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Navy mandates Early Return to Sea policy

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

The Navy announced Thursday that it will begin requiring enlisted sailors to transfer from shore duty to sea billets where the need is critical.

The so-called Sailor Early Return to Sea policy gives enlisted rating detailers increased authority to begin filling high-priority sea-duty billets for sailors ranked petty officer third class through master chief petty officer, allowing them to move sailors earlier than their projected rotation dates.

Among the factors that will be considered to determine whether a sailor could be tagged for early return to sea are length of time on shore, pay grade, fleet experience, enlisted classification, previous sea duty and how much longer a sailor is obligated to serve.

“Sailors must have completed at least 18-23 months of shore duty and will not transfer until they have at least completed 24 months on shore,” the Navy said in the announcement.

“Navy Personnel Command already has a number of programs and policies that provide Sailors an opportunity to volunteer to return to sea duty early,” Capt. Alonza Ross, director of the command’s Enlisted Distribution Division, Career Management Department, said in a statement.

The Navy previously had attempted to address the need to fill critical billets at sea through incentives — some in cash. Last year, the service announced it was ordering up to 1,100 chief petty officers back to sea ahead of their regular rotation in an attempt to fill almost 3,000 billets.

The impact of the transfers on the sailor’s shore-duty command will be balanced against the priorities at sea, the Navy said.

According to the Navy, sailors in special program billets — such as recruit division commanders, recruiters, brig duty, instructors and special warfare operators — will not be considered for early return to sea.

Nuclear-trained sailors will continue to be detailed according to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the Navy said.

Candidates for early sea return will not only fill billets at their current pay grades, as they may also be selected to fill vacant requirements within their pay bands. For example, senior chief petty officers and master chief petty officers may be chosen to fill vacant chief petty officer and senior petty officer requirements.

Sailors and their commands can challenge proposed transfers within 15 days of notification by submitting adverse-impact statements, the Navy said.

Request for DOD to house immigrants stirs concerns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration’s request for the Defense Department to house immigrants detained at the U.S. southern border and even to help prosecute them is prompting concern about strains to the military.

Some call it an inappropriate mission.

“We shouldn’t be militarizing border enforcement,” Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat, said in an interview.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has made it his top priority to improve the military’s fitness for combat, argues that the Pentagon is nonetheless obliged to provide help with border enforcement.

In recent days, Mattis has accepted requests by the departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to provide temporary housing on Air Force and Army installations for potentially tens of thousands of detained immigrant families and unaccompanied children. That is in line with historical precedents for military assistance, Mattis argued.

“We have housed refugees; we have housed people thrown out of their homes by earthquakes and hurricanes. We do

whatever is in the best interest of the country,” he recently told reporters.

But he also has insisted that decisions about immigration policy and its security implications are not his to make. “I’m not going to chime in from the outside,” he said.

The Pentagon says it received a Department of Homeland Security request to house up to 12,000 detained immigrant family members, starting with shelters for 2,000 people to be available within 45 days. The initial shelters are likely to be at Fort Bliss, Texas, but subsequent tent cities could be at two other bases in border states.

The Pentagon has indicated Mattis will accept these requests, but no steps have been taken yet to move immigrants onto the bases.

Mattis has emphasized that members of the military will not be directly involved in detaining or securing migrants. By law, the military is barred from performing domestic law enforcement functions such as arresting people crossing the border, but it has sometimes provided support for border security, including monitoring surveillance imagery and repairing border fences.

Nonetheless, Mattis has been the target

of pointed objections from senators critical of the Pentagon taking on a bigger role, including lending 21 military lawyers to the Justice Department to help prosecute immigration cases at the border.

“Clearly, the military needs more, not fewer, lawyers available for its critical military justice practice,” Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., wrote in a letter to Mattis. They pointed out the Pentagon already had said that military lawyers are too busy to expand the services of special victims counsel.

“Instead, we have now learned the services will be diverting these valuable resources to support a nonmilitary mission,” the senators wrote, adding that they are “deeply troubled” by what they consider a misuse of military personnel.

The Pentagon has agreed to set up tents — which it euphemistically calls “semi-separate, soft-sided camp facilities” — at Fort Bliss, if needed, for detained migrant families starting this summer. It has also agreed to make housing available at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, for up to 20,000 unaccompanied minors detained for illegally crossing the southern border.

RIMPAC drills begin with China absent

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The absence of China's rising navy won't have much impact on this year's Rim of the Pacific drills, the commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet said during a dockside launch of the monthlong exercise.

The U.S. rescinded China's invitation last month over actions the nation has taken in the South China Sea.

"This entire exercise is about nations cooperating for peace, stability, security and a free and open Indo-Pacific region," Adm. John Aquilino told reporters at Pearl Harbor on Thursday.

Last month, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said that "China continues to militarize features in the South China Sea" by utilizing "weapons that just a few years ago they said they would not be putting there."

According to Aquilino, China's actions in the South China Sea are "exactly contradictory to the entire purpose" of RIMPAC.

In 2016, China brought five ships and about 1,200 personnel to the biennial exercise.

