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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

'Total victory' declared in Mosul

From wire reports

MOSUL, Iraq — The last major Iraqi city held by Islamic State has been taken back by Iraqi government forces, the U.S.-led coalition said Monday.

Iraqi Security Forces were continuing to clear Mosul's Old City of explosive devices, but "Mosul is now firmly under their control," U.S. Central Command said.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, commanding general of the Operation Inherent Resolve, congratulated Iraqi Prime Minister al-Abadi and the Iraqi military on their "historic victory against a brutal and evil enemy."

"Make no mistake — this victory alone does not eliminate ISIS, and there is still a tough fight ahead," Townsend said. "But the loss of one of its twin capitals and a jewel of their so-called caliphate is a decisive blow."

The other "jewel" would be Raqqa, and U.S.-backed forces have surrounded the Syrian city and begun an assault aimed at retaking it.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also declared victory

Monday evening over ISIS in Mosul, after nearly nine months of grueling combat to drive the militants out of Iraq's second-largest city.

"We announce the total victory for Iraq and all Iraqis," al-Abadi said, speaking from a small base in western Mosul on the edge of the Old City, where the last pockets of resistance had been holding out.

Al-Abadi was in Mosul on Sunday congratulating Iraqi soldiers on recent gains but stopping short of declaring an outright victory.

In recent days, Iraqi troops, closely backed by airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition, confined the remaining few hundred extremists in an area measuring less than a mile.

Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil, of the Iraqi special forces, said Iraqi forces still will need to carry out clearing operations to root out sleeper cells and defuse booby traps.

The United Nations said Monday there was no end in sight to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq despite the recent gains in Mosul.

It said thousands of Mosul

residents will likely remain displaced after the fight is concluded because of "extensive damage caused during the conflict."

The battle for Mosul was Iraq's longest and most punishing conventional fight against ISIS in the more than three-year war against the extremists.

Launched in October, the massive operation comprised more than 70,000 Iraqi troops drawn from the country's army, special forces, police, tribal fighters and mostly Shiite paramilitary forces.

Over the course of the campaign, Iraq's special forces units who largely led the assault have faced casualty rates of 40 percent, according to a report in May from the office of the U.S. secretary of defense.

Additionally, thousands of civilians were estimated to have been killed, according to Ninevah's provincial council. That did not include those still believed buried under collapsed buildings.

The fight also displaced more than 897,000 people, and the United Nations said there was no end in sight to the humani-

tarian crisis in Iraq despite the conclusion of the fight.

The battle also has decimated Mosul's infrastructure in its western half, where fighting was fiercest. Iraq's civil defense rescue teams — a branch of the Interior Ministry — said about 65 percent of the buildings in the Old City, many dating back centuries, were severely damaged or destroyed.

In western neighborhoods like Zanjili, destruction was estimated to be 70 percent of all houses, buildings and infrastructure.

Mosul fell to ISIS militants within a matter of days in June 2014, starting a political and security crisis not seen in the country since the 2003 toppling of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The territorial gains by the extremists led to the ouster of Iraq's top leaders, dramatically shifted the balance of power among its security forces, empowered Iranian-backed fighters who are now sanctioned by the central government and brought U.S. ground troops back onto Iraqi soil for the first time since 2011.

UN envoy to Syria launches new indirect talks in Geneva

Associated Press

GENEVA — The U.N.'s envoy for Syria on Monday opened a new round of indirect talks, the seventh so far, between Syrian government representatives and opposition leaders to try to wind down the battered country's civil war.

The start of the talks in Geneva coincided with the first full day of a cease-fire for southern Syria that was brokered last week by the United States, Russia and Jordan.

Opposition activist Ahmad al-Masalmeh said it was quiet in the city of Daraa, near the Jordanian border.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group reported light shelling and bombardment in the city overnight.

The agreed-on cease-fire covers three war-torn provinces in southern Syria. It's the first tangible outcome following months of strategy and diplomacy between the new Trump admin-

istration and Russian President Vladimir Putin's Moscow.

The Geneva talks are expected to last through the week. U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura declined to comment on his expectations but was due to hold a news conference later in the day. De Mistura will be shuttling between the two sides, which have so far only faced each other in ceremonial meetings that have been short on substance. The U.N. envoy was first to meet with representatives from Syr-

ian President Bashar Assad's government on Monday before a meeting later with opposition representatives.

The U.N.-led diplomatic efforts seek partly to ensure humanitarian aid deliveries to Syria and plan for the day after the war is over.

The Syrian opposition is determined to achieve a political transition in Damascus, while Assad's government insists the talks should prioritize "the war on terror."

General: US must speed weapons' testing

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The United States is moving too slowly in response to North Korea's

rapidly improving missile development program, the general in charge of America's nuclear arsenal said.

Air Force Gen. John Hyten, who leads U.S. Strategic Command, said the U.S. must take more technological risk to counter the communist state's risk-taking leader, Kim Jong Un.

"Kim Jong Un has gone very fast, and we have to step up and go fast in response," Hyten said in an interview with Stars and Stripes on Sunday. "We are not going fast. We are so risk-averse that we only test every 18 months."

Hyten suggested the U.S. could draw lessons from Kim's willingness to fail.

