kirby Smart reload for another championship run.

After Georgia landed the nation's top-rated signing class in February, Smart's recruiting roll has continued. He's adding more big-name recruits from all around the country as he continues to chase the Bulldogs' first national championship since 1980.

Smart and his assistant coaches have taken advantage of Georgia's breakthrough 2017 season that included the Southeastern Conference title and a loss to Alabama in the national championship game.

That's why Smart proclaimed at the SEC's annual media gathering last month "The momentum we created from last season has been tremendous

for us through recruiting."

According to the 247 Sports Composite ranking, Georgia is No. 1 on the 2019 recruiting list, one spot ahead of Alabama.

Independence (Kan.) Community College defensive end Jermaine Johnson, ranked by 247 Sports as the nation's top junior college player, said last week he will sign with the Bulldogs. Last month, Georgia received a commitment from defensive tackle Travon Walker, a five-star prospect from Thomaston, Ga. Earlier this year, five-star defensive end Nolan Smith, from Bradenton, Fla., announced his plans to sign with the Bulldogs.

Verbal commitments are nonbinding.

Among seven five-star signees in this year's freshman class are quarterback Justin Fields and tailback Zamir White. Fields and White could earn immediate playing time

and might challenge for starting roles this season.

Fields signed with Georgia even though Jake Fromm seemed so entrenched at quarterback that Jacob Eason, who opened last season as the starter, transferred to Washington.

Similarly, White and freshman James Cook were not afraid to challenge a group of returning tailbacks that includes D'Andre Swift, Elijah Holyfield and Brian Herrien.

Smart says today's top recruits don't dodge competition for playing time. Instead, they're drawn to the chance to play for a title.

"To me if you recruit the right kind of kid, he's saying, 'Can you win a championship? I want to win a championship. It's really important that I win a championship,'" Smart said Friday. "Those are the kind of kids you want in your orga-

nization. You want guys who want to win championships. You want guys who want to be the best they can be. Does that necessarily mean they play every snap as a freshman? Not necessarily."

Strong recruiting leads to strong competition, and Georgia reloaded with impressive depth after having six players picked in this year's NFL Draft.

Linebacker Roquan Smith, offensive lineman Isaiah Wynn and tailbacks Nick Chubb and Sony Michel were among the most significant losses. There might not be any players on the 2018 roster as talented as Smith or Wynn, but Smart likes having lots of options to replace the lost starters.

"We'll have the greatest competition we've had since my arrival," said Smart, entering his third season.

Cowboys' Moore transitions to coach

Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — Kellen Moore's college coach heard from his former quarterback while Moore was thinking about trading his helmet for a whistle.

The next thing Chris Petersen knew, Moore was in charge of Dak Prescott as quarterbacks coach of the Dallas Cowboys not too long after sitting third on the depth chart behind the 2016 NFL offensive rookie of the year.

"When I heard that, I think, 'Really? You're sitting next to the guys and now you've got the chalk and you're telling them exactly what to do?'" said Petersen, now at Washington after coaching Moore at Boise State. "It's not like he played for a long, long time in the NFL. I think all those things just speak to how rare he is and how special he is."

Nobody close to Moore is surprised he ended up in coaching. They've been saying that about him since he was winning high school state championships under his dad, Tom Moore, in Washington. The only surprise is that his younger brother, Fresno State receivers coach Kirby Moore, beat him into coaching by several years.

That's because Kellen Moore's NFL career lasted six years despite playing only

three regular-season games after going 50-3 as the starter at Boise State.

Two years ago, Moore went into training camp as the backup to Tony Romo before breaking an ankle in practice. Because of that injury, Prescott became the starter when Romo injured his back in a preseason game.

The Cowboys ran off a franchise-record 11 straight victories that season, forcing Romo to concede the job to Prescott before retiring to go into broadcasting. Moore was a backup again, this time behind Prescott, before losing that job to rookie Cooper Rush last season.

Retirement was on Moore's mind when the Cowboys decided not to bring back Wade Wilson, who coached Dallas quarterbacks the previous 10 years. Moore, who turned 30 in July, decided the time was right.

"There's nothing like playing," said Moore, who started two games at the end of a lost 2015 season marred by Romo's twice-broken collarbone. "Certainly wasn't planning on something like this opening. When the opportunity presented itself, felt like it was a really good opportunity. Hard to turn down."

As for running meetings so soon after sitting next to

Prescott in the QB room, the understated Moore shrugs.

