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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Destroyer honoring Finn commissioned

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Just over 75 years ago, John Finn manned a machine gun for two hours, firing at Japanese planes strafing him and attacking Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay on Oahu.

On the other side of the island a fleet of aircraft laid waste to Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack. On the island's windward side, planes ravaged Finn's body with almost two dozen wounds.

A Marine Corps chief aviation ordnanceman, Finn was awarded the first Medal of Honor of World War II. He survived the attack and his wounds, living to the ripe age of 100 when he died in 2010.

On Saturday, the Navy commissioned the USS John Finn, its latest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer.

"USS John Finn is about to join the Pacific Fleet and the PACOM joint team," said Adm. Harry Harris, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, during a ceremony beside the ship, which arrived at Pearl Harbor a week ago. "This ship and her crew are ready to sail into harm's way and assume the critical mission of safeguarding our nation's interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific (region).

"In my opinion, we can't get our most advanced assets here fast enough," he said.

The ship's sponsor was Laura Stavridis, the wife of retired Adm. James Stavridis, a former supreme allied commander, Europe.

The Finn is the first new ship built from the keel up with the Aegis Baseline 9 weapon system, which enables the ship to simultaneously conduct air warfare and ballistic missile defense, Harris said.

"That means the John Finn

brings both the saber and the shield to the fight," Harris said. "American know-how to get her done — anytime and anywhere."

Weighing just over 9,100 tons, the John Finn was built by Huntington Ingalls Industries in Pascagoula, Miss. Carrying a crew of roughly 300, it is just over 500 feet long and is driven by four turbines and two propellers for a top speed of about 35 mph.

"Handles like a dream," John Finn Cmdr. Micheal Wagner told reporters Thursday.

The ship will be homeported in San Diego, but given Finn's immortal connection with Hawaii, officials decided it was fitting to commission it here.

On the morning of the 1941 surprise attack, Finn was at his home about a mile from the Marine Corps aircraft hangars. He raced to the scene of the attack, taking over a .50-caliber machine gun manned by a

painter, telling him that he had more training in firing it.

Adm. Chester Nimitz personally presented Finn the Medal of Honor in September 1942 aboard the USS Enterprise while at Pearl Harbor.

Finn retired from the Navy in 1956 as a lieutenant.

He was the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the Pearl Harbor attack before passing away.

One wall in the enlisted dining area of the USS John Finn is devoted to a mural depicting Finn's wife, Alice, inspecting the Medal of Honor adorning the then-young sailor's chest. Behind them are the mountains that stand in the center of Oahu.

Alice Finn, who died in 1998, holds another place of honor on the ship's bow. The 5-inch cannon there is called the Alice Gun, and her oversized signature is scrawled across the turret.

US drills in Romania for advanced adversary

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

CINCU, Romania — Artillery thundered, Apache helicopters blasted their guns and MiG-21 fighters screeched across the sky as more than 4,200 troops fought an enemy in a large-scale war game designed to ready soldiers for a sophisticated adversary.

The U.S. Army Europe-led Saber Guardian exercise is pulling together more than 25,000 troops from 25 nations, and on Saturday some of those forces showcased their firepower before a crowd of military brass.

After 15 years in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. Army needs to make sure its troops can also

fight against more technologically advanced forces, said Gen. James McConville, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army.

"We saw tanks, and we saw Apache helicopters," McConville said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "We saw combined operations. And for some types of adversaries that's a good capability to have."

Although the opponent was unnamed, the exercise does come at a time when the West is concerned about a more aggressive Russia. In the past three years, the U.S. has picked up the pace of its operations, with larger, more intensive exercises designed to bolster the ability of allies to fight together.

During Saber Guardian, troops will be spread out across Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary for two weeks of drills.

The scenarios have grown in complexity since 2016, with opposition forces designed to challenge allies' ability to maneuver with speed, said USAREUR commander Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges.

"That matters because if there ever was a crisis we would be coming together on very short notice," Hodges said. "We wouldn't have six months to get ready."

Numerous combat vehicles are traversing mobile bridges laid over rivers, ensuring what Hodges calls "speed of

assembly."

Col. Jeff Shoemaker, who directs USAREUR's exercise program, said the object is to train as soldiers would fight.

Artillery was laid down first on the enemy, followed by attack helicopters and advancing infantrymen.

"When I am going to fight, I am going to start with my longest-firing weapons," he said.

U.S. tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles then unloaded on moving targets in the distance.

During Saturday's demonstration, 650 fighting vehicles maneuvered while fixed-wing aircraft teamed with Romanian and U.S. attack helicopters to support troops on the ground.

US, British cadets participate in joint exercise in Germany

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Cadets from West Point and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst are training at U.S. bases in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany, as part of the Dynamic Victory exercise.

The joint exercise, from July 8 to 21, allows instructors to assess their fitness and is one of their last steps toward becoming officers.

During the drills, cadets will conduct live-fire training,

urban combat simulations and tactical insertions using equipment and vehicles from U.S. and NATO allies.

“The (cadets) are training for ‘a’ war, not ‘the’ war,” said Maj. Alex Ficke, the chief instructor at Sandhurst.

