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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Delay sought for transgender troops

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military chiefs will seek a six-month delay before letting transgender people enlist in their services, officials said Friday.

After meetings this week, the service leaders hammered out an agreement that rejected Army and Air Force requests for a two-year wait and reflected broader concerns that a longer delay would trigger criticism on Capitol Hill, officials familiar with the talks told The Associated Press.

The new request for a delay will go to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for a final decision, said the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the internal deliberations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Transgender servicemembers have been able to serve openly in the military since last year, when former Defense Secretary Ash Carter ended the ban, declaring it the right thing to do. Since Oct. 1, transgender troops have been able to receive medical care and start formally changing their gender identifications in the Pentagon's personnel system.

But Carter also gave the services until July 1 to develop policies to allow people already identifying as transgender to newly join the military, if they meet physical, medical and other standards, and have been stable in their identified genders for 18 months. The military chiefs had said they needed time to study the issue and its effects on the readiness of the force before taking that step.

Officials said Friday that the chiefs believe the extra half-year would give the four military services time to gauge if currently serving transgender troops are facing problems and what necessary changes the military bases might have to make.

The chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps discussed the matter with Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work on Thursday, officials said.

Dana White, the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, said there have been ongoing discussions with the service chiefs and a recommendation is expected, but she declined to disclose any details.

According to several officials familiar with the matter, three of the four services wanted more time. In recent weeks, Navy of-

ficials suggested they would be ready to begin enlistment in July but asked for a one-year delay, largely to accommodate a request from the Marine Corps for more time, officials said. The Navy secretary also oversees the Marine Corps.

The Army and Air Force wanted a two-year delay to further study the issue, said the officials, who were not authorized to talk about the internal discussion publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Senate committee last week there have been some issues identified with recruiting transgender individuals that "some of the service chiefs believe need to be resolved before we move forward." He said Mattis is reviewing the matter.

DOD urged to investigate torture reports

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pressure mounted Friday on the Defense Department after several senators called for investigations into reports that U.S. military interrogators worked with forces from the United Arab Emirates who are accused of torturing detainees in Yemen.

Sen. John McCain, Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the ranking Democrat, Sen. Jack Reed, called the reports "deeply disturbing." The reports were revealed in an investigation by The Associated Press.

McCain and Reed wrote a letter Thursday to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis asking him to conduct an immediate review of the reported abuse and what U.S. forces knew.

"Even the suggestion that the United States tolerates torture by our foreign partners compromises our national security mission by undermining the moral principle that distinguishes us from our enemies—our belief that all people possess basic human rights," the senators wrote Mattis.

"We are confident that you find these allegations as extremely troubling as we do."

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, also called for an investigation and noted that support for the UAE forces could violate a law he wrote that forbids funding to known human rights violators.

"Reports of acts of torture by agents of a government that is supported by the United States, and the possibility that U.S. military personnel may have been aware of it, should ring alarm bells at the Department of Defense," Leahy said in a statement to the AP.

The AP's report detailed a network of secret prisons across southern Yemen where hundreds are detained in the hunt for al-Qaida militants and held without charges. American defense officials confirmed to the AP that U.S. forces have interrogated some detainees in Yemen but denied any participation in, or knowledge of, human rights abuses.

The American Civil Liberties Union said Friday that it had filed a Freedom of Infor-

mation Act request for U.S. records related to the interrogations.

The 18 lock-ups are run by the UAE and by Yemeni forces it created, according to accounts from former detainees, families of prisoners, civil rights lawyers and Yemeni military officials.

At the Riyan airport in the southern Yemeni city of Mukalla, former inmates described shipping containers smeared with feces and crammed with blindfolded detainees. They said they were beaten, roasted alive on a spit and sexually assaulted, among other abuse. One witness, who is a member of a Yemeni security force, said American forces were at times only yards away.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Friday that the allegations are "completely untrue" and a "political game" by Yemeni militias to discredit a Saudi-led coalition that includes the UAE. It says it does not run or oversee any prisons in Yemen, and that any such facilities are under "the jurisdiction of the Yemeni legitimate authorities."

Panel wants \$640B for DOD

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said Thursday he'll push to increase defense spending by \$37 billion more than the Trump administration proposed to pay for more troops and new weapons.

Speaking to reporters, Rep. Mac Thornberry said he'll seek \$640 billion for the Defense Department in the 2018 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. His comments came a day after his GOP colleagues on the House Budget Committee agreed on a fiscal outline that would provide the military with about \$20 billion less.

Thornberry said he'd be will-

ing to agree to a lower number if he can be assured future defense budgets will be stable and substantial enough for a U.S. military that's been running at a high tempo for a decade and a half. The Texas Republican and other defense hawks have been pushing to repeal a law known as sequestration that limits military spending and led to uncertainty over the department's budget each year.

"If I am going to agree to do less than I believe is necessary to fix the problems facing the military today, then the only way I could do that is if there is future stability, future funding, future predictability," Thornberry said. "That's a value to me."