Headlines about "flops" and fizzled launches, which supposedly leave the regime's isolated leaders "red-faced," fail to grasp best practices in developing high-end weapons systems, Hyten said.

"We've seen things like, 'He launches and fails, launches and fails. He (Kim) is a fool. He doesn't know what he is doing,'" Hyten said. "No, that is actually the way you build rockets. The best way to build rockets, the best way to move fast, is to build it, test it, instrument it, learn from your failures."

Concerns continue to mount about Pyongyang's next move in the wake of its test earlier this month of a new intercontinental ballistic missile.

Over the weekend, the U.S. sent a pair of bombers to the region in a show of force, carrying out a mock bombing run on a

South Korean airfield.

"The country of North Korea has the capability now that is a threat to the United States, and we have to be able to figure out how to deal with that," Hyten said during a stop in Stuttgart, Germany, where he was to meet with U.S. European and Africa Command leaders.

North Korea's attempts to develop a smaller nuclear warhead, coupled with a long-range ICBM, have prompted some analysts to estimate that Pyongyang could have a nuclear platform capable of hitting the U.S. within two years.

Hyten contrasted North Korea's testing program with U.S. testing programs, which tend to be wary of the publicly known failures that Kim seems to shrug off.

"If you want to be able to respond to a threat that is going fast, you better be able to figure out how to go fast," Hyten said. "You sometimes learn more from failure than you do from a success ... We have somehow forgotten that."

Questions were raised about the American SM-3 Block IIA missile, which is designed for the Aegis system, when one failed to hit a target in Hawaii last month.

But Hyten said that lessons will be learned that move the technology forward.

There has been fierce debate in Washington about the viability and cost of various missile defense systems.

The U.S. has spent billions of dollars on both the Aegis system and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD.

In response to North Korea and a more aggressive Russia, STRATCOM, which manages the deployment of America's long-range bombers, has put the military's

most lethal aircraft on steady rotation. In recent weeks, B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers have carried out missions in the Pacific and Europe.

"We have so many capabilities that are high-demand, low-density assets that we have to divide it up," he said. "We can't be everywhere all the time by ourselves, so we have to work together with our allies."

In Stuttgart, Hyten was slated for talks Monday with EUCOM and AFRICOM leaders before heading to France, Greenland, England and Scotland, where the U.K. has a nuclear submarine base.

STRATCOM possesses a range of high-end war fighting capabilities that could be used in a potential conflict with Russia. Besides handling the U.S.'s nuclear triad, STRATCOM is involved in electronic warfare, cyberwarfare and space operations.

"My big concern is not really today," Hyten said. "We have old equipment, and if we don't modernize a lot of that equipment, it's going to be a problem 10 or 20 years from now."

Efforts underway to modernize the military's nuclear program are not yet where they should be, according to Hyten.

"Unfortunately, we should have started paying that bill 10 or 15 years ago and we wouldn't have found ourselves in the position we are now," he said.

In 2006, Russia announced a complete modernization of its force.

"And our modernization is just getting started," Hyten said. "So if we are going to continue to deter Russia, which is where deterrence starts because they are the other great nuclear power in the world, then we have to make sure we modernize our force, which is a stress on our budget."

Tillerson hopes to mend strained ties with Turkey

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday acknowledged severe strains in U.S.-Turkey relations, although he said he is hopeful of mending ties with the NATO ally and partner in the anti-Islamic State coalition.

He also said he hoped that the U.S. and Turkey could replicate for Syria's north an agreement reached last week among the U.S., Russia and Jordan for a cease-fire in southwestern Syria.

Speaking to Turkey-based American diplomats in Istanbul, Tillerson said he believed the two countries are beginning to restore mutual trust that had been lost over the course of the last several years.

He said that since becoming secretary of state, he had met three times with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — including a lengthy session on Sunday night — and that each time, the tone of the conversation had improved. While challenges remain, Tillerson said he believed the first steps to re-establishing relations "on the proper basis" have been taken.

"I think our relationship here in Turkey, which has been under some stress for some time, I hope we are beginning to put it on the mend," he said. "I think we're beginning to rebuild some of that trust that we lost in one another — they lost our trust to a certain extent; we lost theirs. So I think we are working very hard to rebuild that

level of trust, and that is the basis for any relationship.

"This is an extraordinarily important relationship to the United States for many, many reasons that you would well understand from a security standpoint, to the future economic opportunities as well and the important geography just by luck of Mother Nature that the citizens of Turkey occupy at this crossroads of the world," Tillerson said.

"So it's important for so many reasons, which is why we must put the relationship on the mend, re-establish it on the proper basis and strengthen it going forward, and I think we're taking the first steps in that regard," he said.

Marines aid hiker on Mt. Fuji

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — It was just another summer day on Japan's tallest peak until a medical emergency arose.

Marine Cpls. Otto Thiele, Christopher Ehms and Eric Goodman and Lance Cpls. Antonio Martinez and Avelardo Guevara Osuna had summited Mount Fuji, and were on the way down when they encountered a stricken hiker.

The woman, Moe Oda, 28, was suffering a seizure. She also had a high fever.

The five Okinawa-based Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 35, III Marine Expeditionary Force immediately sprang into action. They stripped off their shirts and fashioned a makeshift stretcher using their walking sticks. They carried Oda down Fuji's winding trails until they reached medics, potentially saving the young woman's life.