"I would say that very little will change," Aquilino said of China's absence from RIMPAC. "The events that they were scheduled to participate in, they will not — but all of the same benefit exists from the like-

minded nations that are participating in this particular event."

The countries participating this year are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam, the United Kingdom and the U.S. Those 25 nations will bring together a fleet of 46 surface warships, five submarines and troops from 18 national land forces, along with more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel.

"We are all maritime nations," said Vice Adm. John Alexander, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet and head of RIMPAC's

combined task force. "We all prosper through trade, and the majority of trade goes through the Indo-Pacific region."

New at this year's exercise are live-fire drills in which the Army's Multi-Domain Task Force will shoot a Navy missile to sink a ship at sea, and the Air Force will fire long-range anti-ship missiles, Alexander said.

"It's the first time we've done something like this [at] RIMPAC," Alexander said. "We're looking to expand this in 2020. It's a maritime exercise, but we have ground forces supporting a maritime environment."

For the first time, the Philippines has brought two ships — a frigate and a landing platform dock — to the exercise.

US officials: N. Korea plotting to keep arsenal of nukes

The Washington Post

U.S. intelligence officials, citing newly obtained evidence, have concluded that North Korea does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpile and instead is considering ways to conceal the number of weapons it has and secret production facilities, according to U.S. officials.

The evidence, collected in the wake of the June 12 summit in Singapore, points to preparations to deceive the U.S. about the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea's arsenal as well as the existence of undisclosed facilities used to make fissile material for nuclear bombs, the officials said.

The findings support a new, previously undisclosed Defense Intelligence Agency estimate that North Korea is unlikely to denuclearize. The assessment stands in stark contrast to President Donald Trump's exuberant comments following the summit, when he declared on Twitter that "there is no longer a nuclear threat" from North Korea. At a recent rally, he also said he had "great

Bolton: US has plan to end Kim's efforts within a year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's national security adviser said Sunday the U.S. has a plan that would lead to the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs in a year.

John Bolton said top U.S. diplomat Mike Pompeo will be discussing that plan with North Korea in the near future.

Bolton added that it would be to the North's advantage to cooperate to see sanctions lifted quickly and aid from South Korea and Japan start to flow.

success" with Pyongyang.

Intelligence officials and many North Korea experts have generally taken a more cautious view, noting that leader Kim

Bolton's remarks on CBS' "Face the Nation" appeared to be the first time the Trump administration publicly had suggested a timeline for North Korea to fulfill the commitment leader Kim Jong Un made at a summit with President Donald Trump last month to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

Despite Trump's rosy post-summit declaration that the North no longer poses a nuclear threat, Washington and Pyongyang have yet to negotiate the terms under which North Korea would relinquish the weapons that it developed to deter the U.S.

Jong Un's vague commitment to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is a near-echo of earlier pledges from North Korean leaders during the past two de-

acades, even as they accelerated efforts to build nuclear weapons in secret.

The new intelligence, described by four officials who have seen it or received briefings, is based on material gathered in the weeks since the summit. The officials insisted on anonymity to discuss sensitive assessments about a country that has long been one of the most difficult targets for spy agencies to penetrate. Some aspects of the U.S. intelligence were reported Friday by NBC News.

Specifically, the DIA has concluded that North Korean officials are exploring ways to deceive Washington about the number of nuclear warheads and missiles and the types and numbers of facilities they have, believing that the U.S. is not aware of the full range of their activities.

U.S. intelligence agencies have believed for at least a year that the number of warheads is about 65, as reported last year by The Washington Post. But North Korean officials are suggesting that they declare far fewer.

Mattis offers Japan reassurance

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO, Japan — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had some reassuring words for his Japanese counterpart during a visit to Tokyo on Friday amid concerns about President Donald Trump's decision to cancel annual war games with South Korea.

Mattis said the U.S. will not jeopardize its alliance “with another democratic and free nation” in its negotiations with North Korea.

“We are in the midst of very unprecedented negotiations with North Korea, but in this dynamic time, the long-standing alliance between Japan and the United States stands firm,” Mattis, who was in South Korea a day earlier, told reporters at Japan's Ministry of Defense.

Japan was the final stop for the Pentagon chief during a trip that also included a visit to Beijing. Mattis told reporters in Tokyo that the U.S. relationship with China would be defined by the two nations' ability to competitively coexist.

“We look to cooperate where and when possible and we will compete vigorously where we must,” he said.

Last week marked Mattis' seventh trip to the region since he became defense secretary, and the fifth time in three months that he and Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera have met.

“The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of Indo-Pacific stability, and our commitment to this alliance remains ironclad with a long-term ally,” Mattis said. “These visits represent just how strongly we prioritize this relationship between our two militaries.”

The defense chiefs, who met in private before talking to the press, said they discussed denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Last month, the U.S. canceled annual military exercises with South Korea, drawing scrutiny in Japan.

“This decision was taken to create space for our diplomats to negotiate strongly and increase the prospect for a peaceful solution on the peninsula,” Mat-

tis said. “At the same time, we maintain a strong collaborative defensive stance to ensure our diplomats continue to negotiate from a position of unquestioned strength.”