The chairman's defense budget blueprint to be released publicly Monday also will include \$65 billion for ongoing wartime military operations, bringing his proposed total to \$705 billion — more than at any point during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His counterpart in the Senate, Armed Services chairman John McCain, also supports a core defense budget of \$640 billion.

Thornberry's plan will recommend a full 2.4 percent pay raise for U.S. servicemembers, more spending for missile defense programs to help shield the homeland from a potential attack by North Korea, and additional troops for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

'Doomsday' planes damaged by tornado

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A tornado that struck in Omaha, Neb., last week damaged two of the "Doomsday" 747 aircraft that serve as the national command center for the United States in the case of an attack, the Air Force said Friday.

Offutt Air Force Base, which serves as the home to the nation's four E4-B aircraft, was hit by the tornado June 16. The airplanes are used by the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State for international visits and maintain all communications, including with the nation's nuclear missile silos and nuclear submarines, in case of an attack on the country.

Ten of the aircraft, including the two 747s, were damaged by the tornado, said Capt. Mark Graff, an Air Force spokesman.

Graff said the other two 747s were not damaged by the tornado and can be used as the national airborne operations center.

Of the base's eight RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft, seven had minor damage, Graff said. Six of the damaged planes have been returned to flight status, he said.

The tornado was fast-moving, said Col. Pat Ryder, an Air Force spokesman.

"They attempted to hangar as many [planes] as they could," he said. "Obviously some were damaged."

Ryder said the primary E4-B — the one that is always on alert status ready to take off in case of emergency — was not affected.

The tornado also damaged buildings and trees on the Nebraska base.

AF leaders oppose space corps

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders on Wednesday pushed back on a House Armed Services panel's plan to build a new fighting force dedicated to space.

"The Pentagon is complicated enough," Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told reporters following her testimony in front of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. "This will make it more complex, add more boxes to the organization chart and cost more money. If I had more money, I would put it into lethality, not bureaucracy."

The House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee's portion of the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill, released on Tuesday, calls for a separate service dedicated to defending space, a responsibility that currently falls under the Air Force's purview.

The service would go under the Department of

the Air Force, but its leader would be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, akin to the Marine Corps' role in the Department of the Navy.

The panel is marking up its authorization language on Thursday.

The Air Force recently called for a 20 percent increase to space funding in the branch's proposed 2018 budget. Both Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said they believe an additional military branch would hinder America's position in space, which they believe will become a "contested domain."

"If you're saying the words 'separate' and 'space' in the same sentence, I would offer, you're moving in the wrong direction," Goldfein said. "That's why the secretary and I are focused on how we integrate space ... Every mission that we perform in the U.S. military is dependent on space. Now is not the time to build seams and segregate and separate — now's the time to further integrate."

US rescinds reward for info on al-Shabab leader

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has quietly rescinded a reward of up to \$5 million for information about a top member of the al-Qaida-allied extremist group al-Shabab in Somalia amid reports he may be in talks with the

Somali government to leave the organization.

Sheikh Mukhtar Robow was removed from the "most wanted list" of terrorist suspects run by the State Department's "Rewards for Justice" program in recent days, a U.S. official said Friday. The official, who was not authorized to speak to the matter

publicly, said Robow's removal followed consultations with the Somali government.

The official said Robow remains subject to U.S. sanctions imposed against him in 2008 when he was identified as a "specially designated global terrorist," but is no longer a Rewards for Justice target.

US open to Syrian help to defeat ISIS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military coalition fighting the Islamic State would welcome a concerted effort by the Syrian government or its Iranian-backed partner forces to defeat ISIS in its remaining strongholds in eastern Syria, a U.S. spokesman said Friday.

Army Col. Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the coalition, told reporters at the Pentagon that the U.S. goal is to defeat ISIS wherever it exists. If others, including the Syrian government and its Iranian and Russian allies, want to fight the extremists as well, then “we absolutely have no problem with that,” he said, speaking from Baghdad.

“If it looks like they are making a concerted effort to move into ISIS-held areas, and if they show that they can do that, that is not a bad sign,” Dillon said, referring to forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad. “We are here to fight ISIS as a coalition, but if others want to fight ISIS and defeat them, then we

absolutely have no problem with that.”

Washington severed diplomatic relations with Syria during the Obama administration, which insisted that Assad “must go.” More recently, Assad has strengthened his position, regaining key territory from weakened opposition forces.

The battle space in Syria is getting more crowded and complex as ISIS-held territory shrinks, raising questions about how the various parties will interact or avoid one another. Syrian government troops, for example, have reached the Iraqi border in an area where ISIS leaders have been gathering. The area is far from the main battle lines of Syria’s civil war.

The U.S. so far has shunned any cooperation with Assad and has partnered instead with local Arab and Kurdish forces in fighting ISIS. Those local forces, which the U.S. calls the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, are currently fighting to recapture the extremists’ self-declared capital of Raqqa.

Last weekend, for the first time, the U.S.

shot down a Syrian fighter jet that had dropped bombs near the SDF. Two other times this month the U.S. has shot down Iranian-made drones in southern Syria that were deemed to pose a threat to U.S. and partner forces.