“With the future nature of conflict, the (cadets) need to be exposed to working in a multinational environment and with assets and agencies from different NATO and coalition partners,” he said.

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Former Marines capture overall titles in Pacific Muscle Classic on Okinawa

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — For Kenneth Walker, it was a long time coming.

The 41-year-old former Marine, who last won an on-base bodybuilding championship on Okinawa six years ago, captured the overall men’s title in the 11th Pacific Muscle Classic on Sunday at Kadena’s Keystone Theater.

“It’s been a while,” said Walker, who took top prize at the Far East Bodybuilding Championship at nearby Camp Foster in 2011. “I’ve been waiting for this. It feels good to be back on top.”

About 350 spectators turned out for the 2-hour, 15-minute competition, which featured nine competitors in the women’s figures division and 14 in the six men’s bodybuilding categories. There was also a brief presentation by guest poser Robert Timms, a staff sergeant and pro bodybuilding competitor assigned to Luke Air Force

Base near Phoenix.

Walker, a native of Paterson, N.J., who works for the Exchange at Camp Hansen, also won the men’s masters — 40 and older — category. The former Okinawa Marine left the service in 2001 as a staff sergeant.

The women’s overall title went to Christine McGown, 36, of Rivervale, N.J., a civil servant on Okinawa who also served in the Marines; she left the service as a sergeant in 2001. McGown also won the women’s figures short — under 5-foot-4 — category.

Winners in other categories were: men’s bantamweight (up to 143 pounds), Hidekazu Taba; men’s lightweight (up to 154), Ron Dadovo; men’s middleweight (up to 176), Marshall Boykin; men’s light-heavyweight (up to 198), Russell Morgan; men’s heavyweight (more than 198), Roger Francious; and women’s tall figures (5-foot-4 and taller), Elizabeth Mendez.

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Search for bodies in Mosul daunting

The Washington Post

MOSUL, Iraq — The streets of Mosul’s Old City are littered with bodies, tangled between shattered stones and remnants of the lives they left behind.

In the baking summer heat, exhausted rescue crews are now sifting through the debris of the toughest battle against Islamic State in what became its final redoubt in the city.

As Iraqi ground troops, U.S.-led coalition jets and ISIS militants pulverized the Old City’s winding maze of streets last week, thousands of civilians were caught in the crossfire.

But the area is now deserted. Its inhabitants evacuated to houses, camps or prison cells across the province in recent months.

A week after Iraqi officials declared victory in Mosul, all that remains in the Old City is rubble and unknown hundreds of bodies.

Aid groups say thousands of civilians were killed in the nine-month offensive. A final death toll is unlikely ever to be known, robbing families of answers and graves for their grief.

Across western Mosul, hundreds of families are still waiting for news. Others know exactly where their loved ones were killed but are still unable to reach them.

On Friday, Sumaya Sarhan, 48, waited in the rescue workers’ sun-parched yard for her brother’s remains three months after the airstrike that killed him.

“We lived opposite and tried so many times to get him out,” she said. “But it was too dangerous; there was too much fighting. Today, I finally saw him pulled from the rubble.”

For a moment, Sarhan looked lost amid the bustle of the workers around her. Then she started to cry. “He’s just bones. Just bones,” she said.

The task of cutting bodies

from their homes in this, the most devastated swath of the city, has fallen to a 25-man civil defense unit with one bulldozer, a forklift truck and a single vehicle to carry the corpses.

They have found hundreds of people suffocated under the ruins of their homes. Then, there are the those ISIS shot as they tried to flee, their bodies left to rot in the sunshine as a message to anyone else who might attempt to escape.

“It was slow going today. Mainly women and children,” said one of the rescue workers, Daoud Salem Mahmoud.

Mosul’s Old City had more than 5,000 buildings, many of them high-ceilinged houses built around traditional courtyards.

Almost a third were damaged or destroyed during the final three weeks of fighting, according to the United Nations.

Across the entire city, which had a population of almost 2 million before ISIS arrived, satellite imagery shows battle scars or total destruction across more than 10,000 buildings. Although life has returned to the relatively less damaged eastern districts, which were retaken by Iraqi forces months earlier, the infrastructure in the west has been devastated.

As the rubble is cleared, the streets have become a theater for quiet scenes of grief. In dozens of interviews, Washington Post reporters did not meet a single person in the area who had not lost a friend or a relative in the fighting.

Rescue work has been slowed by a lack of funding. Lt. Col. Rabia Ibrahim Hassan, who leads west Mosul’s civil defense team, said he had asked authorities for more equipment but hadn’t received an answer.

“Our men are doing this work with practically nothing. Just a bulldozer, a forklift truck and small equipment. The work continues, but we are exhausted,” he said.

Health care bill vote pushed back over McCain's surgery

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Saturday he will delay consideration of health care legislation in the Senate after Sen. John McCain's announced absence following surgery left Republicans short of votes on their marquee legislation.

McConnell's announcement amounted to another setback for GOP efforts, promoted by President Donald Trump, to repeal and replace "Obamacare" after years of promises. McConnell issued his statement not long after McCain's office disclosed that he had undergone surgery to remove a blood clot from above his left eye, and had been advised by his doctors to stay in Arizona this week to recover.