“Our objective remains the complete, irreversible and verifiable dismantling of North Korean nuclear ballistic missile programs,” Mattis said.

Onodera wore a blue ribbon to the meeting in remembrance of the Japanese abducted by the North.

Japan is seeking the return of 12 known abductees. Mattis called it “a humanitarian issue always present in our deliberations” and said Trump raised the abductees issue with Kim Jong Un during their summit last month.

Onodera said his talks with Mattis had been “a very candid and open exchange of views.”

Japan will “continue to cooperate” with the U.S. to accomplish the goal of a denuclearized North Korea and will “continue efforts to counter illegal ship-to-ship transfers of goods by North Korea in coordination with other countries,” he said.

B-52 crew helps find paddlers

Stars and Stripes

The crew of a B-52 Stratofortress helped find six canoe paddlers during a search and rescue mission near Guam, according to Andersen Air Force Base's 36th Wing.

The crew, from the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron out of Barksdale Air Force Base, La., was on a routine flight during a deployment to Guam when they responded to a call from the Coast Guard on June 25.

A traditional Pacific Island-style canoe carrying six passengers had gone missing after sailing from nearby Piagailoe Atoll on June 19. The journey from the atoll to Guam was supposed to take only a day, meaning the paddlers, who had minimal supplies, had been missing for six days.

“This was a unique situation for us,” Capt. Sean Simpson, one of the bomber's crew, said in an Air Force statement. “It's not every day the B-52 gets called for a search and rescue.”

Finding the canoe wasn't easy since the airmen weren't even sure what it looked like. But an unusual, Disney-themed tip from the Coast Guard helped identify it.

“We asked for more details about the vessel,” Simpson said, “and the dispatcher told us, ‘It's just like the boat from (the animated film) ‘Moana.’”

After searching for more than three hours, the crew spotted the canoe drifting in the open ocean — with all six passengers aboard.

“We spotted this vessel from about 19,000 feet,” 1st Lt. Jordan Allen said in the statement. “It's really a small miracle that we were able to see it, because there were quite a bit of clouds.”

The airmen provided the Coast Guard with the canoe's location and a civilian ship was able to contact the paddlers and steer them to shore.

US soldier saves drowning man

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A grandfather in his fifties — possibly the oldest soldier in the 173rd Airborne Brigade — jumped off a cliff into a frigid Italian river last month to save a drowning man's life.

Maj. John Hall, 53, a Flint, Mich., history teacher and Army National Guardsman who's spent the last year on active duty with the brigade, reacted during a June 17 family outing to a swimming hole on the Astica River near the village of Contra Pria in the Dolomites.

As his two grandsons played in the shallows, he stood on a rock ledge above the water to get a better view of some scuba divers. He wasn't planning to swim because he was just coming off knee surgery and the

rocks were slippery.

He watched three young Italian men in bathing trunks take turns jumping off the ledge across from him into the icy water. He saw that one of them began to struggle, gasping, splashing and calling out for help. He saw that the friends who jumped in again to help couldn't. In his panic, the drowning man grabbed them, endangering them as well.

Then the drowning man went under for a good 10 seconds.

“I thought something has to happen right now. I thought I'm the only guy in a position to do something,” Hall said in an interview Friday. “So I just jumped.”

He spread his arms wide as he descended in his shorts, Hawaiian shirt, shoes and socks, he said. Then he started swimming.

“I came up from behind him and I just wrapped my arm around his throat and immediately turned into a sidestroke. I popped him on my hip,” Hall said.

“He completely quit fighting. I think he'd given up at that point. The look in his eyes — he was in shock or terrified.”

Hall swam the man to the steep riverbank and — along with the other two Italians — helped push him up the rocks to safety.

Hall clambered out and checked on the young man he'd fished out.

“He was shaking and pacing,” Hall said. “Then he walked over to me and gave me a great big hug. You could feel the warmth coming through the cold. It was a very good moment for us and those (Italian) guys.”

USFK's Camp Humphreys officially opens

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The U.S. military has taken a major step toward ending seven decades of deployments near the border with North Korea by officially moving its main command on the peninsula south of Seoul to an expanded Camp Humphreys.

The official opening of the new \$77 million U.S. Forces Korea headquarters Friday marked a milestone in the frequently postponed plans to relocate most American troops away from the capital and areas to the north.

The move, which originally was supposed to take place in 2008, has gained momentum as tensions on the divided peninsula have eased and the North engages in talks with the U.S. over its nuclear weapons program.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, the commander of U.S. Forces Korea, stressed during a ceremony to open his new headquarters that Americans aren't going anywhere despite the consolidation of the military's presence, centered in Seoul since before the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

"This headquarters ... represents the significant investment in the long-term presence of U.S. forces in Korea," he said

in declaring the new headquarters open for business on the base in the rural area of Pyeongtaek, some 40 miles south of Seoul.

Brooks noted that South Korea has paid 90 percent of the nearly \$10.8 billion cost to develop Camp Humphreys from a remote airfield into the equivalent of a small American town.

The new, four-story USFK headquarters building, which has two annexes and a parade ground, replaces the command's long-time home in the so-called White House on Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul.