Key remaining ISIS territory includes the cities of Deir el-Zour and Abu Kamal, along the Euphrates River Valley.

Dillon said that as Syrian government forces move toward Abu Kamal, “if they want to fight ISIS in Abu Kamal and they have the capacity to do so, then that would be welcomed. We as a coalition are not in the land-grab business. We are in the killing-ISIS business. That is what we want to do, and if the Syrian regime wants to do that and they’re going to put forth a concerted effort and show that they are doing just that in Abu Kamal or Deir el-Zour or elsewhere, that means that we don’t have to do that in those places.”

2 crew in good condition after Thunderbirds jet accident in Ohio

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A Thunderbirds Air Force jet went off a runway and overturned Friday during preparations for an Ohio air show, injuring the pilot and causing a performance to be canceled.

Lt. Col. Jason Heard, commander of the Thunderbirds, said a safety board will determine the cause of the “mishap” that occurred upon landing about 12:30 p.m. Friday at Dayton International Airport. The plane sustained some damage as it overturned, but Heard didn’t provide any details of the

damage.

The pilot, Capt. Erik Gonzales, suffered some lacerations and injuries to his leg and the other team member, Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Cordova, had no visible injuries, according to Heard. Both were in good condition Friday after being treated at a hospital.

Heard said the crew of the F-16D Fighting Falcon was doing a routine advance flight at the Vectren Dayton Air Show site that is done to familiarize staff with it and the team’s mission so they can fully explain it to the public. That jet wasn’t

scheduled to perform in the two-day show.

Dayton is about 55 miles north of Cincinnati.

Organizers of the air show said it would go on as planned Saturday and Sunday, but the Thunderbirds decided not to fly in Saturday’s show.

Heard said they had to assess the readiness of the entire team in making the decision not to fly Saturday.

“Crowd safety and the safety of our teammates is always our priority,” he said.

It wasn’t immediately known if they will fly on Sunday.

Court: Sailors can sue in US over Fukushima

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court says members of the U.S. Navy can pursue their lawsuit in a U.S. court alleging radiation exposure from Japan’s Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled Thursday that the sailors for now don’t have to make their legal claims in Japan.

Their lawsuit accuses Tokyo Electric Power Co. and the Japanese government of conspiring to keep secret the extent of the radiation leak following a 2011 earthquake and tsunami that killed thousands of people.

The plaintiffs arrived off the coast of Fukushima aboard the USS Ronald Reagan and other vessels to provide humanitarian aid a day after the quake.

They filed their lawsuit in 2012 in federal court in San Diego.

9 sailors face discipline for 94K gallon fuel spill

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The Navy is disciplining nine sailors for their roles in a 94,000-gallon fuel spill that so far has cost \$3.8 million.

Rear Adm. Jack Scorby told

reporters Friday that punishments range from possible losses in rank to court-martial referrals. He declined to name those involved but said they include junior enlisted sailors and senior officers.

The admiral said they failed

to perform their duties in May while jet fuel flowed from a barge to tanks on Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. A switch left in the wrong position sent fuel into the wrong container, causing it to overflow.

5 GOP senators announce opposition to health care bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nevada Republican Dean Heller became the fifth GOP senator to declare his opposition to the party's banner legislation to scuttle much of Barack Obama's health care overhaul on Friday, more than enough to sink the measure and to deliver a stinging rebuke to President Donald Trump unless some of them can be brought aboard.

Echoing the other four, Heller said he opposes the measure "in this form" but does not rule out backing a version that is changed to his liking. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he's willing to alter the measure to attract support, and next week promises plenty of back-room bargaining as he tries pushing a final package through his chamber.

Nonetheless, Heller's announcement underscores the scant margin of error Repub-

lican leaders must deal with. Facing unanimous Democratic opposition, McConnell can afford to lose just two of the 52 GOP senators and still prevail.

Besides the five who've announced outright opposition, several other GOP senators — conservatives and moderates — have declined to commit to the new overhaul. The measure resembles legislation the House approved last month that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said would mean 23 million additional uninsured people within a decade and that recent polling shows is viewed favorably by only about 1 in 4 Americans.

Heller, facing a competitive re-election battle next year, said he was opposing the legislation because of the cuts it would make in Medicaid. The federal-state program provides health care to the poor, disabled and many nursing home patients.

The Senate bill also would erase the tax penalties Obama's 2010 law imposes on people who don't purchase insurance. It would allow insurers to cover fewer benefits and would repeal tax boosts on wealthier people that help finance the statute's expanded coverage.

The Senate legislation would phase out extra federal money Nevada and 30 other states receive for expanding Medicaid to additional low earners. It also would slap annual spending caps on the overall Medicaid program, which since its inception in 1965 has provided states with unlimited money to cover eligible costs.

Trump has spoken favorably about both the House-passed bill and the Senate version unveiled this week, though he declared several times as he ramped up his campaign for the presidency that he would not cut Medicaid.

Dozens killed in 3 bombings in Pakistan

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The death toll from twin blasts in the northwestern town of Parachinar climbed to 55 overnight, bringing the overall death toll from three separate attacks in Pakistan on Friday to 73, with several others in critical condition, officials said.