In an interview with Stars and Stripes on Monday, the

Marines said they had traveled to the Japanese mainland on the long July Fourth weekend with the sole intent of climbing the sacred mountain.

As they made their way down, a flustered female hiker approached Thiele asking for a doctor, he said. Thiele looked up and saw Goodman shouting and waving his hands. He ran up and met Goodman and the rest of the Marines. There, he saw Oda on the ground.

Thiele said he called mountain rescue, but that they couldn't understand each other. So he got the phone to Oda's father.

Because of the elevation, rescuers couldn't get emergency vehicles up to them. Somehow, Yoshihiro would have to get his daughter down the mountain on his own. He turned to the Marines and asked for help.

For the Marines, making a stretcher out of their shirts and walking sticks was particularly noteworthy, as it is one of the skills taught at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in north-

ern Okinawa. Thiele recalled learning the technique in the Okinawan jungle.

"At the time, we joked that we would never use this in real life," Thiele said with a smile.

After they had Oda loaded onto the stretcher, they began to carry her down. It was approximately 2 miles to the next checkpoint, called the 5th Station.

A mile in, Oda went completely limp and became unresponsive.

"The terrain was pretty rough," Guevara Osuna said. "We were like, 'We have to get her down now,' but we couldn't really speed up the pace because of the terrain."

When the Marines arrived at 5th Station with Oda on the stretcher, she was rushed inside. Mountain rescue personnel attempted to revive her. She eventually was strapped in on the tractor and hustled down the mountain.

A few days later, they received a note from one of the other hikers who had been there when Oda went down. It said she had recovered and was doing fine.

2ID chief defends use of rotating forces in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

CAMP RED CLOUD, South Korea — The departing 2nd Infantry Division commander defended the use of rotational forces as the best way to maintain readiness against an increasingly threatening North Korea despite a recent report concluding that forward-based units would be more efficient.

Maj. Gen. Ted Martin said the training dividends from having cohesive units that deploy together outweigh the disadvantages.

"I am a big fan of the rotational brigade," the Jacksonville Beach, Fla., native told Stars and Stripes on Monday. The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in the South to help maintain an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War in lieu of a peace treaty.

In July 2015, the Army inactivated the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, known as the Iron Brigade, which had served near the border with North Korea for 50 years. It was replaced with brigades sent to the peninsula on nine-month deployments.

So far there have been four of them, with the Fort Hood, Texas-based 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division taking over late last month.

A new Army War College report called "Rotational Deployments vs. Forward Stationing" found that the use of rotational forces in Europe and South Korea has cost more than expected and has taken a toll on troop morale that possibly has led to lower re-enlistment rates.

The author, War College professor John Deni, said basing brigades in the two theaters also would demonstrate stronger commitment to U.S. allies. The report will be released later this summer, but Deni outlined his findings during a recent panel discussion at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

DOD prioritizing 'Buy American' laws

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is taking initial steps to more closely enforce "Buy American" laws, elevating a series of Depression-era statutes that require manufacturers to rely on U.S. materials when they make guns, equipment, uniforms and food for the nation's military.

A June 30 memo from the Office of Management and Budget provides new guidance on how federal agencies should enforce such laws, asking them to limit exemptions and calling for them to draft policies to maximize the procurement of U.S. products, specifically mentioning steel, iron, aluminum and cement.

An earlier memo from the Pentagon's top acquisitions office instructs federal contractors to put in place a training program on how to comply with the 80-year-old laws.

The documents come as President Donald Trump has vowed to put American interests first as he rewrites the nation's trade agenda. The White House published an April 18 "Buy American" executive order focused on limiting the use of waivers and ending what it considers to be unfair trade practices. It is also weighing broader restrictions on steel and aluminum imports.

At a time when the president's other major initiatives are held up in Congress and in the

courts, changes to Defense Department acquisition policy might be seen as an easier path to enact change.

The two laws in question are the 1933 Buy American Act, which requires the Pentagon to purchase domestically produced products for purchases over a \$3,500 threshold, and the more-restrictive 1941 Berry Amendment, which applies mainly to clothing and food products purchased by the military.

In practice a sprawling hodgepodge of free trade agreements means American defense manufacturers can draw heavily on foreign materials. In fiscal 2013, for example, approximately \$19.7 billion, or about 6.4 percent of all U.S. military spending, went to foreign entities, according to a May 2014 report from the Defense Department Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The largest portion of that money is spent on raw materials like fuel and construction supplies. But the Pentagon also pays foreign firms to manufacture airframes, ship components, combat vehicles, weapons and medical supplies. Also, defense products that are built by U.S. firms generally have deep supply chains incorporating products from allies like Canada and numerous foreign raw materials.

GI charged in deaths of wife and NY state trooper

Associated Press

TERESA, N.Y. — A U.S. Army soldier was charged Monday with murder in the fatal shooting of a New York State Police trooper who was responding to a domestic dispute.

The suspect, identified as Justin Walters, 32, surrendered without incident after the trooper and Walters' wife were killed Sunday night at a home in the town of Theresa, near the Canadian border, New York State Police Superintendent George P. Beach II said.

Trooper Joel Davis, 36, responded to a call of shots fired shortly after 8 p.m. He was approaching the home when he was shot, Beach said. Walters' wife, Nichole Walters, 27, also was found dead at the scene.