With McConnell's health care legislation already hanging by a thread in the Senate with no votes to spare, McCain's absence meant it would become impossible for the majority leader to round up the votes needed to move forward with the bill this week as planned.

"While John is recovering, the Senate will continue our work on legislative items and nominations, and will defer consideration of the Better Care Act," said McConnell, R-Ky. He did not say when he would aim to return to the health care bill.

Even before Saturday night's developments, the fate of the health care legislation looked deeply uncertain in the Senate.

In addition to two announced GOP "no" votes from moderate Susan Collins, of Maine, and conservative Rand Paul, of Kentucky, there were at least a half-dozen other Republican senators who were withholding support from or expressing reservations about the bill McConnell released Thursday.

Last month McConnell had to cancel a vote on a previous version of the legislation as GOP opposition left its defeat assured. In a Senate divided 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, McConnell can lose no more than two votes and still prevail.

The Senate bill, like legislation passed earlier by the House, repeals mandates requiring individuals to carry insurance and businesses to offer it, and unravels an expansion of the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled enacted under President Barack Obama's law. Analyses of the earlier version of the Senate bill found it would result in more than 20 million additional uninsured Americans over a decade compared with current law.

In Phoenix, Mayo Clinic Hospital doctors said McCain underwent a "minimally invasive" procedure to remove the nearly 2-inch clot and that the surgery went "very well," a hospital statement said. McCain was reported to be resting comfortably at his home in Arizona.

Pathology reports on the clot were expected in the next several days.

USAFE celebrates 70th anniversary with air show

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

RAF FAIRFORD, England — The United States Air Forces in Europe celebrated the service's 70th anniversary with one of the largest displays of military aircraft in recent years at the annual Royal International Air Tattoo air show.

"We are hugely privileged that RAF Fairford is the one place in Europe where USAFE has said, 'This is where we're going to celebrate our birthday,'" said Andy Armstrong, chief executive officer of RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises.

More than 157,000 people arrived from nearby campsites and hourslong traffic queues Saturday. Ticketholders crowded the show grounds, while others swarmed nearby viewing areas around the base perimeter and throughout the countryside to appreciate and photograph static and aerial displays of 236 different aircraft from 29 nations.

"We invite the nations' air arms from all across the world, and we give them a great time when they come here," Armstrong said. "The more we do that, the bigger this show will become."

Airmen gave away freebies

and guided tours around static displays of current U.S. military aircraft such as the B-1 and B-52 bombers, an F-15E Strike Eagle, an F-16 Fighting Falcon, a CV-22B Osprey and many more. The U.S. Navy showcased the maritime patrol aircraft P-8A Poseidon.

This year's show also saw a performance by the Thunderbirds for the first time in a decade.

"It's a great opportunity. We're the Air Force's ambassadors in blue, and part of our mission is to represent the Air Force to the world, and what better place than RIAT," Thunderbirds pilot Maj. Whit Collins said. "At least 29 of the world's different air forces are here at this trade show and get to see the flying performance and precision of the United States Air Force."

Tension built minutes before the Thunderbirds' scheduled performance as some questioned whether they would perform under a low cloud ceiling of about 1,500 feet.

Along the flight line, people packed into grassy areas and filled stands, while military pilots from around the world strutted to restricted viewing areas and company VIPs emerged from private pavilions.

Fla. sinkhole stops growing after swallowing 2 homes

Associated Press

LAND O' LAKES, Fla. — A sinkhole that swallowed a boat and destroyed two homes had stopped growing, and officials said Saturday they would monitor it over the weekend before determining when cleanup can begin.

The hole has been stagnant since Friday afternoon, said Kevin Guthrie, Pasco County's assistant administrator for public safety. He confirmed the hole, which is 250 feet wide and 50 feet deep, is the largest in three decades in the county, which has a history of sinkholes.

Dramatic video showed the home in Land O' Lakes, north of Tampa, collapsing into the hole Friday morning. It quickly engulfed one home and a boat and then consumed about 80 percent of another home.

Guthrie said 11 homes in all have been affected. A third

home lost about 45 feet of driveway and a septic tank.

Of the other nine evacuated homes, residents were allowed to return to four of them on Saturday afternoon.

Guthrie said that all three homeowners had insurance. No injuries have been reported.

Hawaii high-rise fire victim recalled as talented, caring

Associated Press

HONOLULU — As smoke filled his 26th-floor apartment in Honolulu, a Hawaiian Airlines manager made one final telephone call to his brother, the brother said, before both the man and his mother were killed in the blaze.

Pearl City Community Church Pastor Phil Reller told The Honolulu Star-Advertiser that police confirmed that two of the three victims killed in the blaze Friday are his mother and brother.

Reller told the newspaper he received a call from his brother, Britt Reller, 54, saying he had been taking a shower when he smelled the smoke. He rushed out but was unable to get to their mother, Melba Jeannine Dilley, 85. He had crawled under a bed and wasn't heard from again, his brother told the newspaper.