Shahid Khan, a government official in Parachinar, confirmed the toll Saturday, saying residents who had been preparing to celebrate the end of Ramadan were now in mourning. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni extremist group, claimed the twin bombings at a crowded market in the Shiite-dominated town, linking them to sectarian fighting in Syria.

Dr. Sabir Hussain, an official at a government-run hospital in Parachinar, said they had received 261 victims of the twin blasts, with 62 listed in critical condition.

Another 14 people were killed Friday in a suicide car bombing near the office of the provincial police chief in the southwestern city of Quetta, police spokesman Shahzada Farhat said. That attack was claimed by a breakaway Taliban faction and Islamic State. Gunmen in the port city of Karachi attacked police officers at a roadside restaurant, killing four of them before fleeing, senior police officer Asif Ahmed said.

Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, a military spokesman, linked the attacks to alleged militant sanctuaries in neighboring Afghanistan and promised greater border security. The two countries often accuse each other of turning a blind eye to militants.

Security forces raided a militant hideout in the city of Peshawar before dawn Saturday, triggering a shootout in which three Pakistani Taliban were killed and two police officers were wounded, senior police official Sajjad Khan said. He said the militants were making bombs that likely would have targeted holiday festivities.

Cindy's remnants cause flooding from South to Midwest

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Rain bands reeling away from Tropical Depression Cindy spread drenching rains from the Southeast to the Midwest, triggering flash flood warnings over several states including West Virginia, whose residents on Friday marked the anniversary of deadly floods.

The storms stretching for hundreds of miles are expected to push river levels higher as the remnants of a tropical storm cross Tennessee and Kentucky into West Virginia. The severe weather, which was blamed for recent coastal flooding in the Deep South, tornadoes and one death, is rumbling closer to the densely populated East Coast.

The National Weather Service said Friday that Cindy was winding down and had lost tropical characteristics as heavy rain potential moved across the Ohio Valley and into Pennsylvania with severe thunderstorms forming to the south.

Last June, torrential rains in West Virginia claimed 23 lives.

A brief ceremony marking last year's fatal flooding took place Friday at the West Virginia

Police Academy in Dunbar, where a bell was rung 23 times, for each person who died.

The U.S. Storm Prediction Center said severe storms pose a lingering threat from the Southeast into western Pennsylvania. Even Indiana in the Midwest felt the impact of Cindy, which sprang Tuesday from the Gulf of Mexico as a tropical storm before roughing up the Deep South and making landfall Thursday. It has since weakened to a depression while heading far inland.

Heavy rainfall associated with remnants of the storm caused scattered street flooding across central and southern Indiana on Friday. Flood warnings covered most of the southern two-thirds of the state, with more than 3 inches of rainfall having accumulated in some places by midday.

Emergency crews helped some people from stranded vehicles in Muncie, Ind., including a nearly submerged SUV at a railroad underpass.

Cindy was blamed for one death: Nolan McCabe, 10, of St. Louis, Mo., was vacationing with family on the Alabama coast when he was hit by a log carried in on a big wave.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Juneau tops millionaires list for small cities

AK JUNEAU — Alaska's capital of Juneau topped a list of the smallest cities in the United States with the most millionaire households.

Business publication Kiplinger listed Juneau as the top small U.S. city with the highest concentration of households with at least \$1 million.

Juneau has 1,109 millionaire households out of 12,986, according to the list.

The list is based on rankings of 915 urban areas by Phoenix Marketing International and census data, KTOO.org reported.

Torrington, Conn., Williston, N.D., Edwards, Colo. and Fredericksburg, Texas, round out the list's top five smallest U.S. cities with the most millionaire households.

Restaurant hopes to land lobster roll record

NH PORTSMOUTH — It's a lobster lover's dream.

A Portsmouth, N.H., restaurant is hoping it set the record for the longest lobster roll at 159 feet, 6 inches.

A lobster roll is usually made from a hot dog-type bun stuffed with lobster meat. The creation by the British Beer Company on Sunday took up several tables before it was cut up and served. Chef James Gibney said 200 pounds of lobster meat went into the sandwich and 48 pounds of it was donated. Proceeds went to a charity that helps U.S. veterans.

The British Beer Company could be a contender.

It says the old record kept by the World Record Academy was 120 feet and was set

by the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association at a shellfish festival in Canada last September.

Bookkeeper jailed for embezzling \$720,000

WA KENNEWICK — A bookkeeper who embezzled about \$720,000 over a four-year period from the Richland doctor's office where she worked has been sentenced to five years in prison.

The Tri-City Herald reported that Jennifer Morris, 43, received the sentence Thursday in Benton County Superior Court.

Morris pleaded guilty in May to first-degree theft, with the aggravating circumstance that it was a major economic offense.

Dr. Robert Whitson said the embezzlement caused his business to almost go bankrupt.

The defense attorney for Morris said the embezzlement was caused after Morris became addicted to opiates, but she's been sober since March 2016.