State police said Walters is an active-duty Army infantryman who is stationed at nearby Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division. Information on Walters' military service wasn't available.

WWNY-TV in Watertown reported Justin Walters was clad only in shorts when he was brought to a town court around 4 a.m. Monday to be charged with first- and second-degree murder. He was ordered held in the Jefferson County Jail without bail. Walters didn't have a lawyer at the arraignment.

Police said a second woman living on the couple's property was also shot, but her injuries were not life-threatening.

State police said Davis, of Evans Mills, graduated from the Basic School of the New York State Police Academy on May 29, 2013. He originally was assigned to the Troop D Watertown barracks before receiving his current assignment at the state police barracks in Philadelphia, N.Y., just outside Fort Drum. Davis is survived by his wife and three children.

In a statement Monday morning, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said "the entire New York family grieves" for Davis.

Trump Jr.: 'Had to listen' to Russian for info on Clinton

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's eldest son acknowledged Monday that he met a Russian lawyer during the 2016 presidential campaign to hear information about his father's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

Donald Trump Jr. tried to brush off the significance of meeting with a foreign lawyer who held out the possibility of dirt on an opponent in the U.S. election. In what appeared to be a sarcastic comment, he tweeted, "Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent ... went nowhere but had to listen."

The younger Trump's acknowledgment came as a music publicist told The Associated Press that he set up the meeting on behalf of a client in Moscow named Emin Agalarov, the son of a Moscow-based developer who tried to partner with Trump in a hotel project.

On Monday, the publicist, Rob Goldstone, said in a statement that the Russian lawyer

said she had information about purported illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic National Committee that she thought the younger Trump might find helpful. Goldstone said the younger Trump agreed to squeeze the meeting into a tight schedule.

The younger Trump's tweet is the latest addition to an explanation that has shifted since the meeting in June 2016 first was reported by The New York Times on Saturday.

During the weekend, the younger Trump initially omitted any mention of Clinton from his account of the meeting, saying Saturday that the discussion focused on a disbanded program that had allowed American adoptions of Russian children.

A day later, he acknowledged he was told beforehand that the lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, might have information "helpful" to the Trump campaign, and was told by her during the meeting that she had information about Clinton.

It appeared that the younger Trump shifted his account

of the meeting after being presented with additional information from the Times, which first reported both the discussion and the prospect of negative information about Clinton.

The Kremlin is disavowing knowledge of the Russian lawyer or of the meeting.

The meeting was the earliest known private one between key aides to the president and a Russian. Federal and congressional investigators are probing Russian meddling in the presidential election and whether the elder Trump's campaign coordinated with Russians. The elder Trump calls the investigations a "hoax."

Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and now White House senior adviser, and then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort also attended the meeting with Veselnitskaya.

The Times, citing advisers to the White House who were briefed on the discussion, said the younger Trump agreed to the meeting after being promised damaging information about Clinton.

Calif. wildfires endanger lives, property

Associated Press

OROVILLE, Calif. — Thousands of residents in the western United States and Canada have fled their homes as wildfires barreled across the baking landscape, destroying property.

Two major wildfires in California have forced nearly 8,000 people out of their homes.

About 4,000 people evacuated, and another 7,400 were told to prepare to leave their homes as fire swept through grassy foothills in the Sierra Nevada, about 60 miles north of Sacramento, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday.

The fire has burned nearly 4

square miles, injured four firefighters and destroyed at least 10 structures, but that number is expected to rise, fire spokeswoman Mary Ann Aldrich said.

The area burning was southeast of Oroville, where spillways in the nation's tallest dam began crumbling from heavy rains last winter and led to temporary evacuation orders for 200,000 residents downstream.

"It leaves you feeling like you can't catch a break," said Sharon Reitan, who sought shelter at an evacuation center with her boyfriend Sunday night.

They were in Oroville on Friday afternoon when the fire broke out, and roads to their hillside home were blocked. They

later saw photographs of their home burned to the ground. "The road that we live on was hit hard," Reitan said. "We're in shutdown mode right now; it's so devastating."

The fire was 20 percent contained. It was one of 14 wildfires across California that about 5,000 firefighters battled Sunday. In Southern California, at least 3,500 people evacuated as two fires exploded in size at separate ends of Santa Barbara County and a third one threatened homes near a town in San Luis Obispo County.

One of the fires grew to 12 square miles, traversing a mountain range and heading south toward coastal Goleta.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman escapes fire, dies trying to save pets

PA BENSALEM — Authorities have identified a Pennsylvania woman who escaped a house fire with her husband and mother-in-law but died after she went back inside trying to save her pets.

Bucks County authorities said Tabetha Rutecki, 39, died in the fire reported about 6:30 a.m. Wednesday in Bensalem.

Bensalem Fire Department Battalion Chief Rob Sponheimer said the fire is a reminder that people should not re-enter a burning building once they've escaped.

Officials said one dog died in the fire, but another dog and a cat got out safely.

Carriage horses pulled off city's hot streets

SC CHARLESTON — The heat in South Carolina prompted one coastal city to order that horse-drawn carriage companies keep the animals in their stables.