Britt Reller had worked as an in-flight manager for Hawaiian Airlines for two years. In an emailed statement to The Associated Press on Saturday,

Robin Sparling, vice president of in-flight services at the airline, said Reller "was a talented manager and caring co-worker and we will miss him terribly. Our hearts are with Britt's brother, Phil, and his entire family."

The fire broke out in a unit on the 26th floor, where all three of the dead were found, Fire Chief Manuel Neves said.

The building known as the Marco Polo residences is not required to have fire sprinklers, which would have confined the blaze to the unit where it started, Neves said. The 36-floor building near the tourist mecca of Waikiki was built in 1971, before sprinklers were mandatory in high-rises. It has more than 500 units.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the city needs to look at passing a law requiring older buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers.

Photos taken Saturday by a KITV reporter show the charred remains on the 26th floor. The images show a hallway leading to the unit where

the deceased were found, KITV told The Associated Press. There are puddles of water on the floor, black and grey soot covering the walls and ceilings, and burnt debris scattered about.

The building is vast and wave-shaped, and it has several sections. The blaze was mostly confined to a single section. Only the units immediately above it and to the side of it were evacuated, while many residents stayed inside.

Cory La Roe, who is from Florida and is stationed in Hawaii with the Air Force, works night shifts and was asleep when sirens woke him about 2:15 p.m.

La Roe said he didn't hear any verbal announcements, and there were no flashing fire alarm lights in the building. But "after I saw people running out and went out to the hallway, I knew it was a fire alarm," he said.

He didn't realize that the building didn't have a sprinkler system and was surprised that was the case.

Jerusalem holy site reopens

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Hundreds of Muslim worshippers visited a Jerusalem holy site Sunday after Israel reopened the compound following a rare closure in response to a deadly shooting last week that raised concerns about wider unrest.

For the first time in decades, Israel closed the site — known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount — on Friday after three Arab citizens of Israel opened fire from the sacred site with automatic weapons, killing two police officers. The three were later shot dead inside the compound.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that following consultations with security officials the site reopened Sunday afternoon with increased security measures that included metal detectors at the entrance gates and additional security cameras.

Israeli police opened the gates to allow worshippers to enter through the newly erected detectors. Police said some worshippers refused to go through them and knelt to pray outside instead. But despite concerns that the new measures could slow movement and spark tensions, police said they appeared to be working fine and that 200 people had already passed through.

The attack triggered a rare phone conversation between Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who condemned the attack and called for the site to be reopened. Jordan, a custodian of the sacred compound, also called for its immediate reopening.

Early Sunday, Israeli police said security forces fatally shot a Palestinian assailant behind a pair of recent shooting attacks. Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police tracked down the 34-year-old suspect in a joint operation with the military. The suspect opened fire with an automatic weapon, prompting the troops to return fire, killing him.

Size of N. Korean plutonium stockpile unknown

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea could have more plutonium that could be used to boost its nuclear weapons stockpile than previously thought, according to a U.S. monitoring group.

Recent thermal images show intermittent activity at the radiochemical laboratory that suggests the production of "an undetermined amount of plutonium" at the North's Yongbyon nuclear facility, 38 North said Friday.

The report, based on thermal images from September through June, comes amid rising tensions over North Korea's disputed nuclear program.

A spate of missile tests has stoked concern that the communist state is advancing rapidly toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

North Korea also has conducted five nuclear tests, including three since Kim Jong Un took power after his father died of a heart attack in 2011. Officials have said it is poised to carry out a sixth at any time.

38 North, a website run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said thermal patterns associated with the reprocessing facility show "significant deviations from month to month."

"There have apparently been at least two unreported repro-

cessing campaigns to produce an undetermined amount of plutonium that can further increase North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile," it said.

The report also noted increased thermal activity at the uranium enrichment facility but said it's unclear if that was due to centrifuge operations to increase inventory or maintenance.

"Based on imagery alone, it is not possible to conclude whether the plant is producing low or highly enriched uranium," it said.

38 North said the facility to produce tritium — an isotope of hydrogen that is essential for boosted-yield nuclear weapons and hydrogen bombs — does not appear to be operational.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

House, police car on fire set off ammo

MD DAMASCUS — A house in Maryland and a police cruiser parked nearby caught fire, setting off ammunition inside the vehicle.

Montgomery County Fire department spokesman Battalion Chief Daniel Ogren said crews responding to a report of a house on fire in Damascus early Friday found heavy fire at the ranch-style home and the cruiser next to the home. Ogren said there was ammunition in the cruiser and explosions were heard. He said there were no injuries associated with the explosions.

Ogren said two people were taken to local hospitals for evaluation of minor smoke inhalation.

He said the cause and origin of the fire are under investigation.

Women use stun gun in store robberies

CA TEMPLE CITY — California authorities are on the lookout for a group of women who are accused of using a stun gun on guards while stealing from two stores.

The Pasadena Star-News reported the first crime happened Thursday night at a CVS Pharmacy and the second was an hour later at a grocery store.

Police said a security guard confronted two women about stealing at the CVS in Temple City before one of them pulled out a stun gun and used it on the guard.