"You talk a little bit more in meetings. That's about it," he said. "I think simply it's a collaborative effort in that room. We're all trying to achieve the same things. One quarterback plays at a time. Do everything you can to help that guy succeed."

Moore's transition has been eased by his relationship with offensive coordinator Scott Linehan, who had the same job in Detroit when the Lions signed Moore as an undrafted free agent in 2012.

He never took a regular-season snap with the Lions, and came to Dallas a year after Linehan was hired. They share roots in Washington state — their hometowns are 15 miles apart — and a reserved demeanor that Linehan believes plays well with most quarterbacks.

"They didn't even blink," Linehan said of Moore's teammates-turned-understudies.

"The respect is there, the whole just understanding that that's not an easy transformation for a lot of people. But they also knew that Kellen, there's nobody that takes more diligent preparation and notes and prepares as a player."

Moore can relate to his head coach, too, since Jason Garrett did the same thing 13 years ago.

The former backup to three-time Super Bowl winner Troy Aikman in Dallas, Garrett's career ended with Tampa Bay and Miami in 2004. In no time — two weeks, Garrett said — he was Nick Saban's quarterbacks coach with the Dolphins.

"Oftentimes as players, we sit back and we have all the answers but someone else is running the show," Garrett said. "When you click into being a coach, you have to have the answers from A to Z. And you have to be really thorough on how you teach all different guys in the room and all different guys on the field."

The most important guy is Prescott, but even that won't really be new to Moore. Since his injury sidelined him all of 2016, Moore was a de facto coach for a first-year player navigating the sudden success of a 13-win season before the Cowboys lost to Green Bay in a divisional playoff game.

While agreeing that the move is unusual, Petersen also sees it as logical.

"He has paid attention like a coach," Petersen said. "He's so laser-focused on the mental part of things. He knows that system inside and out. It's not like he's learning a new system and all this. He can tell them exactly like this is what you do. I think it's pretty smart by the Cowboys."

Hall of Famer Brown says he'd stand for anthem

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jim Brown has spent much of his post-NFL career fighting for social justice and change.

However, the Hall of Fame running back would never kneel during the national anthem.

Brown, 82, who championed civil rights during his playing career and became an activist in retirement, said Tuesday night that he respects players' rights to do what they want but his preference is they would stand during "The Star-Span-

gled Banner."

"I'll never kneel and I will always respect the flag," said Brown, who spoke before an HBO premiere of "Hard Knocks," which is chronicling the Cleveland Browns in training camp.

Brown was asked how he would resolve the anthem issue, which has plagued the league for two years.

"Well, if you take the bottom line, what are we talking about? We're talking about freedom to express one's self, and if you don't break any rules then you

have that particular right," he said.

"I am not going to denigrate my flag and I'm going to stand for the national anthem. I'm fighting with all of my strength to make it a better country, but I don't think that's the issue. Because what is the top side? Are you not going to stand up? This is our country, man.

"We work hard to make it better and that's my attitude, so I don't relate to this issue because it's newsworthy because where are your superstars? And where are they at? Aren't

they making comments?"

Protests during the anthem have enveloped the league since former San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee to protest social injustice.

The NFL modified its anthem protocol in May, prohibiting demonstrations for 2018, but allowing players to remain in the locker room during the anthem.

The players' union filed a grievance, and the change has been tabled while the NFL and NFLPA work on a resolution.

Dodgers snap Athletics' 6-game streak

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rich Hill played just long enough for the Oakland Athletics two years ago to get a feel for how they can come back when it's close and win in the late innings, a signature of his former club this season.

Hill pitched effectively into the sixth inning to beat his old team for the first time, while the offense manufactured runs to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers past the A's 4-2 on Tuesday night to snap Oakland's six-game winning streak.

"That's the theme of this entire team is that everybody comes up to play every single day and we grind it out," Hill said. "We don't have many easy

wins. I don't think any wins are easy but we don't have many wins where we put up 20."

Hill (5-4) allowed two runs, three hits and four walks while striking out five over 5¹/₃ innings. He is 3-1 with a 3.12 ERA in eight road starts.

The left-hander hadn't defeated the A's previously in five appearances and one start. He won nine games for Oakland in 2016 before being dealt to the Dodgers.

Khris Davis hit a two-run homer in the sixth — his 32nd — to get the A's back in it and chase Hill. But the Dodgers put up a key insurance run on Matt Kemp's RBI single in the seventh that followed a lead-off double by pinch-hitter Joc Pederson.