Fake architect busted in 'Operation Vandelay'

NY ALBANY — A fake architect named Newman has pleaded guilty to fraud after an investigation New York's attorney general dubbed "Operation Vandelay Industries."

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office said Paul J. Newman had rendered fraudulent architectural services since 2010 in Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties. Schneiderman said that Newman pleaded guilty to six felonies including grand larceny and fraud. Victims included municipalities

and businesses.

Newman is expected to be sentenced to up to 7 years in state prison and pay more than \$115,000 in restitution.

Schneiderman dubbed the operation to nab Newman "Vandelay Industries" in reference to a long-running joke on "Seinfeld" about a fictional company by that name. A character named Newman was Jerry's nemesis on the sitcom.

State may soon have an official germ

NJ CAMDEN — Known for its oddities and quirks, New Jersey may soon have another: an official state germ.

New Jersey would become only the second state in the country with a state germ. A bill introduced last month in the Legislature would make *Streptomyces griseus* New Jersey's official microbe.

When a constituent suggested a germ for a state that already has an official symbol for everything from a dinosaur to a bug, Sen. Samuel Thompson, R-Middlesex, was admittedly just a little skeptical. It would be more fodder to poke fun at New Jersey, he thought.

Thompson was convinced to sponsor the legislation after learning about the significance that the microbe played in developing an antibiotic to attack tuberculosis, at the time the second-leading cause of death in the United States.

Eclipse concerns spur emergency declaration

ID NAMPA — Washington County Commissioners have passed an Emergency Declaration ahead of the Aug. 21 solar eclipse.

KIVI-TV reported the county

near the Oregon border is expected to get tens of thousands of visitors eager to witness the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse seen in the U.S. in nearly a century.

A county disaster services spokesman said the commissioners passed the declaration Monday so they could ask the state for assistance in case more resources are needed.

The declaration states that the solar eclipse may cause risk to public safety, financial damage, excess cost for labor, clean up and property damage in Washington County.

It will be in effect until the end of August.

Amish group seeks to help salve maker

KY FRANKFORT — Dozens of Amish people traveled to Kentucky's Capitol to seek help for a member of their community who is facing federal prison time after being charged with selling improperly labeled health products.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported the group went to the Attorney General's office on Tuesday on behalf of Samuel Girod, 56, a member of the Old Order Amish Faith. He is scheduled to be sentenced Friday in Lexington.

Court documents state Girod operated a business in Bath County that made products for various health problems. An indictment charged that one of Girod's products contained potentially dangerous extract of bloodroot.

A federal court in Missouri ruled in 2013 that Girod must allow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to inspect his business.

Girod argued that his products weren't subject to FDA oversight because they were herbal remedies, not drugs.

From wire reports

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NHL Draft becomes parade of forwards

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cody Glass played in a youth hockey tournament in Las Vegas when he was 10. His Junior Steelers team finished a disappointing second.

He is looking forward to many more games in Sin City.

Glass was selected by the expansion Vegas Golden Knights with their first pick Friday night, going No. 6 overall as part of a parade of forwards at the top of the NHL Draft. The 18-year-old Canadian center had 32 goals and 62 assists in 69 games last season for the Portland Winterhawks of the Western Hockey League.

"I didn't really see that as a hockey place when I went there, but now, with the new team and the fans and season tickets sold out, I think hockey will be unbelievable," Glass said. "Just being there and walking down the Strip, it's something that's really nice. You don't see too much of that in Winnipeg."

The first NHL draft in Chicago began with another 18-year-old forward, with Swiss center Nico Hischier going No. 1 overall to the New Jersey Devils. The Philadelphia Flyers

then grabbed Nolan Patrick at No. 2.

Ten of the top 13 picks were listed as centers. Defensemen Miro Heiskanen (No. 3 overall to Dallas) and Cale Makar (No. 4 to Colorado) and right wing Owen Tippett (No. 10 to Florida) were the lone exceptions. Vegas also opted for another forward prospect with its second of three picks in the first round, taking Nick Suzuki at No. 12 before selecting Swedish defenseman Erik Brannstrom with the 15th pick.

"The forward group is real strong," New Jersey general manager Ray Shero said.

After a symphony of boos for NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and most of Chicago's rivals across the league, the crowd cheered when the Blackhawks finally got on the clock at No. 26. But they promptly moved back three spots in a deal with Dallas in the first of three trades announced during the first round.

The St. Louis Blues sent forward Jori Lehtera and two draft picks to Philadelphia for Brayden Schenn, and also traded physical forward Ryan Reaves to the Stanley Cup champion Penguins.

The crowd at the United Center cheered again when the Blackhawks got back on the clock, and general manager Stan Bowman played to the roaring fans when he brought out captain Jonathan Toews and star winger Patrick Kane to announce their selection of Finnish defenseman Henri Jokiharju.

"Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane call my name, and it can't be a better feeling," Jokiharju said.

The 18-year-old Hischier is the highest drafted Swiss player in NHL history. He had 38 goals and 86 points in 57 games with the Halifax Mooseheads of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League this past season. He spent the previous two seasons in the Swiss pro league, where he was coached by current Ottawa Senators coach Guy Boucher.