Police said the second crime was at a Vons in Arcadia, where a security guard approached three women suspected of stealing and was stunned. Both guards declined to go to the hospital.

The women last were seen

fleeing the area in a red car.

Suspect sought in subway urination case

NY NEW YORK — The New York Police Department is looking for a man accused of urinating on a fellow subway rider.

A 26-year-old passenger told police that she was listening to music early Thursday in Queens when she felt something wet hit her face. She said she opened her eyes and found a stranger urinating onto her.

According to the Daily News, the man ran off the train when it stopped in Brooklyn. If arrested, he could be charged with public lewdness.

Baby tests positive for meth; mother arrested

KY LEXINGTON — A Kentucky woman was arrested after her baby was hospitalized with methamphetamine and other drugs in his system.

The Laurel County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that at about 11 p.m. Tuesday, Brandy Mosko, 36, took her 12-month-old son to a residence in Laurel County where meth was being used.

While there, the boy became sick, so Mosko took him to the emergency room at St. Joseph London. He was transferred to Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington.

The Sheriff's Office said the baby tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine, Tylenol and ibuprofen. Mosko was found Thursday in East Bernstadt and was arrested.

Typo in restaurant sign is divine comedy

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Wendy's customers

rarely have anything meatier to contemplate than whether to get a single, a double or perhaps to try the chicken.

But those at one of the fast-food chain's Palm Beach County, Florida, restaurants briefly got to contemplate Wendy's and its immoral acts against God.

The Palm Beach Post reported that the restaurant recently installed a sign that read, "All of Wendy's sins off one word — FRESH."

JAE Restaurant Group, the franchise company that operates that location, told the newspaper that the word was supposed to be "spins" and that the sign will be corrected.

Men jailed for stealing diapers from charity

WI OSHKOSH — Two men convicted of stealing 100,000 diapers from a charity in Wisconsin have been sentenced to jail time.

WLUK-TV reported that Jason Havel was sentenced Thursday to nine months in jail. His co-defendant, John Forbes, was given the same sentence in June.

The two men also must pay a total of about \$30,000 in restitution.

Police in Fox Crossing said the men stole the diapers from a charity that provides goods to needy families. The thefts occurred at a warehouse in January and February.

Dog with embedded collar recovering

NC LEXINGTON — A dog found along a North Carolina road with a chain collar embedded into his neck is recovering from an infection after a veterinarian surgically removed the collar.

Authorities told The Dispatch in Lexington that someone found the 1-year-old hound mix dragging the chain and dropped him off at a vet's office Tuesday.

Paula Barkley, of the Davidson County Animal Alliance, said the dog is being treated for an infection caused by the embedded chain. Alliance staffers named the dog Figaro, a type of chain.

She said the chain likely had been around the dog's neck since he was a puppy.

Figaro will need another surgery, after which Barkley said the dog will go to a foster home.

Zoo says ailing baby giraffe has died

MD BALTIMORE — The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore said a young giraffe that has been struggling since birth has died.

Zoo CEO Don Hutchinson said Saturday that veterinary staff and an animal care team put their lives on hold and explored every avenue to try to nurse Julius back to health.

Julius was born to first-time mother Kesi on June 15, but he was not able to learn to nurse effectively and had insufficient antibodies to protect him from disease.

To boost his immune system, he was given two transfusions of giraffe plasma, one from the Columbus Zoo in Ohio and another from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado.

Dr. Samantha Sander, an associate veterinarian at the zoo, said his condition took a sharp turn downward overnight, prompting a decision to euthanize the calf.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Federer wins record 8th Wimbledon

Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Federer's wait for No. 8 at Wimbledon is over.

He is once again the champion of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, now more often than any other man in the history of an event first held in 1877.

Federer won his eighth title at the All England Club and 19th major trophy overall, capping a marvelous fortnight in which he never dropped a set by overwhelming Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 on Sunday in a lopsided final that was more coronation than contest.

When it ended on an ace from Federer after merely 1 hour, 41 minutes, he raised both arms overhead. Soon, he was sitting on the sideline, wiping tears from his eyes.

"I always believed that I could maybe come back and do it again. And if you believe, you can go really, really far in your life, and I did that," Federer said. "And I'm happy I kept on believing and dreaming and here I am today for the eighth. It's fantastic."

His first major title came at Wimbledon in 2003, and was followed by others in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. He won again in 2009 and 2012. But then he lost finals in 2014 and 2015 to Novak Djokovic.

The gold trophy that he was denied on those occasions was in Federer's hands Sunday. He turns 36 on Aug. 8, making the father of four the oldest man to win Wimbledon in the Open era.

Truly, this outcome was only in doubt for about 20 minutes, the amount of time it took Federer to grab his first lead.

Cilic said afterward he developed a painful blister on his left foot during his semifinal Friday, and that affected his ability to move properly or summon the intimidating serves that carried him to his lone Grand Slam title at the 2014 U.S. Open, where he surprisingly beat Federer in straight sets in the semifinals.

This one was all Federer, whose seventh championship five years ago pulled him even with Pete Sampras and William Renshaw in what's still officially called Gentlemen's Singles. Sampras won all but one of his in the 1990s; Renshaw won each of his in the 1880s, when the previous year's champion advanced automatically to the final.