It sits next to the Eighth Army headquarters, which opened last summer. The 2nd Infantry Division, which is stationed north of Seoul and mans the front lines, also will move to Humphreys, although no date has been set.

The relocation plan is the result of a 2004 agreement between the U.S. and South Korea, which is eager to reclaim Yongsan and other bases that are occupying what has become prime real estate in the Asian economic powerhouse.

In all, two-thirds of the USFK and UNC staff, or about 650 employees and their families, are expected to move to Humphreys this summer, and the population is projected to reach 40,000 when the transition is completed. Brooks said it's believed to be

the largest U.S. overseas base.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he hoped the change would help the alliance evolve beyond military affairs.

"The alliance has been the foundation for peace and stability and paved the way for South Korea's democratization and economic growth," he said in a speech read at the ceremony by one of his aides.

The relocation was supposed to take place in 2008 but was pushed ahead to 2012 and then 2016 due to construction and quality control issues. The military finally stopped giving deadlines, saying the move would be conditions-based.

The aging Yongsan Garrison, which was used by the Japanese occupation force from 1910 to 1945 before the Americans moved in after World War II, has begun to shrink but still had a population of 12,000 last month.

No major changes to the barbed-wire-lined perimeter are expected until late next year when a new hospital is due to open on Humphreys, allowing the Yongsan facility to close, officials have said.

A secure operations center is not expected to open until January 2021 — although a temporary facility is being built in the meantime, according to a timeline laid out at a recent town hall meeting on Yongsan.

Bolton: No one should get 'vapors' over the summit

The Washington Post

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — National security adviser John Bolton on Sunday defended President Donald Trump's decision to hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki this month as a way to get beyond the "political noise" that has consumed Washington over the ongoing investigation of Russian election interference.

Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," Bolton said the summit would be "somewhat unstructured," especially during the leaders' one-on-one time, to avoid "the pressure of immediate deadlines or crises."

"He wants to understand the Russian position, but, more importantly, he wants Putin to understand our position," Bolton said.

Trump is scheduled to meet with Putin on July 16, several days after he stops in Brussels for a NATO summit. The president has been critical of NATO, suggesting that other member nations do not contribute enough to the alliance and that the U.S. carries too much of the burden.

Bolton, who before joining the White House said on television that Putin lied to Trump, said he hasn't changed his mind about Russia's involvement. In a meeting last week to plan the summit, Bolton said, Putin told him that "there was no meddling in the 2016 election by the Russian state. So I think it still raises the question. I think the president will have a conversation about this and say, 'We don't want to see meddling in the 2018 election.'"

EPA chief ethics official seeking probes of Pruitt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency's chief ethics official said he is pushing for a series of independent investigations into Scott Pruitt's actions as administrator of the federal agency.

In a letter to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, EPA ethics official Kevin Minoli wrote that "potential issues" regarding Pruitt have surfaced through sources within the EPA and media reports since April.

Minoli wrote that he has referred "a number" of those matters to the EPA's inspector general. He said all are either under consideration for acceptance or are under active investigation.

Minoli's letter, first reported Saturday by The New

York Times after the newspaper received a copy of the letter through a Freedom of Information request, doesn't specify the issues referred for investigation.

News media have reported Pruitt's rental of a condo from a lobbyist's spouse, his use of staff to handle personal matters and other practices. Pruitt faces more than a dozen federal inquiries into his spending and management practices as EPA administrator, according to the Times.

Last month, House Democrats asked the Justice Department to investigate Pruitt for potential criminal conduct, alleging that he repeatedly violated federal anti-corruption laws by seeking to leverage his government position for personal gain.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Chair brings comfort to 7-foot, 8-inch man

MI MICHIGAN CENTER — A Michigan man who is more than 7 feet tall has gotten a custom chair that fits his 500-pound frame.

The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported that Broc Brown, 21, was delivered a custom chair from Lippert Components Inc. on June 14.

Brown has Sotos Syndrome, or cerebral gigantism, which affects about one in every 15,000 people. He was previously listed as the world's tallest teenager in Guinness World Records for being 7 feet, 8 inches tall.

Lippert creates parts for recreational vehicles, buses and boats. The Indiana-based company designed, made and donated the chair.

Officials say avoid nesting shoreline birds

CT HARTFORD — Connecticut environmental officials want the public to avoid contact with large concentrations of nesting birds in coastal areas.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said people should stay at least 50 yards away from the birds and avoid areas roped off or marked with signs designating nesting locations.

The agency's deputy commissioner, Susan Whalen, said shorebirds and wading birds, such as piping plovers and egrets, need special protection throughout their nesting season, which runs from April to September.

Pesky bear relocated at Canadian border

NH HANOVER — A momma bear who's been teaching her cubs bad

habits has been relocated from an area where they'd been raiding trash bins and bird feeders near Dartmouth College.

Officials said the sow was captured Friday and hauled north to Coos County, near the Canadian border, where she was released with a tracking collar.

As of Saturday, three of the four cubs had been rounded up and officials were looking for the fourth. They're going to a center that rehabilitates orphaned cubs.