Hischier fits in nicely with Shero's desire to put a faster team on the ice. New Jersey is coming off its worst season in nearly three decades, finishing with a 28-40-14 record.

But Hischier is just over 6-feet tall and listed at 179 pounds, and will need to put on more muscle to succeed in the

NHL.

"I love hockey," he said. "It's my biggest goal to play in the NHL. I'm so happy."

The 18-year-old Patrick, a Winnipeg, Manitoba, native whose father Steve and uncle James played in the NHL, held the top spot in the NHL Central Scouting Department's final rankings in April. He sustained a sports hernia last summer that hampered him during his season with Brandon of the Western Hockey League, but he finished with 20 goals and 46 points in 33 games.

"Once we gathered all the information we felt comfortable that if he was there for us we were going to take him," general manager Ron Hextall said.

The New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lightning also opted for players with family ties to the NHL. New York got the No. 7 pick in a trade with Arizona and selected center Lias Andersson, whose father Niklas played in the league. Callan Foote, who went to Tampa Bay at No. 14, is the son of two-time Stanley Cup champion Adam Foote.

"It's nice to have someone like him on my side," Callum Foote said.

Blackhawks re-acquire Saad, trade Panarin, Hjalmarsson

Associated Press

CHICAGO — General manager Stan Bowman promised changes were coming after the Chicago Blackhawks were swept in the first round of the playoffs.

Boy, he wasn't kidding.

Chicago re-acquired Brandon Saad and parted with Niklas Hjalmarsson and Artemi Panarin in a pair of surprising trades Friday, giving the Blackhawks a younger look and more cost certainty for their roster.

The Blackhawks won the Central Division last season with a 50-23-9 record, finishing with the most points in the Western Conference. But they were swept by Nashville in the opening series, managing just

three goals in 13 periods in an embarrassing performance for a team with three championships since 2010.

An angry Bowman called it a complete failure, and then overhauled coach Joel Quenneville's staff and replaced the coach of the team's top minor league affiliate.

Turns out he was just getting started.

Bowman traded forwards Panarin and Tyler Motte and Chicago's sixth-round selection in this weekend's NHL Draft to Columbus for Saad, goaltender Anton Forsberg and a fifth-round draft pick next year. The deal was announced less than an hour after Hjalmarsson was traded to Arizona for defenseman Connor Murphy and forward

Laurent Dauphin.

The 24-year-old Saad spent his first four seasons with Chicago, helping the Blackhawks win two Stanley Cup championships. He became a restricted free agent after the title run in 2015, and Bowman traded the rugged winger to the Blue Jackets when the team was unable to hammer out a new deal with the Pittsburgh native.

Saad had 24 goals and 29 assists in 82 games for Columbus last season. His return should help make up for the loss of Marian Hossa, who announced this week that he won't play next season because of severe side effects from medication to treat a progressive skin disorder.

The departure of Hjalmarsson and Panarin creates two big holes.

The 30-year-old Hjalmarsson had spent his entire 10-year career with Chicago, where he had 23 goals and 120 assists in 623 career games along with the franchise record for most playoff games played by a Blackhawks defenseman at 128. The Swede had five goals, 13 assists and a team-high 181 blocked shots in 73 games last season.

Panarin teamed with Patrick Kane and Artem Anisimov to form one of the NHL's most potent lines. The 25-year-old Russian had at least 30 goals and 40 assists in each of his first two seasons in the league.

CWS roundup

LSU ends Oregon State's streak at 23

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — With a wave of his cap to the LSU fans, Alex Lange disappeared into the dugout after what very well could have been his last outing as a collegian.

It was one of his best, and most timely.

The Chicago Cubs' first-round draft pick limited top-seeded Oregon State to two hits over 7¹/₃ innings in a performance Friday that carried the Tigers to a 3-1 victory and ended the Beavers' 23-game winning streak.

It also set up a winner-take-all Bracket 1 final at the College World Series on Saturday, with the winner going to the best-of-three finals beginning Monday.

Lange (10-5) won a CWS elimination game for the second time in his career, and he said his experience pitching so many important games at home in Baton Rouge, La., prepared him.

"I had a sense of calmness about me this morning when I woke up, and getting to the yard. I was expecting to be amped up and juiced up,"

Lange said. "I was calm and relaxed. I think that goes back to pitching in Alex Box Stadium in front of 12,000 people every Friday night. It wasn't a big shocker or big difference. This is why I came to LSU, to play in these big games. And keeping your team in the ballgame and keeping the season alive is pretty awesome."

The Tigers (51-18) avenged a 13-1 loss to the Beavers (56-5) on Monday and became the first team to knock them off since Southern Cal on April 29.

They did all of their scoring against national wins leader Jake Thompson (14-1). Max Engelbrekt relieved in the seventh after Josh Smith hit Thompson's first pitch of the inning into the right-field seats for a two-run lead.

Oregon State was still stinging after the game from a call in the third inning when, with runners on first and second, Steven Kwan sliced a ball down the left-field line that bounced off the wall and was ruled foul. TV replays indicated it was a fair ball.