Federer's early play was symptomatic of jitters. For everything he's accomplished, for all of the bright lights and big settings to which he's become accustomed, the guy many have labeled the "GOAT" — Greatest of All Time — admits to feeling heavy legs and jumbled thoughts to this day.

And so it was that Federer, not Cilic, hit a double-fault in each of his first two service games. And it was Federer, not Cilic, who faced the match's initial break point, in the match's fourth game. But Cilic netted a return there, beginning a run of 17 points in a row won by Federer on his serve. He would never be confronted with another break point.

"I gave it my best," Cilic said. "That's all I could do."

In the very next game, Federer broke to lead 3-2. He broke again to take that set when Cilic double-faulted, walked to the changeover and slammed his racket on his sideline chair. Cilic then sat and covered his head with a towel.

After Federer raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set, Cilic cried while he was visited by a doctor and trainer. He said that was not so much a result of his foot's pain as the idea that he could not play well enough to challenge Federer.

"Obviously, it was very tough emotionally," said Cilic, whose foot was re-taped by a trainer after the second set. "I knew that I cannot give my best on the court. ... It was very difficult to deal with it."

Federer broke to a 4-3 edge in the third set and all that remained to discover was how he'd finish. It was with his eighth ace, at 114 mph, part of

a total of 23 winners. He made only eight unforced errors.

This caps a remarkable reboot for Federer, who departed Wimbledon a year ago with a lot of doubts: His body was letting him down for the first time in his career.

He'd had surgery on his left knee, then sat out the French Open because of a bad back, ending a record streak of participating in 65 consecutive majors. After Wimbledon, he did not play the rest of the year, skipping the Rio Olympics, the U.S. Open and everything else in an attempt to let his knee heal properly.

Feeling refreshed and fully fit, Federer returned to the tour in January and was suddenly playing like the guy of old, rather than like an old guy.

In a turn-back-the-clock moment, he faced rival Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final and, with a fifth-set comeback, won. It was Federer's 18th Grand Slam title, adding to his own record, and first in 4½ years. Those who had written Federer off needed to grab their erasers.

Federer is back to being supreme, lording over the sport the way no man has.

"It's magical, really," Federer said. "I can't believe it yet."

Wheel woes don't keep Froome from Tour lead

Associated Press

LE PUY-EN-VELAY, France — Chris Froome fought back from a bike breakdown to cling onto his race leader's yellow jersey on the tricky Stage 15 of the Tour de France, won Sunday with a courageous solo breakaway by Bauke Mollema of the Netherlands.

The back wheel of three-time Tour champion Froome broke at the worst possible time, just as the AG2R team of close rival Romain Bardet was picking up the pace ahead of the last big climb of the day. That was a 5-mile slog up the steep Col de Peyra Taillade.

By the time Froome had stopped, taken

a wheel off his teammate Michal Kwiatkowski and got going again, Bardet's group was already way ahead — about one minute ahead of him down the road.

Aside from Bardet, other top riders were also in that group, including Fabio Aru and Rigoberto Uran — all within 30 seconds of Froome in the overall standings. Earlier at the Tour, Froome's rivals had waited for the race leader to catch them back up when he suffered another mechanical problem, that one with his gears. But there was no such politeness this time.

Froome had two choices: catch them or lose the overall race lead and the famed yellow jersey that goes with it.

"Panic stations," he said. "I really

thought that that could be the yellow jersey changing shoulders again today."

He chased after them. Helped first by teammates Mikel Nieve and then by Mikel Landa, Froome worked furiously on the climb to reel in Bardet's group — past cheering crowds with some people who booed as he labored past them.

"They all emptied themselves to get me back into the race," Froome said of his teammates. "I had to get back by the top of the climb. Otherwise it was game over for me."

"It was a stressful moment," Froome said. "I thought I might not get back to the front."

US earns Gold Cup group lead with win

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Alejandro Bedoya can watch the rest of the CONCACAF Gold Cup after helping the U.S. avoid an embarrassing second-place finish in its group.

Bedoya set up goals by Joe Corona and Kelyn Rowe, and Matt Miazga's close-range header in the 88th minute from Graham Zusi's free kick gave the United States a 3-0 win over 10-man Nicaragua on Saturday, just enough to leapfrog Panama for the Group B lead.

Bedoya is among six players on the 23-man roster who will be replaced for the knockout phase. His second child is due early next week.

"It's tough, but this is something we have talked about," Bedoya said. "As much as I would have loved to stay, we're welcoming a new life."

Goalkeeper Tim Howard and midfielder Michael Bradley watched from the stands and are among the players U.S. coach Bruce Arena plans to add along with forwards Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore, midfielder Darlington Nagbe and goalkeeper Jesse Gonzalez — whose approval to switch affiliation from Mexico to the U.S. was granted in late June.

"Alejandro is a very good player," Arena

said. "In this three- or four-week period that we've been together he continues to demonstrate that. He can play a number of positions and he's a really versatile player. He does an excellent job."