Records fix sought for GI wrongly executed

NY ALBANY — Research into the execution of a New York soldier during the War of 1812 led to an upstate congressman introducing legislation that would make it easier to correct military records when a serious error or injustice is discovered decades or even centuries later.

East Greenbush town historian Roberta Reno said she learned that Pvt. Samuel Helms was wrongly executed for desertion at an encampment in Rensselaer, across the Hudson River from Albany.

She determined he was illegally put on trial, but when she tried to correct his military record she was told she couldn't because she wasn't a family member and failed to locate any of his descendants.

A bill introduced by Congressman Paul Tonko, an Albany-area Democrat, would allow military records to be updated or corrected to fix historical errors.

Crews rescue deaf puppy stuck in hole

AL HUNTSVILLE — After 30 hours of effort, volunteers were able to rescue a 7-week-old deaf puppy

that fell down a 50-foot crevice behind a house in Alabama.

Volunteers erupted in cheers as the pup — named Toffee — was pulled out of the narrow hole Saturday with the help of a snare and some food.

Toffee fell into the inches-wide space around 5 p.m. Thursday. Firefighters, cave rescue crews and plumbers joined the rescue effort, lowering nets, snares and food to try to retrieve Toffee.

"Y'all this is a miracle," Karen Smith, the puppy's foster mother, told reporters.

Camping equipment stolen from Scouts

NV LAS VEGAS — A Las Vegas Boy Scout troop said thousands of dollars worth of camping gear was stolen from its trailer.

Anthony Cervantes, Scout Master, Troop 340, said \$15,000 worth of camping gear was stolen from their trailer at the Lamb of God Lutheran Church and School in Las Vegas.

Boy Scout Adam Garcia told KLAS-TV that the cost represents six years of fundraising.

The troop had a big camping trip scheduled in less than two weeks.

Man gets 15 years for drugs, cockfighting

OR PORTLAND — A Hillsboro man was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for drug dealing and cockfighting.

Kevin Sonoff, spokesman for the Oregon U.S. Attorney's Office, said Daniel Ramirez, 43, was also ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine and spend five years on supervised release when he leaves prison.

According to court documents, Ramirez led a methamphetamine-trafficking

organization with ties to Mexican cartels. Through a series of wiretaps, authorities identified more than 50 members of the organization — 35 of whom live in Oregon.

Agents learned during the investigation that Ramirez was also heavily involved in cockfighting.

Zoo vets raising neglected red panda

CA SACRAMENTO — The newest furry member of the Sacramento Zoo is relying on human care after her mother started neglecting the tiny red panda.

Sacramento Zoo spokeswoman Laurel Vincent said Friday that the female cub was born June 25.

Veterinarians took the 4-ounce hypothermic cub into intensive care a day after her mother left her unattended.

Vincent said the cub is improving but she will likely be in an incubator for months.

Red pandas are endangered, and only 50 percent of newborns survive more than a month.

Vases stolen from cemetery markers

IA MUSCATINE — A Muscatine cemetery manager said more than a dozen vases have been confirmed stolen, but that up to 50 could be missing.

Cindy Allen told the Muscatine Journal that she filed a police report recently on the theft of 15-20 vases from Muscatine Memorial Park before noticing there could be more.

The vases are chained to markers at the cemetery, are 10 inches tall and weigh up to 8 pounds. Allen said each vase can cost up to \$650 to replace.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Host Russia eliminates Spain

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia shockingly eliminated Spain from the World Cup, surviving two hours of dominance by the 2010 champions in a 1-1 draw and then winning a penalty shootout 4-3.

Russia's captain and goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev saved spot-kicks from Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion and Iago Aspas, while all four Russian shooters scored.

Akinfeev used his trailing left foot to kick the ball high away from the goal on Spain's last attempt by Aspas. The veteran goalkeeper leapt up, punched the air with both hands and leapt into a surfing, belly flop dive on to the rain-soaked turf as teammates raced to him from the halfway line.

The World Cup's lowest-ranked team now advances to a quarterfinal against Croatia or Denmark in Sochi on Sunday.

"I just feel emptied out," Akinfeev said. "Over the whole second half and extra time we were defending our goal and managed it, we were hoping for penalties because Spain are hard to beat. Spain can't always be lucky."

It gave Russia its greatest win in international soccer in 10 years, since Akinfeev was in goal for an extra-time victory over the Netherlands in a

European Championship quarterfinal. That run was ended days later by a Spain team beginning its era of dominance.

Spain has now failed to win a knockout game at three major tournaments since it won Euro 2012.

The defeat Sunday likely spells the end of Andres Iniesta's career. The veteran Barcelona midfielder came off the bench and almost won the game with an 85th-minute shot saved by Akinfeev. Iniesta also scored the first spot-kick of the shootout.

Spain was more urgent in extra time after being too passive when it dominated the ball in the 90 minutes of regular time.

Akinfeev pushed away a 109th-minute shot from substitute Rodrigo who ran hard at goal from near the halfway line. He also ensured the game needed 30 extra minutes with back-to-back diving saves in the 85th to deny substitutes Iniesta and Aspas.