Oregon State coach Pat Casey said by the time someone on his

staff told him to ask for a video review, the next pitch had been thrown, closing his window of opportunity.

NCAA national coordinator of umpires George Drouches said through an NCAA spokesman that crew chief Danny Collins should have called for a video review. Collins, who was working third base, made the original foul call. Kwan ended up popping out to shortstop before Lange walked two straight to force in a run.

Had the ball been ruled fair, Casey said, "I do believe that it certainly would have changed that inning, that's for sure."

TCU 9, Florida 2: At Omaha, Neb., Evan Skoug hit a bases-clearing double, four pitchers combined on a five-hitter and the Horned Frogs beat the Gators to force a second Bracket 2 final at the College World Series.

The teams were slated to meet again Saturday, with the winner advancing to the best-of-three finals starting Monday.

Skoug was 2-for-13 in the CWS when he came up in the sixth inning with two outs and the bases loaded. He lined re-

liever Frank Rubio's 2-2 pitch into the right-center gap for an 8-2 lead.

Charles King (1-3) pitched 3¹/₃ innings of one-hit shut-out relief after taking over for starter Mitchell Traver with two outs in the fourth. King, a freshman who was pitching for the first time since May 27, struck out Nick Horvath with the bases loaded to end the inning and retired nine of the next 11 batters.

Florida (49-19) got an 11-strikeout performance from ace Alex Faedo in a 3-0 win over TCU in its CWS opener Sunday, and it looked as though Jackson Kowar (12-1) would show the same dominance against the Frogs (50-17). Kowar struck out seven of the first eight he faced on his way to a career-high 11 Ks, but the Frogs were able to get to him and he lost for the first time this season.

The Horned Frogs led 2-0 in the third after Ryan Merrill's single and back-to-back doubles by Austen Wade and Zach Humphreys. The Gators tied it in the bottom half, but Josh Watson's two-run triple in the fourth gave TCU a 4-2 lead.

Nemechek wins second consecutive Truck race

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — John Hunter Nemechek raced to his second straight NASCAR Camping World Truck victory, taking the lead with six laps left Friday night at Iowa Speedway.

Nemechek took four new tires during the final caution. The gamble paid off, as he passed leader Johnny Sauter soon after a restart.

The 20-year-old Nemechek raced to his fifth career victory, driving the No. 8 Chevrolet for his father, former NASCAR Cup driver Joe Nemechek. He won last week at Gateway in Madison, Ill.

"We knew that we were going to have a good truck here," Nemechek said. "The truck wasn't the greatest from the start of the race. The track kept changing a lot...somehow it all worked out in the end."

Sauter, the series leader, led 72 laps. But his team's choice to stay out on old tires at the end of the race cost him dearly.

Brandon Jones was third, followed by Grant Enfinger and Christopher Bell. Bell led a race-high 99 laps, but he dropped to 12th after pitting under caution for new tires just before the final stage. Though Sauter and Bell had the two most dominant trucks of the

race, Nemechek and his team mastered the late-race strategy that is typically crucial on Iowa's short oval — which has gotten rougher and bumpier over the years.

"That was the only call to make," Nemechek's crew chief, Gere Kennon, said about the decision to take four tires. "It was the thing to do. It just suited our style this week."

Chase Briscoe, who had finished second in back-to-back races, passed Sauter with 18 laps left and seemed assured of his first career win if the race stayed caution free.

It didn't, because Matt Crafton got clipped and sent into the wall just a few laps later.

The drivers on the lead lap were then faced with a choice. Sauter's team chose to stay on the track and hope that his tires had enough left to hold off the field.

"In hindsight, we should have put tires on but we didn't," Sauter said. "Not a whole lot of deliberating."

Briscoe also fell back on the final restart. He finished seventh.

Noah Gragson, who was sixth, won the pole for the second time this season and led for just 16 laps before Bell slipped past him. Bell went on to claim his fourth stage win of the season.

Torreyes lifts Yankees past Rangers in 10th

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once Masahiro Tanaka and Yu Darvish got done dominating, the hitters finally had a chance.

And after midnight, Ronald Torreyes lined an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning that sent the New York Yankees over the Texas Rangers 2-1 on Friday night for just their second win in 10 games.

“Super happy to be able to get a hit,” Torreyes said through a translator. “Super happy for the outcome.

“Without Tanaka, there’s no chance, we don’t have a chance. He was excellent tonight. He held the game zero-zero,” he said.

Brett Gardner also played a big part for the Yankees, hitting a tying home run with one out in the ninth off closer Matt Bush (2-3).

It was scoreless until the late innings as

Tanaka and Darvish excelled in the first major league matchup between the Japanese stars. Tanaka pitched eight innings, Darvish was pulled after seven because of tightness in his triceps.

Darvish said he left as a precaution, adding through a translator, “I think I’m going to be fine for my next outing.”

Chasen Shreve (2-1) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the top of the 10th, and Torreyes’ hit kept the Yankees atop the AL East.

“We needed this,” manager Joe Girardi said.