Panama's 3-0 win over Martinique in the first match of the doubleheader meant the U.S. needed a three-goal win to move back over Los Canaleros into first. But the Americans struggled for long stretches against Nicaragua, a team ranked 105th by FIFA. They squandered opportunities when Dom Dwyer and Corona took poor penalty kicks in the second half that easily were saved by Justo Lorente.

"Give the goalkeeper for Nicaragua some credit — two penalty kick saves in a game isn't bad — but we didn't do well with our kicks," Arena said. "It was a game where we wasted some opportunities and made it pretty difficult on ourselves. However, at the end I'm pretty proud of our team that they kept battling and they knew that they needed to get three goals in the game and they managed to do it in the end."

Nicaragua's Luis Copete was sent off in the 85th minute for his second yellow card, and Luis Galeano was receiving treatment for an injury, giving the U.S. a two-man advantage when Zusi took his free kick from about 30 yards. Miazga, a 21-year-old Chel-

sea defender playing his first international match since May 2016, made a diagonal run from the outside and had an open header to score his first goal in three national team appearances.

"It was kind of too good to be true," Miazga said. "I wasn't really marked. The player who'd been marking me all game got a red card, so I was kind of free and Graham played a phenomenal ball. He floated it in, and I saw it all the way and guided it into the goal."

Miazga spent last season on loan to Vitesse Arnhem in the Dutch Eredivisie and had not played in a match since May 14.

"The field was a little bit sticky, so we couldn't really play fluid football, but it is what it is," Miazga said. "We had to manage it."

The U.S. and Panama both finished with seven points and a plus-four goal difference, but the Americans won the group bases on total goals, 7-6. The Americans have won their group in 13 of 14 Gold Cups, finishing second to Panama in 2011.

Next up for the U.S. is a quarterfinal Wednesday in Philadelphia against a third-place team from another group, likely Honduras, El Salvador or Jamaica. A second-place finish would have meant a U.S.-Costa Rica matchup.

Back 9 dooms Lewis at US Women's Open

Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. — Stacy Lewis was on a roll in the third round of the U.S. Women's Open at Trump National Golf Club.

The American birdied four straight holes to pull within a shot of leader Shanshan Feng, a run that included a 40-foot putt on No. 9.

Then, the day unraveled. After her birdie on No. 10, she made a triple bogey on the par-4, 11th hole, chipping her third shot from behind the green off the front and leaving her chip back up short.

A bogey on the 12th hole dropped her five shots off the lead.

After five straight pars, she hit two wedge shots into the water on the par-5 18th and closed with a 10.

Lewis ended up with a 4-over 76 to drop to 2 over — 11 shots off the lead.

Lewis declined to speak with the media after the round.

"No chance," she said twice to an LPGA Tour official.

The former top-ranked player has 11 victories, including two majors. She has finished second 12 times since her last LPGA Tour victory in 2014.

POTUS pressure: American Lexi Thompson shot a 2-under 74 and then visited President Donald Trump in his box near the 15th green.

"I didn't feel any extra pressure," said Thompson, who with her family posed for pictures with the president. "It's cool to have the president of the United States here. It's his golf course. It's all good."

Fellow American Cristie

Kerr also wasn't fazed by Trump's appearance.

"He's a huge supporter of women's golf," Kerr said. "It's cool to say that I know the president."

In other golf news:

■ Patrick Rodgers shot a 3-under 68 on Saturday to maintain a two-stroke lead in the John Deere Classic at Silvis, Ill.

Rodgers had a 16-under 197 total at TPC Deere Run. The former Stanford star is trying to become the third player in five years to win the Quad Cities event for his first PGA Tour title.

Daniel Berger shot a 63 to match Scott Stallings (64) at 14 under.

Nicholas Lindheim (66) was 13 under, and Jamie Lovemark (66), Bryson DeChambeau

(70) and J.J. Henry (68) were another stroke back. Area favorite Zach Johnson had a 70 to drop five strokes back.

■ At Owings Mills Md., Bernhard Langer shot a bogey-free 6-under 66 on Saturday and took advantage of Brandt Jobe's late collapse to take a one-shot lead into the final round of the Constellation Senior Players Championship.

Langer had six birdies to complete the third round at 18 under. He trailed after 15 holes but made up three strokes over the next two holes to take control of the major tournament he's won the last three years.

Jobe shot a 65 to finish the day in second place. Corey Pavin (71) and Scott McCarron (69) were tied for third at 12 under.

Dodgers' rookie Bellinger hits for cycle

Associated Press

MIAMI — When Cody Bellinger tripled to hit for the cycle Saturday, the Dodgers dugout called for the ball, giving the rookie another keepsake in a rapidly expanding collection.

His other souvenirs?

"First homer, second homer, first double, first RBI, something else — a lot of firsts," Bellinger said with a grin.

He's not the only Dodger marking milestones. Bellinger became the franchise's first rookie to hit for the cycle and Alex Wood became the first Dodgers pitcher in more than a century to win his first 11 decisions in a season, helping the NL West leaders beat the Miami Marlins 7-1 for their eighth consecutive victory.