Charleston spokesman Jack O'Toole said the city ordered horses off the streets last Wednesday afternoon. The city recently adopted new rules that require the horses to be kept in their stables when officials record four consecutive readings of 95 degrees or higher at 15-minute intervals.

Temperatures dropped below the maximum heat levels at 4 p.m. and the city lifted the order. But carriage operators kept the horses in their stables.

Man held following rifle theft at outdoors store

OR SPRINGFIELD — A man accused of walking out of a sporting goods store in western Oregon with four assault weapons worth \$8,500 has

been taken into custody.

Police in Springfield in a statement Friday said Dennis Walter Rotherham, 30, was arrested July 3 and faces charges of second-degree burglary, four counts of felon in possession of a firearm, and four counts of first degree theft.

Police said the thefts occurred June 17, 23 and 24. Police recovered one of the rifles and are trying to find the other three.

Ex-worker sues over poisonous gas injury

WA SPOKANE — A former worker at a recycling facility who was injured after opening an unlabeled tank containing poisonous gas has filed a lawsuit.

The Spokesman-Review reported Friday that Felix W. Shuck filed the lawsuit against Ibex Construction and its owner, Tim Jackson, and his wife, Roberta.

Gordon Beck, a subcontractor believed to have delivered the tank to Pacific Steel and Recycling where Shuck worked, is named in the lawsuit as well.

The lawsuit says Shuck permanently lost 50 percent of his lung capacity in the 2015 incident that killed another employee.

Report: Vaccine offers protection from plague

WI MADISON — A vaccine developed in Wisconsin has been shown to protect prairie dogs from plague, a bacterial disease that has sickened three people in New Mexico this year.

The Wisconsin State Journal said researchers reported that prairie dogs that ingested vaccine baits were twice as likely to survive outbreaks of plague as prairie dogs that didn't get the vaccine.

The vaccine was developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison.

A three-year study involved 58 colonies of the grassland rodents in seven states.

Inmate left overnight in courthouse cell

KY WILLIAMSBURG — An inmate mistakenly left alone overnight at a Kentucky courthouse has been returned to jail.

News outlets reported that a pretrial release officer happened to discover James Thomas Adkins the morning of July 4 locked inside a Whitley County Judicial Center holding cell in Williamsburg. Sheriff Colan Harrell said officials took Adkins there the previous afternoon for a hearing on charges related to nonpayment of fines and failure to appear.

Harrell said the courtroom security officer responsible for making sure the cells were empty forgot about Adkins while responding to a man in the building threatening suicide.

Man asleep in dumpster emptied into truck

KS WICHITA — Authorities say a man who apparently was sleeping in a dumpster in Wichita was injured when that large metal trash bin was emptied into a garbage truck.

The man was sent to the hospital after the accident shortly before 8 a.m. Wednesday outside an apartment complex.

A Wichita Fire Department battalion chief, Sid Newby, said the truck's driver had emptied the dumpster and was compacting the trash when he heard the victim screaming.

The victim was taken to

a hospital, and his injuries were not considered to be life-threatening. His name was not released.

Neighborhood lizard captured by police

ME PORTLAND — Police in the Maine city of Portland captured a large lizard that had been on the loose in a residential neighborhood.

Residents of a Deering home spotted the lizard in their backyard Thursday. Police said the lizard, an Argentina black and white tegu, was living under a shed in an old groundhog burrow.

An animal control officer captured the reptile in a net Saturday by using hardboiled eggs as bait.

Major sewage spill into Hudson River reported

NY ALBANY — New York's capital city says it spilled 4 million gallons of sewage into the Hudson River in two weeks, partly because of heavy rains.

The Times Union said Albany filed notice of the spills with the state Department of Environmental Conservation on Friday, though the spills started June 23 and a 2013 state law requires reporting within two hours.

A mayoral spokesman in nearby Troy also told the newspaper there were sewage spills in that city but couldn't provide details. Troy and Albany officials said reporting lagged because the responsibility wasn't handed off during staff vacations.

DEC spokeswoman Erica Ringewald said cities that violate reporting requirements can be fined up to \$37,500 per day.

From wire reports

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3 Wimbledon champs advance; Kerber out

Associated Press

LONDON — Former Wimbledon champions Venus Williams, Roger Federer, and Andy Murray all won Monday, while Angelique Kerber became the first top seed eliminated.

Williams, who last won the title at the All England Club in 2008, advanced to the Wimbledon quarterfinals by beating 19-year-old Ana Konjuh 6-3, 6-2 on Monday.

Williams is playing at the grass-court major for the 20th time in her career, with her Wimbledon debut coming a few months before Konjuh was born.

“Winning never gets old at any stage in your career, ever,

ever,” Williams said.

Federer is a seven-time champion at the All England Club and one of the fan favorites. He advanced to the quarterfinals for the 15th time by beating Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

“I didn’t expect it go to that easy,” said Federer, the Australian Open champion. “It wasn’t as easy maybe as it looks like.”

Murray is also adored at the grass-court major. He is a two-time Wimbledon champion, but maybe more important, he is British and in 2013 became the first homegrown player to win the men’s title in 77 years. He beat Benoit Paire 7-6 (1), 6-4,

6-4 on Monday.

“I’ve done a good job so far here,” said Murray, the defending champion. “Today was by far the best I hit the ball, the cleanest I hit the ball. I was happy about that.”