Spain dominated the ball during the game — completing more than 1,000 passes — but was too passive against a well-organized Russian defense.

Spain led in the 12th minute when captain Sergio Ramos helped force Russia's Sergei Ignashevich into an own goal.

Murray out of Wimbledon due to injury

Associated Press

LONDON — Two-time champion Andy Murray pulled out of Wimbledon on Sunday because of a bad hip that has been a problem for about a year and was surgically repaired less than six months ago.

The All England Club announced Murray's withdrawal a day before the grass-court Grand Slam tournament begins.

"I've made significant progress in practice and matches over the last 10 days, but after lengthy discussions with my team and with a heavy heart, we've decided that playing best-of-five-set matches might be a bit too soon in the recovery process," Murray said in a statement released by his manager. "We did everything we could to try to be ready in time."

Murray's first-round match against Benoit Paire was scheduled for Tuesday. Murray beat Paire in the fourth round at Wimbledon last year as the defending champion, then lost to Sam Querrey in the quarterfinals, clearly hampered by the hip, and did not play again for the rest of 2017.

The 31-year-old Murray had an operation in January and returned to competition a little less than two weeks ago.

In 2013, he became the first British man in 77 years to collect a Wimbledon singles title, and he won the championship again in 2016. He's reached at least the quarterfinals in each of his past 10 appearances at the All England Club.

Considered a member of the ruling "Big 4" quartet of men's tennis, along with Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, Murray also won the 2012 U.S. Open and two Olympic singles gold medals.

But all of his time away meant the former No. 1-ranked Murray has fallen out of the top 150 and he was not seeded at Wimbledon.

At a pre-tournament news conference Saturday, he said he planned to play in the tournament unless, he explained, "I wake up and don't feel good."

Cavani steals spotlight to help Uruguay

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Edinson Cavani upstaged Cristiano Ronaldo, first with his head and then with his right foot, and sent Uruguay to the World Cup quarterfinals.

Cavani scored twice and Ronaldo none Saturday to give Uruguay a 2-1 victory over Portugal.

On the same day Lionel Messi was sent home in Argentina's loss, the other "GOAT" at this tournament was also eliminated. It was two weeks ago that Ronaldo scored a hat trick in the same stadium against Spain, stroking his chin after the first goal to imply he was the "greatest of all time."

There was no goal from Ronaldo this time. Everywhere he went, the Portugal great was hounded by two or three Uruguayan defenders.

"We had our chances, but this is football," Ronaldo said. "We have to keep our heads high. We gave our best. The

team played well. As the team captain I am proud of this group. Everyone worked hard to make sure things went well."

It was Cavani who instead took the spotlight. He combined with Luis Suarez to compete a series of precision passes to give Uruguay the early advantage with a header in the seventh minute. And after Portugal equalized on Pepe's header in the 55th minute, it was Cavani again finishing a perfect Uruguay counter in the 62nd with a shot from just inside the penalty area that caught Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio slightly out of position and curled inside the far post.

"The truth is, it was really exciting," Cavani said. "There aren't words to describe this."

Cavani now has three goals at the World Cup, but limped off in the 70th minute with an apparent injury and had to be replaced. He was helped to the

sideline with his arm around Ronaldo's back.

"Right now we are only worried, but we don't know how grave this injury is," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said.

Uruguay, a two-time champion that reached the semifinals at the 2010 World Cup, will next face France on Friday in Nizhny Novgorod.

Portugal had chances in the second half, including a frantic final few minutes of stoppage time with claims of a possible handball in the penalty area from a late corner kick. But there was no late video review to benefit Portugal as Ronaldo's fourth World Cup came to an uneventful end.

Like Messi, Ronaldo has never scored in a knockout round match at the World Cup.

"I said no team can win alone. I never said Cristiano wants to play alone," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "The team didn't win because Uruguay scored twice. Usually we also score."

George, Durant, Paul stay put

Associated Press

Kevin Durant is staying put for now. So are Paul George and Chris Paul.

Meanwhile, LeBron James' next move remains unclear.

Durant has decided to sign a two-year deal with the Golden State Warriors, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the deal cannot become official until the league's offseason moratorium ends on Friday. The deal comes with a player option for 2019-20, so Durant can — and likely will — become a free agent again next summer.

So much for the notion that stars would wait for James to decide his future before they would decide theirs.

Things went a very different way.

Durant, Paul and George all knew what they were going to do even before the NBA's moratorium — and the start of free agency — officially kicked in at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Sunday. So did plenty of other players, and by the time the moratorium was 2 hours old, nearly \$700 million worth of deals had been agreed upon, based on figures con-

firmed to the AP by people involved in the various decisions.

Durant's move is a win on multiple levels for the two-time defending NBA champion Warriors. Not only do they get to keep the 2017 and 2018 NBA Finals MVP for about \$30.5 million this coming season, around \$5 million less than he could have commanded if the deal was structured differently, but they also get some financial flexibility in the deal.

They might need it, because the Western Conference is going to be loaded again.

George took the stage at a party in Oklahoma City on Saturday night and announced that he will be staying with the Thunder, a move that might have been unexpected a year ago when he was traded away by the Indiana Pacers — presumably because of the belief that he was already focused on joining his hometown Los Angeles Lakers in free agency.