Gary Sanchez, whose passed ball gave Texas a 1-0 lead in the ninth, singled with one out in the 10th off Bush. A single by Didi Gregorius put runners at the corners and after Chris Carter struck out in his last at-bat for the Yankees, Torreyes singled to center field.

Torreyes’ first career game-ending hit

came at 12:19 a.m. — the start was delayed 1 hour, 42 minutes because of rain.

Torreyes also made two sparkling defensive plays at third base. He dived to his left to snag Shin-Soo Choo’s grounder and threw from his knees to start an inning-ending double play in the third, then made a backhand stab, spun and beat Elvis Andrus with a two-hop throw to first leading off the seventh.

The Darvish-Tanaka duel didn’t disappoint the big crowd in the Bronx or the national television audience tuned in Saturday morning back in their homeland.

Darvish gave up just two singles, striking out 10 without a walk.

Tanaka was totally in control, too, working around three singles in eight innings, fanning nine and walking two.

Despite the stellar outing, the no-decision left Tanaka at 0-6 in his last eight starts.

Dodgers top Rockies for 8th straight win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Alex Wood kept his record perfect and the streaking Dodgers defeated NL West rival Colorado Rockies 6-1 on Friday night for their eighth consecutive victory.

Los Angeles has won 14 of its last 15 games.

Wood (8-0) went six innings for the Dodgers and could have gone without allowing a run if left-fielder Franklin Gutierrez had not been so slow to try to cut off a Tom Murphy hit. The ball rolled by him for a double to score Raimel Tapia from first in the second inning.

Wood did not allow another hit after the second. He gave up three hits on the night, walked two, retired his last 10 batters and lowered his ERA to 1.86.

Mets 11, Giants 4: On a day when unhappy veteran short-stop Asdrubal Cabrera asked to be traded, slumping New York broke out its bats.

Yoenis Cespedes had three hits including a two-run homer and Lucas Duda had three hits including a solo blast as the visiting Mets defeated San Francisco.

Cabrera earlier voiced his disappointment with being moved

to second base on the day he came off the disabled list with a thumb injury.

Cabrera was activated from the disabled list and inserted into the Mets’ starting lineup at second base rather than short-stop and he said he wants to be traded. Cabrera had three hits Friday night.

Along with Cespedes and Duda, Cabrera, Wilmer Flores and Michael Conforto all had three hits as the Mets finished with 20.

Seth Lugo (2-1) won for the third time in his last four starts. He gave up four runs in 5²/₃ innings and was 1 for 2 with one RBI.

Marlins 2, Cubs 0: Giancarlo Stanton hit his 19th home run and Jose Urena scattered five hits over six innings as host Miami topped defending champion Chicago.

Red Sox 9, Angels 4: Hanley Ramirez and Sandy Leon hit two-run homers and host Boston won on the night the Red Sox retired David Ortiz’s number.

It was the 250th career home run for Ramirez, a good friend of Ortiz who was also born in the Dominican Republic. Leon finished with three hits and four RBIs.

Rays 15, Orioles 5: Evan Longoria and Shane Peterson drove in four runs apiece to back the pitching of Chris Archer and lead surging Tampa Bay past visiting Baltimore.

Padres 1, Tigers 0: Luis Perdomo pitched two-hit ball over six innings and Austin Hedges had an RBI double as host San Diego handed Detroit its seventh straight loss.

Perdomo (2-4) outworked Detroit’s Michael Fulmer and did not allow a hit until the fifth. Perdomo struck out six and walked five in his first scoreless outing of the season.

Twins 5, Indians 0: Adalberto Mejia combined with three relievers on a four-hitter, leading visiting Minnesota in a matchup of the top two teams in the AL Central.

Nationals 6, Reds 5 (10): Bryce Harper singled in the winning run in the 10th inning, Brian Goodwin homered twice and host Washington got a solid performance from its bullpen.

Athletics 3, White Sox 0: Khris Davis and Matt Joyce homered and Jharel Cotton pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning before leaving with a blister on his right thumb as Oakland beat host Chicago.

Braves 5, Brewers 4: Mike Foltyniewicz won his fourth straight decision at home, short-stop Dansby Swanson made a pair of outstanding defensive plays in the ninth inning and Atlanta won for the sixth time in seven games.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 3: Josh Bell and John Jaso homered as Pittsburgh snapped a seven-game skid in Busch Stadium.

Jaso, who entered as part of a double switch in the eighth inning, drove a 3-2 pitch from Seung Hwan Oh (1-4) over the wall in right-center to break a 3-3 tie in the ninth.

Royals 5, Blue Jays 4: Whit Merrifield hit a two-run, two-out double that capped a four-run rally in the ninth inning as host Kansas City reached .500 for the first time since April.

Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 1: Mark Leiter Jr. held host Arizona to three hits over six scoreless innings, and Maikel Franco and Tommy Joseph both homered to lead Philadelphia.

Mariners 13, Astros 3: Felix Hernandez pitched six solid innings in his first start in nearly two months and was backed by home runs from Mike Zunino, Ben Gamel and Kyle Seager as host Seattle beat Houston.