Bellinger said the cycle was his first at any level. He's the ninth player in the Dodgers' 128-year history to hit for the cycle.

"In this organization there is so much

history," he said. "To see my name on some of that is pretty humbling."

Bellinger singled in the first inning, hit a two-run homer in the third, added an RBI double in the fourth and hit his second career triple on the first pitch of the seventh. His triple off Nick Wittgren barely cleared the glove of right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, who tried to make a running backhanded catch.

Wood (11-0) struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, lowered his ERA to 1.56 and graciously conceded any headlines to Bellinger.

"He's pretty special, huh?" Wood said. "It's great to see good things happen to good people. He is as humble and talented as they come."

"I think he feels the same as me — we just want to do well and contribute."

They're doing that for a team that has been the best in baseball over the past month. Los Angeles (63-29) climbed 34 games above .500 for the first time

this year and has won 28 of their past 32 games.

"I just don't see anyone compete as much as we do," manager Dave Roberts said. "Our club for 27 outs competes harder than anyone."

The bandwagon included an entire section at Marlins Park, where a group that follows the team on the road unfurled its enormous blue flag with the Dodgers logo during the sixth inning.

Bellinger's cycle — his first four-hit game — was the fifth in the majors this year, and came against three pitchers. He became the third Dodger to hit for the cycle since the team moved to Los Angeles, and the first since Orlando Hudson on April 13, 2009.

"It's really not a surprise," Roberts said. "Every time he steps on the field, something special can happen."

The Dodgers improved to 54-18 (.750) since Bellinger was promoted from the minors.

Roundup

Cubs' Arrieta wins in return to Baltimore

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Jake Arrieta left to a standing ovation from a large contingent of blue-clad Chicago Cubs' fans. He rarely received such a reception when he played for the Baltimore Orioles.

Making his first appearance at Camden Yards since he was traded by Baltimore four years ago, Arrieta settled down after a wild start to hold the Orioles to four hits over 6²/₃ innings and lead the Cubs to a 10-3 win Saturday night.

"Playing here in Camden Yards, it's one of the most beautiful parks in all of baseball," Arrieta said. "It was just really cool, it really was. The fans were gracious. I learned a lot, and I'm able to be the player I am today because of what I went through while I was in the organization."

Addison Russell homered for the second straight game, and Albert Almora and Anthony Rizzo also went deep for Chicago, which hit eight homers in

winning the first two games of the series.

Arrieta (9-7) walked three in the first two innings, then retired 11 of 12 batters before Caleb Joseph's a solo home run in the fifth. Arrieta allowed two runs — one earned — with three strikeouts and three walks.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 1 (16): Didi Gregorius lined a go-ahead single in the 16th inning as New York outlasted Boston in the longest game between the bitter rivals at Fenway Park since 1966.

Padres 5, Giants 3: At San Diego, Madison Bumgarner allowed four hits over seven innings, including home runs by Matt Szczur and Jabari Blash, in his first start since being injured in a dirt bike accident, before leaving with the score tied at 3-3.

Nationals 10, Reds 7: Anthony Rendon hit his second career grand slam and added a two-run homer as visiting Washington overcame Scooter Gennett's four-RBI night.

Mets 9, Rockies 3: At New

York, Jay Bruce and pitcher Seth Lugo homered during an early barrage that sent Colorado to its 15th loss in 20 games.

Tigers 11, Blue Jays 1: At Detroit, J.D. Martinez had five RBIs with a two-run single and a three-run homer while Michael Fulmer (10-6) won his fourth straight start, giving up one run and two hits in eight innings.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 0: Visiting St. Louis' Lance Lynn (8-6) allowed eight hits in 6¹/₃ innings and hit a run-scoring double. Lynn hasn't allowed a run in his last 13¹/₃ innings.

Braves 8, Diamondbacks 5: At Atlanta, little-used Lane Adams drove in three runs with a go-ahead, pinch-hit, bases-loaded double in the sixth.

Mariners 4, White Sox 3: Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager homered as visiting Seattle overcame three errors to win their third straight.

Twins 4, Astros 2: At Houston, Brian Dozier homered and Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking two-run double off Tony Sipp in

the sixth after Minnesota loaded the bases against Joe Muro (4-8).

Brewers 3, Phillies 2: Travis Shaw broke an eighth-inning tie against Joaquin Benoit (1-4) with his 20th homer as host Milwaukee (52-41) moved a season-high 11 games over .500.

Rangers 1, Royals 0: Shin-Soo Choo flared a lazy fly ball down the left-field line for a single with one out in the ninth, driving in the only run off Danny Duffy (5-6) as visiting Texas won its 12th straight win over Kansas City dating to last July.

Athletics 5, Indians 3: At Oakland, Calif., Khris Davis hit his 25th homer, a two-run shot in the ninth off Bryan Shaw after Andrew Miller (3-3) walked Yonder Alonso.

Rays 6, Angels 3: Alex Cobb (8-6) gave up one run, six hits and three walks in 7²/₃ innings. After surrendering a career-high nine earned runs on June 3 to fall to 4-5 with a 4.52 ERA, Cobb has gone 4-1 with a 2.16 ERA in his last seven starts.