Kemp ended an 0-for-10 funk.

"To get a knock and drive in a run I know he was pretty relieved," manager Dave Roberts said.

No late-inning magic or dramatic finish for the home team this time.

The Dodgers took a 1-0 lead against Sean Manaea (10-8) in the first on Enrique Hernandez's RBI groundout. Los Angeles added a run on Austin Barnes' second-inning sacrifice bunt then Cody Bellinger's RBI single in the third.

Kenley Jansen closed it out with two strikeouts in a perfect ninth for his 32nd save.

Oakland had an eight-game home winning streak end. The A's six-game winning streak

matched their season high.

Manaea didn't make it through the third.

Trying to win consecutive outings for the first time since a three-start winning streak from June 16-28, he was done after allowing three runs and five hits in 2²/₃ innings on 77 pitches.

"Just one of those nights where it didn't look like there was much life," manager Bob Melvin said. "They were getting some pretty good swings on him. Didn't look like he was fooling anybody."

A's starting pitchers had been 5-0 with a 0.73 ERA during the homestand as Oakland didn't allow an earned run in a three-game weekend sweep of the Tigers.

Roundup

Colon becomes winningest Latin pitcher

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Bartolo Colon became the top-winning pitcher born in Latin America, punctuating his 246th career victory with a nifty snag as the Texas Rangers roughed up Felix Hernandez and the Seattle Mariners 11-4 on Tuesday night.

The 45-year-old Colon, from the Dominican Republic, made his sixth start since earning his 245th win on June 30 that matched the mark held by Dennis Martinez, from Nicaragua.

"It was a long journey, but it finally came and it feels good," said Colon, who got his last out against Dee Gordon on his 94th pitch.

Colon (6-10) gave up four runs in seven innings. The portly and popular right-hander struck out one and walked none.

"True to I think the competitor in him, once we got the lead, you could see just the extra little gear that he put it into to get himself through those innings," manager Jeff Banister said.

"It took a while to get it, but I'm proud of him," said Adrian Beltre, the active career leader with 3,131 hits. "He's a great, awesome teammate."

Beltre, Jurickson Profar and Rougned Odor homered off Hernandez (8-10), who

allowed a career-high 11 runs — seven earned — in six innings.

Angels 11, Tigers 5: Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer during a seven-run first inning, and host Los Angeles celebrated Mike Trout's 27th birthday with a victory over Detroit.

Pirates 10, Rockies 2: Jameson Taillon (9-8) beat Chad Bettis (5-2) in a matchup of pitchers who battled testicular cancer last year, and visiting Pittsburgh hit three homers to beat Colorado.

Nationals 8-1, Braves 3-3: Ender Inciarte snapped a ninth-inning tie with a two-run triple, helping visiting Atlanta to a doubleheader split.

In the opener, Bryce Harper and Ryan Zimmerman hit consecutive homers to spark a four-run fourth inning that carried Washington to the victory.

Yankees 4, White Sox 3 (13): Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 13th inning, sending visiting New York past Chicago.

Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 7 (10): Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer during his team's five-run 10th inning, and visiting Boston earned its fifth straight win by beating Toronto.

Cardinals 3, Marlins 2: Matt Carpenter hit his 30th homer for visiting St. Louis, a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning that

helped beat Miami.

Twins 3, Indians 2: Fernando Rodney struck out Francisco Lindor with the tying run on second base in the ninth inning, helping visiting Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Phillies 5, Diamondbacks 2: Nick Pivetta (7-9) threw six scoreless innings and Nick Williams homered to power visiting Philadelphia past Arizona.

Cubs 5, Royals 0: Mike Montgomery (4-4) pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and David Bote drove in a career-high three runs, leading visiting Chicago past Kansas City.

Padres 11, Brewers 5: Manuel Margot homered, tripled, singled and drove in five runs, powering visiting San Diego past Milwaukee.

Astros 2, Giants 1: Tyler White hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, helping visiting Houston put together another late rally to beat San Francisco.

Rays 4, Orioles 3: Willy Adames hit a solo homer with two out in the ninth inning, lifting host Tampa Bay over Baltimore.

Reds 6, Mets 1: Cincinnati's Sal Romano (7-9) got the win in his New York homecoming, pitching into the seventh inning in a game delayed by rain for 1 hour, 40 minutes in the first.