The defending champion will next face Sam Querrey on Wednesday. The 24th-seeded American defeated Kevin Anderson 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-7 (11), 6-3.

Kerber, who reached the Wimbledon final last year but lost to Serena Williams, was beaten by Garbine Muguruza on No. 2 Court, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

With the loss by Kerber, either Simona Halep or Karolina Pliskova will take over as

the top-ranked player after the tournament. Halep also advanced Monday, while Pliskova lost in the second round.

Williams will next face French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko in the quarterfinals. The 20-year-old Latvian, who won her first tour-level title at Roland Garros last month, beat fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-3, 7-6 (6) on Court 12.

“I think I’ll see what happens when I get out there,” Williams said of Ostapenko. “I mean, I’m sure she hits well off all sides. I have to see what the nuances are once the game starts, because you can’t necessarily plan for those.”

Lots of competition for the main courts

Associated Press

LONDON — Venus Williams is the oldest woman in the Wimbledon quarterfinals since 1994. Johanna Konta is the first British woman to make it that far since 1984. Angelique Kerber’s loss means she’ll relinquish the No. 1 ranking.

Jelena Ostapenko needed eight match points for her latest win — and latest proof that last month’s French Open title was no fluke. Magdalena Rybarikova, a Slovakian ranked 87th, reached her first quarterfinal in 36 Grand Slam tournaments.

Those were among the significant goings-on in women’s fourth-round action at the All England Club on Monday, when another topic took hold: Why were so few of these matches played on the tournament’s biggest courts?

“I mean, honestly, I didn’t think about that,” the 13th-seeded Ostapenko said, then quickly added: “But, I mean, yeah, I think I deserve to play on a better court than Court 12, I guess.”

The site of her 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory over No. 4 Elina Svitolina has a seating capacity of 1,065, making it only the fifth largest for the event.

Garbine Muguruza beat Kerber 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 at Court No. 2, with its 4,063 seats, in a matchup between the past two Wimbledon runners-up, a pair of players with a combined three major championships, and the woman atop the WTA rankings (well, until next week).

While Kerber noted that scheduling

is “not so easy” on the second Monday at Wimbledon — the only major with all men’s and women’s singles matches on one day — she added: “Of course, I was surprised.”

Muguruza’s take?

“I don’t want to make any problem. I’m so focused on what I do, I don’t care if I played on 13, 1, 5,” she said, then acknowledged: “I was expecting another court.”

All England Club chief executive Richard Lewis said scheduling decisions involve “some difficult choices.”

Lewis said one factor Monday was that “four of the all-time great male players” — Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — were all playing. Their matches were all on the tournament’s two principal courts.

Both Centre Court (nearly 15,000 seats) and No. 1 Court (more than 11,000) had two men’s matches and one women’s match.

“I wouldn’t say it’s favoritism,” Lewis said.

“In the end, it’s not about male-female,” he said. “It’s about which matches in the end are the ones that the public and broadcasters most of all would like to see.”

Five-time champion Williams played in the main stadium, winning 31 of 36 first-serve points while overpowering 27th-seeded Ana Konjuh of Croatia 6-3, 6-2.

Williams, a vocal advocate for Wimbledon’s switch in 2007 to equal prize money for the genders, said about the court assignments: “I’m sure that the women ... would want more matches on Centre or

Court No. 1 over the whole fortnight.”

She and Murray think the All England Club should consider placing four matches — two men’s, two women’s — at each of the top two arenas on what’s called “Manic Monday.”

Over on No. 1 Court, Konta won 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4 against No. 21 Caroline Garcia of France. Not since Jo Durie 33 years ago has the host country had a woman in the quarterfinals.

Britain’s last female champion was Virginia Wade in 1977.

“I’ve dreamed of it ever since I was a little girl — to be a Grand Slam champion,” said Konta, who had won just one match in five previous Wimbledon appearances.

Five-time champion Williams is 37; each of her past two opponents is 19. Now the American faces Ostapenko, who turned 20 last month and was born after Williams made her Grand Slam debut at the 1997 French Open.

The other women’s quarterfinal matchups Tuesday: Konta vs. No. 2-seeded Simona Halep, Muguruza vs. two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and Rybarikova against 24th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S.

Halep, who lost to Ostapenko in the French Open final, defeated former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka 7-6 (3), 6-2 and would replace Kerber at No. 1 if she eliminates Konta next. If Halep loses, then 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova would move atop the rankings despite a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Raptors unload veteran Carroll

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Looking down the barrel of some significant luxury tax penalties, Toronto Raptors GM Masai Ujiri is moving swiftly to get below the tax line while keeping his team competitive in the wide-open Eastern Conference.

Ujiri pulled off two trades in about 12 hours, sending veteran forward DeMarre Carroll to Brooklyn in a salary dump and landing C.J. Miles in a sign-and-trade with Indiana for Cory Joseph, three people with knowledge of the dealings told The Associated Press.

The Raptors and Nets agreed to the Carroll deal late Saturday night, with Toronto sending a future first- and second-round pick to Brooklyn with Carroll and getting Justin Hamilton in return.

The deal allowed Toronto to offload Carroll's remaining two years and \$30 million from its books, which helped the Raptors dip below the punitive luxury tax line in a summer when they re-signed point guard Kyle Lowry to a three-year, \$100 million deal.