George agreed to a four-year deal that will be worth roughly \$135 million, though he can opt out of the final season, according to a person familiar with the terms.

"I'm here to stay," George told the crowd at the party.

Down in Houston, Paul has told Rockets fans the same thing.

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS," Paul wrote on Twitter at the exact moment that the calendar flipped to July 1 in the East, meaning the NBA's free agency frenzy was officially open for the summer.

His meaning was clear. The Rockets were tantalizingly close to a trip to the NBA Finals this spring, and Paul's coming back to get over that hump.

Paul averaged 18.6 points and 7.9 assists last season with Houston, which went 65-17 led by Paul and newly minted NBA MVP James Harden. ESPN reported he is signing a four-year deal worth \$160 million.

With Durant, George and Paul off the board, James is the biggest name left. Cavaliers general manager spoke Koby Altman on the phone to both James and his agent Rich Paul early Sunday, but there has been no indication when James will announce his plans.

For Dallas, persistence paid off. The Mavericks finally landed DeAndre Jordan.

He agreed quickly to a one-year, \$24.1 million deal and will finally be part of the Mavs.

Murray out of Wimbledon

Associated Press

LONDON — Two-time champion Andy Murray pulled out of Wimbledon on Sunday because of a bad hip that has been a problem for about a year and was surgically repaired less than six months ago.

The All England Club announced Murray's withdrawal a day before the grass-court Grand Slam tournament begins.

"I've made significant progress in practice and matches over the last 10 days, but after lengthy discussions with my team and with a heavy heart, we've decided that playing best-of-five-set matches might be a bit too soon in the recovery process," Murray said in a statement released by his manager. "We did everything we could to try to be ready in time."

Murray's first-round match against Benoit Paire was scheduled for Tuesday. Murray beat Paire in the fourth round at Wimbledon last year as the defending champion, then lost to Sam Querrey in the quarterfinals, clearly hampered by the hip, and did not play again for the rest of 2017.

The 31-year-old Murray had an operation in January and returned to competition a little less than two weeks ago.

"I will start practicing on the hard courts from tomorrow and continuing with my rehab and recovery and I'm looking forward to the U.S. hard-court season," Murray's statement read. "Thanks for all the messages of support, and I'm excited to finally be back playing after so long out."

In 2013, he became the first British man in 77 years to collect a Wimbledon singles title, and he won the championship again in 2016. He's reached at least the quarterfinals in each of his past 10 appearances at the All England Club.

But all of his time away meant the former No. 1-ranked Murray has fallen out of the top 150 and he was not seeded at Wimbledon.

Tavares heads home to Toronto

Associated Press

John Tavares is bidding Long Island goodbye for a chance to play for his hometown Toronto Maple Leafs.

The New York Islanders captain agreed to \$77 million, seven-year deal with Toronto and announced his long-awaited decision by posting a letter on his Twitter account about an hour after the free-agency signing period opened on Sunday.

"The island, the fans, the organization, my teammates will always be special to me and my family," wrote Tavares, who is from Toronto's suburb of Mississauga. "But it's time to live my childhood dream here in Toronto."

The 27-year-old Tavares was the highest-profile player on the market, and spent last week meeting with the Islanders, San Jose, Toronto, Dallas, Tampa Bay and Boston. By waiting until Sunday, Tavares gave up the opportunity to sign an eight-year extension with the Islanders.

Adding Tavares is a boon to the Maple Leafs, who already feature 2016 first-round draft pick, Auston Matthews.

And his departure presents a heavy blow to the Islanders, who selected Tavares with the No. 1 pick in the 2009 draft. In a bid to retain Tavares, the team underwent an organizational makeover in recent months under still relatively new owners

Scott Malkin and Jon Ledecky. They hired Lou Lamoriello as president of hockey operations and fresh Stanley Cup winner Barry Trotz as coach.

Tavares' signing overshadowed the day's most notable other deal: James van Riemsdyk's return to Philadelphia on a five-year, \$35 million contract.

The five-time 20-goal-scorer spent his first three NHL seasons with the Flyers before being traded to Toronto in June 2012. The 6-foot-3, 217-pound left-winger provides the Flyers with more scoring punch on the power play and could be a long-term replacement for Wayne Simmons, who has one year left on his contract.

Red Sox's Sale too much for Yanks, again

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris Sale got an earful from the biggest crowd at Yankee Stadium this season while walking from the bullpen to the bench prior to the first pitch.

The Red Sox ace said he didn't hear the boos and insults.

By the second inning, the catcalls weren't for him, anyway.

Sale pitched his latest Bronx gem, Rafael Devers went 5-for-5 with a first-inning grand slam and Boston held New York to two hits during an 11-0 rout Saturday night to take back baseball's best record.

Sale (8-4) allowed only Giancarlo Stanton's clean single over seven innings, striking out 11. He has a 1.73 career ERA against the Yankees, best among pitchers with at least 10 starts against them since 1920. His ERA at Yankee Stadium is 1.86, second only to Seattle's Felix Hernandez among pitchers with five starts.