Carroll was coming off a disappointing season in which he averaged 8.9 points on 34 percent shooting in 72 games. Still, his abilities as a defender and his veteran presence were important for a Raptors team that is trying to close the gap on LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers, who swept Toronto out of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

So Ujiri moved quickly to plug the hole, agree-

ing to terms with Miles on a three-year, \$25 million contract and sending backup point guard Cory Joseph to the Pacers to complete the trade. The 30-year-old Miles is coming off one of the best seasons of his career. He shot 41 percent from three-point range and is an accomplished defender as well.

Dealing Joseph opens up more time at point guard behind Lowry for emerging talent Delon Wright while giving the rebuilding Pacers an experienced ball-handler after losing Jeff Teague in free agency.

The Minnesota Timberwolves were also negotiating with Miles in a potential trade that would have sent Cole Aldrich to Indiana. But the Wolves refused to add Oklahoma City's lottery protected 2018 first-round pick they got from Utah in the trade for Ricky Rubio to make the deal palatable for the Pacers.

ESPN first reported the trades.

For rebuilding Brooklyn, it was the latest in a series of moves designed at accumulating as many quality assets as possible. GM Sean Marks has been creative in his willingness to accept contracts other teams view as onerous in exchange for valuable pieces.

Earlier this summer, Marks agreed to take on Timofey Mozgov's contract from the Lakers when Los Angeles also included former No. 2 overall pick D'Angelo Russell.

Honeywell leads US to Futures win

Associated Press

MIAMI — More than two hours after pitching in the All-Star Futures Game, Tampa Bay Rays prospect Brent Honeywell was still thinking about delivery and location.

Where should his newly won MVP trophy go?

"Honestly, I don't know," Honeywell said as he held the hardware at his locker. "My parents are probably going to have to play rock-paper-scissors for it."

Honeywell, the only pitcher to throw more than one inning, struck out four in two scoreless innings Sunday to help a well-balanced United States slide past the World team 7-6 at Marlins Park.

Honeywell was the first of 10 pitchers for the United States, and the group combined for 11 strikeouts. The first one came on the only screwball Honeywell threw — to Alex Verdugo of the Dodgers.

"I had thrown him everything else," said Honeywell, a right-hander who is with Triple-A Durham. "I thought, 'If I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it right here.' And it was a really good one."

Verdugo agreed.

"I had faced him before and knew he had the screwball," Verdugo said. "It dropped down into the zone. Sometimes you just have to tip your hat."

By the fourth inning, the U.S. team had nine hits, one by every starter. The World team had only one baserunner until the fifth, and by then the score was 7-0.

Josh Naylor of the Padres drove in the World team's first run with a single in the fifth.

"Regardless of how you do, it's a unique experience — a taste of the big leagues," Naylor said.

The World team scored twice in the ninth before A.J. Puk of the Athletics got the final out for a save. The United States won for the seventh time in the past eight years.

Castroneves finally ends drought

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — As he crossed the finish line for his first victory in three years, Helio Castroneves screamed "Finally! Finally!" over the radio to his joyous crew.

For both Castroneves and Team Penske, the win Sunday at Iowa Speedway was long overdue.

Castroneves dominated the IndyCar race on the short oval, leading 217 of 300 laps for his first victory since 2014 and Team Penske's first win in 11 tries in Iowa.

It also was the 30th career victory for Castroneves, the Brazilian who was winless since the first race of the Belle Isle doubleheader in June 2014.

"It's just like the first time, man," said Castroneves, who

was able to dust off the fence-climbing victory celebration he'd become known for. "We've been close so many times, and finally luck was a little bit on our side."

J.R. Hildebrand was a career-best second, followed by Ryan Hunter-Reay, Penske's Will Power and Graham Rahal.

Series leader Scott Dixon finished eighth, two weeks after winning at Road America.

Castroneves has won the Indianapolis 500 three times and remains among the most popular drivers in the series. But his star had faded in recent years as teammates Simon Pagenaud and Will Power secured championships.

Castroneves had finished second eight times since his last victory, and there had even been recent speculation that his

time at Penske could be coming to an end.

"I never doubt. That wasn't even in my thoughts," Castroneves said. "I've had great support — and especially Team Penske. They never gave up on me. We were always there. We were always good."

Hildebrand, best known for crashing out on the final lap of the Indianapolis 500 in 2011, got ahead of Castroneves after the field came in for their final pit stops. But Castroneves was back in front with just over 30 laps to go and used the fresh air — and the good fortune of a long, green-flag run — to cruise to victory.

"You've got to have reliability and you've got to have a guy that knows how to climb the fence," owner Roger Penske said.

Astros batter Blue Jays before break

Associated Press

TORONTO — Carlos Correa, Jose Altuve and the Houston Astros put on quite an All-Star performance.

Correa homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs, Altuve got three more hits and the Astros romped into the break, battering the Toronto Blue Jays 19-1 Sunday.

The runaway leaders in the AL West became just the fifth team in the last 40 years to reach 60 wins before the All-Star Game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. They joined the 1998 Yankees, 2001 Mariners, 2003 Braves and this year's Los Angeles Dodgers, who got there Saturday.