"He looks like the best pitcher in the big leagues right now," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said.

Boston is a major league-leading 56-28, just ahead of the Yankees at 53-27. New York held the best mark by percentage points after winning Friday's series opener 8-1.

Yankee Stadium hosted a season-high sellout of 47,125, and the crowd ripped into starter Sonny Gray (5-6) after he gave up six runs in 2¹/₃ innings. The right-hander dropped to 0-4 with a 9.35 ERA against Boston since being acquired by New York from Oakland last season.

"I expect to come out and perform and make it fun," Gray said. "The way I've thrown the ball, I don't think it's been fun. I feel like we're the best team in baseball four out of five days, and then I come out and do that."

Devers had a career-best five hits. He nearly socked another homer in the seventh, but right fielder Aaron Judge reached over the wall and knocked Devers' shot back into play with his glove. Devers ended up with a double following a video review.

Since June 5, the 21-year-old Devers has raised his OPS from .675 to .741.

"We take it for granted because he's talented and did what he did last year, but he's still a kid," Cora said, adding that Devers has been working hard with Boston's staff to shore up the holes left in his game from racing through the minor leagues. "He's staying with the program."

Sandy Leon brought in Devers with a two-run homer into the second deck in right field. J.D. Martinez had three hits and three RBIs, and Mookie Betts added two hits and two walks as Boston piled up 17 hits.

Heath Hembree and Hector Velazquez closed it out with a hitless inning each. Velazquez gave up a groundball single to Gleyber Torres in the ninth for New York's second hit.

New York had won seven consecutive games against left-handed starters and was a major league-best 19-5 against them this season, but Sale had them spinning. The Yankees hit just four balls out of the infield against Sale, and he retired his final 16 batters.

MLB roundup

Rodriguez strong, D-backs' Miller falters in Giants' win

Associated Press

PHOENIX — For the second night in a row, a young San Francisco pitcher shut down the Arizona Diamondbacks.

This time, Dereck Rodriguez blanked them into the seventh inning and the Giants made it two straight wins in Arizona with a 7-0 victory Saturday.

Rodriguez's performance came a night after Andrew Suarez allowed one run in six innings during San Francisco's 2-1 series-opening victory. The NL West-leading Diamondbacks have managed just one run in the last 18 innings.

Rodriguez (3-1), the son of Hall of Fame catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, allowed six hits in 6¹/₃ innings, struck out five and walked two in his sixth major league start. In his last two starts, the 26-year-old righty has given up one run in 13¹/₃ innings.

In his second start since returning from Tommy John surgery, Arizona's Shelby Miller

(0-2) was tagged for six runs and seven hits in five innings. He struck out six and walked one, throwing 96 pitches. In his debut Monday night at Miami, Miller gave up five runs and six hits in 3²/₃ innings of a 9-5 loss to the Marlins.

The Giants have won nine of 11 to pull into a tie with the Los Angeles Dodgers for second in the NL West, 3¹/₂ games behind the first-place Diamondbacks.

Rangers 13, White Sox 4: Bartolo Colon overcame a sluggish start to earn his 245th major league win and match Dennis Martinez for the most by a pitcher from Latin America when Texas beat visiting Chicago.

Mariners 6, Royals 4: Ryon Healy had four hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs to lead host Seattle over Kansas City.

Padres 4, Pirates 3: Wil Myers homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and rookie Joey Lucchesi threw five score-

less innings to send San Diego past visiting Pittsburgh.

Blue Jays 4, Tigers 3: Justin Smoak led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a home run and host Toronto handed Detroit its 11th straight loss.

Rays 5, Astros 2: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Wilson Ramos drove in four runs in the first two innings against Justin Verlander, and Tampa Bay won for the seventh time in eight games.

Phillies 3, Nationals 2: Hit on his pitching arm by a line drive, Phillies right-hander Vince Velasquez made a dazzling throw with his left hand, and Philadelphia overcame an injury to its starting pitcher to beat visiting Washington.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 1: German Marquez pitched two-hit ball over eight innings and Ian Desmond homered to help Colorado beat host Los Angeles.

Marlins 5, Mets 2: At Miami, Brian Anderson hit a two-run homer off Jacob deGrom and the Marlins climbed out of last

place in the NL East.

Cubs 14, Twins 9: Minnesota's Eddie Rosario, Bobby Wilson and Max Kepler all left early because of heat illness on a scorching afternoon at Wrigley Field in the Cubs' win.

Athletics 7, Indians 2: Journeyman Edwin Jackson earned his first win with host Oakland, pitching neatly into the seventh inning as the Athletics got their season-high sixth straight victory.

Angels 6, Orioles 2: Albert Pujols' RBI double highlighted a five-run eighth inning and visiting Los Angeles handed Baltimore its seventh straight loss.

Reds 12, Brewers 3: Reliever Michael Lorenzen hit the second grand slam by a Reds pitcher in a week, and host Cincinnati snapped a seven game losing streak.

Braves 11, Cardinals 4: Nick Markakis hit a grand slam, Max Fried took a shutout into the seventh inning and visiting Atlanta beat St. Louis.