At 60-29, Houston heads into the break with a 16½-game lead over Texas and the Angels.

"I feel like we have a really good team," Correa said. "From 1 through 9 we can do damage, so today we showed what we're capable of."

The Astros posted the most-lopsided win in team history. Even in the midst of a 14-5 run the last three weeks, manager A.J. Hinch said he felt the break comes at a

good time for his club.

"It's nice to say we should keep this going, but we need as many people to rest up here in the next four days," he said.

A day after his career-high 15-game hitting streak came to an end, Correa tallied four hits. The All-Star shortstop hit the 20-home run mark with his second of the day for his fifth career multihomer game and second this season.

Altuve, a fellow All-Star, and Yuli Gurriel and Evan Gattis also homered for Houston. Altuve had three hits for the fifth consecutive game — he became the ninth major leaguer to do so in more than a century, and the first since George Brett's record-tying six-game streak for Kansas City in 1976.

Gattis drove in four runs with two hits as Houston scored at least 19 runs for the fourth time in club history.

Brad Peacock (7-1) pitched six innings of shutout ball, holding the Blue Jays to five hits while walking five. After appearing on a 2013 Houston team that won just 51 games all season, the right-hander said the current feeling around the clubhouse makes the struggles worth it.

"Being on those teams makes it a lot

more special ... and it's all paying off now," he said.

Ezequiel Carrera homered with two outs in the Toronto ninth to establish a new career high with seven. The drive denied Houston the chance to top the largest shut-out win in team history, 15-0 at Montreal on April 26, 1998.

J.A. Happ (3-6) lasted four innings, matching his shortest outing of the season and picking up his second loss against Houston in eight starts against his former team. The left-hander gave up seven hits and six runs.

"I wasn't very crisp today and against that lineup especially, you need to be," he said.

Toronto first baseman Justin Smoak, set to take part in his first All-Star game in Miami on Tuesday night, said it's important that the Blue Jays (41-47) move past it as quickly as possible in preparation for the season's second half.

"Anytime you have a game like that you try to flush it pretty quick," he said. "Hopefully, we have this break here, it's much-needed for a lot of guys in here, and we'll be ready to go afterwards."

Roundup

Kershaw fans 13 as Dodgers sweep Royals

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With Sandy Koufax watching on a 94-degree day, Clayton Kershaw was a model of efficiency in tossing a six-hitter.

"I wanted to do it for him," Kershaw said.

The left-hander became the majors' first 14-game winner, Justin Turner homered twice, and the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Kansas City Royals 5-2 on Sunday to complete their major league-best 10th sweep and sixth straight victory.

Kershaw struck out 13 on 99 pitches, becoming the first pitcher in major league history to strike out at least that many in a complete game with fewer than 100 pitches.

"It was a good way to end the first half," he said after his first complete game of the season and 25th of his career. "It felt good to get out there and finish

a game."

The Dodgers head into the All-Star break owning baseball's best record of 61-29. They've won 18 of their last 19 at home, leading the majors with a 39-11 mark there.

Rockies 10, White Sox 0: Hometown rookie Kyle Freeland came within two outs of the first no-hitter by a Rockies pitcher at Coors Field before surrendering a sharp single to Melky Cabrera in Colorado's victory over Chicago.

Brewers 5, Yankees 3: Travis Shaw and Stephen Vogt both homered and Milwaukee increased its surprising NL Central lead, topping host New York.

Nationals 10, Braves 5: Anthony Rendon reached base four times, and the Washington bullpen allowed two runs over 5⅔ innings for host Washington.

Tigers 5, Indians 3: Michael Fulmer outpitched All-Star teammate Corey Kluber and

Alex Presley hit a tiebreaking, two-run double and Detroit hung on late against host Cleveland.

Phillies 7, Padres 1: Freddy Galvis hit two of his team's six home runs, Jerad Eickhoff threw five shutout innings, and Philadelphia topped visiting San Diego.

Cardinals 6, Mets 0: Tommy Pham, Paul DeJong and Luke Voit homered and Lance Lynn pitched seven innings of three-hit ball to help host St. Louis beat New York.

Marlins 10, Giants 8: Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, the second coming after A.J. Ellis' tiebreaking two-run home run in the 11th inning, and visiting Florida held on to beat San Francisco.

Reds 2, Diamondbacks 1: Homer Bailey went 6⅔ strong innings, Scott Schebler doubled in the go-ahead run and Cincinnati beat Arizona, sending the Diamondbacks to their fifth

loss in six games.

Rays 5, Red Sox 3: Brad Miller hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and host Tampa Bay took three of the four from AL East-leading Boston.

Orioles 11, Twins 5: Adam Jones homered twice and drove in five runs to lead visiting Baltimore's 15-hit attack.

Angels 3, Rangers 0: J.C. Ramirez outpitched All-Star Yu Darvish and Albert Pujols hit his 604th career home run as Anaheim beat host Texas.

Mariners 4, Athletics 0: Felix Hernandez rediscovered some of his past form, allowing two hits over six dominant innings, and Nelson Cruz hit his 17th home run of the season to lift host Seattle.

Pirates 14, Cubs 3: Francisco Cervelli and Andrew McCutchen capped Pittsburgh's 10-run first inning with consecutive homers off Jon Lester, helping the visiting Pirates.